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**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

AJ REYES, on behalf of himself and
all others similarly situated,

Plaintiff,

v.

EDUCATIONAL CREDIT
MANAGEMENT CORPORATION,

Defendant.

Case No. 3:15-cv-00628-BAS-JMA

**ORDER GRANTING IN PART
AND DENYING IN PART
DEFENDANT’S MOTION FOR
SUMMARY JUDGMENT**

On March 20, 2015, Plaintiff AJ Reyes commenced this putative class action against Defendant Educational Credit Management Corporation (“Defendant” or “ECMC”) alleging violations of the Telephone Consumer Protection Act (“TCPA”), 47 U.S.C. § 227, and the California Invasion of Privacy Act (“CIPA”), Cal. Penal Code § 630 et seq. (ECF No. 1.) Plaintiff invokes this Court’s jurisdiction under the Class Action Fairness Act of 2005, which provides federal district courts with original jurisdiction to hear a class action if the class has more than 100 members, the parties are minimally diverse, and the matter in controversy exceeds \$5 million in sum or value. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 1332(d)(2), (d)(5)(B). Defendant now moves for summary judgment. (ECF No. 25, “Def.’s Mot.”) Plaintiff opposes. (ECF No. 49,

1 “Pl.’s Opp’n”). The parties submitted their Joint Statement of Undisputed Material
2 Facts regarding the motion for summary judgment on January 12, 2016. (ECF No.
3 42.)

4 The Court finds this motion suitable for determination on the papers submitted
5 and without oral argument. *See* Civ. L. R. 7.1 (d)(1). For the following reasons, the
6 Court **GRANTS IN PART** and **DENIES IN PART** Defendant’s motion for
7 summary judgment. (ECF No. 25.)

8 **I. BACKGROUND**

9 Defendant is a guaranty agency in the Federal Family Education Loan Program
10 (“FFELP”) under the Higher Education Act of 1965, 20 U.S.C. § 1071, et seq.
11 (“HEA”). (Def.’s Mot. 1:4–6.) As such, Defendant helps to administer the FFELP as
12 a guarantor of federal student loans on behalf of the United States Department of
13 Education. (Def.’s Mot. 1:6–7.) In carrying out this role, ECMC is tasked with
14 “engag[ing] in reasonable and documented collection activities” on loans which have
15 gone into default. (Def.’s Mot. 1:9–13.) This action arises out of Defendant’s
16 collection activities on Plaintiff’s defaulted student loans. (Def.’s Mot. 1:13–14.)

17 The allegations are straightforward. Plaintiff alleges that Defendant violated
18 both the TCPA and the CIPA in the course of dealing with Plaintiff by phone
19 regarding his student loan debt. (Compl. ¶ 1.) Specifically, Plaintiff alleges that
20 Defendant negligently and willfully violated the TCPA when it placed an unsolicited
21 call to Plaintiff’s cell phone via an “automatic telephone dialing system” (“ATDS”)
22 on February 5, 2015, without Plaintiff’s prior express consent. (Compl. ¶¶ 14–19.)
23 Further, Plaintiff alleges that Defendant violated the CIPA when it recorded two
24 private telephone conversations between Plaintiff and Defendant’s representatives on
25 February 5, 2015, without Plaintiff’s consent. (Compl. ¶¶ 22–25.)

26 Defendant now moves for summary judgment on all claims. Plaintiff opposes.

27 **II. LEGAL STANDARD**

28 Under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 56(c), “[t]he court shall grant summary

1 judgment if the [moving party] shows that there is no genuine dispute as to any
2 material fact and the movant is entitled to judgment as a matter of law.” *See also*
3 *Celotex Corp. v. Catrett*, 477 U.S. 317, 322 (1986). A fact is material when, under
4 the governing substantive law, it could affect the outcome of the case. *Anderson v.*
5 *Liberty Lobby, Inc.*, 477 U.S. 242, 248 (1986). A dispute about a material fact is
6 genuine if “the evidence is such that a reasonable jury could return a verdict for the
7 nonmoving party.” *Id.* at 248.

8 A party seeking summary judgment always bears the initial burden of
9 establishing the absence of a genuine dispute of material fact. *Celotex*, 477 U.S. at
10 323. The moving party can satisfy this burden in at least two ways: (1) by presenting
11 evidence that negates an essential element of the nonmoving party’s case; or (2) by
12 demonstrating that the nonmoving party failed to make a showing sufficient to
13 establish an element essential to that party’s case on which that party will bear the
14 burden of proof at trial. *Id.* at 322-23. “Disputes over irrelevant or unnecessary facts
15 will not preclude a grant of summary judgment.” *T.W. Elec. Serv., Inc. v. Pac. Elec.*
16 *Contractors Ass’n*, 809 F.2d 626, 630 (9th Cir. 1987).

17 “The district court may limit its review to the documents submitted for the
18 purpose of summary judgment and those parts of the record specifically referenced
19 therein.” *Carmen v. San Francisco Unified Sch. Dist.*, 237 F.3d 1026, 1030 (9th Cir.
20 2001). Therefore, the court is not obligated “to scour the record in search of a genuine
21 issue of triable fact.” *Kennan v. Allen*, 91 F.3d 1275, 1279 (9th Cir. 1996) (citing
22 *Richards v. Combined Ins. Co. of Am.*, 55 F.3d 247, 251 (7th Cir. 1995)). If the
23 moving party fails to discharge this initial burden, summary judgment must be denied
24 and the court need not consider the nonmoving party’s evidence. *Adickes v. S. H.*
25 *Kress & Co.*, 398 U.S. 144, 159-60 (1970).

26 If the moving party meets this initial burden, the nonmoving party cannot
27 defeat summary judgment merely by demonstrating “that there is some metaphysical
28 doubt as to the material facts.” *Matsushita Elec. Indus. Co., Ltd. v. Zenith Radio*

1 *Corp.*, 475 U.S. 574, 586 (1986); *Triton Energy Corp. v. Square D Co.*, 68 F.3d 1216,
2 1221 (9th Cir. 1995) (“The mere existence of a scintilla of evidence in support of the
3 nonmoving party’s position is not sufficient.”) (citing *Anderson*, 477 U.S. at 252).
4 Rather, the nonmoving party must “go beyond the pleadings and by ‘the depositions,
5 answers to interrogatories, and admissions on file,’ designate ‘specific facts showing
6 that there is a genuine issue for trial.’” *Celotex*, 477 U.S. at 324 (quoting Fed. R. Civ.
7 P. 56(e)).

8 When making this determination, the court must view all inferences drawn
9 from the underlying facts in the light most favorable to the nonmoving party. *See*
10 *Matsushita*, 475 U.S. at 587. “Credibility determinations, the weighing of evidence,
11 and the drawing of legitimate inferences from the facts are jury functions, not those
12 of a judge, [when] he [or she] is ruling on a motion for summary judgment.”
13 *Anderson*, 477 U.S. at 255.

14 **III. DISCUSSION**

15 Defendant moves for summary judgment on the grounds that (1) Plaintiff
16 expressly consented to Defendant calling his cell phone using an ATDS before
17 Defendant called Plaintiff on February 5, 2015; and (2) Defendant adequately advised
18 Plaintiff of its intent to record his calls by using an automated recording advisement
19 at the beginning of each call. (Def.’s Mot. 8:21–28.) In response, Plaintiff argues that
20 (1) he refused consent to receive calls to his cell phone during a May 10, 2013 phone
21 conversation with Defendant’s representative; and (2) he did not hear a recording
22 advisement immediately prior to his recorded conversations with Defendant’s
23 representatives on February 5, 2015. (Pl.’s Opp’n 8:23–9:10; 10:18–12:22.)

24 **A. TCPA Claim**

25 Under the TCPA, it is unlawful for any person “to make any call (other than a
26 call made for emergency purposes or made with the prior express consent of the
27 called party) using any automatic telephone dialing system or an artificial or
28 prerecorded voice[.]” to any cellular phone. 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(1)(A)(iii). The Ninth

1 Circuit has listed the three elements of a TCPA claim as: “(1) the defendant called a
2 cellular telephone number, (2) using an automatic telephone dialing system, (3)
3 without the recipient’s prior express consent.”¹ *Meyer v. Portfolio Recovery Assocs.*,
4 707 F.3d 1036, 1043 (9th Cir. 2012).

5 Although the TCPA does not define the term “prior express consent,” the
6 Federal Communications Commission (“FCC”) has clarified the meaning of the
7 phrase in several oft-cited FCC orders. Two such orders are particularly instructive.
8 In a 1992 Report and Order interpreting the TCPA, the FCC found that “[p]ersons
9 who knowingly release their phone numbers have in effect given their invitation or
10 permission to be called at the number which they have given, absent instructions to
11 the contrary.” *In the Matter of Rules & Regulations Implementing the Telephone
12 Consumer Protection Act of 1991*, 7 FCC Rcd. 8752, 8769 (1992). In a more recent
13 Declaratory Ruling and Order, the FCC determined that “express consent can be
14 demonstrated by the called party giving prior express oral or written consent or, in
15 the absence of instructions to the contrary, by giving his or her wireless number to
16 the person initiating the autodialed or prerecorded call.” *In the Matter of Rules and
17 Regulations Implementing the Telephone Consumer Protection Act of 1991*, 30 FCC
18 Rcd. 7961, 7991-92 (2015). With regard to the interpretive authority of these

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20 ¹ There is a lack of consensus among district courts in the Ninth Circuit over the implications of
21 *Meyer*. Some courts emphasize that the *Meyer* Court’s inclusion of prior express consent as an
22 element of a TCPA claim was made in the context of a preliminary injunction request, and was
23 thus intended simply to frame the factors the court needed to consider in assessing plaintiff’s
24 likelihood of success on the merits. In the view of these courts, *Meyer* did not change prior
25 interpretations that express consent is an affirmative defense for which the defendant bears the
26 burden of proof. *See, e.g., Van Patten v. Vertical Fitness Group, LLC*, 22 F. Supp. 3d 1069 (S.D.
27 Cal. 2014); *Heinrichs v. Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.*, No. C 13–05434 WHA, 2014 WL 985558,
28 (N.D. Cal. Mar. 7, 2014). Other courts have found that after *Meyer*, a TCPA plaintiff bears the
burden to show lack of prior express consent. *See, e.g., Smith v. Microsoft Corp.*, 297 F.R.D. 464,
471 n. 2 (S.D. Cal. 2014). The Court need not settle the debate here. Whether prior express
consent is an element of a TCPA claim or an affirmative defense, ECMC will be entitled to
summary judgment if it can demonstrate there is no genuine dispute that Plaintiff provided prior
express consent. *See, e.g., Van Patten*, 22 F. Supp. 3d at 1078 (granting defendant gym’s motion
for summary judgment on TCPA claim where there was no dispute that plaintiff provided his
phone number upon joining the gym, thus consenting to receive text messages at that number).

1 determinations, “[t]his court is bound by the FCC’s interpretations of the TCPA,
2 unless those interpretations are invalidated by a court of appeals.” *Reardon v. Uber*
3 *Tech., Inc.*, 115 F. Supp. 3d 1090, 1097 (N.D. Cal. 2015) (citations omitted); 28
4 U.S.C. § 2342 *et seq.* (the “Hobbs Act”).

5 Defendant moves for summary judgment of Plaintiff’s TCPA claim, arguing
6 that Plaintiff gave express consent for Defendant to call his cell phone using an ATDS
7 before the February 5, 2015 call alleged in the Complaint. (Def.’s Mot. 4:11–18.)
8 Defendant argues that Plaintiff provided express consent through the following
9 conversation with Defendant’s representative on July 24, 2013:

10 Representative: Okay, being that you only have your cell phone number
11 for contact, can ECMC and its representatives call you
12 on that cell phone using our automated dialer?

13 Plaintiff: Okay.

14 (Def.’s Mot. 4:24–5:4; Transcript of July 24, 2013 Telephone Conversation, Skerbinc
15 Decl. Ex. E.) Additionally, Defendant argues that Plaintiff gave consent again on
16 August 20, 2014, when he applied for rehabilitation of his student loan debt and
17 signed a two-page document which included the following provision:

18 I authorize the loan holder to which I submit this request (and its agents
19 or contractors) to contact me regarding my request or my loan(s),
20 including repayment of my loan(s), at the number that I provide on this
21 form or any future number that I provide for my cellular telephone or
22 other wireless device using automated telephone dialing equipment or
artificial or prerecorded voice or text messages.

23 (Def.’s Mot. 5:9–21; Financial Disclosure for Reasonable and Affordable
24 Rehabilitation Payments, Skerbinc Decl. Ex. F.). This provision is in plain text and
25 located immediately above the signature line. (*See* Skerbinc Decl. Ex. F.)

26 In opposition, Plaintiff does not rebut Defendant’s evidence that Defendant had
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1 prior express consent to call Plaintiff using an ATDS on February 5, 2015.² (See Pl.’s
2 Opp’n 8:2–9:21.) Instead, Plaintiff argues that ECMC’s call to him on July 24, 2013
3 violated the TCPA because, even though Plaintiff gave Defendant consent to use an
4 ATDS *during* that call, such consent is not retroactive. (Pl.’s Opp’n 8:2–9:21.)
5 Plaintiff argues that shortly before the July 24, 2013 call, on May 10, 2013, he
6 explicitly denied consent through the following conversation:

7 Representative: If we need to contact you can ECMC and its
8 representatives call you at your current or future cell
9 phone using our automated dialer?

10 Plaintiff: No.

11 (Pl.’s Opp’n 2:1–4; Transcript of May 10, 2013 Telephone Conversation, Gallucci
12 Decl. Ex. 1.)

13 **1. The February 5, 2015 Call**

14 The Court finds that there is no genuine dispute that Plaintiff provided express
15 consent to Defendant prior to the February 5, 2015 call that forms the basis of the
16 TCPA claim. Plaintiff makes no assertion, let alone presents any evidence, to the
17 contrary. Although Plaintiff establishes that he refused consent during a call on May
18 10, 2013, *see* Joint Statement of Undisputed Material Facts ¶ 4, the record indicates
19 that Plaintiff subsequently provided express consent both orally and in writing to be
20 called on his cell phone with an ATDS, and that this consent was provided prior to
21 the February 5, 2015 call. At minimum, Plaintiff gave Defendant express consent
22 orally during the July 24, 2013 phone call with Defendant’s representative (Skerbinc
23 Decl. Ex. E.) and on August 20, 2014, when he applied for rehabilitation of his debt
24 and certified by signature that ECMC could contact him at his cell phone number.
25 (Skerbinc Decl. Ex. F.) Plaintiff has failed to designate “specific facts showing that
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28 ² There is no dispute between the parties as to the contents of the July 24, 2013 call or the
contents of the Financial Disclosure form signed by Plaintiff on August 20, 2014. (Joint
Statement of Undisputed Material Facts, ¶¶ 5–7.)

1 there is a genuine issue for trial.” *Celotex*, 477 U.S. at 324. Accordingly, the Court
2 finds there is no genuine dispute that ECMC had prior express consent before placing
3 the February 5, 2015 call. ECMC’s motion for summary judgment on the TCPA
4 claim is therefore **GRANTED**.

5 **2. Plaintiff’s New Allegations Regarding the July 24, 2013 Call**

6 Plaintiff responds to Defendant’s undisputed evidence by raising a new
7 allegation: that Defendant did not have consent to call Plaintiff’s cell phone with an
8 ATDS on July 24, 2013. However, Plaintiff did not allege the July 24, 2013 call in
9 his Complaint nor request leave to amend his Complaint. For the following reasons,
10 the Court declines to consider Plaintiff’s factual allegations raised for the first time
11 in opposition to Defendant’s motion for summary judgment.

12 “Federal Rule of Civil Procedure Rule 8(a)(2) requires that the allegations in
13 the complaint give the defendant fair notice of what the plaintiff’s claim is and the
14 grounds upon which it rests.” *Pickern v. Pier 1 Imports (U.S.), Inc.*, 457 F.3d 963,
15 968 (9th Cir. 2006) (internal quotation marks and citation omitted). A plaintiff has
16 not provided fair notice of his claim when he brings new allegations for the first time
17 in opposition to a motion for summary judgment. *See id.* at 969; *Burrell v. Cty. of*
18 *Santa Clara*, No. 11-CV-04569-LHK, 2013 WL 2156374, at *11 (N.D. Cal. May 17,
19 2013) (refusing to consider facts and causes of action raised for the first time at
20 summary judgment); *Quality Res. & Servs., Inc. v. Idaho Power Co.*, 706 F. Supp. 2d
21 1088, 1096 (D. Idaho 2010) (declining to consider new factual allegations raised for
22 the first time in opposition to a motion for summary judgment).

23 *Pickern* is instructive. In that case, the plaintiff alleged that Pier 1 violated the
24 Americans with Disabilities Act by failing to remove architectural barriers and
25 construct an access ramp to one of its stores. *Pickern*, 457 F.3d at 965-66. In response
26 to Pier 1’s motion for summary judgment, *Pickern* raised new allegations of
27 accessibility violations that were not raised in the complaint. *Id.* The district court
28 refused to consider the new allegations and granted summary judgment for Pier 1. *Id.*

1 at 966. The Ninth Circuit affirmed, reasoning that Pickern failed to provide Pier 1
2 with adequate notice of her claim where she raised new allegations for the first time
3 in opposition to Pier 1’s motion for summary judgment. *Id.* at 968-69. The court noted
4 that Pickern “might have proceeded by filing a timely motion to amend the
5 complaint,” but that he did not do so. *Id.* at 969.

6 Like the plaintiff in *Pickern*, Plaintiff here raises new factual allegations for
7 the first time in his opposition to Defendant’s motion for summary judgment.
8 Plaintiff’s complaint alleges only one call as the basis for his claim under the TCPA:
9 the call to his cell phone on February 5, 2015. (Compl. ¶¶ 14–19.) Now, after the time
10 to amend his Complaint has passed, Plaintiff seeks to save his TCPA claim by arguing
11 that Defendant violated the TCPA on July 24, 2013. (Pl.’s Opp’n 8:2–9:21.)
12 However, Plaintiff’s Complaint is devoid of any allegations relating to the call on
13 July 24, 2013, and Plaintiff at no point sought leave to amend his Complaint to
14 include these allegations. Indeed, the Court on October 5, 2015 continued the parties’
15 deadline “to file any motion to join other parties, to amend the pleading, or to file
16 additional pleadings” from October 15, 2015 until November 19, 2015. Despite this
17 extension, Plaintiff never sought leave to amend his Complaint. (ECF No. 20, 1:8–
18 11.)

19 For these reasons, the Court declines to consider Plaintiff’s allegations
20 regarding the July 24, 2013 call.³ The Court notes also that allegations regarding
21 whether the July 24, 2013 call violated the TCPA are irrelevant to the prior express
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23 ³ Defendant correctly argues that because the deadline to amend the pleadings set forth in the
24 Scheduling Order has passed, Plaintiff’s ability to amend his Complaint at this stage is governed
25 by Rule 16. *See Coleman v. Quaker Oats Co.*, 232 F.3d 1271, 1294 (9th Cir. 2000). Under Rule
26 16, Plaintiff would be required to show “good cause” for his inability to meet the deadline set
27 forth in the Scheduling Order. *See id.*; *Johnson v. Mammoth Recreations, Inc.* 975 F.2d 604, 608
28 (9th Cir. 1992); *See Fed. R. Civ. P. 16(b)*. The good cause standard “primarily considers the
diligence of the party seeking the amendment.” *Johnson*, 975 F.2d at 609. Here, Plaintiff has not
attempted to show good cause for his failure to seek leave to amend. The Court notes that
Plaintiff likely could not satisfy the good cause standard where Defendant produced a recording
of the July 24, 2013 call on August 17, 2015, before Plaintiff’s deadline to seek leave to amend.

1 consent issue at the heart of Defendant’s motion for summary judgment on the TCPA
2 claim. Accordingly, possible allegations regarding the July 24, 2013 call—allegations
3 of which ECMC has not received fair notice—do not change the Court’s
4 determination that ECMC is entitled to summary judgment on Plaintiff’s TCPA
5 claim.

6 **B. The CIPA Claim**

7 Under California Penal Code Section 632.7, it is unlawful for any person to
8 intentionally record a telephone conversation without the consent of all parties to that
9 communication. Cal. Penal Code § 632.7(a). The statute provides, in relevant part:

10 Every person who, without the consent of all parties to a
11 communication, intercepts or receives and intentionally records, or
12 assists in the interception or reception and intentional recordation of, a
13 communication transmitted between two cellular radio telephones, a
14 cellular radio telephone and a landline telephone, two cordless
15 telephones, a cordless telephone and a landline telephone, or a cordless
16 telephone and a cellular radio telephone, shall be punished[.]

17 Cal. Penal Code § 632.7(a). A person injured under Section 632.7 may bring a civil
18 action for damages and injunctive relief against the person who committed the
19 violation. Cal. Penal Code § 637.2.

20 Consent is a complete defense to a claim under § 632.7. *Maghen v. Quicken*
21 *Loans Inc.*, 94 F. Supp. 3d 1141, 1145 (C.D. Cal. 2015). Accordingly, the statute
22 simply prohibits parties “from recording the conversation without first informing all
23 parties to the conversation that the conversation is being recorded.” *Kearney v.*
24 *Salomon Smith Barney, Inc.*, 137 P.3d 914, 930 (Cal. 2006). The California Supreme
25 Court has stated that “[A] business that adequately advises all parties to a telephone
26 call, at the outset of the conversation, of its intent to record the call would not violate
27 the provision.” *Id.* However, a warning at the outset of a conversation is not necessary
28 in every circumstance. *Maghen*, 94 F. Supp. 3d at 1145 (C.D. Cal. 2015).

Defendant moves for summary judgment, producing evidence to support the
argument that ECMC uses a recording advisement at the outset of every incoming

1 call and that Plaintiff could not have bypassed this recording advisement. (Def.’s
2 Mot. 8:21–28.) Defendant also shows that even if Plaintiff did not hear the recording
3 advisement before the two calls on February 5, 2015, Plaintiff had prior awareness of
4 ECMC’s policy to record phone conversations because Plaintiff, during previous
5 calls, either received the advisement or was told by an ECMC representative that
6 “calls are being recorded.” (Def.’s Mot. 9:7–13.) In opposition, Plaintiff argues that
7 he did not hear the recording advisement before either of his conversations with
8 Defendant’s representatives on February 5, 2015⁴ because the recording is *non-*
9 *mandatory* and there were agents available to take his call. (Pl.’s Opp’n 10:18–11:4;
10 12:14–22.)

11 Defendant provides the declaration of Jennifer Skerbinc, a Litigation Specialist
12 for ECMC, in support of its argument that Plaintiff could not have bypassed the
13 recording advisements. (Def.’s Mot. 8:21–28.) Ms. Skerbinc explains that the
14 following automated voice message is played for all incoming calls to ECMC:
15 “Thank you for calling ECMC. This call is being recorded. Please hold while we
16 connect you to an available representative.” (Skerbinc Decl. ¶ 26.) She further states,
17 “[T]his message has been used by ECMC since approximately December 13, 2012.
18 A caller cannot bypass this message.” (*Id.*)

19 Plaintiff provides affidavits and other evidence to argue that he did not hear
20 the recording either time he called Defendant on February 5, 2015 because he was
21 connected directly to a representative both times. (Pl.’s Opp’n 11:11–15.) Plaintiff’s
22 declaration states:

23 “I placed two calls to ECMC on February 5, 2015 from my cellphone.
24 During both of these calls I did not receive any warning that the calls
25 would be recorded. Specifically, I did not receive a recorded warning
26 informing me the calls would be recorded, nor was I advised by the

27 ⁴ Plaintiff also argues that he did not hear the recording advisement during his call with Defendant’s
28 representative on February 9, 2015. (Pl.’s Opp’n 11:15–20.) However, Plaintiff’s Complaint does
not include allegations relating to the February 9, 2015 call. (*See generally* Compl.) Accordingly,
the Court declines to consider these allegations.

1 ECMC representative that the calls would be recorded. On both calls on
2 February 5, 2015, I directly reached a live person without waiting for a
3 recording to be played or otherwise holding for an available
representative.”

4 (Reyes Decl. ¶¶ 3-4.) Plaintiff further argues that the automatic recording advisement
5 used by ECMC is *non-mandatory*, such that callers can bypass the advisement and
6 connect directly with an agent if there is an agent available to speak with them. (Pl.’s
7 Opp’n 11:11–15.) Plaintiff states that Noble Systems is the third party that defendant
8 uses for its dialing and recording equipment, and he produces the Noble Systems User
9 Manual to establish that recorded messages can be mandatory or nonmandatory.⁵
10 (Pl.’s Opp’n 11:21–12:13.) This is sufficient to raise a triable issue of material fact.
11 Defendant offers no evidence to specifically rebut Plaintiff’s evidence that its
12 recording advisement can be nonmandatory and therefore could have been bypassed
13 when Plaintiff called Defendant on February 5, 2015.

14 Defendant also fails to establish a lack of genuine dispute as to whether
15 Plaintiff consented to have the February 5, 2015 calls recorded based on Plaintiff’s
16 awareness that ECMC had recorded previous calls. Although Defendant correctly
17 notes that this Court has stated that prior awareness of a practice to record may be
18 sufficient to demonstrate consent to being recorded in the future, *see NEI Contracting*
19 *& Eng’g, Inc. v. Hanson Aggregates Pac. Sw., Inc.*, No. 3:12-CV-01685-BAS, 2015
20 WL 1346110, at *3 (S.D. Cal. Mar. 24, 2015), this Court also noted in *NEI*
21 *Contracting* that such a determination is a question of fact for the jury. *Id.*

22 Viewing the evidence in the light most favorable to Plaintiff, the Court finds
23 there is a triable issue of material fact as to whether Plaintiff consented to the
24 February 5, 2015 call recordings. In response to ECMC’s assertions and evidence that
25 callers cannot bypass the recording advisement, Plaintiff meets his burden by
26 declaring that he did not hear the advisements because they are nonmandatory, and
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28 ⁵ ECMC does not dispute that it uses Noble Systems “for certain dialing services.” (Joint
Statement of Undisputed Material Facts, ¶ 19.)

1 by producing un rebutted evidence (in the form of the Noble Systems User Manual)
2 raising the possibility that ECMC's recording advisement is nonmandatory and
3 therefore could have been bypassed.


4 "Credibility determinations, the weighing of the evidence, and the drawing of
5 legitimate inferences from the facts are jury functions," not those of a judge ruling on
6 a motion for summary judgment. *Anderson*, 477 U.S. at 255. The Court finds that a
7 reasonable fact-finder could conclude that Plaintiff did not receive a recording
8 advisement, or otherwise give Defendant consent to record his calls on February 5,
9 2015. Thus, whether Plaintiff consented to the recordings is a genuine issue for trial.
10 Defendant's motion for summary judgment on the CIPA claim is therefore **DENIED**.

11 **IV. CONCLUSION & ORDER**

12 For the foregoing reasons, Defendant's Motion for Summary Judgment is
13 **GRANTED IN PART** and **DENIED IN PART**. The Court grants summary
14 judgment for Defendant on Plaintiff's TCPA claim and denies summary judgment on
15 Plaintiff's CIPA claim. (ECF No. 25.)

16 **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

17
18 **DATED: May 19, 2016**


19 **Hon. Cynthia Bashant**
20 **United States District Judge**