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DEERING'S CALIFORNIA CODES ANNOTATED
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CODE OF CIVIL PROCEDURE
Part 2. Of Civil Actions
Title 8. Of the Trial and Judgment in Civil Actions
Chapter 6. Of References and Trials by Referees

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Cal Code Civ Proc § 644 (2014)

§ 644. Referee's decision; Effect; Entry of judgment

(a) In the case of a consensual general reference pursuant to Section 638, the decision of the referee or commissioner upon the whole issue must stand as the decision of the court, and upon filing of the statement of decision with the clerk of the court, judgment may be entered thereon in the same manner as if the action had been tried by the court.

(b) In the case of all other references, the decision of the referee or commissioner is only advisory. The court may adopt the referee's recommendations, in whole or in part, after independently considering the referee's findings and any objections and responses thereto filed with the court.