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9 SOUTH DISTRICT COURT
10 OF WASHINGTON COUNTY OF PACIFIC

11 IN RE OF:

12 COURT OPERATIONS UNDER THE
13 EXIGENT CIRCUMSTANCES CREATED
14 BY COVID-19 AND RELATED
15 CORONAVIRUS

GENERAL ORDER 1-20

16 This General Order being issued in response to the recent outbreak of Coronavirus
17 Disease 2019 (COVID-19) in Western Washington, which has been home to the first reported
18 domestic case of the disease and some of the first significant community impacts from school
19 and business closures.

20 Given the significant number of identified and projected cases of COVID-19 in this State
21 and the severity of risk posed to the public, and given the public health recommendations from
22 public health authorities, it is hereby ORDERED that, effective Monday, March 16, 2020:
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25 Any civil or criminal court matters scheduled for an in-Court appearance before this
26 court, including any associated deadlines, are CONTINUED pending further Order of the Court;

- 27 1) With regard to criminal matter, due to the Court's reduced ability to obtain an
28 adequate spectrum of jurors and the effect of the above public health
29 recommendations on the availability of counsel and Court staff to be present
30 in the courtroom, the time period of the continuances implemented by the
General Order will be excluded under the Speedy Trial Act, as the Court

1 specifically finds that the ends of justice served by ordering the continuances
2 outweigh the best interests of the public and any defendant's right to a speedy
3 trial, under the constitution and court rules.

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5 2) Case-by exceptions to the continuances provided herein may be ordered for
6 non-jury matters at the discretion of the Court after consultation with counsel;

7 3) This Order does not affect the Court's consideration of civil or criminal
8 motions that can be resolved without oral argument.

9 The Court shall remain open. Staff in the Clerk's Office will be available, mail will be
10 received, and intake desks remain open for filings. The public is encouraged to continue
11 utilizing Court services while following all applicable public health guidelines.

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13 The Court will vacate or amend this General Order no later than March 31, 2020.

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15 Dated this 12th day of March 2020.

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18 *Nancy R. McAllister*

19 NANCY R. MCALLISTER, Judge
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