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4 **UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT**  
5 **EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**  
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9 In Re ) General Order 21-04  
10 )  
11 Bankruptcy Clerk’s Office for Eastern )  
12 District of California Inaccessible Due to )  
13 Electric Transformer Explosion and Fire )  
\_\_\_\_\_ )

14 **ORDER DETERMINING INACCESSIBILITY OF THE OFFICE OF CLERK OF**  
15 **BANKRUPTCY COURT FOR EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**  
16 **FOR THE PERIOD DECEMBER 14<sup>TH</sup> THROUGH DECEMBER 17<sup>TH</sup>, 2021**

17 On December 14, 2021, at approximately 11:47 a.m., a fire and explosion occurred at the  
18 Sacramento Metropolitan Utility District (SMUD) Downtown Sacramento Substation A. The  
19 electric power distribution network which powers the Matsui United States Courthouse was  
20 destroyed and the Matsui Courthouse lost all electrical power. The loss of power resulted in the  
21 court’s website, electronic filing (which is a different system than the CM filing system)system,  
22 and related services being inaccessible District-wide for both attorneys and other persons  
23 attempting to file documents with or obtain information from the Clerk’s Office. Additionally,  
24 the Court’s staff was not able to access the electronic files for filing documents. Further, the  
25 Sacramento Bankruptcy Division could not provide for in-person physical delivery of documents  
26 to the Bankruptcy Clerk’s Office. Under the Local Bankruptcy Rules, electronic filing is a  
27 required filing procedure for most attorneys District-wide.

28 Federal Rule of Bankruptcy Procedure 9006(a)(3) provides that in computing the time

1 specified for taking actions and filing of documents, and the days included in computing such  
2 deadlines, that holidays, weekends, and days when the Clerk's Office is inaccessible are excluded  
3 from computation of such deadlines.

4 Power to the Matsui Courthouse was not restored until Friday, December 17, 2021, after  
5 which it required several hours to restart and make operational the Eastern District of California  
6 Bankruptcy Court's filing and other online services.

7 Upon consideration of these facts, that electronic filing of documents is a required (and  
8 almost universally used) filing practice in the Eastern District of California, that the physical  
9 access to the Sacramento Division Courthouse was not available, the inability of the Court's staff  
10 to access the electronic files or accept documents for filing, the geographic size of the Eastern  
11 District of California and the physical challenges facing persons to physically access the Clerk's  
12 Office during the period of the unexpected loss of the Court's online electronic filing and access  
13 to the Court, the concurrence of all active Bankruptcy Judges in the Eastern District of California  
14 to the issuance of this General Order, and good cause appearing;

15 **IT IS ORDERED** that the Bankruptcy Judges determine that the Bankruptcy Clerk's  
16 Office in the Eastern District was inaccessible during the period from December 14, 2021,  
17 through December 17, 2021, and that the days December 14, 15, 16, and 17, 2021 are not  
18 included in computing the last day for the filing of pleadings and other documents as provided in  
19 Federal Rule of Bankruptcy Procedure 9006.

20 The Clerk of the Bankruptcy Court shall post a copy of this General Order on the Court's  
21 website, and transmit copies to the Sacramento Valley Bankruptcy Association, Central  
22 California Bankruptcy Association, and the Sacramento and San Joaquin Valley Chapters of the  
23 Federal Bar Association.

24 **Dated:** December 17, 2021

**By the Court**

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Ronald H. Sargis, Judge  
United States Bankruptcy Court