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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

IN RE: NEXSTAR-TEGNA LITIGATION

No. 2:26-cv-00976-TLN-CKD

**ORDER**

This matter is before the Court on Defendants Nexstar Media Group, Inc. (“Nexstar”) and TEGNA, Inc.’s (“TEGNA”) (collectively, “Defendants”) Notice and Proposals Seeking Compliance Guidance Under the Temporary Restraining Order (“TRO”). (ECF No. 63.) Plaintiffs DIRECTV (“DIRECTV”) and the State of California, State of Colorado, State of Connecticut, State of Illinois, State of New York, State of North Carolina, State of Oregon, and Commonwealth of Virginia (collectively, “Plaintiff States”) filed responses. (ECF Nos. 97, 109.) The Court hereby modifies its TRO for the purposes of clarity in compliance and finds good cause to extend the TRO for seven (7) days.

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1           **I.       BACKGROUND**

2           On April 3, 2026, the Court ordered the parties to meet and confer to propose stipulated  
3 modifications for the purpose of clarifying the Court’s TRO. (ECF No. 108.) The parties were  
4 unable to reach agreement and filed separate proposals. (ECF Nos. 122, 125.)

5           On April 8, 2026, the Court held a hearing on its order to show cause why a preliminary  
6 injunction should not issue (ECF No. 60) and also considered Defendants’ Notice (ECF No. 63).  
7 The portion of the hearing on the Notice was closed to the public to discuss confidential  
8 information filed under seal. (ECF No. 130.) The Court understands Defendants’ request for  
9 clarity as to complying with this Court’s TRO such that Nexstar and the held-separate TEGNA  
10 entity may conduct business in the ordinary course.

11           **II.       TRO MODIFICATIONS**

12           After hearing from the parties, the Court clarifies and modifies the TRO as set forth  
13 below:

- 14           1. The TRO (paragraphs 1, 2, 4, 5, 9, and 10) shall allow Nexstar to undertake ordinary-  
15 course cash management, ordinary-course intercompany transfers, and ordinary-course  
16 debt service and repayment activities necessary to comply with Nexstar’s financing  
17 obligation, including refinancing activities, security perfection, and guaranty, provided  
18 that Nexstar does not use this provision as a pretext to undermine TEGNA’s viability as a  
19 going concern;
- 20           2. The TRO (paragraphs 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5) shall allow Nexstar to take reasonable actions  
21 necessary to maintain TEGNA’s day-to-day operations, including authorizing routine  
22 financial transactions such as wire transfers for ordinary course payments, without  
23 violating the TRO’s prohibition on “influence”;
- 24           3. The TRO (paragraphs 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5) shall allow Nexstar to take actions necessary to  
25 establish a functional governance structure for TEGNA, including appointing or  
26 reappointing officers, to the extent necessary to permit TEGNA to fulfill the TRO. It shall  
27 not be considered “influence” for Nexstar to provide and implement Sarbanes-Oxley  
28 requirements, including setting thresholds for contract approval, expenditure

- 1 authorization, and other financial limits similar to the interim operating covenants that  
2 applied to TEGNA's independent management of the business pre-closing. Nexstar shall  
3 not appoint current Nexstar employees, or former employees employed within the prior  
4 six months, as TEGNA officers and no TEGNA officer shall be an officer of Nexstar;
- 5 4. The TRO (paragraphs 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5) shall allow Nexstar to take all reasonable steps to  
6 perform all obligations required under its debt instruments, SEC reporting requirements,  
7 or refinancing transactions, including coordination with TEGNA personnel as necessary,  
8 provided that such coordination is narrowly tailored to complying with reporting  
9 requirements and avoiding breaches under debt instruments. This includes permitting  
10 Nexstar to complete required SEC and debt agreement reporting for the combined  
11 company within applicable deadlines, oversight by Nexstar management as to the  
12 accuracy of TEGNA financial statements, including compliance with internal controls and  
13 procedures, in coordination with TEGNA personnel. If the sharing of TEGNA's  
14 confidential information with certain Nexstar employees is necessary to accomplish such  
15 reporting requirements, such information must be maintained separately from Nexstar's  
16 files and used solely for those reporting requirements;
- 17 5. The TRO shall allow Nexstar to require that management of TEGNA adhere to the interim  
18 operating covenants set forth in the Merger Agreement (ECF No. 63-4), in their entirety,  
19 and in the same manner as applied pre-closing, provided however that TEGNA shall  
20 continue to have authority concerning ordinary course contracts, including contracts  
21 concerning retransmission consent, as provided by operating covenant 6.1(b)(xiii);
- 22 6. The TRO (paragraphs 1, 2, 3, and 4) shall allow Nexstar to appoint or reappoint TEGNA  
23 officers as necessary for TEGNA to exercise independent decision-making authority for  
24 retransmission matters. Nexstar shall not appoint current Nexstar employees, or former  
25 employees employed within the prior six months, as TEGNA officers and no TEGNA  
26 officer shall be an officer of Nexstar; and
- 27 7. The TRO shall allow Nexstar to require that management of TEGNA adhere to the interim  
28 operating covenants set forth in the Merger Agreement (ECF No. 63-4), in their entirety,


1 and in the same manner as applied pre-closing, provided however that TEGNA shall  
2 continue to have authority concerning ordinary course contracts, including contracts  
3 concerning retransmission fees, as provided by operating covenant 6.1(b)(xiii).

4 **III. EXTENSION OF TRO**

5 With respect to extension of the TRO, Rule 65 provides that a TRO “expires at the time  
6 after entry — not to exceed 14 days — that the court sets, unless before that time the court, for  
7 good cause, extends it for a like period[.]” Fed. R. Civ. P. 65(b)(2). Rule 65 also states the court  
8 must enter the reasons for an extension in the record. *Id.* Here, the Court finds good cause to  
9 extend the TRO to maintain the status quo and prevent irreparable harm while the Court prepares  
10 its ruling on whether a preliminary injunction should issue. *See State of Me. v. Fri*, 483 F.2d 439,  
11 441 (1st Cir. 1973) (“As long as the hearing on the preliminary injunction is held expeditiously  
12 within the appropriate time frame, the district court should be able to extend the restraining order  
13 while it prepares its decision.”). Additionally, there is no evidence in the record to contradict the  
14 Court’s findings from its March 27, 2026 Order granting DIRECTV’s Motion for TRO. (ECF  
15 No. 60.) “Nothing has occurred to alter the analysis in the original TRO, and the [C]ourt adopts  
16 and incorporates herein the findings and conclusions contained in that [O]rder concerning the  
17 requirements of *Winter v. Nat’l Res. Def. Council, Inc.*, 555 U.S. 7, 20 (2008).” *Versaterm Inc. v.*  
18 *City of Seattle*, No. C16-1217 JLR, 2016 WL 4399634, at \*3 (W.D. Wash. Aug. 18, 2016).  
19 Moreover, the modifications herein should provide sufficient clarity to alleviate concerns in  
20 complying with the TRO for an additional week. Accordingly, the TRO is EXTENDED for  
21 seven (7) days, and it shall now expire on April 17, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. PDT.

22 IT IS SO ORDERED.

23 Date: April 9, 2026

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26 Troy L. Nunley  
27 Chief United States District Judge  
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