

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.

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 ANND 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 confidential material; and (3) any testimony, conversations, or presentations by parties or their counsel that might reveal confidential material.

However, the protections conferred by this agreement do not cover information that is in the public domain or becomes part of the public domain through trial or otherwise.

4. ACCESS TO AND USE OF CONFIDENTIAL MATERIAL

4.1 Basic Principles.

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

Confidential material may be disclosed only to the categories of persons and under the conditions described in this agreement. Confidential material must be stored and maintained by a receiving party at a location and in a secure manner that ensures that access is limited to the persons authorized under this agreement.

4.2 Disclosure of "CONFIDENTIAL" Information or Items.

Unless otherwise ordered by the court or permitted in writing by the designating party, a receiving party may disclose any confidential material only to:

- (a) the receiving party's counsel of record in this action, as well as employees of counsel to whom it is reasonably necessary to disclose the information for this litigation;
- (b) the officers, directors, and employees (including in house counsel) of the receiving party to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary for this litigation, unless the parties agree that a particular document or material produced is for Attorney's Eyes Only and is so designated;
- (c) experts and consultants to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary for this litigation and who have signed the "Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound" (Exhibit A);
- (d) the court, court personnel, and court reporters and their staff;
- (e) copy or imaging services retained by counsel to assist in the duplication of confidential material, provided that counsel for the party retaining the copy or imaging service instructs the service not to disclose any confidential material to third parties and to immediately return all originals and copies of any confidential material;
- (f) during their depositions, witnesses in the action to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary and who have signed the "Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound" (Exhibit A), unless otherwise agreed by the designating party or ordered by the court.

Pages of transcribed deposition testimony or exhibits to depositions that reveal confidential material must be separately bound by the court reporter and may not be disclosed to anyone except as permitted under this agreement;

- (g) the author or recipient of a document containing the information or a custodian or other person who otherwise possessed or knew the information.

4.3 Filing Confidential Material.

Before filing confidential material or discussing or referencing such material in court filings, the filing party shall confer 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 8 confidential information at trial, the issue should be addressed during the pre-trial 9 conference. 10 (c) Other tangible items: the producing party must affix in a prominent place 11 on the exterior of the container or containers in which the information or item is 12 stored the word "CONFIDENTIAL." If only a portion or portions of the 13 information or item warrant protection, the producing party, to the extent 14 practicable, shall identify the protected portion(s).

15 5.3 Inadvertent Failures to Designate. If timely corrected, an inadvertent 16 failure to designate qualified information or items does not, standing alone, waive 17 the designating party's right to secure protection under this agreement for such 18 material. Upon timely correction of a designation, the receiving party must make 19 reasonable efforts to ensure that the material is treated in accordance with the 20 provisions of this agreement.

1 6. CHALLENGING CONFIDENTIALITY DESIGNATION 2 6.1 Timing of Challenges. Any party or non-party may challenge a 3 designation of confidentiality at any time. Unless a prompt challenge to a 4 designating party's confidentiality designation is necessary to avoid foreseeable, 5 substantial unfairness, unnecessary economic burdens, or a significant disruption 6 or delay of the litigation, a party does not waive its right to challenge a 7 confidentiality designation by electing not to mount a challenge promptly after the 8 original designation is disclosed.

9 6.2 Meet and Confer. The parties must make every attempt to resolve any 10 dispute regarding confidential designations without court involvement. Any motion 11 regarding confidential designations or for a protective order must include a 12 certification, in the motion or in a declaration or affidavit, that the movant has 13 engaged in a good faith meet and confer conference with other affected parties in 14 an effort to resolve the dispute without court action.

The certification must list the 15 date, manner, and participants to the conference. A good faith effort to confer 16 requires a face-to-face meeting or a telephone conference. 17 6.3 Judicial Intervention. If the parties cannot resolve a challenge without 18 court intervention, the designating party may file and serve a motion to retain 19 confidentiality.

The burden of persuasion in any such motion shall be on the 20 designating party. Frivolous challenges, and those made for an improper purpose 1 (e.g., to harass or impose unnecessary expenses and burdens on other parties) may 2 expose the challenging party to sanctions. All

parties shall continue to maintain the 3 material in question as confidential until the court rules on the challenge.

4 7. PROTECTED MATERIAL SUBPOENED OR ORDERED 5 PRODUCED IN OTHER LITIGATION 6 If a party is served with a subpoena or a court order issued in other litigation 7 that compels disclosure of any information or items designated in this action as 8 “CONFIDENTIAL,” that party must: 9 (a) promptly notify the designating party in writing and include a copy of the 10 subpoena or court order; 11 (b) promptly notify in writing the party who caused the subpoena or order to 12 issue in the other litigation that some or all of the material covered by the subpoena 13 or order is subject to this agreement.

Such notification shall include a copy of this 14 agreement; and 15 (c) cooperate with respect to all reasonable procedures sought to be pursued 16 by the designating party whose confidential material may be affected. 17 8. UNAUTHORIZED DISCLOSURE OF PROTECTED MATERIAL 18 If a receiving party learns that, by inadvertence or otherwise, it has disclosed 19 confidential material to any person or in any circumstance not authorized under 20 this agreement, the receiving party must immediately (a) notify in writing the 1 designating party of the unauthorized disclosures, (b) use its best efforts to retrieve 2 all unauthorized copies of the protected material, (c) inform the person or persons 3 to whom unauthorized disclosures were made of all the terms of this agreement, 4 and (d) request that such person or persons execute the “Acknowledgment and 5 Agreement to Be Bound” that is attached hereto as Exhibit A. 6 9.

INADVERTENT PRODUCTION OF PRIVILEGED OR 7 OTHERWISE PROTECTED MATERIAL 8 When a producing party gives notice to receiving parties that certain 9 inadvertently produced material is subject to a claim of privilege or other 10 protection, the obligations of the receiving parties are those set forth in Federal 11 Rule of Civil Procedure 26(b)(5)(B). This provision is not intended to modify 12 whatever procedure may be established in an e-discovery order or agreement that 13 provides for production without prior privilege review.

The parties agree to the 14 entry of a non-waiver order under Fed. R. Evid. 502(d) as set forth herein. 15 10. NON TERMINATION AND RETURN OF DOCUMENTS 16 Within 60 days after the termination of this action, including all appeals, 17 each receiving party must return all confidential material to the producing party, 18 including all copies, extracts and summaries thereof.

Alternatively, the parties may 19 agree upon appropriate methods of destruction. 20 Notwithstanding this provision, counsel are entitled to retain one archival 1|| copy of all documents filed with the court, trial, deposition, and hearing transcripts, 2|| correspondence, deposition and trial exhibits, expert reports, attorney work 3|| product, and consultant and expert work product, even if such materials contain confidential material.

5 The confidentiality obligations imposed by this agreement shall remain in 6|| effect until a
designating party agrees otherwise in writing or a court orders otherwise. 8 IT IS SO ORDERED.
The District Court Clerk is hereby directed to file 9|| this Order and provide copies to counsel. 10
DATED April 7, 2026. 12 ~ REBECCA L.PENNELL UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE 13
14 15 16 17 18 19 20 1 EXHIBIT A 2 ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND AGREEMENT TO BE
BOUND 3 I, _____ [print or type full name], of _____ 4 [print or
type full address], declare under penalty of perjury that I have read in its 5 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: _____