

Senate Bill No. 447

Passed the Senate April 8, 1999

Secretary of the Senate

Passed the Assembly June 14, 1999

Chief Clerk of the Assembly

This bill was received by the Governor this _____ day
of _____, 1999, at _____ o'clock ____M.

Private Secretary of the Governor



CHAPTER _____

An act to amend Section 2031 of the Code of Civil Procedure, relating to discovery.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 447, Dunn. Discovery: inspection demands.

Existing law provides that any party may obtain discovery, as specified, by inspecting documents, tangible things, and land or other property that are in the possession, custody, or control of any other party to the action.

This bill would provide that any party may propound a supplemental demand for inspection to inspect any later acquired or discovered documents, tangible things, or land or other property that are in the possession, custody, or control of the party on whom the demand is made, under specified conditions, and would also provide that on motion, for good cause shown, the court may grant leave to a party to propound an additional number of supplemental demands for inspection, as specified.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 2031 of the Code of Civil Procedure is amended to read:

2031. (a) Any party may obtain discovery within the scope delimited by Section 2017, and subject to the restrictions set forth in Section 2019, by inspecting documents, tangible things, and land or other property that are in the possession, custody, or control of any other party to the action.

(1) A party may demand that any other party produce and permit the party making the demand, or someone acting on that party's behalf, to inspect and to copy a document that is in the possession, custody, or control of the party on whom the demand is made.

(2) A party may demand that any other party produce and permit the party making the demand, or someone



acting on that party's behalf, to inspect and to photograph, test, or sample any tangible things that are in the possession, custody, or control of the party on whom the demand is made.

(3) A party may demand that any other party allow the party making the demand, or someone acting on that party's behalf, to enter on any land or other property that is in the possession, custody, or control of the party on whom the demand is made, and to inspect and to measure, survey, photograph, test, or sample the land or other property, or any designated object or operation on it.

(b) A defendant may make a demand for inspection without leave of court at any time. A plaintiff may make a demand for inspection without leave of court at any time that is 10 days after the service of the summons on, or in unlawful detainer actions within five days after service of the summons on or appearance by, the party to whom the demand is directed, whichever occurs first. However, on motion with or without notice, the court, for good cause shown, may grant leave to a plaintiff to make an inspection demand at an earlier time.

(c) A party demanding an inspection shall number each set of demands consecutively. In the first paragraph immediately below the title of the case, there shall appear the identity of the demanding party, the set number, and the identity of the responding party. Each demand in a set shall be separately set forth, identified by number or letter, and shall do all of the following:

(1) Designate the documents, tangible things, or land or other property to be inspected either by specifically describing each individual item or by reasonably particularizing each category of item.

(2) Specify a reasonable time for the inspection that is at least 30 days after service of the demand, or in unlawful detainer actions at least five days after service of the demand, unless the court for good cause shown has granted leave to specify an earlier date.

(3) Specify a reasonable place for making the inspection, copying, and performing any related activity.



(4) Specify any related activity that is being demanded in addition to an inspection and copying, as well as the manner in which that related activity will be performed, and whether that activity will permanently alter or destroy the item involved.

(d) The party demanding an inspection shall serve a copy of the inspection demand on the party to whom it is directed and on all other parties who have appeared in the action.

(e) In addition to the inspection demands permitted by this section, a party may propound a supplemental demand to inspect any later acquired or discovered documents, tangible things, or land or other property that are in the possession, custody, or control of the party on whom the demand is made, provided that a demand for inspection was previously served by the demanding party (1) twice prior to the initial setting of a trial date, and (2) subject to the time limits on discovery proceedings and motions provided in Section 2024, once after the initial setting of a trial date. However, on motion, for good cause shown, the court may grant leave to a party to propound an additional number of supplemental demands for inspection.

(f) When an inspection of documents, tangible things or places has been demanded, the party to whom the demand has been directed, and any other party or affected person or organization, may promptly move for a protective order. This motion shall be accompanied by a declaration stating facts showing a reasonable and good faith attempt at an informal resolution of each issue presented by the motion.

The court, for good cause shown, may make any order that justice requires to protect any party or other natural person or organization from unwarranted annoyance, embarrassment, or oppression, or undue burden and expense. This protective order may include, but is not limited to, one or more of the following directions:

(1) That all or some of the items or categories of items in the inspection demand need not be produced or made available at all.



(2) That the time specified in subdivision (i) to respond to the set of inspection demands, or to a particular item or category in the set, be extended.

(3) That the place of production be other than that specified in the inspection demand.

(4) That the inspection be made only on specified terms and conditions.

(5) That a trade secret or other confidential research, development, or commercial information not be disclosed, or be disclosed only to specified persons or only in a specified way.

(6) That the items produced be sealed and thereafter opened only on order of the court.

If the motion for a protective order is denied in whole or in part, the court may order that the party to whom the demand was directed provide or permit the discovery against which protection was sought on terms and conditions that are just.

The court shall impose a monetary sanction under Section 2023 against any party, person, or attorney who unsuccessfully makes or opposes a motion for a protective order, unless it finds that the one subject to the sanction acted with substantial justification or that other circumstances make the imposition of the sanction unjust.

(g) The party to whom an inspection demand has been directed shall respond separately to each item or category of item by a statement that the party will comply with the particular demand for inspection and any related activities, a representation that the party lacks the ability to comply with the demand for inspection of a particular item or category of item, or an objection to the particular demand.

In the first paragraph of the response immediately below the title of the case, there shall appear the identity of the responding party, the set number, and the identity of the demanding party. Each statement of compliance, each representation, and each objection in the response shall bear the same number and be in the same sequence as the corresponding item or category in the demand, but the text of that item or category need not be repeated.



(1) A statement that the party to whom an inspection demand has been directed will comply with the particular demand shall state that the production, inspection, and related activity demanded will be allowed either in whole or in part, and that all documents or things in the demanded category that are in the possession, custody, or control of that party and to which no objection is being made will be included in the production.

Any documents demanded shall either be produced as they are kept in the usual course of business, or be organized and labeled to correspond with the categories in the demand. If necessary, the responding party at the reasonable expense of the demanding party shall, through detection devices, translate any data compilations included in the demand into reasonably usable form.

(2) A representation of inability to comply with the particular demand for inspection shall affirm that a diligent search and a reasonable inquiry has been made in an effort to comply with that demand. This statement shall also specify whether the inability to comply is because the particular item or category has never existed, has been destroyed, has been lost, misplaced, or stolen, or has never been, or is no longer, in the possession, custody, or control of the responding party. The statement shall set forth the name and address of any natural person or organization known or believed by that party to have possession, custody, or control of that item or category of item.

(3) If only part of an item or category of item in an inspection demand is objectionable, the response shall contain a statement of compliance, or a representation of inability to comply with respect to the remainder of that item or category. If the responding party objects to the demand for inspection of an item or category of item, the response shall (A) identify with particularity any document, tangible thing, or land falling within any category of item in the demand to which an objection is being made, and (B) set forth clearly the extent of, and the specific ground for, the objection. If an objection is



based on a claim of privilege, the particular privilege invoked shall be stated. If an objection is based on a claim that the information sought is protected work product under Section 2018, that claim shall be expressly asserted.

(h) The party to whom the demand for inspection is directed shall sign the response under oath unless the response contains only objections. If that party is a public or private corporation or a partnership or association or governmental agency, one of its officers or agents shall sign the response under oath on behalf of that party. If the officer or agent signing the response on behalf of that party is an attorney acting in that capacity for a party, that party waives any lawyer-client privilege and any protection for work product under Section 2018 during any subsequent discovery from that attorney concerning the identity of the sources of the information contained in the response. The attorney for the responding party shall sign any responses that contain an objection.

(i) Within 30 days after service of an inspection demand, or in unlawful detainer actions within five days of an inspection demand, the party to whom the demand is directed shall serve the original of the response to it on the party making the demand, and a copy of the response on all other parties who have appeared in the action, unless on motion of the party making the demand the court has shortened the time for response, or unless on motion of the party to whom the demand has been directed, the court has extended the time for response. In unlawful detainer actions, the party to whom the demand is directed shall have at least five days from the date of service of the demand to respond unless on motion of the party making the demand the court has shortened the time for the response.

(j) The party demanding an inspection and the responding party may agree to extend the time for service of a response to a set of inspection demands, or to particular items or categories of items in a set, to a date beyond that provided in subdivision (i). This agreement may be informal, but it shall be confirmed in a writing that specifies the extended date for service of a response.



Unless this agreement expressly states otherwise, it is effective to preserve to the responding party the right to respond to any item or category of item in the demand to which the agreement applies in any manner specified in subdivision (g).

(k) The inspection demand and the response to it shall not be filed with the court. The party demanding an inspection shall retain both the original of the inspection demand, with the original proof of service affixed to it, and the original of the sworn response until six months after final disposition of the action. At that time, both originals may be destroyed, unless the court, on motion of any party and for good cause shown, orders that the originals be preserved for a longer period.

(l) If a party to whom an inspection demand has been directed fails to serve a timely response to it, that party waives any objection to the demand, including one based on privilege or on the protection for work product under Section 2018. However, the court, on motion, may relieve that party from this waiver on its determination that (1) the party has subsequently served a response that is in substantial compliance with subdivision (g), and (2) the party's failure to serve a timely response was the result of mistake, inadvertence, or excusable neglect.

The party making the demand may move for an order compelling response to the inspection demand. The court shall impose a monetary sanction under Section 2023 against any party, person, or attorney who unsuccessfully makes or opposes a motion to compel a response to an inspection demand, unless it finds that the one subject to the sanction acted with substantial justification or that other circumstances make the imposition of the sanction unjust. If a party then fails to obey the order compelling a response, the court may make those orders that are just, including the imposition of an issue sanction, an evidence sanction, or a terminating sanction under Section 2023. In lieu of or in addition to that sanction, the court may impose a monetary sanction under Section 2023.

(m) If the party demanding an inspection, on receipt of a response to an inspection demand, deems that (1) a



statement of compliance with the demand is incomplete, (2) a representation of inability to comply is inadequate, incomplete, or evasive, or (3) an objection in the response is without merit or too general, that party may move for an order compelling further response to the demand. This motion (A) shall set forth specific facts showing good cause justifying the discovery sought by the inspection demand, and (B) shall be accompanied by a declaration stating facts showing a reasonable and good faith attempt at an informal resolution of any issue presented by it.

Unless notice of this motion is given within 45 days of the service of the response, or any supplemental response, or on or before any specific later date to which the demanding party and the responding party have agreed in writing, the demanding party waives any right to compel a further response to the inspection demand.

The court shall impose a monetary sanction under Section 2023 against any party, person, or attorney who unsuccessfully makes or opposes a motion to compel further response to an inspection demand, unless it finds that the one subject to the sanction acted with substantial justification or that other circumstances make the imposition of the sanction unjust.

If a party fails to obey an order compelling further response, the court may make those orders that are just, including the imposition of an issue sanction, an evidence sanction, or a terminating sanction under Section 2023. In lieu of or in addition to that sanction, the court may impose a monetary sanction under Section 2023.

(n) If a party filing a response to a demand for inspection under subdivision (g) thereafter fails to permit the inspection in accordance with that party's statement of compliance, the party demanding the inspection may move for an order compelling compliance.

The court shall impose a monetary sanction under Section 2023 against any party, person, or attorney who unsuccessfully makes or opposes a motion to compel compliance with an inspection demand, unless it finds



that the one subject to the sanction acted with substantial justification or that other circumstances make the imposition of the sanction unjust.

If a party then fails to obey an order compelling inspection, the court may make those orders that are just, including the imposition of an issue sanction, an evidence sanction, or a terminating sanction under Section 2023. In lieu of or in addition to that sanction, the court may impose a monetary sanction under Section 2023.



Approved _____, 1999

Governor

