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IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

WALNUT HILL ESTATE ENTERPRISES,)
LLC; JONOTHAN BENEFIELD; and JULIE)
BENEFIELD,)
)
Plaintiffs,)
)
v.)
)
CITY OF OROVILLE; DAVID GOYER;)
BECKY FRASER; RAY SANDOVAL; and)
CHRIS GAIL,)
)
Defendants.)
_____)

2:09-cv-00500-GEB-GGH

ORDER GRANTING DEFENDANTS'
MOTION FOR SUMMARY JUDGMENT
AND DECLINING TO EXERCISE
SUPPLEMENTAL JURISDICTION OVER
PLAINTIFFS' REMAINING STATE
LAW CLAIM*

Defendants City of Oroville, David Goyer, Becky Fraser, Ray Sandoval, and Chris Gail ("Defendants") move for summary judgment on all of Plaintiffs' claims in their First Amended Complaint ("FAC").¹ Plaintiffs allege in their FAC that Defendants violated their constitutional rights when they conducted health and safety code inspection searches of Plaintiffs' business and subsequently issued Plaintiffs a "Notice to Repair or Demolish the Substandard Building."

* This matter is deemed suitable for decision without oral argument. E.D. Cal. R. 230(g).

¹ The individual Defendants also argue they are entitled to qualified immunity. However, since these Defendants prevail on their summary judgment motion, the qualified immunity issues are not reached.

1 **I. Background**

2 Plaintiffs Jonothan Benefield and Julie Benefield
3 (collectively, "the Owners") are the managing members of Plaintiff
4 Walnut Hill Estate Enterprises, LLC ("Walnut Hill"). (Statement of
5 Undisputed Facts ("SUF") ¶ 1.) Walnut Hill owns the Oroville Inn,
6 which is located in downtown Oroville, California. (Id.)

7 Oroville City Interim Fire Marshall Chris Gail ("Gail") and
8 Code Enforcement Officer David Goyer ("Goyer") went to the Oroville
9 Inn on December 16, 2008 after Interim Fire Chief Les Bowers
10 ("Bowers") informed Gail that the Inn was in "very poor condition and
11 should be inspected for safety reasons." (Id. ¶ 3.) Bowers spoke to
12 Gail after Bowers and his crews had responded to a fire alarm at the
13 Inn on the morning of December 16, 2008, at which time Bowers observed
14 the poor conditions and that the residents of the Inn did not evacuate
15 the building despite "an audible alarm sounding when his crews arrived
16 at the building" (Id. ¶ 2.) Gail and Goyer met with the
17 Oroville Inn maintenance man and observed "several code violations"
18 before they were asked to leave the premises. (Id. ¶ 3.) Goyer
19 "issued a Notice of Violation for the violations they observed and set
20 January 2, 2009 as the date for re-inspection." (Id.)

21 The Owners refused to allow Gail and Goyer into the Oroville
22 Inn on January 2, 2009. Goyer then filed an "Affidavit for Inspection
23 Warrant" in the Butte County Superior Court on January 7, 2009. (SUF
24 ¶ 4; Ex. 1 of Defendants' Unopposed Request for Judicial Notice
25 ("RJN"), which is granted.) On January 7, 2009, Butte County Superior
26 Court Judge William Lamb issued "an Inspection Warrant authorizing
27 City staff to enter upon and inspect the interior and exterior of the
28 Oroville Inn." (SUF ¶ 5.) Plaintiffs "filed an ex parte application

1 to quash and/or limit the scope of the Inspection Warrant" on January
2 8, 2009, which City Attorney, Dwight L. Moore opposed on January 9,
3 2009. (Id. ¶¶ 6, 7.) Judge Lamb held a hearing on January 9, 2009,
4 at which Plaintiffs' application to quash the warrant was denied.
5 (Id. ¶ 8.)

6 Goyer submitted his "Return on Inspection Warrant" to the
7 Butte County Superior Court on January 30, 2009, which included a
8 twenty-four page list of hundreds of health and safety code violations
9 Goyer discovered while inspecting the Oroville Inn. (Moore Decl. Ex.
10 3, Ex. E.) The "Return on Inspection Warrant" also listed twenty-
11 three apartments which "were not inspected after being provided a 24-
12 hour notice, because the occupants did not make their apartments
13 available for inspection." (Id.) Judge Lamb issued an additional
14 inspection warrant on February 4, 2009, authorizing forcible entry
15 into these apartments. (SUF ¶ 9; Gail Decl. Ex. 5.) City staff gave
16 the Owners and tenants advance written notice of each inspection.
17 (SUF ¶ 10.) On April 22, 2009, the Owners were given a "Notice to
18 Repair or Demolish the Substandard Building", and were advised that
19 their failure to comply may result in a civil enforcement action.
20 (Id. ¶ 11.)

21 Plaintiffs challenge in their FAC, filed on May 13, 2009,
22 the inspections "[c]ommencing on January 9, 2009," and the April 22,
23 2009 "Notice to Repair or Demolish the Substandard Building." (FAC ¶
24 8.) Plaintiffs allege the inspections violated their Fourth Amendment
25 rights and were conducted in retaliation for Plaintiffs asserting
26 their First Amendment right in an an earlier filed lawsuit. (Id. ¶
27 12(a), (b).) Plaintiffs also allege the inspections and Notice
28 violated their procedural and substantive due process rights and their

1 "rights to be secured from a taking." (Id. ¶ 12(c), (d).) Plaintiffs
2 further allege the City of Oroville has policies, practices, and
3 customs which foster, promote, condone the constitutional violations
4 to which they were subjected. (Id. ¶ 19.) Plaintiffs also seek a
5 writ of mandate under California Code of Civil Procedure section
6 1094.5. (Id. ¶ 21.)

7 **II. Legal Standard**

8 The movant for summary judgment bears the initial burden of
9 demonstrating the absence of a genuine issue of material fact for
10 trial. Celotex Corp. v. Catrett, 477 U.S. 317, 323-24 (1986). If the
11 movant satisfies this burden, "the non-moving party must set forth, by
12 affidavit or as otherwise provided in Rule 56 [of the Federal Rules of
13 Civil Procedure], specific facts showing that there is a genuine issue
14 for trial." T.W. Elec. Serv., Inc. v. Pac. Elec. Contractors Ass'n,
15 809 F.2d 626, 630 (9th Cir. 1987) (quotations, citation, and emphasis
16 omitted). "All reasonable inferences must be drawn in favor of the
17 non-moving party." Bryan v. McPherson, 590 F.3d 767, 772 (9th Cir.
18 2009).

19 **III. Analysis**

20 **A. Fourth Amendment Claims**

21 Defendants seek summary judgment on Plaintiffs' Fourth
22 Amendment claims, arguing the inspection searches "were pursuant to
23 valid inspection warrants." (Mot. 5:12-15.) Plaintiffs rejoin,
24 arguing the warrants were "not supported by probable cause," were
25 "unparticularized," and that Defendants exceeded the scope of the
26 inspection warrants when they executed the inspections. (Opp'n 3:28,
27 5:1-3, 6:19.)

1 "[T]he Fourth Amendment's prohibition against unreasonable
2 searches applies to administrative inspections of private commercial
3 property." Donovan v. Dewey, 452 U.S. 594, 598 (1981). However,
4 "[p]robable cause in the criminal law sense is not required. For
5 purposes of an administrative search . . . , probable cause justifying
6 the issuance of a warrant may be based . . . on specific evidence of
7 an existing violation" Marshall v. Barlow's, 436 U.S. 307,
8 320 (1978). "Where considerations of health and safety are involved,
9 the facts that would justify an inference of 'probable cause' to make
10 an inspection are clearly different from those that would justify such
11 an inference where a criminal investigation has been undertaken."
12 Camara v. Mun. Court of City and Cnty. of San Francisco, 387 U.S. 523,
13 538 (1967). "This lower standard of administrative probable cause may
14 be 'met by a showing of specific evidence sufficient to support a
15 reasonable suspicion of violation.'" In re Inspection of 526 Catalan
16 St., 741 F.2d 172, 174-75 (8th Cir. 1984) (quoting W. Point-Pepperell,
17 Inc. v. Donovan, 689 F.2d 950, 958 (11th Cir. 1982)).

18 Here, Goyer described in his affidavit supporting his
19 request for a state court issued inspection warrant the health and
20 safety code violations he personally observed at the Oroville Inn on
21 December 16, 2008, including the following: an electrical conduit
22 pulled away from the wall, cracked and chipped weather proofing, dry
23 rot around exterior doors, broken windows, defective emergency exit
24 signs, a missing sewer cleanout cap, a disassembled electrical grill
25 in the hallway, external fire systems connections lacking maintenance,
26 ceiling leaks, large piles of household debris, a pile of carpet
27 soaked with water leaking from the ceiling, and problems with the
28 elevator. (RJN Ex. 1.) Goyer concluded, "Based on my observations of

1 the Property, I believe that an inspection of the Property is
2 necessary to enforce the City Code and protect the health and safety
3 of the Property's occupants and guests." (Id.)

4 Plaintiffs have not controverted this evidence, and have
5 therefore failed to raise a genuine issue of material fact that the
6 inspection warrants issued on January 7 and February 4, 2009 were
7 unsupported by "specific evidence of [] existing [code] violation[s]"
8 and thus lacked "probable cause justifying the issuance of [the]
9 warrant[s]." Marshall, 436 U.S. at 320.

10 Plaintiffs also argue the inspection warrants are "so open
11 ended" that they can "only be described as [] general warrant[s]."
12 (Opp'n 4:105.) Whether an inspection warrant has "proper scope" is
13 "determined by considering the information presented to the [court] in
14 the warrant application." In re J.R. Simplot Co., 640 F.2d 1134, 1138
15 (9th Cir. 1981). The court considering the application for an
16 inspection warrant may "properly draw reasonable inferences from [the]
17 information" presented. Id. "If evidence is presented to the court
18 that the deleterious conditions may be present throughout the
19 facility, a warrant authorizing a full plant-wide inspection is
20 justified." Salwasser Mfg. Co. v. Occupational Saf. & Health Appeals
21 Bd., 214 Cal. App. 3d 625, 634 (1989) (citing Donovan v. Fall River
22 Foundry Co, Inc., 712 F.2d 1103, 1108 (7th Cir. 1983)). Goyer's
23 affidavit described multiple health and safety code violations he
24 personally observed. Additionally, Goyer included in his affidavit
25 Interim Fire Chief Bowers' statement that the property needed to be
26 inspected due to its "blighted conditions" and the maintenance man's
27 statement to Goyer that "he knew of many other maintenance problems
28 with the Property." Goyer requested in his affidavit a warrant to

1 inspect "[t]he entire property . . . , including interior and exterior
2 inspections of all the residential and commercial units, offices,
3 common areas, roof, basement and mechanical room, in order to inspect
4 for violations of the City of Oroville Building, Fire, Zoning, Housing
5 and Health Ordinances" The state court authorized warrants to
6 inspect the areas Goyer sought to inspect based on the observations
7 contained in Goyer's affidavit and Goyer's subsequent "Declaration in
8 Support of Return on Inspection Warrant." Plaintiffs have not
9 controverted Defendants' evidence with evidence creating a genuine
10 issue of material fact that the scope of the inspection authorized by
11 the warrants was "unreasonable." Simplot, 640 F.2d at 1138; see
12 People v. Wheeler, 30 Cal. App. 3d 282, 297-99 (1973) (upholding
13 rejection of similar particularity challenge to an inspection warrant
14 obtained under California Code of Civil Procedure sections 1822.50 *et*
15 *seq.* for the inspection of a 315-acre ranch with over 100 structures,
16 77 of which were occupied, for possible health and safety code
17 violations; the warrant described the place to be searched as "19100
18 Coleman Valley Road used as the residence of William and Sarah Wheeler
19 and other structures" and was supported by an affidavit showing
20 potential health and safety code violations).

21 Plaintiffs further argue that the inspections were
22 "manifestly excessive in scope." (Opp'n 6:19.) Plaintiffs present
23 the declaration of Jonothan Benefield in support of this argument, in
24 which Benefield avers "the police threatened [him] with physical
25 arrest by means of force . . . if [he] interfere[d] with the search."
26 (Benefield Decl. ¶ 18.) However, this conclusory averment lacks
27 factual context and is controverted by the DVD Defendants submitted
28 which contains a video recording of a portion of the January 9, 2009

1 search. (Moore Decl. ¶ 5, Ex. 1.) The video recording shows City
2 officials accompanied by a uniformed deputy sheriff officer served the
3 inspection warrant on Benefield in the presence of Benefield's
4 attorney, Frear Stephen Schmid; and, depicts Schmid shouting a tirade
5 of profanities at City officials involved with executing the
6 inspection warrant. The video also shows that a City official
7 informed Benefield that any person interfering with the inspection
8 would be subject to arrest. Even if the deputy sheriff officer later
9 warned Benefield that he could be arrested if he interfered with the
10 search, this mere warning has not been shown unlawful in light of
11 California Code of Civil Procedure section 1822.57, which prescribes
12 that "[a]ny person who willfully refuses to permit an inspection
13 lawfully authorized by warrant issued pursuant to this title is guilty
14 of a misdemeanor." see also Camara, 387 U.S. at 531 ("refusal to
15 permit an inspection is itself a crime").

16 Plaintiffs also challenge Defendants' entry into private
17 apartments. However, the January 7, 2009 warrant specifically
18 authorized "the inspection of the interior of the residences." The
19 uncontroverted evidence shows that Defendants entered private
20 apartments under the January 7, 2009 warrant only after they obtained
21 consent from the tenants. (Moore Decl. Ex. 3 (stating that apartments
22 "were not inspected because the tenants did not provide access"); Id.
23 Ex. E.) Defendants' evidence also shows that after the "Return on
24 Inspection Warrant" revealed a multitude of health and safety code
25 violations in the apartments searched, including exposed wiring, lack
26 of hot and cold running water, lack of heating, water intrusion
27 through exterior walls and ceiling, emergency escape window problems,
28 pest infestation, and general dilapidation, Defendants obtained a

1 warrant on February 4, 2009, authorizing forcible entry to inspect the
2 remaining apartments. (Moore Decl. Ex. 3, Ex. E.) This warrant was
3 obtained under California Code of Civil Procedure Section 1822.56,
4 which prescribes that "the judge may expressly authorize a forcible
5 entry." Since Plaintiffs have not countered Defendants' evidence with
6 evidence sufficient to permit drawing a reasonable inference that
7 Defendants' execution of the two inspection warrants was "excessive,"
8 Defendants' motion for summary judgment on Plaintiffs' Fourth
9 Amendment claims is granted.

10 **B. Retaliation Claim**

11 Defendants also seek summary judgment on Plaintiffs'
12 retaliation claim, arguing Plaintiffs have failed to "establish a link
13 between the alleged retaliatory conduct of [Defendants] and the
14 alleged protected conduct of Plaintiff[s]." (Defs.' Mot. 4:8-9.)
15 Plaintiffs counter the searches were conducted in retaliation for
16 Plaintiffs filing an earlier lawsuit. Specifically, Plaintiffs argue
17 "the inspections were in retaliation for [Plaintiffs'] exercise of
18 [their] First Amendment rights [when they filed] a civil lawsuit
19 against the City and defendant Goyer for their unjustified and
20 warrantless forced evacuations of the entire building on or about June
21 29, 2006 [in] Walnut Hill Estate Enterprises, LLC [] v. City of
22 Oroville [], action no. 2:08-CV-1142-FCD-GGH ["the 2008 Action"]."
23 (Opp'n 6:12-15.)

24 [A] plaintiff alleging retaliation for the exercise
25 of [a] constitutionally protected right[] must
26 initially show that the protected conduct was a
27 'substantial' or 'motivating' factor in the
28 defendant's decision At that point, the
burden shifts to the defendant to establish that it
would have reached the same decision even in the
absence of the protected conduct.

1 Soranno's Gasco v. Morgan, 874 F.2d 1310, 1314 (9th Cir. 1989) (citing
2 Mt. Healthy City Sch. Dist. Bd. of Educ. v. Doyle, 429 U.S. 274, 287
3 (1977)).

4 Plaintiffs argue "within a few months of [Plaintiffs] filing
5 [the 2008 Action], the City initiated 'searches' in December 2008."
6 (Opp'n 6:21-22.) Plaintiffs filed the 2008 Action on May 23, 2008,
7 nearly seven months before December 16, 2008, the date which Gail,
8 Goyers, and Bowers discovered the health and safety code violations
9 which provided the basis for the January 7, 2009 inspection warrant.
10 The 2008 Action concerned the City's evacuation of the Oroville Inn in
11 June 2006 following the discovery of health and safety code
12 violations. (Benefield Decl. ¶ 8.) Plaintiffs offer the declaration
13 of Jonothan Benefield in support of their retaliation claim, in which
14 Benefield avers that although he "had numerous meetings and/or
15 discussions with David Goyer and the City and ha[s] allowed various
16 specific inspections at the property" between the June 2006 evacuation
17 and December 2008, "this was the first attempt by Mr. Goyer to inspect
18 the property after the filing of [the 2008 Action]." (Id. ¶ 15.) The
19 averments in Benefield's declaration do not support Plaintiffs'
20 argument that the filing of the 2008 Action was "a 'substantial' or
21 'motivating' factor in the defendant[s'] decision" to inspect the
22 Oroville Inn in December 2008. Soranno's, 874 F.2d at 1314.
23 Plaintiffs also present the declaration of James Carpenter in support
24 of their retaliation claim. Carpenter declares he sought an occupancy
25 permit from the City of Oroville after he reached an agreement to
26 lease "the premises" in the Oroville Inn, concerning which the City
27 "scheduled an inspection of the proposed lease premises at the
28 Oroville Inn for August 26, 2009." (Carpenter Decl. ¶¶ 1,2.)

1 Carpenter also declares that Michael Cully informed Carpenter he would
2 not perform any inspection "of the proposed leased premises" "due to
3 an ongoing investigation regarding the Oroville Inn and due to
4 litigation by the owners of Oroville Inn against the City of
5 Oroville." (Id. ¶ 4.) Carpenter further declares "[Cully] presented
6 [him] with the form attached hereto, and left the premises." (Id.)
7 However, there is no form attached to Carpenter's declaration.
8 Finally, Carpenter avers Paula Atteberry encouraged him to rent
9 somewhere other than the Oroville Inn. (Id. ¶ 6.) The individuals
10 mentioned in Carpenter's declaration, Cully and Atteberry, are not
11 mentioned in Plaintiffs' Opposition brief or in Benefield's
12 declaration, and it is unclear how they relate to this lawsuit. The
13 inspection searches had been conducted when Carpenter sought an
14 occupancy permit from the City, and Carpenter's declaration does not
15 reference the 2008 Action or otherwise support Plaintiffs' retaliation
16 claim. Therefore, Defendants' motion for summary judgment on
17 Plaintiffs' retaliation claims is granted.

18 **C. Procedural Due Process Claim**

19 Defendants also seek summary judgment on Plaintiffs'
20 procedural due process claim, arguing "Plaintiffs[] received all of
21 the process they were due." (Defs.' Mot. 5:16.) Plaintiffs rejoin,
22 arguing their "Due Process rights were violated when the City issued
23 the 'Notice to Repair or Demolish' without [providing Plaintiffs with]
24 notice and an opportunity to be heard" before the Notice was issued.
25 (Opp'n 10:19-21.)

26 "A procedural due process claim hinges on proof of two
27 elements: (1) a protectible liberty or property interest . . .; and
28 (2) a denial of adequate procedural protections. Property interests

1 are not created by the Constitution but by existing rules or
2 understandings that stem from an independent source such as state law
3” Thornton v. City of St. Helens, 425 F.3d 1158, 1164 (9th
4 Cir. 2005) (citations and quotes omitted). Plaintiffs have not
5 pointed to any California law requiring a hearing prior to the
6 issuance of a “Notice of Repair or Demolish.” The Notice in this case
7 was issued under California Health and Safety Code section 17980,
8 which requires only that “[w]henver the enforcement agency has . . .
9 determined that [a] building is [] substandard . . . [t]he owner shall
10 have the choice of repairing or demolishing.” Cal. Health and Safety
11 Code § 17980(b). The Owners and tenants were each given a “Notice to
12 Repair or Demolish Substandard Building” on April 22, 2010, which
13 stated, “[t]he building official has determined that the buildings
14 must either be repaired or demolished, the option is yours.” (Moore
15 Decl. ¶ 7, Ex. 2; SUF ¶ 11.)

16 Plaintiffs have not provided the procedural protections to
17 which they contend they were entitled before the City issued the
18 Notice. Both parties submitted evidence that Plaintiffs were provided
19 a hearing before the Oroville City Council in October 2009 after
20 Plaintiffs failed to comply with the “Notice to Repair or Demolish.”
21 During this October 2009 hearing Benefield and his attorney presented
22 evidence and arguments before the City Council. (Moore Decl. Ex. 3;
23 Benefield Decl. Ex. 1 (City Council Resolution No. 7458 showing that
24 Plaintiffs were notified of the hearing during which the City Council
25 “would consider adopting a resolution declaring the substandard
26 housing conditions at the Property to be a public nuisance, and
27 ordering abatement of the nuisance”).) However, Plaintiffs have
28 failed to discuss this hearing in the arguments contained in their

1 Opposition brief, and have not shown any basis for their contention
2 that they were entitled to more process than what they have been
3 given. Further, to the extent Plaintiffs premise their procedural due
4 process claim on the searches, they have failed to raise a genuine
5 issue of material fact concerning the validity of any search. For the
6 stated reasons, Defendants' motion for summary judgment on Plaintiffs'
7 procedural due process claim is granted.

8 **D. Substantive Due Process Claim**

9 Defendants also seek summary judgment on Plaintiffs'
10 substantive due process claim, arguing that "enforcing [the Health and
11 Safety] codes advances a legitimate government purpose." (Mot. 7:2-
12 3.) Plaintiffs rejoin, arguing Defendants engaged in "capricious and
13 abusive code enforcement activities . . . which . . . shock the
14 conscience of any believer in the rule of law." (Opp'n 14:4-6.)

15 "[T]he irreducible minimum of a substantive due process
16 claim challenging land use action is failure to advance any legitimate
17 governmental purpose." Shanks v. Dressel, 540 F.3d 1082, 1088 (9th
18 Cir. 2008). When challenging a municipality's land use action, a
19 plaintiff must show that the "governmental deprivation of [the]
20 [protected] interest . . . rises to the level of the constitutionally
21 arbitrary." Id. (emphasis omitted). "[O]nly egregious official
22 conduct can be said to be arbitrary in the constitutional sense." Id.
23 (quotations omitted). Here, the uncontroverted evidence shows that
24 Defendants' enforcement of the California Health and Safety Code is
25 rationally related to the City's legitimate governmental interest in
26 preserving the public health and safety. See Armendariz v. Penman, 75
27 F.3d 1311, 1328 (9th Cir. 1996) ("The City has an obvious interest in
28 preventing safety and sanitation hazards by enforcing the housing

1 code."), overruled on other grounds by Crown Point Dev., Inc. v. City
2 of Sun Valley, 506 F.3d 851, 856-57 (9th Cir. 2007); see also Camara,
3 387 U.S. at 535 (discussing the "reasonable goals of code enforcement"
4 including "[t]he primary governmental interest . . . to prevent even
5 the unintentional development of conditions which are hazardous to the
6 public health and safety"). Therefore, Defendants' motion for summary
7 judgment on Plaintiffs' substantive due process claim is granted.

8 **E. Takings Claim**

9 Defendants also seek dismissal of Plaintiffs' takings claim,
10 stating in their motion: "Counsel for the parties have stipulated that
11 Plaintiffs are not pursuing a takings claim. As such, that claim will
12 not be addressed here and should be dismissed." (Mot. 7:21-23.)
13 Plaintiffs do not oppose dismissal of this claim in their Opposition
14 brief. Further, both parties present evidence that a hearing was held
15 before the Oroville City Council in October 2009 on the "Notice to
16 Repair or Demolish." This hearing indicates that the "Notice to
17 Repair or Demolish" was not a final administrative action. "[A] two-
18 step analysis [is involved in] determin[ing] whether a regulatory
19 takings claim is ripe: (1) the underlying 'administrative action must
20 be final before it is judicially reviewable' [;] and (2) the claimant
21 must have 'unsuccessfully attempted to obtain just compensation
22 through the procedures provided by the State.'" Equity Lifestyle
23 Props., Inc. v. Cnty. of San Luis Obispo, 548 F.3d 1184, 1190 (9th
24 Cir. 2008) (quoting Williamson Cnty. Reg'l Planning Comm'n v. Hamilton
25 Bank of Johnson City, 473 U.S. 172, 192, 195 (1985)). Since
26 Plaintiffs have not shown that their takings claim is ripe for review,
27 their takings claim is dismissed.

1 **F. Monell Liability**

2 Defendants also seek summary judgment on Plaintiffs' claims
3 against the City of Oroville, arguing under Monell v. Department of
4 Social Services, 436 U.S. 658 (1978), Plaintiffs have failed to
5 identify "an unconstitutional policy, practice, or custom." (Mot.
6 8:2-3.) Plaintiffs respond, arguing the "Notice of Substandard
7 Housing," the inspection searches, and the "Notice of Repair or
8 Demolish" constitute "official polic[ies] . . . ratified by the City."
9 (Opp'n 9:19-28.) However, Plaintiffs have not shown that a City
10 official violated their constitutional rights. "If no constitutional
11 violation occurred, the municipality cannot be held liable and whether
12 'the [City's official policies] . . . might have authorized the
13 [challenged actions] is quite beside the point.'" Long v. City and
14 Cnty. of Honolulu, 511 F.3d 901, 907 (9th Cir. 2007), cert. denied, --
15 U.S. ---, 129 S. Ct. 62 (2008) (quoting City of Los Angeles v. Heller,
16 475 U.S. 796, 799 (1986)). Therefore, Defendants' motion for summary
17 judgment on Plaintiffs' claims against the City of Oroville is
18 granted.

19 **G. Dismissal of Plaintiffs' Writ claim under 28 U.S.C §.1367(c)**

20 Plaintiffs seek in their only remaining claim a writ of
21 mandate under California Code of Civil Procedure section 1094.5, in
22 which Plaintiffs request various relief. Plaintiffs section 1094.5
23 "claim for a writ of mandate is a state law claim." Pac. Bell Tel.
24 Co. v. City of Walnut Creek, 428 F. Supp. 2d 1037, 1055 n.6 (N.D. Cal.
25 2006). The claim remains a state law claim even though "the asserted
26 bases for issuance of [the] writ are the City's alleged violations of
27 both federal and state law" Id. However, since Defendants'
28 summary judgment motion has been granted on all of Plaintiffs' federal

1 claims, the Court may sua sponte decide whether to continue exercising
2 supplemental jurisdiction over Plaintiffs' remaining state claim. See
3 Acri v. Varian Assocs., Inc., 114 F.3d 999, 1001 n.3 (9th Cir. 1997)
4 (en banc) (suggesting that a district court may, but need not, sua
5 sponte decide whether to continue exercising supplemental jurisdiction
6 under 28 U.S.C. § 1367(c)(3) after all federal law claims have been
7 dismissed).

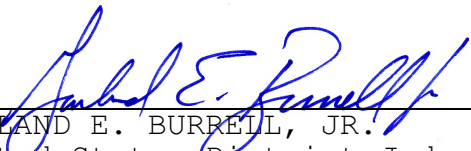
8 Under 28 U.S.C. § 1367(c)(3), a district court "may decline
9 to exercise supplemental jurisdiction over a [state law] claim" when
10 "all claims over which it has original jurisdiction" have been
11 dismissed. "While discretion to decline to exercise supplemental
12 jurisdiction over state law claims is triggered by the presence of one
13 of the conditions in § 1367(c), it is informed by the . . . values of
14 economy, convenience, fairness, and comity." Acri, 114 F.3d at 1001
15 (quotations omitted). "In the usual case in which all federal-law
16 claims are eliminated before trial, the balance of [the] factors to be
17 considered . . . point toward declining to exercise jurisdiction over
18 the remaining state-law claims." United Mine Workers of Am. v. Gibbs,
19 383 U.S. 715, 726 (1966). "Further, primary responsibility for
20 developing and applying state law rests with the state courts."
21 Curiel v. Barclays Capital Real Estate Inc., No. S-09-3074 FCD/KJM,
22 2010 WL 729499, at *1 (E.D. Cal. Mar. 2, 2010). Since none of the
23 Gibbs factors weigh against dismissal, Plaintiffs' remaining state
24 claim will be dismissed under 28 U.S.C. § 1367(c)(3).

25 **IV. Conclusion**

26 For the stated reasons, Defendants' summary judgment motion
27 is granted on Plaintiffs' Fourth Amendment, procedural due process,
28 substantive due process, and Monell claims. Judgment shall be entered

1 in favor of Defendants on these claims. Further, Plaintiffs' takings
2 claim is dismissed. Lastly, Plaintiffs' state claim for a writ of
3 mandate under California Code of Civil Procedure section 1094.5 is
4 dismissed under 28 U.S.C. § 1367(c)(3). The Clerk of Court shall
5 close this case.

6 Dated: July 21, 2010

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9 _____
GARLAND E. BURRELL, JR.
United States District Judge

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