

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF
CALIFORNIA

Christina Wind, et al. v. State of California, et al.

Wind · No. 1:25-cv-00266-JLT-HBK · Decided December 18, 2025

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Eastern District of California granted the parties’ joint motion to stay the entire action pending private mediation. The court vacated the initial scheduling conference and related deadlines, required a joint post-mediation status report, and set procedures for reporting settlement or proposing future case deadlines.

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	December 18, 2025
DOCKET	1:25-cv-00266-JLT-HBK
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	The parties jointly moved to stay the entire action so they could participate in private mediation.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	Abuse-of-discretion framework for a district court's decision to stay an action; the court noted that it has broad discretion to stay a case.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Nonprecedential interlocutory order
PARTIES	Christina Wind, et al. v. State of California, et al.

TOPICS

- mediation
- civil procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

- civil procedure
- alternative dispute resolution

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the court should grant the parties' joint request to stay the entire action for purposes of private mediation.
2. What proceedings, deadlines, and post-mediation reporting requirements should apply during and after the stay.

HOLDINGS

1. The court granted the parties' joint motion and stayed the entire action until further order because the parties' mediation provided an appropriate justification for the stay.
2. During the stay, all proceedings, discovery, pending deadlines, and hearings are vacated, including the initial scheduling conference, although the parties may informally exchange information under the protective order to prepare for mediation.
3. Within fourteen days after mediation, the parties must file a joint post-mediation status report; mediation communications are confidential subject to the court's stated exceptions; and the parties must promptly file notice of settlement if mediation results in settlement.

KEY QUOTATIONS

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

“The Court finds in its discretion that a stay of this action is appropriate so that the Parties may direct their resources and attention to private mediation.” (at 1)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

The parties requested a complete stay to allow them to participate in private mediation scheduled for March 10–11, 2026. The court determined that a stay would permit the parties to direct their resources and attention to mediation, while allowing informal information exchanges under the existing protective order.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

The action was pending in the Eastern District of California when the parties filed a joint request for a complete stay on December 17, 2025. The court granted the motion, stayed the case until further order, vacated the initial scheduling conference and associated deadlines, and imposed post-mediation reporting requirements.

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 CHRISTINA WIND, et al., Case No. 1:25-cv-00266-JLT-HBK 12 Plaintiff,
ORDER GRANTING JOINT MOTION AND DIRECTING CLERK TO ENTER STAY OF 13 v.
ENTIRE ACTION 14 STATE OF CALIFORNIA, et al., (Doc. No. 47) 15 Defendants. 16 17
Pending before the Court is the Parties joint request to stay this action filed on December 18 17,
2025.

(Doc. No. 47). The Parties request a complete stay of this action for the purpose of 19 participating
in private mediation, currently scheduled for March 10-11, 2026. (Id. at 2). 20 The court is vested
with broad discretion to stay a case. *Clinton v. Jones*, 520 U.S. 681, 21 705 (1997) (citing *Landis*
v. North American Co., 299 U.S. 248, 254 (1936)).

As a rule, “stays 22 should not be indefinite in nature.” *Dependable Highway Exp., Inc. v.*
Navigators Ins. Co., 498 23 F.3d 1059, 1066-67 (9th Cir. 2007). If a stay is especially long or
indefinite, a greater showing is 24 required to justify it and the court must “balance the length of
any stay against the strength of the 25 justification given for it.” *Yong v. I.N.S.*, 208 F.3d 1116,
1119 (9th Cir.

2000). 26 The Court finds in its discretion that a stay of this action is appropriate so that the
Parties 27 may direct their resources and attention to private mediation. During the stay, all
proceedings and 28 discovery and any pending deadlines or hearings are vacated.

However, the parties may 1 | informally exchange information under the protective order entered
in this case to prepare for 2 | mediation. 3 Accordingly, it is ORDERED: 4 1. The Parties’ joint
motion this action (Doc. No. 47) is GRANTED and the Court 5 | STAYS this case until further
order by the Court. 6 2.

The Court VACATES the initial scheduling conference set for February 5, 2026 7 | and all
associated deadlines. 8 3. Within fourteen (14) days of the mediation’s conclusion, the Parties shall
file a 9 | “Joint Post Mediation Status Report” regarding the result of the mediation. 10 4.

The substance of the mediation is confidential, and no party, lawyer, or other 11 | participant may
record, or without approval of the Court may disclose any event, including any 12 | statement
confirming or denying a fact—except settlement—that occurs during the mediation. 13 5, If the
Parties reach a settlement at the mediation, a notice of settlement shall 14 | promptly be filed with
the Court.

See Local Rule 160(a). Dispositional documents are due no 15 || more than twenty-one (21) days
from the filing of the notification, absent good cause. See Local 16 | Rule 160(b). 17 6. If the case
does not settle, the Parties shall include in their Joint Post Mediation 18 | Status Report a date for
Defendants’ responsive pleading and a proposed initial scheduling 19 || conference date.

20 21 Dated: _ December 18, 2025 law ZA. foareh Back 22 HELENA M. BARCH-KUCHTA 33
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE 24 25 26 27 28

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