## UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT

Eastern District of California

Honorable Michael S. McManus Bankruptcy Judge Sacramento, California

January 12, 2015 at 1:30 p.m.

THIS CALENDAR IS DIVIDED INTO TWO PARTS. THEREFORE, TO FIND ALL MOTIONS AND OBJECTIONS SET FOR HEARING IN A PARTICULAR CASE, YOU MAY HAVE TO LOOK IN BOTH PARTS OF THE CALENDAR. WITHIN EACH PART, CASES ARE ARRANGED BY THE LAST TWO DIGITS OF THE CASE NUMBER.

THE COURT FIRST WILL HEAR ITEMS 1 THROUGH 11. A TENTATIVE RULING FOLLOWS EACH OF THESE ITEMS. THE COURT MAY AMEND OR CHANGE A TENTATIVE RULING BASED ON THE PARTIES' ORAL ARGUMENT. IF <u>ALL</u> PARTIES AGREE TO A TENTATIVE RULING, THERE IS NO NEED TO APPEAR FOR ARGUMENT. HOWEVER, IT IS INCUMBENT ON EACH PARTY TO ASCERTAIN WHETHER ALL OTHER PARTIES WILL ACCEPT A RULING AND FOREGO ORAL ARGUMENT. IF A PARTY APPEARS, THE HEARING WILL PROCEED WHETHER OR NOT ALL PARTIES ARE PRESENT. AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE HEARING, THE COURT WILL ANNOUNCE ITS DISPOSITION OF THE ITEM AND IT MAY DIRECT THAT THE TENTATIVE RULING, AS ORIGINALLY WRITTEN OR AS AMENDED BY THE COURT, BE APPENDED TO THE MINUTES OF THE HEARING AS THE COURT'S FINDINGS OF FACT AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW.

IF A MOTION OR AN OBJECTION IS SET FOR HEARING PURSUANT TO LOCAL BANKRUPTCY RULE 3015-1(c), (d) [eff. May 1, 2012], GENERAL ORDER 05-03, ¶ 3(c), LOCAL BANKRUPTCY RULE 3007-1(c)(2)[eff. through April 30, 2012], OR LOCAL BANKRUPTCY RULE 9014-1(f)(2), RESPONDENTS WERE NOT REQUIRED TO FILE WRITTEN OPPOSITION TO THE RELIEF REQUESTED. RESPONDENTS MAY APPEAR AT THE HEARING AND RAISE OPPOSITION ORALLY. IF THAT OPPOSITION RAISES A POTENTIALLY MERITORIOUS DEFENSE OR ISSUE, THE COURT WILL GIVE THE RESPONDENT AN OPPORTUNITY TO FILE WRITTEN OPPOSITION AND SET A FINAL HEARING UNLESS THERE IS NO NEED TO DEVELOP THE WRITTEN RECORD FURTHER. IF THE COURT SETS A FINAL HEARING, UNLESS THE PARTIES REQUEST A DIFFERENT SCHEDULE THAT IS APPROVED BY THE COURT, THE FINAL HEARING WILL TAKE PLACE ON FEBRUARY 9, 2015 AT 1:30 P.M. OPPOSITION MUST BE FILED AND SERVED BY JANUARY 26, 2015, AND ANY REPLY MUST BE FILED AND SERVED BY FEBRUARY 2, 2015. THE MOVING/OBJECTING PARTY IS TO GIVE NOTICE OF THE DATE AND TIME OF THE CONTINUED HEARING DATE AND OF THESE DEADLINES.

THERE WILL BE NO HEARING ON ITEMS 12 THROUGH 25 IN THE SECOND PART OF THE CALENDAR. INSTEAD, THESE ITEMS HAVE BEEN DISPOSED OF AS INDICATED IN THE FINAL RULING BELOW. THAT RULING WILL BE APPENDED TO THE MINUTES. THIS FINAL RULING MAY OR MAY NOT BE A FINAL ADJUDICATION ON THE MERITS; IF IT IS, IT INCLUDES THE COURT'S FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS. IF ALL PARTIES HAVE AGREED TO A CONTINUANCE OR HAVE RESOLVED THE MATTER BY STIPULATION, THEY MUST ADVISE THE COURTROOM DEPUTY CLERK PRIOR TO HEARING IN ORDER TO DETERMINE WHETHER THE COURT VACATE THE FINAL RULING IN FAVOR OF THE CONTINUANCE OR THE STIPULATED DISPOSITION.

IF THE COURT CONCLUDES THAT FED. R. BANKR. P. 9014(d) REQUIRES AN EVIDENTIARY HEARING, UNLESS OTHERWISE ORDERED, IT WILL BE SET ON JANUARY 20, 2015, AT 2:30 P.M.

## Matters to be Called for Argument

1. 14-26000-A-13 ROBIN SMITH FF-3

MOTION TO CONFIRM PLAN 12-1-14 [43]

- □ Telephone Appearance
- □ Trustee Agrees with Ruling

**Tentative Ruling:** The motion will be denied and the objection will be sustained.

First, the plan is not feasible as required by 11 U.S.C. § 1325(a)(6) because the monthly plan payment in months 5 through 60 of \$1,410.33 is less than the \$1,645 in dividends and expenses the plan requires the trustee to pay each month.

Second, the debtor has failed to make \$4,059.60 of payments required by the plan. This has resulted in delay that is prejudicial to creditors and suggests that the plan is not feasible. See 11 U.S.C. §§ 1307(c)(1) & (c)(4), 1325(a)(6).

Third, to pay the dividends required by the plan and the rate proposed by it will take 80 months which exceeds the maximum 5-year duration permitted by 11 U.S.C. § 1322(d).

Fourth, even though 11 U.S.C. § 1322(b)(2) prevents the proposed plan from modifying a claim secured only by the debtor's home, 11 U.S.C.  $\S$  1322(b)(2) & (b) (5) permit the plan to provide for the cure of any defaults on such a claim while ongoing installment payments are maintained. The cure of defaults is not limited to the cure of pre-petition defaults. See In re Bellinger, 179 B.R. 220 (Bankr. D. Idaho 1995). The proposed plan, however, does not provide for a cure of all post-petition arrears owed to the Class 1 home loan. By failing to provide for a cure, the debtor is, in effect, impermissibly modifying a home loan. Also, the failure to cure the default means that the Class 1 secured claim will not be paid in full as required by 11 U.S.C. § 1325(a)(5)(B).

2. 14-31323-A-13 BRENDA GUSTAVE CAH-1

MOTION TO VALUE COLLATERAL 12-29-14 [23]

- VS. JPMORGAN CHASE BANK, N.A.
  - □ Telephone Appearance ☐ Trustee Agrees with Ruling

Tentative Ruling: Because less than 28 days' notice of the hearing was given by the debtor, this motion is deemed brought pursuant to Local Bankruptcy Rule 9014-1(f)(2). Consequently, the creditors, the trustee, the U.S. Trustee, and any other parties in interest were not required to file a written response or opposition to the motion. If any of these potential respondents appear at the hearing and offers opposition to the motion, the court will set a briefing schedule and a final hearing unless there is no need to develop the record further. If no opposition is offered at the hearing, the court will take up the merits of the motion. Below is the court's tentative ruling, rendered on the assumption that there will be no opposition to the motion. Obviously, if there is opposition, the court may reconsider this tentative ruling.

The motion will be granted.

The debtor seeks to value the debtor's residence at a fair market value of \$245,017 as of the date the petition was filed. It is encumbered by a first deed of trust held by Wells Fargo Bank. The first deed of trust secures a loan with a balance of approximately \$291,388 as of the petition date. Therefore, JPMorgan Chase Bank's claim secured by a junior deed of trust is completely under-collateralized. No portion of this claim will be allowed as a secured claim. See 11 U.S.C. § 506(a).

Any assertion that the respondent's claim cannot be modified because it is secured only by a security interest in real property that is the debtor's principal residence is disposed of by <u>In re Zimmer</u>, 313 F.3d 1220 (9<sup>th</sup> Cir. 2002) and <u>In re Lam</u>, 211 B.R. 36 (B.A.P. 9<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1997). <u>See also In re Bartee</u>, 212 F.3d 277 (5<sup>th</sup> Cir. 2000); <u>In re Tanner</u>, 217 F.3d 1357 (11<sup>th</sup> Cir. 2000); <u>McDonald v. Master Fin., Inc. (In re McDonald)</u>, 205 F.3d 606, 611-13 (3<sup>rd</sup> Cir. 2000); and <u>Domestic Bank v. Mann (In re Mann)</u>, 249 B.R. 831, 840 (B.A.P. 1<sup>st</sup> Cir. 2000).

Because the claim is completely under-secured, no interest need be paid on the claim except to the extent otherwise required by 11 U.S.C. \$ 1325(a)(4). If the secured claim is \$0, because the value of the respondent's collateral is \$0, no interest need be paid pursuant to 11 U.S.C. \$ 1325(a)(5)(B)(ii).

Any argument that the plan, by valuing the respondent's security and providing the above treatment, violates <u>In re Hobdy</u>, 130 B.R. 318 (B.A.P. 9<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1991), will be overruled. The plan is not an objection to the respondent's proof of claim pursuant to Fed. R. Bankr. P. 3007 and 11 U.S.C. § 502. The plan makes provision for the treatment of the claim and all other claims, and a separate valuation motion has been filed and served as permitted by Fed. R. Bankr. P. 3012 and 11 U.S.C. § 506(a). The plan was served by the trustee on all creditors, and the motion to value collateral was served by the debtor with a notice that the collateral for the respondent's claim would be valued. That motion is supported by a declaration of the debtor as to the value of the real property. There is nothing about the process for considering the valuation motion which amounts to a denial of due process.

To the extent the respondent objects to valuation of its collateral in a contested matter rather than an adversary proceeding, the objection is overruled. Valuations pursuant to 11 U.S.C. § 506(a) and Fed. R. Bankr. P. 3012 are contested matters and do not require the filing of an adversary proceeding. Further, even if considered in the nature of a claim objection, an adversary proceeding is not required. Fed. R. Bankr. P. 3007. It is only when such a motion or objection is joined with a request to determine the extent, validity or priority of a security interest, or a request to avoid a lien that an adversary proceeding is required. Fed. R. Bankr. P. 7001(2). The court is not determining the validity of a claim or avoiding a lien or security interest. The respondent's deed of trust will remain of record until the plan is completed. This is required by 11 U.S.C. § 1325(a)(5)(B)(I). Once the plan is completed, if the respondent will not reconvey its deed of trust, the court will entertain an adversary proceeding. See also 11 U.S.C. § 1325(a)(5)(B)(I).

In the meantime, the court is merely valuing the respondent's collateral. Rule 3012 specifies that this is done by motion. Rule 3012 motions can be filed and heard any time during the case. It is particularly appropriate that such motions be heard in connection with the confirmation of a plan. The value of collateral will set the upper bounds of the amount of the secured claim. 11 U.S.C.  $\S$  506(a). Knowing the amount and character of claims is vital to assessing the feasibility of a plan, 11 U.S.C.  $\S$  1325(a)(6), and determining

whether the treatment accorded to secured claims complies with 11 U.S.C.  $\S$  1325(a)(5).

To the extent the creditor objects to the debtor's opinion of value, that objection is also overruled, particularly in light of its failure to file any contrary evidence of value. According to the debtor, the residence has a fair market value of \$245,017. Evidence in the form of the debtor's declaration supports the valuation motion. The debtor may testify regarding the value of property owned by the debtor. Fed. R. Evid. 701; So. Central Livestock Dealers, Inc., v. Security State Bank, 614 F.2d 1056, 1061 (5th Cir. 1980).

3. 14-31323-A-13 BRENDA GUSTAVE JPJ-1

AMENDED OBJECTION TO CONFIRMATION OF PLAN AND MOTION TO DISMISS CASE 12-19-14 [21]

- $\square$  Telephone Appearance
- $\square$  Trustee Agrees with Ruling

**Tentative Ruling:** Because this hearing on an objection to the confirmation of the proposed chapter 13 plan and a motion to dismiss the case was set pursuant to the procedure required by Local Bankruptcy Rule 3015-1(c)(4), the debtor was not required to file a written response. If no opposition is offered at the hearing, the court will take up the merits of the objection. Below is the court's tentative ruling, rendered on the assumption that there will be no opposition. Obviously, if there is opposition, the court may reconsider this tentative ruling.

The objection will be sustained and the motion to dismiss the case will be conditionally denied.

First, the plan's feasibility depends on the debtor successfully prosecuting a motion to value the collateral of EMC Mortgage in order to strip down or strip off its secured claim from its collateral. No such motion has been filed, served, and granted. Absent a successful motion the debtor cannot establish that the plan will pay secured claims in full as required by 11 U.S.C. § 1325(a)(5)(B) or that the plan is feasible as required by 11 U.S.C. § 1325(a)(6). Local Bankruptcy Rule 3015-1(j) provides: "If a proposed plan will reduce or eliminate a secured claim based on the value of its collateral or the avoidability of a lien pursuant to 11 U.S.C. § 522(f), the debtor must file, serve, and set for hearing a valuation motion and/or a lien avoidance motion. The hearing must be concluded before or in conjunction with the confirmation of the plan. If a motion is not filed, or it is unsuccessful, the Court may deny confirmation of the plan."

Second, the debtor has failed to accurately complete Form 22. The debtor has taken the following impermissible deduction from current monthly income: the debtor has taken an expense deduction for a mortgages that the plan will strip off the debtor's home. Because nothing will be paid on account of the claim, the former mortgage payment may not be deducted from current monthly income of Form 22. See Thissen v. Johnson, 406 B.R. 888, 894 (E.D. Cal. 2009).

With this deduction eliminated, the debtor must pay no less than \$40,917.60 to Class 7 unsecured creditors. Because the plan will pay these creditors nothing, it does not comply with 11 U.S.C. \$1325(b).

Because the plan proposed by the debtor is not confirmable, the debtor will be

given a further opportunity to confirm a plan. But, if the debtor is unable to confirm a plan within a reasonable period of time, the court concludes that the prejudice to creditors will be substantial and that there will then be cause for dismissal. If the debtor has not confirmed a plan within 75 days, the case will be dismissed on the trustee's ex parte application.

4. 14-31431-A-13 WILLIAM/DIANE LEAHEY JPJ-1

OBJECTION TO CONFIRMATION OF PLAN AND MOTION TO DISMISS CASE 12-19-14 [14]

- □ Telephone Appearance
- □ Trustee Agrees with Ruling

Tentative Ruling: Because this hearing on an objection to the confirmation of the proposed chapter 13 plan and a motion to dismiss the case was set pursuant to the procedure required by Local Bankruptcy Rule 3015-1(c)(4), the debtor was not required to file a written response. If no opposition is offered at the hearing, the court will take up the merits of the objection. Below is the court's tentative ruling, rendered on the assumption that there will be no opposition. Obviously, if there is opposition, the court may reconsider this tentative ruling.

The objection will be sustained and the motion to dismiss the case will be conditionally denied.

The plan's feasibility depends on the debtor successfully prosecuting a motion to value the collateral of  $1^{\rm st}$  Investor Service Corp. in order to strip down or strip off its secured claim from its collateral. No such motion has been filed, served, and granted. Absent a successful motion the debtor cannot establish that the plan will pay secured claims in full as required by 11 U.S.C. § 1325(a)(5)(B) or that the plan is feasible as required by 11 U.S.C. § 1325(a)(6). Local Bankruptcy Rule 3015-1(j) provides: "If a proposed plan will reduce or eliminate a secured claim based on the value of its collateral or the avoidability of a lien pursuant to 11 U.S.C. § 522(f), the debtor must file, serve, and set for hearing a valuation motion and/or a lien avoidance motion. The hearing must be concluded before or in conjunction with the confirmation of the plan. If a motion is not filed, or it is unsuccessful, the Court may deny confirmation of the plan."

Because the plan proposed by the debtor is not confirmable, the debtor will be given a further opportunity to confirm a plan. But, if the debtor is unable to confirm a plan within a reasonable period of time, the court concludes that the prejudice to creditors will be substantial and that there will then be cause for dismissal. If the debtor has not confirmed a plan within 75 days, the case will be dismissed on the trustee's ex parte application.

5. 14-30932-A-13 FRANCES MOLINA EWV-56

MOTION TO CONFIRM PLAN 12-9-14 [16]

- □ Telephone Appearance
- □ Trustee Agrees with Ruling

**Tentative Ruling:** The motion will be denied and the objection will be sustained.

The plan does not comply with 11 U.S.C.  $\S$  1325(a)(4) because unsecured creditors would receive \$2,352.84 in a chapter 7 liquidation as of the effective date of the plan. This plan will pay nothing to unsecured creditors.

6. 14-30932-A-13 FRANCES MOLINA EWV-56

COUNTER MOTION TO DISMISS CASE 12-22-14 [29]

- □ Telephone Appearance
- □ Trustee Agrees with Ruling

Tentative Ruling: The motion will be conditionally denied.

Because the plan proposed by the debtor is not confirmable, the debtor will be given a further opportunity to confirm a plan. But, if the debtor is unable to confirm a plan within a reasonable period of time, the court concludes that the prejudice to creditors will be substantial and that there will then be cause for dismissal. If the debtor has not confirmed a plan within 75 days, the case will be dismissed on the trustee's ex parte application.

7. 14-29156-A-13 STEVEN/JANINE SEXTON RLC-1

MOTION TO CONFIRM PLAN 11-24-14 [19]

- □ Telephone Appearance
- □ Trustee Agrees with Ruling

**Tentative Ruling:** The motion will be granted and the objection will be overruled.

Given the debtor's disability, there has been a change in income that is likely to continue into the foreseeable future. In this circumstance, the court may substitute the debtor's actual income for the current monthly income calculated on Form 22. See Hamilton v. Lanning, 130 S.Ct. 2464 (2010). This has the effect of reducing monthly income to \$6,440.82. This is less than the expenses calculated on Form 22 even making allowance for the income taxes at a rate less than reported on Form 22. Therefore, the debtor has no projected disposable income that need be paid to unsecured creditors.

8. 14-32173-A-13 RICHARD/KELLIE LINARES SDH-1

MOTION TO EXTEND AUTOMATIC STAY 12-18-14 [10]

- □ Telephone Appearance
- □ Trustee Agrees with Ruling

Tentative Ruling: Because less than 28 days' notice of the hearing was given by the debtor, this motion is deemed brought pursuant to Local Bankruptcy Rule 9014-1(f)(2). Consequently, the creditors, the trustee, the U.S. Trustee, and any other parties in interest were not required to file a written response or opposition to the motion. If any of these potential respondents appear at the hearing and offers opposition to the motion, the court will set a briefing schedule and a final hearing unless there is no need to develop the record further. If no opposition is offered at the hearing, the court will take up the merits of the motion. Below is the court's tentative ruling, rendered on the assumption that there will be no opposition to the motion. Obviously, if there is opposition, the court may reconsider this tentative ruling.

The motion will be granted.

This is the second chapter 13 case filed by the debtor. A prior case, Case No. 10-46452, was dismissed on December 12, 2011 because the debtor to maintain her plan payments. This case was filed on December 23.

Hence, the debtor's earlier chapter 13 case was dismissed within one year of the most recent petition.

11 U.S.C.  $\S$  362(c)(3)(A) provides that if a single or joint case is filed by or against a debtor who is an individual in a case under chapter 7, 11, or 13, and if a single or joint case of the debtor was pending within the preceding one-year period but was dismissed, the automatic stay with respect to a debt, property securing such debt, or any lease terminates on the 30<sup>th</sup> day after the filing of the new case.

Section 362(c)(3)(B) allows a debtor to file a motion requesting the continuation of the stay. A review of the docket reveals that the debtor has filed this motion to extend the automatic stay before the  $30^{\rm th}$  day after the filing of the petition. The motion will be adjudicated before the  $30{\rm -day}$  period expires.

In order to extend the automatic stay, the party seeking the relief must demonstrate that the filing of the new case was in good faith as to the creditors to be stayed. For example, in <a href="In re Whitaker">In re Whitaker</a>, 341 B.R. 336, 345 (Bankr. S.D. Ga. 2006), the court held: "[T]he chief means of rebutting the presumption of bad faith requires the movant to establish 'a substantial change in the financial or personal affairs of the debtor . . . or any other reason to conclude' that the instant case will be successful. If the instant case is one under chapter 7, a discharge must now be permissible. If it is a case under chapters 11 or 13, there must be some substantial change."

Here, it appears that the debtor was unable to maintain plan payments in the first case due to a job loss. The debtor is re-employed. This is a sufficient change in circumstances rebut the presumption of bad faith.

9. 12-22774-A-13 MANUEL FRANCO SJS-5

MOTION TO VACATE DISMISSAL OF CASE 11-21-14 [88]

- □ Telephone Appearance
- □ Trustee Agrees with Ruling

Tentative Ruling: The motion will be denied.

The debtor confirmed a plan then failed to make the payments required by it. This default prompted the trustee to serve the debtor and the debtor's attorney with a Notice of Default. It recited that as of June 26, 2014, two plan payments had not been made, a total default of \$6,500.

This notice of default procedure, as authorized by Local Bankruptcy Rule 3015-1(g), provides:

(1) If the debtor fails to make a payment pursuant to a confirmed plan, including a direct payment to a creditor, the trustee may mail to the debtor and the debtor's attorney written notice of the default.

- (2) If the debtor believes that the default noticed by the trustee does not exist, the debtor shall set a hearing within twenty-eight (28) days of the mailing of the notice of default and give at least fourteen (14) days' notice of the hearing to the trustee pursuant to LBR 9014-1(f)(2). At the hearing, if the trustee demonstrates that the debtor has failed to make a payment required by the confirmed plan, and if the debtor fails to rebut the trustee's evidence, the case shall be dismissed at the hearing.
- (3) Alternatively, the debtor may acknowledge that the plan payment(s) has(have) not been made and, within thirty (30) days of the mailing of the notice of default, either (A) make the delinquent plan payment(s) and all subsequent plan payments that have fallen due, or (B) file a modified plan and a motion to confirm the modified plan. If the debtor's financial condition has materially changed, amended Schedules I and J shall be filed and served with the motion to modify the chapter 13 plan.
- (4) If the debtor fails to set a hearing on the trustee's notice, or cure the default by payment, or file a proposed modified chapter 13 plan and motion, or perform the modified chapter 13 plan pending its approval, or obtain approval of the modified chapter 13 plan, all within the time constraints set out above, the case shall be dismissed without a hearing on the trustee's application.

Thus, a debtor receiving a Notice of Default has three alternatives. (1) Cure the default within 30 days of the notice of default as well as paying the additional payment that would come due during the 30-day period to cure the default. (2) Within 30 days of the notice of default, file a motion to confirm a modified plan and a modified plan in order to cure/suspend the default stated in the notice of default. (3) Contest the notice of default by setting a hearing within 28 days of the notice of default on 14 days of notice to the trustee.

The debtor apparently opted to file a modified plan. However, while the debtor filed a motion to confirm a modified plan, no modified plan was filed with the motion to confirm a modified plan. Therefore, the court declined to confirm the nonexistent plan and thereafter the trustee applied for the dismissal of the case and on September 10 it was dismissed.

The debtor now moves to vacate the dismissal on the ground that the court denied confirmation of the modified plan on "procedural grounds." While failing to file a proposed plan is hardly a mere procedural or technical defect, the court would be willing to reconsider the dismissal of the case if the failure to file a modified plan was the result of some excusable neglect or mistake and if the modified plan were now on file and it appeared to be confirmable. However, no modified plan has been filed with the motion to vacate the dismissal and the court has no idea why the debtor never filed one. Until that is known, the court cannot assess whether the plan is possibly confirmable and whether the failure to timely file it was excusable.

10. 14-30390-A-13 BERNARD MOSE AND FARRAH JPJ-1 LAVULO-MOSE

OBJECTION TO CONFIRMATION OF PLAN 12-10-14 [19]

- □ Telephone Appearance
- □ Trustee Agrees with Ruling

Tentative Ruling: None. Appearances required.

11. 13-25696-A-13 GAYLE/ANNITA STACY SDB-1

MOTION FOR SUBSTITUTION ETC 12-9-14 [28]

- □ Telephone Appearance
- □ Trustee Agrees with Ruling

Tentative Ruling: Because less than 28 days' notice of the hearing was given by the debtor, this motion is deemed brought pursuant to Local Bankruptcy Rule 9014-1(f)(2). Consequently, the creditors, the trustee, the U.S. Trustee, and any other parties in interest were not required to file a written response or opposition to the motion. If any of these potential respondents appear at the hearing and offers opposition to the motion, the court will set a briefing schedule and a final hearing unless there is no need to develop the record further. If no opposition is offered at the hearing, the court will take up the merits of the motion. Below is the court's tentative ruling, rendered on the assumption that there will be no opposition to the motion. Obviously, if there is opposition, the court may reconsider this tentative ruling.

The motion will be granted in part. There is no need to substitute a party for a deceased debtor because death does not necessarily cause the dismissal of the case. See Fed. R. Bankr. P. 1016. Nonetheless, given the evidence with the motion, the court concludes that further administration of the case is possible given the willingness of the joint debtor to make the plan payments. Upon plan completion, and upon compliance with Local Bankruptcy Rule 5009-1 except to the extent the court may waive compliance upon appropriate application by the relative, the debtor shall receive a discharge.

## THE FINAL RULINGS BEGIN HERE

12. 10-24702-A-13 VERNON/JAMIE JIMMERSON MOTION TO MODIFY PLAN 11-26-14 [82]

Final Ruling: The motion will be dismissed without prejudice.

Local Bankruptcy Rule 2002-1(c) provides that notices in adversary proceedings and contested matters that are served on the IRS shall be mailed to three entities at three different addresses: (1) IRS, P.O. Box 7346, Philadelphia, PA 19101-7346; (2) United States Attorney, for the IRS, 501 I Street, Suite 10-100, Sacramento, CA 95814; and (3) United States Department of Justice, Civil Trial Section, Western Region, Box 683, Franklin Station, Washington, D.C. 20044.

Service in this case is deficient because the IRS was not served at the second and third addresses listed above.

13. 14-32203-A-13 TARIQUL ISLAM MOTION FOR CPG-1 RELIEF FROM AUTOMATIC STAY EURO PACIFIC MORTGAGE, L.L.C. VS. 12-26-14 [9]

**Final Ruling:** The motion will be dismissed because it is moot. The case was dismissed on January 5. Consequently, the automatic stay has expired as a matter of law. See 11 U.S.C. § 362(c)(1) & (c)(2).

14. 14-26819-A-13 WILLIAM WAY MOTION TO

JLK-2 CONFIRM PLAN
11-12-14 [29]

**Final Ruling:** The motion will be dismissed as moot. The case was dismissed on December 3, 2014.

15. 14-31922-A-13 CHERYL WALLACE MOTION FOR SC-1 RELIEF FROM AUTOMATIC STAY PARKVIEW EDGE PROPERTIES, L.L.C. VS. 12-12-14 [11]

Final Ruling: This motion for relief from the automatic stay has been set for hearing on the notice required by Local Bankruptcy Rule 9014-1(f)(1). The failure of the debtor and the trustee to file written opposition at least 14 days prior to the hearing as required by Local Bankruptcy Rule 9014-1(f)(1)(ii) is considered as consent to the granting of the motion. Cf. Ghazali v. Moran, 46 F.3d 52, 53 (9th Cir. 1995). Further, because the court will not materially alter the relief requested by the moving party, an actual hearing is unnecessary. See Boone v. Burk (In re Eliapo), 468 F.3d 592 (9th Cir. 2006). Therefore, the defaults of the above-mentioned parties in interest are entered and the matter will be resolved without oral argument.

The motion will be granted pursuant to 11 U.S.C. § 362(d)(1). The movant or its predecessor completed a nonjudicial foreclosure sale before the bankruptcy case was filed. Under California law, once a nonjudicial foreclosure sale has occurred, the trustor has no right of redemption. Moeller v. Lien, 25 Cal. App.4th 822, 831 (1994). In this case, therefore, the debtor has no right to ignore the foreclosure. If the foreclosure sale was not in accord with state law, this should be asserted as a defense to an unlawful detainer proceeding in state court or as an independent action to set aside the sale.

The automatic stay is a respite from creditor action while the debtor attempts to reorganize. Here, the debtor has no apparent right to reorganize the movant's debt because of the foreclosure. This is cause to terminate the automatic stay to permit the movant to obtain possession of the property.

The 14-day stay of Fed. R. Bankr. P. 4001(a)(3) is ordered waived.

16. 14-26623-A-13 ROBERT/NICHOLA DANIEL BSJ-3

MOTION TO CONFIRM PLAN 11-19-14 [51]

**Final Ruling:** The motion will be dismissed as moot. The case was dismissed on December 10, 2014.

17. 14-26623-A-13 ROBERT/NICHOLA DANIEL BSJ-5

MOTION TO VACATE DISMISSAL 12-19-14 [64]

Final Ruling: The motion will be dismissed without prejudice.

The motion does not comply with Local Bankruptcy Rule 9014-1(e)(3) because when it was filed it was not accompanied by a separate proof/certificate of service. Appending a proof of service to one of the supporting documents (assuming such was done) does not satisfy the local rule. The proof/certificate of service must be a separate document so that it will be docketed on the electronic record. This permits anyone examining the docket to determine if service has been accomplished without examining every document filed in support of the matter on calendar. Given the absence of the required proof/certificate of service, the moving party has failed to establish that the motion was served on all necessary parties in interest.

18. 14-30526-A-13 BALVIR SINGH AND NIRMAL LTD-1 KAUR
VS. LTD FINANCIAL SERVICES, LP

MOTION TO VALUE COLLATERAL 11-19-14 [14]

Final Ruling: The motion will be dismissed without prejudice.

A motion is a contested matter and it must be served like a summons and a complaint. See Fed. R. Bankr. P. 9014 incorporating by reference Fed. R. Bankr. P. 7004. Service of the motion did not comply with Fed. R. Bankr. P. 7004(b)(3) and 9014(b). The motion must be served to the attention of an officer, a managing or general agent, or other agent authorized by appointment or law to receive service of process for the respondent creditor. According to the certificate of service, this motion was simply sent to the corporation.

Cf. ECMC v. Repp (In re Repp), 307 B.R. 144 (B.A.P. 9<sup>th</sup> Cir. 2004) (service in accordance with Fed. R. Bankr. P. 2002(b) does not satisfy the service requirements of Fed. R. Bankr. P. 7004(b)). Service, then, is deficient.

19. 14-29144-A-13 LARRY KING PGM-2

MOTION TO CONFIRM PLAN 12-1-14 [35]

Final Ruling: This motion to confirm a plan has been set for hearing on the notice required by Local Bankruptcy Rules 3015-1(c)(3) & (d)(1) and 9014-1(f)(1), and Fed. R. Bankr. R. 2002(b). The failure of the trustee, the U.S. Trustee, creditors, and any other party in interest to file written opposition at least 14 days prior to the hearing as required by Local Bankruptcy Rule

9014-1(f)(1)(ii) is considered as consent to the granting of the motion. Cf. Ghazali v. Moran, 46 F.3d 52, 53 (9<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1995). Further, because the court will not materially alter the relief requested by the debtor, an actual hearing is unnecessary. See Boone v. Burk (In re Eliapo), 468 F.3d 592 (9<sup>th</sup> Cir. 2006). Therefore, the respondents' defaults are entered and the matter will be resolved without oral argument.

The motion will be granted. The plan complies with 11 U.S.C. \$\$ 1322(a) & (b), 1323(c), 1325(a), and 1329.

20. 12-20659-A-13 CLIFTON/MARILYNNE HITE MOTION TO
CAH-3 MODIFY PLAN
11-26-14 [62]

Final Ruling: This motion to confirm a modified plan proposed after confirmation of a plan has been set for hearing on the notice required by Local Bankruptcy Rules 3015-1(d)(2) and 9014-1(f)(1) and Fed. R. Bankr. R. 3015(g). The failure of the trustee, the U.S. Trustee, creditors, and any other party in interest to file written opposition at least 14 days prior to the hearing as required by Local Bankruptcy Rule 9014-1(f)(1)(ii) is considered as consent to the granting of the motion. Cf. Ghazali v. Moran, 46 F.3d 52, 53 (9th Cir. 1995). Further, because the court will not materially alter the relief requested by the debtor, an actual hearing is unnecessary. See Boone v. Burk (In re Eliapo), 468 F.3d 592 (9th Cir. 2006). Therefore, the respondents' defaults are entered and the matter will be resolved without oral argument.

The motion will be granted. The modified plan complies with 11 U.S.C.  $\S\S$  1322(a) & (b), 1323(c), 1325(a), and 1329.

21. 14-23467-A-13 MICHAEL/EMMA POST MOTION TO PLG-2 MODIFY PLAN 12-5-14 [45]

Final Ruling: This motion to confirm a modified plan proposed after confirmation of a plan has been set for hearing on the notice required by Local Bankruptcy Rules 3015-1(d)(2) and 9014-1(f)(1) and Fed. R. Bankr. R. 3015(g). The failure of the trustee, the U.S. Trustee, creditors, and any other party in interest to file written opposition at least 14 days prior to the hearing as required by Local Bankruptcy Rule 9014-1(f)(1)(ii) is considered as consent to the granting of the motion. Cf. Ghazali v. Moran, 46 F.3d 52, 53 (9th Cir. 1995). Further, because the court will not materially alter the relief requested by the debtor, an actual hearing is unnecessary. See Boone v. Burk (In re Eliapo), 468 F.3d 592 (9th Cir. 2006). Therefore, the respondents' defaults are entered and the matter will be resolved without oral argument.

The motion will be granted. The modified plan complies with 11 U.S.C.  $\S\S$  1322(a) & (b), 1323(c), 1325(a), and 1329.

22. 13-35475-A-13 JOSE JIMENEZ AND MARIA OBJECTION TO

JPJ-1 GONZALEZ CONFIRMATION OF PLAN AND MOTION TO

DISMISS CASE
12-19-14 [195]

**Final Ruling:** The court finds that a hearing will not be helpful to its consideration and resolution of this matter. Accordingly, it is removed from calendar for resolution without oral argument.

The objection will be sustained and the motion to dismiss the case will be conditionally denied.

First, to pay the dividends required by the plan and the rate proposed by it will take 77 months which exceeds the maximum 5-year duration permitted by 11 U.S.C.  $\S$  1322(d).

Second, because the plan fails to specify how debtor's counsel's fees will be approved, either pursuant to Local Bankruptcy Rule 2016-1 or by making a motion in accordance with 11 U.S.C. §§ 329, 330 and Fed. R. Bankr. P. 2002, 2016, 2017, but nonetheless requires the trustee to pay counsel a monthly dividend on account of such fees, in effect the plan requires payment of fees even though the court has not approved them. This violates sections 329 and 330.

Because the plan proposed by the debtor is not confirmable, the debtor will be given a further opportunity to confirm a plan. But, if the debtor is unable to confirm a plan within a reasonable period of time, the court concludes that the prejudice to creditors will be substantial and that there will then be cause for dismissal. If the debtor has not confirmed a plan within 75 days, the case will be dismissed on the trustee's ex parte application.

23. 14-31090-A-13 STEVEN/LEYNA IRWIN SDB-1
VS. TRIAD FINANCIAL CORPORATION

MOTION TO
VALUE COLLATERAL
12-9-14 [17]

**Final Ruling:** This valuation motion has been set for hearing on the notice required by Local Bankruptcy Rule 9014-1(f)(1). The failure of the trustee and the respondent creditor to file written opposition at least 14 days prior to the hearing as required by Local Bankruptcy Rule 9014-1(f)(1)(ii) is considered as consent to the granting of the motion. Cf. Ghazali v. Moran, 46 F.3d 52, 53 (9<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1995). Further, because the court will not materially alter the relief requested by the moving party, an actual hearing is unnecessary. See Boone v. Burk (In re Eliapo), 468 F.3d 592 (9<sup>th</sup> Cir. 2006). Therefore, the defaults of the trustee and the respondent creditor are entered and the matter will be resolved without oral argument.

The valuation motion pursuant to Fed. R. Bankr. P. 3012 and 11 U.S.C. § 506(a) will be granted. The motion is accompanied by the debtor's declaration. The debtor is the owner of the subject property. In the debtor's opinion, the subject property had a value of \$5,733 as of the date the petition was filed and the effective date of the plan. Given the absence of contrary evidence, the debtor's opinion of value is conclusive. See Enewally v. Washington Mutual Bank (In re Enewally), 368 F.3d 1165 (9th Cir. 2004). Therefore, \$5,733 of the respondent's claim is an allowed secured claim. When the respondent is paid \$5,733 and subject to the completion of the plan, its secured claim shall be satisfied in full and the collateral free of the respondent's lien. Provided a timely proof of claim is filed, the remainder of its claim is allowed as a general unsecured claim unless previously paid by the trustee as a secured claim.

24. 14-31895-A-13 RUDY/LILIA DELUMPA
MET-2
VS. BANK OF AMERICA, N. A.

MOTION TO
VALUE COLLATERAL
12-21-14 [21]

Final Ruling: The motion will be dismissed without prejudice.

The notice of hearing informs potential respondents that written opposition

must be filed and served within 14 days prior to the hearing if they wish to oppose the motion. Because less than 28 days of notice of the hearing was given (22 days of notice were given), Local Bankruptcy Rule 9014-1(f)(2) specifies that written opposition is unnecessary. Instead, potential respondents may appear at the hearing and orally contest the motion. If necessary, the court may thereafter require the submission of written evidence and briefs. By erroneously informing potential respondents that written opposition was required and was a condition to contesting the motion, the moving party may have deterred a respondent from appearing. Therefore, notice was materially deficient.

25. 13-23897-A-13 TOMMY/CAROL JOHNSON BMV-5

MOTION TO
APPROVE LOAN MODIFICATION
12-9-14 [104]

Final Ruling: This motion to modify a home loan has been set for hearing on the notice required by Local Bankruptcy Rules 3015-1(b) and 9014-1(f)(1), and Fed. R. Bankr. R. 2002(b). The failure of the trustee, the U.S. Trustee, creditors, and any other party in interest to file written opposition at least 14 days prior to the hearing as required by Local Bankruptcy Rule 9014-1(f)(1)(ii) is considered as consent to the granting of the motion. Cf. Ghazali v. Moran, 46 F.3d 52, 53 (9th Cir. 1995). Further, because the court will not materially alter the relief requested by the debtor, an actual hearing is unnecessary. See Boone v. Burk (In re Eliapo), 468 F.3d 592 (9th Cir. 2006). Therefore, the respondents' defaults are entered and the matter will be resolved without oral argument.

The motion will be granted. The debtor is authorized but not required to enter into the proposed modification. To the extent the modification is inconsistent with the confirmed plan, the debtor shall continue to perform the plan as confirmed until it is modified.