

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF
CALIFORNIA

L.V.Q. v. The GEO Group, Inc.

L.V.Q. · No. 1:24-cv-00656-KES-CDB · Decided August 13, 2025

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Eastern District of California grants the parties' stipulated request to amend the scheduling order in L.V.Q. v. The GEO Group, Inc. The court finds limited good cause based on discovery disputes and ongoing ESI review, extends the case-management deadlines, and cautions that further extensions are unlikely absent extraordinary circumstances.

OPINION

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT 9 EASTERN DISTRICT OF
CALIFORNIA 10 11 L.V.Q., Case No. 1:24-cv-00656-KES-CDB 12 Plaintiff, ORDER
GRANTING PARTIES' 13 v. STIPULATED REQUEST TO AMEND CASE MANAGEMENT
DATES AS 14 THE GEO GROUP, INC., MODIFIED 15 Defendant. (Docs. 22, 51) 16 17 18
Relevant Background 19 Plaintiff L.V.Q. initiated this action with the filing of a complaint on
June 3, 2024.

(Doc. 20 1). In the operative, first amended complaint ("FAC"), Plaintiff asserts state law causes
of action 21 against Defendant The GEO Group, Inc. ("Defendant" or "GEO"). (Doc. 9). On
October 24, 2024, 22 the Court entered the operative scheduling order setting forth discovery,
motion and pretrial and 23 trial dates and deadlines. (Doc. 22). 24 On July 10, 2024, following
submission by the parties of a joint letter brief and the Court's 25 convening with the parties for an
informal discovery dispute conference, the Court entered an order 26 resolving certain discovery
disputes over Defendant's objections to and withholding of documents 27 responsive to Plaintiff's
requests for production of documents, and separate disputes pertaining to 28 Defendant's
production of electronically stored information ("ESI").

(Doc. 34). 1 Pending before the Court is the parties' stipulated request to amend the scheduling
order. 2 (Doc. 51). The parties represent that good cause exists to continue case management dates
to allow 3 more time for discovery as Defendant has since produced documents subject to the
Court's order 4 resolving the parties' discovery disputes and has run searches for other ESI
responsive to Plaintiff's 5 discovery requests.

Id. at 2. The parties represent Defendant's counsel has notified Plaintiff's 6 counsel that review of
potentially responsive ESI is underway. Id. (citing Ex. A, Decl. of Jessica 7 Zhang ("Zhang
Decl.")). The parties represent that Defendant has served its first set of discovery 8 requests on

Plaintiff on August 7, 2025. Id. The parties represent that they are working in good faith and diligently to respond to all pending discovery requests but will not be able to complete discovery by the current deadline of September 24, 2025, for completion of non-expert discovery.

Id. The parties therefore jointly request to continue the deadlines in this case to allow for the completion of discovery as set forth in their stipulation (see id. at 2-3):
Event Prior Date Amended Date
Mid-Discovery Status Conference 08/20/2025 11/05/2025, 9:30 AM
Non-Expert Discovery Deadline 09/24/2025 12/12/2025
Expert Disclosure Deadline 10/24/2025 01/12/2026
Rebuttal Disclosure Deadline 11/24/2025 02/12/2026
Expert Discovery Deadline 12/24/2025 03/12/2026
Non-Dispositive Motion Filing 01/08/2026 04/08/2026
Non-Dispositive Motion Hearing 02/16/2026 05/13/2026
Dispositive Motion Filing 03/16/2026 06/16/2026
Dispositive Motion Hearing 04/27/2026 07/27/2026, 1:30 PM
Pre-Trial Conference 08/24/2026 11/23/2026, 1:30 PM
Trial Date 10/20/2026 01/26/2027, 8:30 AM
Standard of Law
District courts enter scheduling orders in actions to “limit the time to join other parties, amend the pleadings, complete discovery, and file motions.” Fed.

R. Civ. P. 16(b)(3). Once entered, a scheduling order “controls the course of the action unless the court modifies it.” Fed. R. Civ. P. 16(d). Scheduling orders are intended to alleviate case management problems. *Johnson v. Mammoth Recreations, Inc.*, 975 F.2d 604, 610 (9th Cir. 1992).³ “A scheduling order is not a frivolous piece of paper, idly entered, which can be cavalierly disregarded by counsel without peril.” Id. (quotation and citation omitted).

Under Federal Rule 5 of Civil Procedure 16(b), a scheduling order “may be modified only for good cause and with the judge's consent.” Fed. R. Civ. P. 16(b)(4)/ “Rule 16(b)’s ‘good cause’ standard primarily considers the diligence of the party seeking the amendment.” *Johnson*, 975 F.2d at 609. If the moving party is unable to reasonably meet a deadline despite acting diligently, the scheduling order may be modified.

Id. If, however, the moving party “‘was not diligent, the inquiry should end’ and the motion to modify should not be granted.” *Zivkovic v. So. Cal. Edison Co.*, 302 F.3d 1080, 1087 (9th Cir. 2002) (quoting *Johnson*, 975 F.2d at 609).¹² Discussion
Here, the Court does not find good cause to grant the requested extension based on the parties’ representation that Defendant served its first set of discovery requests on Plaintiff on August 7, 2025.

It is unclear from the parties’ filings why Defendant waited ten months from the date discovery was opened, and only six weeks before nonexpert discovery is set to close, to propound its first set of discovery requests on Plaintiff. Without further details, the Court cannot find that Defendant acted diligently in seeking discovery such that the scheduling order should be modified on this basis.

See Johnson, 965 F.2d at 609. 20 Notwithstanding Defendant's unexplained delay in seeking discovery, the Court finds the 21 parties have demonstrated limited good cause for the requested extension of all case management 22 dates based on the parties' engagement in the Court's informal discovery dispute procedures (Docs. 23 30, 32, 33) and Defendant's compliance with the Court's order resolving the discovery dispute 24 (Doc.

34), including Defendant's ongoing review of potentially responsive ESI. 25 Given the parties' showing of limited good cause and the generous extension granted 26 herein, the Court is unlikely to grant further requests for extension of case management dates 27 absent a showing of extraordinary circumstances beyond good cause. 28 /// 1 Conclusion and Order 2 In light of the parties' representations and limited good cause appearing, IT IS HEREBY 3 | ORDERED that the scheduling order (Doc.

22) be amended as follows and as modified: 4 Event Prior Date Amended Date 5 Mid-Discovery Status Conference 08/20/2025 11/05/2025, 10:00 AM 6 Non-Expert Discovery Deadline 09/24/2025 12/12/2025 7 Expert Disclosure Deadline 10/24/2025 01/12/2026 8 Rebuttal Disclosure Deadline 11/24/2025 02/12/2026 9 Expert Discovery Deadline 12/24/2025 03/12/2026 10 Non-Dispositive Motion Filing 01/08/2026 04/08/2026 11 Non-Dispositive Motion Hearing 02/16/2026 05/13/2026 12 Dispositive Motion Filing 03/16/2026 06/16/2026 13 Dispositive Motion Hearing 04/27/2026 08/03/2026, 1:30 PM 14 Pre-Trial Conference 08/24/2026 12/14/2026, 1:30 PM 15 Trial Date 10/20/2026 02/09/2027, 8:30 AM 16 | IP 1S SO ORDERED.

17 Dated: _ August 13, 2025 | Word bo 18 UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28