

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

VICTORIA LAW,  
Plaintiff,  
v.  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF PRISONS,  
Defendant.

Case No. 24-cv-06628-YGR (AGT)

**DISCOVERY ORDER**


Re: Dkt. No. 54

Plaintiff Victoria Law asks the Court to find defendant Bureau of Prisons (BOP) in contempt for missed releases in September and October of 2025. Dkt. 54 at 2 & 9–11. The Court now denies the motion. It is undisputed the federal government was shut down during that period. Dkt. 54 at 2; dkt. 57 ¶¶ 3–7. BOP staff were furloughed, dkt. 57 ¶¶ 3–7, rendering compliance impossible. *See Coleman v. Newsom*, 131 F.4th 948, 959 (9th Cir. 2025) (“Inability to comply with an order is . . . a complete defense to a charge of contempt.”) (cleaned up).<sup>1</sup>

This order dispenses with dkt. 54. The hearing set for February 6, 2026, is vacated.

**IT IS SO ORDERED.**

Dated: February 3, 2026

  
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Alex G. Tse  
United States Magistrate Judge

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<sup>1</sup> Since the Court denies the request for civil contempt, the accompanying request for fees is also denied.