

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF
WASHINGTON

Eunice Youmans v. Chelan-Douglas Land Trust; Doe(s) 1-100
employees of Chelan-Douglas Land Trust; and Corporation(s) XYZ
1-100

Youmans · No. 2:25-CV-00290-RLP · Decided April 7, 2026

SUMMARY

This document is an order of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Washington adopting the parties’ stipulated protective order in Eunice Youmans v. Chelan-Douglas Land Trust, et al. It governs the designation, use, disclosure, challenge, filing, and return or destruction of confidential discovery materials, including medical, financial, personnel, and membership information.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Eastern District of Washington
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Rebecca L. Pennell
DECIDED	April 7, 2026
DOCKET	2:25-CV-00290-RLP
DISPOSITION	approved
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	The parties submitted a stipulated protective order and jointly requested that the court enter it to govern confidential discovery materials.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	A party seeking a protective order must establish good cause arising from public disclosure; after that threshold showing, the court balances public and private interests and considers less restrictive alternatives such as redaction.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Unknown; district court stipulated protective-order decision.

TOPICS

- discovery dispute
- civil procedure
- privilege
- attorney client privilege

PRACTICE AREAS

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the parties established good cause for a stipulated protective order covering specified medical, financial, personnel, and membership-list information.
2. Whether the proposed protective order appropriately limited confidentiality protections to material entitled to protection and preserved the requirement of court approval before filing material under seal.

HOLDINGS

1. The parties established good cause for protecting the specified categories of confidential discovery materials, and the court adopted the stipulated protective order.
2. After a threshold showing of good cause, the court must balance public and private interests and determine whether less restrictive alternatives, such as redaction, can ameliorate the asserted harm.
3. The protective order does not provide blanket protection for all disclosures and does not presumptively entitle the parties to file confidential information under seal; the party seeking continued confidentiality or sealing bears the applicable burden and must obtain court permission.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“Discoverable information is “presumptively public.”” (at 2)

“If the Court finds a party has satisfied this initial burden, the Court must balance the public and private interests and determine whether less restrictive alternatives, such as redaction, can ameliorate concerns of harm.” (at 2)

“The parties’ Stipulated Protective Order, ECF No. 25, is therefore ADOPTED as set forth below.” (at 2)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

The parties anticipated discovery involving Plaintiff's medical records and bills, bank-account and other financial information, tax records, personnel files of former executive directors and nonparty employee performance or discipline files, and membership-list contact information. They jointly proposed a protective order restricting disclosure and use of qualifying confidential materials while preserving public access to nonconfidential information and requiring separate court approval for sealing filings.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

The parties presented a stipulated protective order to the district court for approval. The court determined that the proposed order satisfied the good-cause threshold for protecting specified medical, financial, personnel, and membership-list information, adopted the order, and directed the clerk to file it and provide copies to counsel.

DISPOSITION

approved

CASES CITED

- Fierro Cordero v. Stemilt AG Services LLC, 142 F.4th 1201, 1207 (9th Cir. 2025)
- San Jose Mercury News, Inc. v. U.S. District Court for the Northern District, 187 F.3d 1096, 1103 (9th Cir. 1999)
- In re Roman Catholic Archbishop of Portland, 661 F.3d 417, 425, 428 (9th Cir. 2011)
- Kamakana v. City & County of Honolulu, 447 F.3d 1172, 1186 (9th Cir. 2006)
- Yellowcake, Inc. v. Dashgo, Inc., 2022 WL 3226824, at *10 (E.D. Cal. July 21, 2022)
- Snedigar v. Hoddersen, 114 Wash. 2d 153, 159, 786 P.2d 781, 783 (1990)

OPINION

1 Apr 07, 2026 SEAN F. MCAVOY, CLERK 2 3 4 5 6 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT 7
EASTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON 8 EUNICE YOUMANS, an individual No. 2:25-CV-
00290-RLP 9 Plaintiff PROTECTIVE ORDER 10 v. 11 CHELAN-DOUGLAS LAND TRUST;
“DOE(S) 1-100” employees of 12 CHELAN-DOUGLAS LAND TRUST; and
“CORPORATION(S) XYZ 1-100,” 13 Defendants. 14 15 Before the Court is the parties
Stipulated Protective Order, ECF No. 25.

The 16 parties seeks a protective order to protect confidential material including 1) 17 Plaintiff’s
medical records and bills, bank account, financial information, and tax 18 records; 2) Defendant’s
personnel files of departed Executive Directors employed 19 before plaintiff and nonparty
employee performance/discipline files; and 3) Home 20 addresses/phone numbers/contact
information for membership lists.

1 Discoverable information is “presumptively public.” Fierro Cordero v. 2 Stemilt AG Services
LLC, 142 F.4th 1201, 1207 (9th Cir. 2025), quoting San Jose 3 Mercury News, Inc. v. U.S. Dist.
Ct.-N. Dist. (San Jose), 187 F.3d 1096, 1103 (9th 4 Cir. 1999). Nevertheless, in order to “protect a
party or person from annoyance, 5 embarrassment, oppression, or undue burden or expense,” the
Court can issue a 6 protective order, restricting the public dissemination of discovery materials.

FRCP 7 26(c)(1). A party seeking a protective order has the burden of establishing good 8 cause in
the form of good cause that would arise from public disclosure. Fierro 9 Cordero, 142 F.4th at
1207. If the Court finds a party has satisfied this initial 10 burden, the Court must balance the
public and private interests and determine 11 whether less restrictive alternatives, such as
redaction, can ameliorate concerns of 12 harm.

In re Roman Catholic Archbishop of Portland, 661 F.3d 417, 425 (9th Cir. 13 2011). 14 The Court
finds that the parties proposed order meets this threshold. See 15 Kamakana v. City & Cnty. of
Honolulu, 447 F.3d 1172, 1186 (9th Cir. 2006) 16 (medical records); In re Roman Catholic
Archbishop of Portland, 661 F.3d at 428 17 (personnel files of retired employees); Yellowcake,
Inc. v. Dashgo, Inc., 2022 WL 18 3226824, at *10 (E.D.

Cal. July 21, 2022) (membership lists). The parties' 19 Stipulated Protective Order, ECF No. 25, is therefore ADOPTED as set forth 20 below. 1 PROTECTIVE ORDER 2 1. PURPOSES AND LIMITATIONS 3 Discovery in this action is likely to involve production of confidential, 4 proprietary, or private information for which special protection may be warranted. 5 Accordingly, the parties hereby stipulate to and petition the court to enter the 6 following Stipulated Protective Order.

It does not confer blanket protection on all 7 disclosures or responses to discovery, the protection it affords from public 8 disclosure and use extends only to the limited information or items that are entitled 9 to confidential treatment under the applicable legal principles, and it does not 10 presumptively entitle parties to file confidential information under seal.

11 2. CONFIDENTIAL MATERIAL 12 "Confidential" material shall include the following documents and tangible 13 things produced or otherwise exchanged: 14 • Plaintiff's medical records and bills, bank account, financial 15 information, and tax records would be subject to a protective order 16 because these records can cause annoyance and embarrassment on 17 Plaintiff that creates good cause for their protection.

Fed. R. Civ. P. 18 26(c). Exposing Plaintiffs medical records and bills, bank account, 19 financial information, and tax records could result in specific harm to 20 Plaintiff if these records are not subject to the protective order. See 1 Kamakana v. City & Cnty. of Honolulu, 447 F.3d 1172, 1186 (9th Cir. 2 2006). 3 • Defendant's personnel files of departed Executive Directors employed 4 before plaintiff and nonparty employee performance/discipline files.

5 In re Roman Cath. Archbishop of Portland in Oregon, 661 F.3d 417, 6 428 (9th Cir. 2011) (personnel files of retired employees not accused 7 of wrongdoing are properly the subject of a protective order); and 8 • Home addresses/phone numbers/contact information for membership 9 lists Yellowcake, Inc. v. Dashgo, Inc., 2022 WL 3226824, at *10 (E.D. 10 Cal. July 21, 2022); Snedigar v. Hoddersen, 114 Wash. 2d 153, 159, 11 786 P.2d 781, 783 (1990) (requests seeking membership lists infringe 12 on rights of association, privacy and free speech).

13 3. SCOPE 14 The protections conferred by this agreement cover not only confidential 15 material (as defined above), but also (1) any information copied or extracted from 16 confidential material; (2) all copies, excerpts, summaries, or compilations of 17 confidential material; and (3) any testimony, conversations, or presentations by 18 parties or their counsel that might reveal confidential material.

19 However, the protections conferred by this agreement do not cover 20 information that is in the public domain or becomes part of the public domain 1 through trial or otherwise. 2 4. ACCESS TO AND USE OF CONFIDENTIAL MATERIAL 3 4.1 Basic Principles. A receiving party may

use confidential material that is 4 disclosed or produced by another party or by a non-party in connection with this 5 case only for prosecuting, defending, or attempting to settle this litigation.

6 Confidential material may be disclosed only to the categories of persons and under 7 the conditions described in this agreement. Confidential material must be stored 8 and maintained by a receiving party at a location and in a secure manner that 9 ensures that access is limited to the persons authorized under this agreement. 10 4.2 Disclosure of “CONFIDENTIAL” Information or Items.

Unless 11 otherwise ordered by the court or permitted in writing by the designating party, a 12 receiving party may disclose any confidential material only to: 13 (a) the receiving party’s counsel of record in this action, as well as 14 employees of counsel to whom it is reasonably necessary to disclose the 15 information for this litigation; 16 (b) the officers, directors, and employees (including in house counsel) of the 17 receiving party to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary for this litigation, 18 unless the parties agree that a particular document or material produced is for 19 Attorney’s Eyes Only and is so designated; 20 (c) experts and consultants to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary for 1 this litigation and who have signed the “Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be 2 Bound” (Exhibit A); 3 (d) the court, court personnel, and court reporters and their staff; 4 (e) copy or imaging services retained by counsel to assist in the duplication 5 of confidential material, provided that counsel for the party retaining the copy or 6 imaging service instructs the service not to disclose any confidential material to 7 third parties and to immediately return all originals and copies of any confidential 8 material; 9 (f) during their depositions, witnesses in the action to whom disclosure is 10 reasonably necessary and who have signed the “Acknowledgment and Agreement 11 to Be Bound” (Exhibit A), unless otherwise agreed by the designating party or 12 ordered by the court.

Pages of transcribed deposition testimony or exhibits to 13 depositions that reveal confidential material must be separately bound by the court 14 reporter and may not be disclosed to anyone except as permitted under this 15 agreement; 16 (g) the author or recipient of a document containing the information or a 17 custodian or other person who otherwise possessed or knew the information.

18 4.3 Filing Confidential Material. Before filing confidential material or 19 discussing or referencing such material in court filings, the filing party shall confer 20 with the designating party, to determine whether the designating party will remove 1 the confidential designation, whether the document can be redacted, or whether a 2 motion to seal or stipulation and proposed order is warranted.

During the meet and 3 confer process, the designating party must identify the basis for sealing the specific 4 confidential information at issue, and the filing party shall include this basis in its 5 motion to seal, along with any objection to sealing the information at issue.

The 6 burden shall be on the party who seeks to maintain confidentiality of confidential 7 material to seek the permission of the court to file material under seal. The party 8 seeking to maintain the confidentiality of any information bears the burden of 9 demonstrating good cause and must obtain the court's permission before filing 10 such material under seal.

11 5. DESIGNATING PROTECTED MATERIAL 12 5.1 Exercise of Restraint and Care in Designating Material for Protection. 13 Each party or non-party that designates information or items for protection under 14 this agreement must take care to limit any such designation to specific material that 15 qualifies under the appropriate standards.

The designating party must designate for 16 protection only those parts of material, documents, items, or oral or written 17 communications that qualify, so that other portions of the material, documents, 18 items, or communications for which protection is not warranted are not swept 19 unjustifiably within the ambit of this agreement. 20 Mass, indiscriminate, or routinized designations are prohibited.

Designations 1 that are shown to be clearly unjustified or that have been made for an improper 2 purpose (e.g., to unnecessarily encumber or delay the case development process or 3 to impose unnecessary expenses and burdens on other parties) expose the 4 designating party to sanctions. 5 If it comes to a designating party's attention that information or items that it 6 designated for protection do not qualify for protection, the designating party must 7 promptly notify all other parties that it is withdrawing the mistaken designation.

8 5.2 Manner and Timing of Designations. Except as otherwise provided in 9 this agreement (see, e.g., second paragraph of section 5.2(a) below), or as 10 otherwise stipulated or ordered, disclosure or discovery material that qualifies for 11 protection under this agreement must be clearly so designated before or when the 12 material is disclosed or produced.

13 (a) Information in documentary form: (e.g., paper or electronic documents 14 and deposition exhibits, but excluding transcripts of depositions or other pretrial or 15 trial proceedings), the designating party must affix the word "CONFIDENTIAL" 16 to each page that contains confidential material. If only a portion or portions of the 17 material on a page qualifies for protection, the producing party also must clearly 18 identify the protected portion(s) (e.g., by making appropriate markings in the 19 margins).

20 1 (b) Testimony given in deposition or in other pretrial proceedings: the 2 parties and any participating non-parties must identify on the record, during the 3 deposition or other pretrial proceeding, all protected testimony, without prejudice 4 to their right to so designate other testimony after reviewing the transcript. Any 5 party or non-party may, within fifteen days after receiving the transcript of the 6 deposition or other pretrial proceeding, designate portions of the transcript, or 7 exhibits thereto, as confidential.

If a party or non-party desires to protect confidential information at trial, the issue should be addressed during the pre-trial conference. (c) Other tangible items: the producing party must affix in a prominent place on the exterior of the container or containers in which the information or item is stored the word "CONFIDENTIAL." If only a portion or portions of the information or item warrant protection, the producing party, to the extent practicable, shall identify the protected portion(s).

5.3 Inadvertent Failures to Designate. If timely corrected, an inadvertent failure to designate qualified information or items does not, standing alone, waive the designating party's right to secure protection under this agreement for such material. Upon timely correction of a designation, the receiving party must make reasonable efforts to ensure that the material is treated in accordance with the provisions of this agreement.

6. CHALLENGING CONFIDENTIALITY DESIGNATION 6.1 Timing of Challenges. Any party or non-party may challenge a designation of confidentiality at any time. Unless a prompt challenge to a designating party's confidentiality designation is necessary to avoid foreseeable, substantial unfairness, unnecessary economic burdens, or a significant disruption or delay of the litigation, a party does not waive its right to challenge a confidentiality designation by electing not to mount a challenge promptly after the original designation is disclosed.

6.2 Meet and Confer. The parties must make every attempt to resolve any dispute regarding confidential designations without court involvement. Any motion regarding confidential designations or for a protective order must include a certification, in the motion or in a declaration or affidavit, that the movant has engaged in a good faith meet and confer conference with other affected parties in an effort to resolve the dispute without court action.

The certification must list the date, manner, and participants to the conference. A good faith effort to confer requires a face-to-face meeting or a telephone conference. 6.3 Judicial Intervention. If the parties cannot resolve a challenge without court intervention, the designating party may file and serve a motion to retain confidentiality.

The burden of persuasion in any such motion shall be on the designating party. Frivolous challenges, and those made for an improper purpose (e.g., to harass or impose unnecessary expenses and burdens on other parties) may expose the challenging party to sanctions. All parties shall continue to maintain the material in question as confidential until the court rules on the challenge.

7. PROTECTED MATERIAL SUBPOENED OR ORDERED PRODUCED IN OTHER LITIGATION 7 If a party is served with a subpoena or a court order issued in other litigation that compels disclosure of any information or items designated in this action as "CONFIDENTIAL," that party must: (a) promptly notify the designating party in writing and

include a copy of the subpoena or court order; (b) promptly notify in writing the party who caused the subpoena or order to be issued in the other litigation that some or all of the material covered by the subpoena or order is subject to this agreement.

Such notification shall include a copy of this agreement; and (c) cooperate with respect to all reasonable procedures sought to be pursued by the designating party whose confidential material may be affected.

8. UNAUTHORIZED DISCLOSURE OF PROTECTED MATERIAL

If a receiving party learns that, by inadvertence or otherwise, it has disclosed confidential material to any person or in any circumstance not authorized under this agreement, the receiving party must immediately (a) notify in writing the designating party of the unauthorized disclosures, (b) use its best efforts to retrieve all unauthorized copies of the protected material, (c) inform the person or persons to whom unauthorized disclosures were made of all the terms of this agreement, and (d) request that such person or persons execute the "Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound" that is attached hereto as Exhibit A.

INADVERTENT PRODUCTION OF PRIVILEGED OR OTHERWISE PROTECTED MATERIAL

When a producing party gives notice to receiving parties that certain inadvertently produced material is subject to a claim of privilege or other protection, the obligations of the receiving parties are those set forth in Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(b)(5)(B). This provision is not intended to modify whatever procedure may be established in an e-discovery order or agreement that provides for production without prior privilege review.

The parties agree to the entry of a non-waiver order under Fed. R. Evid. 502(d) as set forth herein.

10. NON TERMINATION AND RETURN OF DOCUMENTS

Within 60 days after the termination of this action, including all appeals, each receiving party must return all confidential material to the producing party, including all copies, extracts and summaries thereof.

Alternatively, the parties may agree upon appropriate methods of destruction.

Notwithstanding this provision, counsel are entitled to retain one archival copy of all documents filed with the court, trial, deposition, and hearing transcripts, correspondence, deposition and trial exhibits, expert reports, attorney work product, and consultant and expert work product, even if such materials contain confidential material.

The confidentiality obligations imposed by this agreement shall remain in effect until a designating party agrees otherwise in writing or a court orders otherwise.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

The District Court Clerk is hereby directed to file this Order and provide copies to counsel.

DATED April 7, 2026.

~ REBECCA L. PENNELL UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

EXHIBIT A 2 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 6 United States District Court for the Eastern District of Washington on 7 _____ in the case of Eunice Youmans v. Chelan-Douglas Land 8 Trust., et al., Cause No. 2:25-cv-00290-RLP.

I agree to comply with and to be 9 bound by all the terms of this Stipulated Protective Order and I understand and 10 acknowledge that failure to so comply could expose me to sanctions and 11 punishment in the nature of contempt. I solemnly promise that I will not disclose in 12 any manner any information or item that is subject to this Stipulated Protective 13 Order to any person or entity except in strict compliance with the provisions of this 14 Order.

I further agree to submit to the jurisdiction of the United States District 15 Court for the Eastern District of Washington for the purpose of enforcing the terms 16 of this Stipulated Protective Order, even if such enforcement proceedings occur 17 after termination of this action. 18

Date:_____ City and State where sworn and
signed:_____ 19 Printed name:_____ 20
Signature:_____