

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF
CALIFORNIA

Miyoshi Garcia v. Westland Farms, LLC, et al.

Garcia · No. 1:20-cv-00190-KES-HBK · Decided August 22, 2025

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Eastern District of California stayed the action for 60 days only as to claims against Westland Farms, LLC and Madera Persimmon Growers, Inc. The stay was imposed to allow the parties to arrange mediation, while claims against M.G. Luna, Inc. and Maria Guadalupe Luna remained active.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Eastern District of California
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Helena M. Barch-Kuchta
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Eastern District of California
DECIDED	August 22, 2025
DOCKET	1:20-cv-00190-KES-HBK
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Following a telephonic status conference, the court considered the parties' stated intention to proceed with mediation and ordered a 60-day stay as to claims against two defendants.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	Abuse-of-discretion principles govern the court's decision whether to stay an action; the court has broad discretion to impose a stay and must balance the length of a stay against the strength of its justification, particularly when the stay is long or indefinite.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	unpublished, nonprecedential district court order

TOPICS

- mediation
- civil procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

- civil procedure
- mediation

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the court should stay the action as to Westland Farms, LLC and Madera Persimmon Growers, Inc. to facilitate mediation.
2. Whether the stay should extend to claims against M.G. Luna, Inc. and Maria Guadalupe Luna.

HOLDINGS

1. A 60-day stay was appropriate as to the claims against Westland Farms, LLC and Madera Persimmon Growers, Inc. so the parties could pursue mediation.
2. The stay applied only to claims against Westland Farms, LLC and Madera Persimmon Growers, Inc.; claims against M.G. Luna, Inc. and Maria Guadalupe Luna were not stayed.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“As a rule, “stays should not be indefinite in nature.”” (at 1)

“If a stay is especially long or indefinite, a greater showing is required to justify it and the court must “balance the length of any stay against the strength of the justification given for it.”” (at 1)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Plaintiffs and counsel for Westland Farms, LLC and Madera Persimmon Growers, Inc. advised the court that they intended to proceed with scheduling mediation. The court determined that a temporary stay would allow those parties to direct their resources and attention to mediation. The stay did not extend to claims against M.G. Luna, Inc. or Maria Guadalupe Luna.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Plaintiffs and counsel for Westland Farms, LLC and Madera Persimmon Growers, Inc. reported that they intended to schedule mediation. The court exercised its discretion to stay the action only as to claims against those defendants, while allowing claims against M.G. Luna, Inc. and Maria Guadalupe Luna to proceed.

DISPOSITION

other

CASES CITED

- Clinton v. Jones, 520 U.S. 681, 705 (1997)
- Landis v. North American Co., 299 U.S. 248, 254 (1936)
- Dependable Highway Exp., Inc. v. Navigators Ins. Co., 498 F.3d 1059, 1066-67 (9th Cir. 2007)
- Yong v. I.N.S., 208 F.3d 1116, 1119 (9th Cir. 2000)

OPINION

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT 9 FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF
CALIFORNIA 10 11 MIYOSHI GARCIA, et. al., on behalf of Case No. 1:20-cv-00190-KES-
HBK the State of California, themselves, and all 12 other similarly situated, ORDER STAYING
CASE ONLY AS TO DEFENDANTS WESTLAND FARMS, LLC 13 Plaintiffs, AND MADERA
PERSIMMON GROWERS, INC. 14 v. 15 WESTLAND FARMS, LLC, et. al. 16 Defendants.

17 18 On August 21, 2025, the Court held a telephonic status conference. In the joint status 19
report filed before the status conference (Doc. No. 84), and as confirmed at the status conference,
20 Plaintiffs and counsel for Defendants Westland Farms, LLC and Madera Persimmon Growers
21 Inc. advised on the record that they intended to proceed with scheduling a mediation.

(See Doc. 22 No. 84 at 5). 23 The court is vested with broad discretion to stay a case. *Clinton v.*
Jones, 520 U.S. 681, 24 705 (1997) (citing *Landis v. North American Co.*, 299 U.S. 248, 254
(1936)). As a rule, “stays 25 should not be indefinite in nature.” *Dependable Highway Exp., Inc. v.*
Navigators Ins. Co., 498 26 F.3d 1059, 1066-67 (9th Cir. 2007). If a stay is especially long or
indefinite, a greater showing is 27 required to justify it and the court must “balance the length of
any stay against the strength of the 28 justification given for it.” *Yong v. I.N.S.*, 208 F.3d 1116,
1119 (9th Cir.

2000). 1 The Court finds in its discretion that a stay of this action is appropriate and will stay this 2
| action only as to Plaintiffs claims against Defendants Westland Farms, LLC and Madera 3 |
Persimmon Growers Inc. may direct their resources and attention to mediation.

The case is not 4 | stayed as to Plaintiffs claims against Defendants M.G. Luna, Inc. and Maria
Guadalupe Luna. 5 Accordingly, it is ORDERED: 6 1. The Court STAYS this action only as to
claims against Defendants Westland Farms, 7 LLC and Madera Persimmon Growers Inc. for 60
days from the date of this Order. 8 2. No later than 60 days of the date of this Order, the Parties
shall file a Notice with the 9 Court identifying their agreed-upon mediator and the date mediation
is scheduled and 10 whether a further stay of the proceedings as to Plaintiff and Defendants
Westland 11 Farms, LLC and Madera Persimmon Growers Inc. is warranted.

12 'S | Dated: _ August 21, 2025 Mihaw. Wh. foareh Zaskth 14 HELENA M. BARCH-KUCHTA
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28