



UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

IN RE:	}	GENERAL ORDER NO. 20-12
CORONAVIRUS PUBLIC		(Supersedes, in part, General Order
EMERGENCY		No. 20-09)
ORDER CONCERNING REOPENING	}	
OF THE SOUTHERN DIVISION		

WHEREAS, the Court has adopted the Plan for Phased Resumption of Operations (“Reopening Plan”), which consists of three phases: Phase 1 (return of certain staff to the courthouses to prepare for limited in-court hearings); Phase 2 (reopening courthouses for limited in-court hearings); and Phase 3 (resumption of jury trials);

WHEREAS, the Court has adopted gating criteria designed to assess local COVID-19 exposure risks based on 14-day trends of facility exposure, community spread, and community restrictions;

WHEREAS, the Court has delegated authority to the Executive Committee to determine when the Court should transition between phases of the Court’s Reopening Plan per the gating criteria; and

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1 WHEREAS, per the gating criteria, local COVID-19 exposure risks in the
2 Court's Southern Division are decreasing, such that allowing additional in-court
3 hearings is appropriate at this time;

4 Upon a unanimous vote of the Executive Committee, and without objection
5 from the District Judges of the Court, the Court orders as follows:

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- 7 1. The Southern Division remains in Phase 2 of the Court's Reopening Plan.
 - 8 2. In-court hearings are permitted in the Southern Division as follows:
 - 9 a. Hearings in emergency civil matters may proceed in court at the
10 discretion of the assigned judge. Hearings in non-emergency civil
11 matters will continue to proceed by video and telephonic
12 conference.
 - 13 b. Hearings in any criminal matter may proceed in court at the
14 discretion of the assigned judge. Hearings by video and telephonic
15 conference may continue to be held in certain criminal matters as
16 set forth in Order of the Chief Judge No. 20-043.
 - 17 3. The Santa Ana Courthouse is open to persons with court business and
18 subject to all posted restrictions.

19 To the extent this General Order conflicts with General Order No. 20-09, this
20 Orders supersedes General Order No. 20-09.

21 IT IS SO ORDERED.

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25 CHIEF UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

1 *Date of Approval by the Court:* September 14, 2020
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3 *Date of Filing by the Clerk:* September 14, 2020
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