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IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

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FOR THE DISTRICT OF ARIZONA

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9 Fred Graves, Isaac Popoca, on their own)
10 behalf and on behalf of a class of all)
pretrial detainees in the Maricopa County)
11 Jails,)

No. CV-77-00479-PHX-NVW

ORDER

12 Plaintiffs,

13 vs.

14 Joseph Arpaio, Sheriff of Maricopa)
County; Fulton Brock, Don Stapley,)
15 Andrew Kunasek, Max W. Wilson, and)
Mary Rose Wilcox, Maricopa County)
16 Supervisors;)

17 Defendants.)
18)

19 Before the Court is the question of whether the Court has jurisdiction to decide
20 Defendant Arpaio’s Motion to Terminate (Doc. 1912) while his appeal is pending in the
21 Court of Appeals. (Docs. 1909, 1910.)

22 **I. Background**

23 This class action was brought in 1977 against the Maricopa County Sheriff and
24 the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors, alleging that the civil rights of pretrial
25 detainees held in the Maricopa County, Arizona, jail system had been violated. In March
26 1981, the parties entered into a consent decree that addressed and regulated aspects of
27 County jail operations as they applied to pretrial detainees. In 1995, the 1981 consent
28 decree was superseded by an Amended Judgment entered by stipulation of the parties.

1 On October 22, 2008, Defendants' Renewed Motion to Terminate the Amended
2 Judgment pursuant to the Prison Litigation Reform Act ("PLRA"), 18 U.S.C. § 3626 and
3 42 U.S.C. § 1997e, was granted in part and denied in part, and the provisions of the
4 Amended Judgment remaining in effect were restated in the Second Amended Judgment
5 entered the same day. (Docs. 1634, 1635.) The Second Amended Judgment consists of
6 those provisions of the Amended Judgment for which the Court found "prospective relief
7 remains necessary to correct a current and ongoing violation of the Federal right, extends
8 no further than necessary to correct the violation of the Federal right," "is narrowly
9 drawn," and is "the least intrusive means to correct the violation." See 18
10 U.S.C. § 3626(b)(3).

11 On November 21, 2008, Defendant Arpaio sought appellate review of the Second
12 Amended Judgment. On October 13, 2010, the Ninth Circuit affirmed the Second
13 Amended Judgment. On October 28, 2010, Defendant Arpaio filed the pending Motion
14 to Terminate paragraphs 2-5 and 9-16 of the Second Amended Judgment. (Doc. 1912 at 4
15 n.4.) On November 2, 2010, Defendant Arpaio filed a petition for rehearing en banc in
16 the Ninth Circuit.

17 **II. Analysis**

18 **A. The PLRA Does Not Vest the District Court with Jurisdiction to** 19 **Terminate Prospective Relief During the Pendency of an Appeal.**

20 Defendant Arpaio cites no authority holding that the PLRA permits the district
21 court to exercise its authority to modify existing prospective relief while the judgment
22 granting prospective relief is on appeal, and the Court has found none.

23 Any order for prospective relief regarding prison conditions is "terminable upon
24 the motion of any party or intervener . . . 1 year after the date the court has entered an
25 order denying termination of prospective relief" under the PLRA. 18 U.S.C.
26 § 3626(b)(1). The PLRA further provides:

27 Prospective relief shall not terminate if the court makes written findings
28 based upon the record that prospective relief remains necessary to correct a
current and ongoing violation of the Federal right, extends no further than
necessary to correct the violation of the Federal right, and that the

1 prospective relief is narrowly drawn and the least intrusive means to correct
2 the violation.
3 18 U.S.C. § 3626(b)(3). To determine whether to terminate prospective relief, the district
4 court must “take evidence on the current circumstances” regarding those remedies with
5 which Plaintiffs do not concede that Defendants are in compliance. *Gilmore v.*
6 *California*, 220 F.3d 987, 1010 (9th Cir. 2000). If prospective relief remains necessary to
7 correct a current and ongoing violation, the district court’s authority to modify the
8 existing prospective relief includes authority to expand or diminish the existing relief.
9 *See Pierce v. Orange County*, 526 F.3d 1190, 1204 n.13 (9th Cir. 2008). But the statute
10 does not authorize taking evidence on current circumstances and determining whether
11 prospective relief remains necessary to correct a current and ongoing violation, while an
12 appeal from the prospective relief is pending.

13 Moreover, § 3626(b)(4) does not authorize modification or termination of relief
14 pending appeal. It provides: “Nothing in this section shall prevent any party or
15 intervener from seeking modification or termination before the relief is terminable under
16 paragraph (1) or (2), to the extent that modification or termination would otherwise be
17 legally permissible.” Here, assuming the motion has substantive merit, relief would be
18 terminable under paragraph (1), but not otherwise legally permissible.

19 **B. Rule 62(c) Does Not Vest the District Court with Jurisdiction to
20 Terminate Prospective Relief During the Pendency of an Appeal.**

21 With certain exceptions not present here, *see* Fed. R. App. P. 4(a)(4), the filing of a
22 notice of appeal “confers jurisdiction on the court of appeals and divests the district court
23 of its control over those aspects of the case involved in the appeal.” *Griggs v. Provident*
24 *Consumer Discount Co.*, 459 U.S. 56, 58 (1982); *Natural Res. Def. Council v. Sw.*
25 *Marine, Inc.*, 242 F.3d 1163, 1166 (9th Cir. 2001). Fed. R. Civ. P. 62(c) provides the
26 district court limited jurisdiction to modify an injunction while an appeal is pending:

27 While an appeal is pending from an interlocutory order or final judgment
28 that grants, dissolves, or denies an injunction, the court may suspend,
modify, restore, or grant an injunction on terms for bond or other terms that
secure the opposing party’s rights.

1 However, a district court possesses jurisdiction to modify the injunction while an appeal
2 is pending only to preserve the status quo:

3 [Rule 62(c)] grants the district court no broader power than it has always
4 inherently possessed to preserve the status quo during the pendency of an
5 appeal; it does not restore jurisdiction to the district court to adjudicate
anew the merits of the case. Thus, any action taken pursuant to Rule 62(c)
may not materially alter the status of the case on appeal.

6 *Natural Res. Def. Council*, 242 F.3d at 1166 (internal quotation marks and citations
7 omitted).

8 Defendant Arpaio contends that his motion to terminate the Second Amended
9 Judgment will not require a new adjudication of the case’s merits because he already is in
10 compliance with the Second Amended Judgment and need only report his compliance to
11 the Court. As noted above, the PLRA requires the Court to “take evidence on the current
12 circumstances” regarding those remedies with which Plaintiffs do not concede that
13 Defendants are in compliance, and Plaintiffs do not concede that Defendants are in full
14 compliance with the Second Amended Judgment.

15 Defendant Arpaio summarily contends that granting or denying his motion to
16 terminate would not materially alter the status of the case on appeal. But his brief argues
17 the converse, *i.e.*, the case on appeal will not affect the determination of his motion to
18 terminate. In fact, he states:

19 If the Court of Appeals agrees with Defendant Arpaio, the decision will
20 have no effect because Defendant Arpaio already performed and continues
21 to perform the prospective relief this Court ordered. . . . If the Appeal is
granted, the only issue affected is attorneys’ fees.

22 (Doc. 1909 at 7.) But Defendant Arpaio does not address whether termination of the
23 Second Amended Judgment would affect the appeal taken from the Second Amended
24 Judgment.


25 Defendant Arpaio currently is required to comply with the Second Amended
26 Judgment. Terminating the Second Amended Judgment would relieve Defendant Arpaio
27 from compliance obligations. Although he states that he “continues to perform the
28 prospective relief this Court ordered,” he does not promise to continue to do so even if the

1 Second Amended Judgment were terminated. Thus, terminating the Second Amended
2 Judgment would not maintain the status quo.

3 IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that Defendant Arpaio's Motion to Terminate
4 (Doc. 1912) is denied for lack of jurisdiction without prejudice to refile it after the
5 Court of Appeals' mandate issues and jurisdiction is revested in this Court.

6 DATED this 16th day of November, 2010.

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Neil V. Wake
United States District Judge