	FILED CLERK, U.S. DISTRICT COURT March 19, 2021 CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA BY: Matalic &. Calfornia Deputy
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT	
CENTRAL DISTRICT	Γ OF CALIFORNIA
IN RE: CORONAVIRUS PUBLIC EMERGENCY ORDER CONCERNING PHASED REOPENING OF THE COURT	GENERAL ORDER NO. 21-03 (Supersedes General Order No. 20- 09)

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

1	WHEREAS, per the gating criteria, local COVID-19 exposure risks in the		
2	Central District of California are decreasing, such that allowing additional in-court		
3	hearings is appropriate at this time;		
4	Upon unanimous vote of the Executive Committee, and without objection from		
5	the District Judges of the Court, the Court orders as follows:		
6	1.	The Court is in Phase 2 of the Court's Reopening Plan.	
7	2.	In-court hearings are permitted as follows:	
8		a. Hearings in emergency civil matters may proceed in court at the	
9		discretion of the assigned judge. Hearings in non-emergency civil	
10		matters will continue to proceed by video and telephonic	
11		conference.	
12		b. Hearings in any criminal matter may proceed in court at the	
13		discretion of the assigned judge. Hearings by video and telephonic	
14		conference may continue to be held in certain criminal matters as	
15		set forth in Order of the Chief Judge No. 20-043.	
16	3.	Until further notice, no jury trials will be conducted in civil cases.	
17		However, individual judges, at their discretion, may offer bench trials by	
18		video conference in lieu of postponement.	
19 20	4.	Until further notice, no jury trials will be conducted in criminal cases.	
20	5.	Although local COVID-19 exposure risks in the Central District of	
21		California are decreasing, the Court concludes that conducting jury trials	
22		would still likely place prospective jurors, defendants, attorneys, and court	
23		personnel at unnecessary risk. Therefore, the Court finds that the	
24 25		suspension of criminal jury trials in the Central District of California	
25 26		serves the ends of justice and outweighs the interests of the public and the	
26 27		defendants in a speedy trial.	
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- 6. The courthouses of the Central District of California are open to persons with court business and subject to all posted restrictions.
- 7. Judges will determine when their chambers staff will return to work at the courthouses during each phase of reopening. The District Court Executive/Clerk of Court will determine when and which Clerk's Office and Probation and Pretrial Services Office staff will return to the courthouses during each phase of reopening.

This Order shall take effect on March 22, 2021.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

QUA R:

CHIEF UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

Date of Approval by the Court:

March 18, 2021

Date of Filing by the Clerk:

March 19, 2021