

Tentative Rulings for July 14, 2026 Department 5

**To request oral argument, you must notify Judicial Secretary
Crystal Marias at (760) 904-5722
and inform all other counsel no later than 4:30 p.m.**

This court follows California Rules of Court, Rule 3.1308 (a) (1) for tentative rulings (see Riverside Superior Court Local Rule 3316). Tentative Rulings for each law & motion matter are posted on the Internet by 3:00 p.m. on the court day immediately before the hearing at [Riverside Superior Court-Tentative Rulings](#). If you do not have Internet access, you may obtain the tentative ruling by telephone at (760) 904-5722.

To request oral argument, no later than 4:30 p.m. on the court day before the hearing you must (1) notify the judicial secretary for Department 5 at (760) 904-5722 and (2) inform all other parties of the request and of their need to appear remotely, as stated below. If no request for oral argument is made by 4:30 p.m., the tentative ruling **will become the final ruling** on the matter effective the date of the hearing. **UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED, THE PREVAILING PARTY IS TO GIVE NOTICE OF THE RULING.**

For information and instructions on remote appearances via [ZOOM](#), visit the court's website at [Riverside Superior Court-Remote Appearances](#)

You may also make a Telephonic Appearance: On the day of the hearing, call into one of the below listed phone numbers, and input the meeting number (followed by #):

- Call-in Numbers: 1-833-568-8864 (Toll Free), 1-669-254-5252,
1-669-216-1590, 1-551-285-1373 or 1-646-828-7666
- Meeting Number: **161 782 8254**

Please **MUTE** your phone until your case is called and it is your turn to speak. It is important to note that you must call fifteen (15) minutes prior to the scheduled hearing time to check in or there may be a delay in your case being heard.

Riverside Superior Court provides official court reporters for hearings on law and motion matters only for litigants who have been granted fee waivers and only upon their timely request. (See General Administrative Order No. 2021-19-1) Other parties desiring a record of the hearing must retain a reporter pro tempore.

1.

CASE #	CASE NAME	HEARING NAME
CVRI2402839	BARTELS vs REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA	MOTION FOR PROTECTIVE ORDER

Tentative Ruling:

The case is no longer on “appeal” status and back to active status, pursuant to the remittitur issued on May 28, 2026, after the Supreme Court denied review on May 27, 2026, and further pursuant to the Court of Appeal’s Order filed June 26, 2026, denying plaintiff/petitioner’s motion for an order to recall the remittitur.

The motion is denied as moot.

The Court of Appeal denied Plaintiff’s writ. The Supreme Court has denied review of the writ. Watkins has been dismissed as a party on June 11, 2026. Since she is no longer a party to this matter, she is not required to respond to the request for admission at issue in this motion.

Watkins’ request for sanctions is denied.

Code of Civil Procedure section 2033.080, subdivision (d), requires the imposition of sanctions against an unsuccessful opposing party, unless sanctions are unjust or the losing party acted with substantial justification. (CCP, § 2033.080.) Without finding either that sanctions are unjust or that the losing party acted with substantial justification, the court denies the imposition of sanctions because the motion is denied as moot, without a determination on the merits of the motion to deem either party an “unsuccessful opposing party” as related to this motion.

2.

CASE #	CASE NAME	HEARING NAME
CVRI2405011	OCHOA vs CITY OF RIVERSIDE	MOTION FOR LEAVE TO AMEND 1ST AMENDED COMPLAINT

Tentative Ruling:

The hearing on the motion is continued to July 27, 2026, at 8:30 a.m. No further briefing is permitted. Moving party is ordered to give notice.

3.

CASE #	CASE NAME	HEARING NAME
CVRI2505270	ZARATE vs VOLKSWAGEN GROUP OF AMERICA, INC.	MOTION FURTHER DISCOVERY RESPONSES TO PLAINTIFFS' REQUEST FOR PRODUCTION OF DOCUMENTS, SET ONE

Tentative Ruling:

Preliminarily, contrary to defendant's argument, this Court does not require an IDC prior to hearing the motion.

Demand for Production Nos. 1-11, 13-29, 30

Defendant provided supplemental production on June 5, 2026, with respect to Demand for Production of Documents numbers 1 through 11 and 13 through 29. Plaintiff argues there are still issues outstanding.

As to No. 30, Defendant has promised additional production.

The hearing is continued to July 30, 2026, at 8:30 a.m. The parties are ordered to further meet and confer as to Nos. 1-11, 13-29, and 30, in person, by telephone, or via visual conferencing within five (5) days of this order to resolve their discovery disputes and clarify and narrow them. If the parties cannot agree: (1) the parties are ordered to submit a joint separate statement of outstanding issues only referencing what requests specifically remain at issue as related to Nos. 1-11, 13-29, and 30, and (2) moving party is ordered to submit a declaration addressing the parties' efforts to further meet and confer; these are required to be submitted at least ten (10) calendar days prior to the next hearing date. Failure to do so may result in an order to show cause re: sanctions not to exceed \$1,500. No further briefing is permitted.

Demand for Production Nos. 12 and 31

The Court will rule on Nos. 12 and 31 at the same time it rules on Nos. 1-11, 13-29, and 30.