## UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT

Eastern District of California

Honorable Michael S. McManus Bankruptcy Judge Sacramento, California

March 14, 2016 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 10. 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 APRIL 21, 2016 AT 1:30 P.M. OPPOSITION MUST BE FILED AND SERVED BY APRIL 7, 2016, AND ANY REPLY MUST BE FILED AND SERVED BY APRIL 14, 2016. 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 11 THROUGH 16 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 MARCH 21, 2016, AT 2:30 P.M.

## Matters to be Called for Argument

1. 15-20907-A-13 CATHERINE/MARK FALLON MOTION TO MODIFY PLAN

2-3-16 [47]

□ 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.  $\S$  1325(a)(6). Schedules I and J show that the debtor will have monthly net income of approximately \$335; the plan requires a monthly payment of \$1352.

Second, the plan does not provide for payment in full of the Class 2 secured claim of the IRS. This violates 11 U.S.C. § 1325(a)(5)(B).

Third, the plan is not feasible as required by 11 U.S.C.  $\S$  1325(a)(6) because the monthly plan payment for month 12 of \$300 is less than the \$378 in dividends and expenses the plan requires the trustee to pay each month.

Fourth, the plan fails to provide for the secured claim of Ocwen in Class 2 and did the confirmed plan. Failing to continue the treatment could be interpreted as reviving this previously "stripped" claim.

Fifth, the classification in both Class 1 and Class 4 of Ocwen's secured claim is a misclassification. It belongs in one or the other unless the debtor is attempting to provide for it in Class 1 for a particular time period and then in Class 4 for a different time period. The plan fails to state during which periods it will be provided for in each class.

Sixth, the plan fails to account for prior plan payments made pursuant to the initial plan. Absent a provision providing for the these payments, the payment stream promised in the modified plan will not pay the dividends promised by it.

Seventh, the plan and the motion to confirm it given differing amounts for the arrears on the Ocwen secured claim.

2. 15-25240-A-13 MARVIN/KAREN MURASE PGM-4

MOTION TO CONFIRM PLAN 2-1-16 [77]

- □ Telephone Appearance
- □ Trustee Agrees with Ruling

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

First, the debtor has failed to make \$4,540 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).

Second, the court will not approve the debtor's attorney's fees pursuant to the procedure authorized by Local Bankruptcy Rule 2016-1. Counsel is not the attorney retained by the debtor to file this case. Earlier counsel collected a

pre-petition retainer. Rule 2016-1 is applicable only for counsel who filed the case. Any subsequent attorney retained after the case has been filed must seek compensation in accordance with 11 U.S.C. §§ 329, 330 and Fed. R. Bankr. P. 2002, 2016, 2017.

3. 12-28147-A-13 JUAN/LETICIA LUJAN PGM-1

OBJECTION TO
NOTICE OF MORTGAGE PAYMENT CHANGE
1-27-16 [75]

- □ Telephone Appearance
- □ Trustee Agrees with Ruling

Tentative Ruling: The objection and motion will be denied.

The notice makes a one cent change to the monthly installment. The principal and interest component of the monthly installment has decreased from \$2,255.94 to \$2,255.93. The court assumes the debtor has no objection to a decrease as opposed to an increase.

The notice also indicates that the debtor is paying \$461.89 as an escrow impound for insurance and taxes. Thus, the debtor's total monthly installment is \$2,717.83.

The total monthly installment stated in the proof of claim filed August 29, 2012 is \$2,698. The debtor has never objected to the original proof of claim nor to the inclusion of the escrow component in the monthly installment. Given the very minor increase since 2012 in the escrow component, it increased from \$437.71 to \$461.89, and given the absence of any dispute that the installment includes an escrow component, in the absence of some specific objection to the escrow component, any objection will be overruled.

4. 15-28048-A-13 JANENE POWELL LBG-1

MOTION TO CONFIRM PLAN 1-25-16 [32]

- □ Telephone Appearance
- □ Trustee Agrees with Ruling

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

The plan attempts to fix the trustee's compensation to a particular amount, \$100 a month. This violates 28 U.S.C. \$586(e)(1) which vests the Attorney General to set the trustee's compensation. This compensation may not exceed 10% of the amount paid into the plan.

5. 16-20251-A-13 MYRNA MCDONALD JPJ-1

OBJECTION TO
CONFIRMATION OF PLAN AND MOTION TO
DISMISS CASE
2-25-16 [13]

- □ 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.

First, the debtor has understated the arrears on a Class 1 home loan. As a result, it will take 80 months to pay the dividends as well as cure the arrears at the rate proposed by in the plan. This exceeds the maximum 5-year duration permitted by 11 U.S.C.  $\S$  1322(d).

Second, 11 U.S.C. § 521(e)(2)(B) & (C) requires the court to dismiss a petition if an individual chapter 7 or 13 debtor fails to provide to the case trustee a copy of the debtor's federal income tax return for the most recent tax year ending before the filing of the petition. This return must be produced seven days prior to the date first set for the meeting of creditors. The failure to provide the return to the trustee justifies dismissal and denial of confirmation. In addition to the requirement of section 521(e)(2) that the petition be dismissed, an uncodified provision of the Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection Act of 2005 found at section 1228(a) of BAPCPA provides that in chapter 11 and 13 cases the court shall not confirm a plan of an individual debtor unless requested tax documents have been turned over. This has not been done.

Third, the debtor has failed to give the trustee wage records for new employment. This is a breach of the duties imposed by 11 U.S.C.  $\S$  521(a)(3) & (a)(4). To attempt to confirm a plan while withholding relevant financial information from the trustee is bad faith. See 11 U.S.C.  $\S$  1325(a)(3).

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.

6. 13-30252-A-13 JOANN GOWANS SS-5

MOTION TO MODIFY PLAN 2-8-16 [80]

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

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

First, the debtor has failed to make \$432 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).

Second, the debtor has not proven the plan is feasible as required by 11 U.S.C. \$ 1325(a)(6). The plan assumes that a home lender, Selene Financial, has agreed to a home loan modification. Absent that agreement, the claim cannot be modified and must be provided for in Class 1. See 11 U.S.C. \$ 1322(b)(2).

Instead, the debtor is limited to curing any pre-petition default while maintaining the regular monthly mortgage installment. See 11 U.S.C.  $\S$  1322(b)(5).

7. 15-28155-A-13 TAMI FINK

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE 2-22-16 [22]

- □ Telephone Appearance
- □ Trustee Agrees with Ruling

Tentative Ruling: The case will be dismissed.

The debtor was given permission to pay the filing fee in installments pursuant to Fed. R. Bankr. P. 1006(b). The installment in the amount of \$77 due on March 4 was not paid even this is an extended due date for the installment. This is cause for dismissal. See 11 U.S.C. § 1307(c)(2).

8. 15-28171-A-13 INA ANGEL JME-1

MOTION TO VACATE 2-29-16 [35]

- □ Telephone Appearance
- □ Trustee Agrees with Ruling

Tentative Ruling: The motion will be granted in part.

At a hearing on February 29, 2016, the court granted a motion by the trustee to convert this case to one under chapter 7. The motion was granted because the debtor had been unable to confirm a plan in more than 4 months and had defaulted in making plan payments under the terms of the plan the debtor was unable to confirm.

This motion seeks vacate the as yet unentered order converting the case to chapter 7. The ground for this relief is that counsel for the debtor was ill and unable to file timely opposition. Provided there are substantive grounds for opposing the trustee's motion, the court accepts this as excusable neglect and grounds for reconsidering its impending order.

As noted in this motion, after considering chapter 7 trustee expenses and compensation, unsecured creditors are likely to receive very little in a chapter 7 case. The both the amount that can be administered and the dividend are so paltry, a chapter 7 trustee likely will abandon the estate.

Nonetheless, while the court will not convert the case, it will not reinstate the chapter 13 case. There is no convincing proof that the debtor has the financial ability to confirm a feasible plan.

Therefore, the trustee's motion will be granted but the case dismissed rather than converted.

9. 16-20093-A-13 FRANCES GALVAN JPJ-1

OBJECTION TO CONFIRMATION OF PLAN 2-25-16 [18]

- □ Telephone Appearance
- □ Trustee Agrees with Ruling

Tentative Ruling: Because this hearing on an objection to the confirmation of the proposed chapter 13 plan 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 in part.

First, the debtor failed to appear at the meeting of creditors. Appearance is mandatory. See 11 U.S.C.  $\S$  343. To attempt to confirm a plan while failing to appear and be questioned by the trustee and any creditors who appear, the debtor is also failing to cooperate with the trustee. See 11 U.S.C.  $\S$  521(a)(3). Under these circumstances, attempting to confirm a plan is the epitome of bad faith. See 11 U.S.C.  $\S$  1325(a)(3). The failure to appear also is cause for the dismissal of the case. See 11 U.S.C.  $\S$  1307(c)(6).

Second, in violation of 11 U.S.C. § 521(a)(1)(B)(iv) and Local Bankruptcy Rule 1007-1(c) the debtor has failed to provide the trustee with employer payment advices for the 60-day period preceding the filing of the petition. The withholding of this financial information from the trustee is a breach of the duties imposed upon the debtor by 11 U.S.C. § 521(a)(3) & (a)(4) and the attempt to confirm a plan while withholding this relevant financial information is bad faith. See 11 U.S.C. § 1325(a)(3).

Third, 11 U.S.C. § 521(e)(2)(B) & (C) requires the court to dismiss a petition if an individual chapter 7 or 13 debtor fails to provide to the case trustee a copy of the debtor's federal income tax return for the most recent tax year ending before the filing of the petition. This return must be produced seven days prior to the date first set for the meeting of creditors. The failure to provide the return to the trustee justifies dismissal and denial of confirmation. In addition to the requirement of section 521(e)(2) that the petition be dismissed, an uncodified provision of the Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection Act of 2005 found at section 1228(a) of BAPCPA provides that in chapter 11 and 13 cases the court shall not confirm a plan of an individual debtor unless requested tax documents have been turned over. This has not been done.

Fourth, Local Bankruptcy Rule 3015-1(b)(6) provides: "Documents Required by Trustee. The debtor shall provide to the trustee, not later than the fourteen (14) days after the filing of the petition, Form EDC 3-088, Domestic Support Obligation Checklist, or other written notice of the name and address of each person to whom the debtor owes a domestic support obligation together with the name and address of the relevant state child support enforcement agency (see 42 U.S.C. §§ 464 & 466), Form EDC 3-086, Class 1 Checklist, for each Class 1 claim, and Form EDC 3-087, Authorization to Release Information to Trustee Regarding Secured Claims Being Paid By The Trustee." Because the plan includes a class 1 claim, the debtor was required to provide the trustee with a Class 1 checklist. The debtor failed to do so.

Fifth, the plan is not feasible as required by 11 U.S.C. \$ 1325(a)(6). Schedules I and J show that the debtor will have monthly net income of approximately \$1,345; the plan requires a monthly payment of \$1,525.94.

Sixth, the treatment of the Class 1 claim of JPMorgan Chase does not comply with 11 U.S.C.  $\S\S$  1322(b)(2), (b)(5), and 1325(a)(5)(B), because the plan does not provide for the maintenance of the ongoing mortgage installment and the cure of the arrears.

Seventh, the plan fails to provide at section 2.07 for a dividend to be on account of allowed administrative expenses, including the debtor's attorney's fees. Unless counsel is working for nothing, this means that the plan does not provide for payment in full of priority claims as required by 11 U.S.C.  $\S$  1322(a)(2). Also see 11 U.S.C.  $\S$  503(b), 507(a).

The objection asserts that because the plan does not provide for Wells Fargo's secured claim, it may not be confirmed.

11 U.S.C. § 1322(a) is the section of the Bankruptcy Code that specifies the mandatory provisions of a plan. It requires only that the debtor adequately fund the plan with future earnings or other future income that is paid over to the trustee (section 1322(a)(1)), provide for payment in full of priority claims (section 1322(a)(2) & (4)), and provide the same treatment for each claim in a particular class (section 1322(a)(3)). But, nothing in section 1322(a) compels a debtor to propose a plan that provides for a secured claim.

11 U.S.C. § 1322(b) specifies the provisions that a plan may, at the option of the debtor, include. With reference to secured claims, the debtor may not modify a home loan but may modify other secured claims (section 1322(b)(2)), cure any default on a secured claim, including a home loan (section 1322(b)(3)), and maintain ongoing contract installment payments while curing a pre-petition default (section 1322(b)(5)).

If a debtor elects to provide for a secured claim, 11 U.S.C.  $\S$  1325(a) (5) gives the debtor three options: (1) provide a treatment that the debtor and secured creditor agree to (section 1325(a)(5)(A)), provide for payment in full of the entire claim if the claim is modified or will mature by its terms during the term of the plan (section 1325(a)(5)(B)), or surrender the collateral for the claim to the secured creditor (section 1325(a)(C). However, these three possibilities are relevant only if the plan provides for the secured claim.

When a plan does not provide for a secured claim, the remedy is not denial of confirmation. Instead, the claim holder may seek the termination of the automatic stay so that it may repossess or foreclose upon its collateral. The absence of a plan provision is good evidence that the collateral for the claim is not necessary for the debtor's reorganization and that the claim will not be paid. This is cause for relief from the automatic stay. See 11 U.S.C.  $\S$  362(d)(1).

10. 16-20699-A-13 ALEXANDER SCOTT HLG-1

MOTION TO EXTEND AUTOMATIC STAY 2-29-16 [16]

- □ 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 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  $30^{th}$  day after the filing of the petition. The motion will be adjudicated before the 30-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 <u>In re Whitaker</u>, 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, the debtor's first case was filed because the debtor failed to receive a credit counseling briefing before filing that case. As a result it was dismissed. See 11 U.S.C. § 109(h). In this case, the debtor received the briefing before filing and proof of the briefing has been filed. This is a sufficient change in circumstances rebut the presumption of bad faith.

## THE FINAL RULINGS BEGIN HERE

11. 15-28900-A-13 RONNA FLAIG MJD-1

MOTION TO CONFIRM PLAN 1-25-16 [29]

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

12. 15-23801-A-13 ALBERTO PEREZ AND ISELA JPJ-3 RAMIREZ VS. CAVALRY SPV I, L.L.C.

OBJECTION TO CLAIM
1-13-16 [42]

Final Ruling: This objection to the proof of claim of Cavalry SPV I, L.L.C., has been set for hearing on at least 44 days' notice to the claimant as required by Local Bankruptcy Rule 3007-1(c)(1)(ii). The failure of the claimant to file written opposition at least 14 calendar days prior to the hearing is considered as consent to the sustaining of the objection. 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 objecting party, an actual hearing is unnecessary. See Boone v. Burk (In re Eliapo), 468 F.3d 592 (9th Cir. 2006). Therefore, the claimant's default is entered and the objection will be resolved without oral argument.

Because the underlying debt is a contract claim, most likely based on a written contract, California law provides a four year statute of limitations to file actions for breach of written contracts. See Cal. Civ. Pro. Code  $\S$  337. This statute begins to run from the date of the contract's breach but the statute renews upon each payment made after default. The proof of claim indicates the last payment was on September 11, 2009. Therefore, using this date as the date of breach, when the case was filed on August 7, 2015, more than 4 years had passed. Therefore, when the bankruptcy was filed, this debt was time barred under applicable nonbankruptcy law and must be disallowed. See 11 U.S.C.  $\S$  502(b)(1).

13. 15-27624-A-13 JOHN JUDD RJ-1

MOTION TO MODIFY PLAN 2-7-16 [39]

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. <u>Cf. Ghazali v. Moran</u>, 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. <u>See Boone v. Burk (In re Eliapo)</u>, 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 modified plan complies with 11 U.S.C.  $\S\S$  1322(a) & (b), 1323(c), 1325(a), and 1329.

14. 16-20233-A-13 YIMEN MENDEZ
MB-1
VS. PATELCO CREDIT UNION

MOTION TO
VALUE COLLATERAL
2-10-16 [13]

**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 motion will be granted.

The debtor seeks to value the debtor's residence at a fair market value of \$204,000 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 \$233,315 as of the petition date. Therefore, Patelco Credit Union'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  $\underline{\text{In re Hobdy}}$ , 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. § 506(a). Knowing the amount and character of claims is vital to assessing the feasibility of a plan, 11 U.S.C. § 1325(a)(6), and determining whether the treatment accorded to secured claims complies with 11 U.S.C. § 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 \$204,000. 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).

15. 15-29449-A-13 TIAJUANNA TOLES PGM-1

MOTION TO CONFIRM PLAN 1-28-16 [18]

**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.  $\S\S$  1322(a) & (b), 1323(c), 1325(a), and 1329.

16. 15-20273-A-13 CONCETTA MANZANO EJS-2

MOTION TO MODIFY PLAN 2-5-16 [50]

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.