

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28

WO

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF ARIZONA

Ronald Cooke and Jinjer Cooke, husband  
and wife,

Plaintiffs,

The State of Arizona *ex rel.* Thomas C.  
Horne, the Attorney General; and the Civil  
Rights Division of the Arizona Department  
of Law,

Plaintiff-Intervenor,

v.

Town of Colorado City, Arizona; City of  
Hildale, Utah, Hildale-Colorado City  
Utilities; Twin City Water Authority, a  
Utah non-profit corporation; Twin City  
Power,

Defendants.

No. CV 10-08105-PCT-JAT

**ORDER**

Pending before the Court are (1) the Town of Colorado City’s Motion for  
Summary Judgment (Doc. 264); (2) the Cooke Plaintiffs’ Motion for Partial Summary  
Judgment (Doc. 266); (3) the City of Hildale, Hildale-Colorado City Utilities, Twin City  
Power, and Twin City Water Authority’s (collectively, the “Hildale Defendants”) Motion  
for Summary Judgment (Doc. 267); and (4) the State of Arizona’s Motion for Summary

1 Judgment (Doc. 269). The Court now rules on the Motions.<sup>1</sup>

2 **I. BACKGROUND<sup>2</sup>**

3 In this case, Plaintiffs allege that Defendants discriminated against Plaintiffs on  
4 the basis of religion by denying Plaintiffs utilities for their home because Plaintiffs are  
5 not members of the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints  
6 (“FLDS”).<sup>3</sup> Plaintiffs also allege that Defendants discriminated against Plaintiff Ronald  
7 Cooke due to his disability.

8 **A. Relevant History regarding Defendant Town of Colorado City,  
9 Arizona and Defendant City of Hildale, Utah and the United  
10 Effort Plan Trust**

11 In the 1930s, the leaders of FLDS’s predecessor, the Priesthood Work, initiated a  
12 settlement on land, which was then known as “Short Creek.”<sup>4</sup> In 1942, leaders of the

---

13  
14 <sup>1</sup> Throughout this Order, the Court refers to the Cooke Plaintiffs and Plaintiff-  
15 Intervenor collectively as “Plaintiffs” and Defendant Colorado City and the Hildale  
16 Defendants collectively as “Defendants.”

17 <sup>2</sup> For purposes of deciding the motions for summary judgment, the Court has  
18 included some facts in the Background section of this Order that are disputed. Those  
19 facts are discussed more fully in the Analysis section of this Order.

20 <sup>3</sup> FLDS is a religious organization that vests power in a single President or  
21 Prophet.

22 <sup>4</sup> Plaintiffs argue that the Court should take judicial notice of certain “facts” in  
23 certain opinions issued by the Third Judicial District Court of Utah, the Utah Supreme  
24 Court, and the Arizona Court of Appeals. (Doc. 307 at n. 6). While the Court can take  
25 judicial notice of the existence of those opinions as they are public records, whose  
26 accuracy cannot reasonably be questioned, the Court cannot take judicial notice of the  
27 facts in those opinions for their truth. *See, e.g., U.S. v. Ritchie*, 342 F.3d 903, 908 -  
28 909 (9th Cir. 2003) (Pursuant to Federal Rule of Evidence 201(b), “[f]acts are  
indisputable, and thus subject to judicial notice, only if they are either ‘generally known’  
under Rule 201(b)(1) or ‘capable of accurate and ready determination by resort to sources  
whose accuracy cannot be reasonably questioned’ under Rule 201(b)(2).”).

This Court can take notice that other courts stated certain facts, but cannot take  
judicial notice of the facts themselves. Nonetheless, at the summary judgment stage, the

1 settlement created the United Effort Plan Trust (“UEP”), which was established to hold  
2 and administer property on behalf of the settlers of Short Creek. The inhabitants of Short  
3 Creek ultimately incorporated their community into the Town of Colorado City, Arizona  
4 (“Colorado City” or the “Town of Colorado City”) and the City of Hildale, Utah  
5 (“Hildale” or the “City of Hildale”). The majority of real property located within the  
6 municipal limits of Colorado City and Hildale is owned by the UEP.

7 At some point thereafter, FLDS was formally founded and FLDS leaders  
8 administered the UEP Trust. In 1986, FLDS leaders declared that people living on UEP  
9 land were tenants at will.

10 In 2004, Warren Steed Jeffs (“Jeffs”) took control of the FLDS as its Prophet and  
11 President. Jeffs advocated that his followers eliminate all contact with former-FLDS  
12 members, who were deemed “apostates.” Several former-FLDS members brought  
13 lawsuits against Jeffs, the FLDS Church, and the UEP Trust in civil actions.

14 At Jeffs’ direction, the UEP trustees refused to defend the UEP Trust in civil  
15 lawsuits and, in 2005, the Utah Attorney General filed a lawsuit against the UEP to  
16 remove its trustees. The Utah state court removed the trustees and appointed Bruce  
17 Wisan (“Wisan”) as the special fiduciary of UEP. In 2006, the UEP was reformed to  
18 eliminate criteria based on religion for receiving benefits from the UEP. The elimination  
19 of these criteria made housing available to all UEP trust participants, whether or not they  
20 adhered to the FLDS religion.

---

22 Court does not focus on the admissibility of the evidence’s form and, instead, focuses on  
23 the admissibility of its contents. *Block v. City of Los Angeles*, 253 F.3d 410, 418-19 (9th  
24 Cir. 2001) (“To survive summary judgment, a party does not necessarily have to produce  
25 evidence in a form that would be admissible at trial, as long as the party satisfies the  
26 requirements of Federal Rules of Civil Procedure 56.”); *Fed. Deposit Ins. Corp. v. N.H.*  
27 *Ins. Co.*, 953 F.2d 478, 485 (9th Cir. 1991) (“the nonmoving party need not produce  
28 evidence in a form that would be admissible at trial in order to avoid summary  
judgment.”) (internal quotation marks and citation omitted). Accordingly, the Court  
assumes, for the purposes of this summary judgment Order that these facts can be  
presented in an admissible form at trial.

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28

**B. UEP Trust Land**

When Wisan became Special Fiduciary, the UEP had dozens of unfinished, deteriorating homes in various stages of completion on which all work had been abandoned at the direction of the leaders of the FLDS Church.

Wisan, as Special Fiduciary, then began working on making housing on UEP land available to potential trust participants. At the same time, Jeffs began speaking out against this new system, claiming that Wisan’s intention was to take UEP land away from the Priesthood and give it to “apostates.” Plaintiffs allege that many of Jeffs’ followers still reside in Colorado City and the City of Hildale and those members do not believe that non-FLDS members are entitled to the benefits of the UEP trust land.

Under the new system instituted by Wisan, to obtain property on UEP land, an applicant submits a petition for benefits, the UEP reviews the petition and, upon approval, enters into an occupancy agreement with the applicant, giving the applicant the right to occupy the property.

**C. The Cooke Plaintiffs**

Plaintiff Ronald Cooke (“Mr. Cooke”) is a former member of the FLDS church and alleges that he suffers from a severe disability. Mr. Cooke was born in Colorado City and raised within FLDS. As a teenager, Mr. Cooke left the FLDS church and moved to Phoenix. In 2005, Mr. Cooke was hit by a truck while doing road work and suffered injuries resulting in disability. In early 2008, Mr. Cooke and his wife, Plaintiff Jinjer Cooke, decided to move back to Colorado City.

After deciding to move back to Colorado City, the Cookes submitted a petition for benefits dated February 11, 2008 to UEP. The UEP Housing Advisory Committee (the “Housing Board”) worked with the Cookes to identify a specific property on UEP land for the Cookes. Mr. Cooke’s brother, Seth Cooke, was a member of the Housing Board. The UEP and the Cookes then entered into an Occupancy Agreement for a residence located at 420 East Academy Avenue in Colorado City (the “Academy Avenue Property”).

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28

**D. The Academy Avenue Property**

The Academy Avenue Property was only partially constructed and did not have a culinary water connection or other utilities when the Cookes entered into the Occupancy Agreement. The Academy Avenue Property is within the city limits of Colorado City. There is a municipal culinary water line running down Academy Avenue in the vicinity of the Academy Avenue property. Prior to the Utah Court assigning Wisan to the position of Special Fiduciary of the UEP Trust, no occupants of UEP land ever had a problem getting approval for a new water connection in Colorado City.

At some point in 2008, the Cookes submitted applications for water, sewer, and electric service for the Academy Avenue Property. The Cookes and the UEP anticipated that the Cookes would not have a problem obtaining water connections and other utilities because there was a water line going down the street, other homes on the street received city water service, and Colorado City had previously issued a building permit for the Academy Avenue Property with signoffs from all utility departments.

In October 2008, Ronald Cooke submitted a letter to Colorado City and the Utility Board to request that utilities, including culinary water and electricity be installed at the Academy Avenue Property as quickly as possible due to his disabilities.

**1. The Building Permit**

On April 9, 2001, Colorado City issued a building permit to a previous occupant of the Academy Avenue Property, Robert Black. The Building Permit contained signatures from the various utility departments, including water, which indicated that the Academy Avenue Property was entitled to receive water and other utilities. The Building Permit contained language indicating that it would be “null and void if construction is suspended or abandoned for a period of 180-days at any time after work is commenced.” It is undisputed that, because of this language, the building permit for the Academy Avenue Property had expired by the time the Cookes entered into their Occupancy Agreement for that property. It is likewise undisputed that this “expiration clause,” which was contained in all building permits, was not enforced prior to 2005, in order to

1 allow occupants of UEP properties to continue to build slowly over time if they could not  
2 afford to do all of the building at once.

3 In November 2008, the Utility Board met and voted to deny Ronald Cooke's  
4 request for water service, citing concerns about not being able to supply water to existing  
5 customers. In 2008, the Cookes met with Jeremiah Barlow at the Utility Office and were  
6 told that that there was a policy that no new water service connections were being added  
7 to the system and, to obtain service at the Academy Avenue Property, physical water  
8 would need to be provided to the system by the applicant or property owner.

## 9 **2. The Water Policy and Requests for Electricity**

10 Defendants claim that the practice of requiring an applicant to bring physical water  
11 to the system to receive a new water connection was implemented on or about July 7,  
12 2007. It is undisputed that this policy was not formally adopted and put into writing until  
13 2010. Defendants argue that this policy was implemented in July 2007 after a well pump  
14 motor burned out and there was concern regarding a water shortage. The policy allowed  
15 unlimited hookups to properties that had a prior water connection without any  
16 requirement that they bring physical water to the system.

17 Plaintiffs argue that there was never a water shortage and that, as soon as the  
18 pump motor was replaced in July 2007, there was no reason for concern about a water  
19 shortage, and the requirement that physical water be added to the system was merely a  
20 pretext to make it difficult or impossible for non-FLDS members to obtain water  
21 connections for UEP trust properties. Plaintiffs' expert opines that the effect of allowing  
22 a water connection for the Academy Avenue Property would increase the demand on the  
23 water system by .022% and that the same amount of a water is used whether at a new or  
24 existing water connection location.

25 Further, in December 2009, the Utility Board approved culinary water connections  
26 for Twin City Improvement Association, which was building triplexes outside of UEP  
27 land for the benefit of FLDS members. Twin City Improvement Association was not  
28 required to bring physical water into the system per the stated policy, but agreed to bring

1 water rights to the system. When UEP sought to obtain a similar agreement, it was told  
2 to submit its own proposal.

3 In 2008, Jinjer Cooke applied for electricity service a second time, but no action  
4 was taken on her request. Jeremiah Barlow stated that no action was taken because the  
5 address did not match the one on the expired building permit and the Cookes failed to  
6 complete a new utilities submittal checklist. The Cookes argue that a new utilities  
7 submittal checklist was unnecessary because no new information could have been added  
8 to the original checklist submitted to obtain the expired building permit.

9 In September 2009, Jinjer Cooke inquired with Colorado City Town Manager  
10 David Darger about the procedure for obtaining a building permit for the Academy  
11 Avenue Property. Mr. Darger told Mrs. Cooke that the city fills out the application. In  
12 September 2009, the Cookes learned that Robert Black, the Academy Avenue's previous  
13 occupant and an FLDS member, spoke at a Utility Board meeting where he stated that he  
14 wanted a building permit for the Academy Avenue Property. In October 2009, the Cooke  
15 Plaintiffs and Seth Cooke attempted to meet with David Darger to fill out a building  
16 permit, but were told that he was out of the office and that Freeman Barlow at the City of  
17 Hildale could help them. The Cookes then went to see Freeman Barlow, but he was not  
18 there. The Cookes left a memo and message for Mr. Barlow to contact them. While at  
19 the Hildale Office, the Cookes completed another set of utility applications for the  
20 Academy Avenue Property and paid a sewer impact fee, deposits, an inspection fee, and  
21 hookup fee.

22 On October 14, 2009, Jinjer Cooke received a call from Freeman Barlow.  
23 Freeman Barlow told Ms. Cooke that she could not have building permit because Robert  
24 Black had "pulled" a permit on the house the prior week. In fact, on October 13, 2009,  
25 Colorado City issued a new building permit to Robert Black. This permit omitted any  
26 space for the signature of the property owner, the UEP.

27 On February 2, 2010, Mr. Cooke received a letter from Jeremiah Barlow advising  
28 Mr. Cooke that his application for wastewater service had been approved on November 1,

1 2009, but he would need to uncover pipes and request an inspection of the Academy  
2 Avenue Property before such service could be used lawfully.

3 In August 2009, after Garkane Energy became the local electrical power supplier,  
4 the Cookes applied to Garkane for electricity at the Academy Avenue Property. It took  
5 eight months for Garkane to receive approval from Colorado City for a right-of-way to  
6 run an electric power line across a dirt road to serve the Academy Avenue Property.  
7 Employees of Garkane Energy stated that, in their general experience, it usually takes a  
8 week or two to get approval to run service to a residence and get power and, in their  
9 experience with Colorado City, the requirements and restrictions that were imposed in  
10 getting service to the Academy Avenue Property were not imposed on other properties  
11 seeking such services prior to July 2009.

12 On May 1, 2010, Robert Black arrived at the Academy Avenue Property, claimed  
13 that the property was his, and ordered the Cookes to vacate the property.<sup>5</sup> On June 2,  
14 2010, Sergeant Barlow of the Hildale-Colorado City Marshals Office entered the Cookes'  
15 property without a search warrant and began to dig up the front yard of the Academy  
16 Avenue Property with a backhoe, claiming to be checking for theft of irrigation water.  
17 There was an apparent dispute between the irrigation company and the UEP over who  
18 owned the irrigation water. Seth Cooke was arrested when he drove his car onto the yard  
19 of the Academy Avenue Property to stop the digging.

20 The Parties dispute the reasons that the Cooke Plaintiffs were unable to obtain  
21 water, sewer, and electric service hookups. Plaintiffs allege that the approval for water,  
22 sewer, and electric services is in the control of FLDS members, who do not want non-  
23 FLDS members living on UEP Trust land and want to discourage such occupancy by  
24 making the property uninhabitable.

---

25  
26  
27 <sup>5</sup> Whether Robert Black or the Cookes are the rightful occupiers of the Academy  
28 Avenue Property is the subject of another lawsuit.



1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28

**3. The Utility Departments**

Defendant Colorado City, Arizona and the City of Hildale, Utah entered into intergovernmental agreements regarding the operation and management of utilities in the two cities. It is undisputed that Defendant Colorado City, Arizona and the City of Hildale, Utah share a Utility Board. Defendant Twin City Water Authority (“TCWA”) is a non-profit Utah corporation. TCWA has a Board of Trustees. The Utility Board and TCWA’s Board of Trustees are separate entities, but the same individuals serve on both Boards. Pursuant to an Intergovernmental Agreement between the City of Hildale, Colorado City, and TCWA, each entity has “joint, coordinated and cooperative management, operation and maintenance of both cities’ water systems.” Jeremiah Barlow is on both Boards and is the Utility Manager.

Twin City Water Works (“TCWW”), a non-profit corporation owns the water rights and supplies all water to the cities’ water systems. Colorado City entered into an agreement with Twin City Water Works to purchase bulk water for its residents, but Colorado City does not own or supply that water. TCWW brings the water to the system and guarantees a certain volume of water in gallons per minute to Colorado City.

Although the two cities had a Power and Gas Board and a Water Board, the power was sold to a private company, Garkane Energy Cooperative, Inc. The remaining Utilities Board administers services such as gas and wastewater to residents of the two cities. Plaintiffs have presented evidence that, when the Utility Board met, it would also consider water business in its operation as TCWA’s Board.

**E. The Complaint**

Plaintiffs allege that Defendants denied the Cookes a new culinary water connection and other utilities because the Cookes were not FLDS members and that such denial was in violation of Mr. Cooke’s rights pursuant to the Arizona Fair Housing Act and the Federal Fair Housing Act. Defendants deny these allegations.

The Joint Second Amended Complaint (the “Complaint”) filed by the Cooke Plaintiffs and Plaintiff-Intervenor contains ten counts against Defendants. (Doc. 169).

1 Because Counts One and Two were previously dismissed with prejudice,<sup>6</sup> the individual  
2 parties now move for summary judgment on all or some of the remaining Counts  
3 contained in the Joint Second Amended Complaint. Specifically, the Hildale Defendants  
4 and Defendant Colorado City move for summary judgment on all eight remaining  
5 Counts, the Cooke Plaintiffs move for summary judgment on part of Count Four, and  
6 Counts Five, and Ten, and Plaintiff-Intervenor moves for summary judgment on Count  
7 Five. Further, the Hildale Defendants move to dismiss the Hildale-Colorado City  
8 Utilities because they are non-jural entities.

## 9 II. LEGAL STANDARD

10 Summary judgment is appropriate when “the movant shows that there is no  
11 genuine dispute as to any material fact and the movant is entitled to judgment as a matter  
12 of law.” Fed. R. Civ. P. 56(a). “A party asserting that a fact cannot be or is genuinely  
13 disputed must support that assertion by . . . citing to particular parts of materials in the  
14 record, including depositions, documents, electronically stored information, affidavits, or  
15 declarations, stipulations . . . admissions, interrogatory answers, or other materials,” or by  
16 “showing that materials cited do not establish the absence or presence of a genuine  
17 dispute, or that an adverse party cannot produce admissible evidence to support the fact.”  
18 *Id.* at 56(c)(1)(A)&(B). Thus, summary judgment is mandated “against a party who fails  
19 to make a showing sufficient to establish the existence of an element essential to that  
20 party’s case, and on which that party will bear the burden of proof at trial.” *Celotex*  
21 *Corp. v. Catrett*, 477 U.S. 317, 322 (1986).

22 Initially, the movant bears the burden of pointing out to the Court the basis for the  
23

---

24  
25 <sup>6</sup> The Court notes that Counts One and Two were dismissed with prejudice  
26 pursuant to a stipulation by the Parties prior to the filing of the Joint Second Amended  
27 Complaint. (*See* Doc. 110 and Doc. 111). It is not clear to the Court why Plaintiffs re-  
28 alleged these previously dismissed Counts in their Joint Second Amended Complaint.  
However, Counts One and Two have been dismissed with prejudice and the Court will  
accordingly only address Counts Three through Ten in this Order.

1 motion and the elements of the causes of action upon which the non-movant will be  
2 unable to establish a genuine issue of material fact. *Id.* at 323. The burden then shifts to  
3 the non-movant to establish the existence of material fact. *Id.* The non-movant “must do  
4 more than simply show that there is some metaphysical doubt as to the material facts” by  
5 “com[ing] forward with ‘specific facts showing that there is a genuine issue for trial.’”  
6 *Matsushita Elec. Indus. Co. v. Zenith Radio Corp.*, 475 U.S. 574, 586–87 (1986) (quoting  
7 Fed. R. Civ. P. 56(e) (1963) (amended 2010)). A dispute about a fact is “genuine” if the  
8 evidence is such that a reasonable jury could return a verdict for the nonmoving party.  
9 *Anderson v. Liberty Lobby, Inc.*, 477 U.S. 242, 248 (1986). In the summary judgment  
10 context, the Court construes all disputed facts in the light most favorable to the non-  
11 moving party. *Ellison v. Robertson*, 357 F.3d 1072, 1075 (9th Cir. 2004).

### 12 **III. ANALYSIS**

#### 13 **A. Dismissal of the Hildale-Colorado City Utilities**

14 In a footnote, in their Motion for Summary Judgment, the Hildale Defendants  
15 move to dismiss the Hildale-Colorado City Utilities, “because *it* is a non-jural entity.”  
16 (Doc. 267 n.1) (emphasis added). The Hildale Defendants then argue that “Hildale-  
17 Colorado City Utilities are a department of Defendants Hildale and Colorado City” and  
18 have not been provided with the authority of the legislature to sue and be sued. (*Id.*).  
19 Thereafter, in their Response to Plaintiffs’ Motion for Summary Judgment, the Hildale  
20 Defendants state “Hildale Defendants have already acknowledged in their Motion for  
21 Summary Judgment that Hildale-Colorado City Utilities are departments of the  
22 municipalities and therefore are non-jural entities. To be clear, however, [Twin City  
23 Water Authority] and [Twin City Power] are, in fact, jural entities capable of suing and  
24 being sued.” (Doc. 282 at 2). Unfortunately, these arguments are anything but clear and  
25 are internally inconsistent.

26 In the Joint Second Amended Complaint, Plaintiffs define Defendant “Hildale-  
27 Colorado City Utilities” as consisting of “the Hildale-Colorado City Power, Water,  
28 Sewer, and Gas Department, and Defendant [Twin City Water Authority]” (Doc. 169).

1 Accordingly, by stating that Defendant “Hildale Colorado City Utilities” is a non-jural  
2 entity, the Hildale Defendants have argued that the Twin City Water Authority is both a  
3 jural entity and a non-jural entity. Further, the Hildale Defendants have failed to apply  
4 the proper test in determining whether an entity is a jural entity for each individual entity  
5 encompassed in the definition of the “Hildale-Colorado City Utilities” as defined in the  
6 Second Joint Amended Complaint. *See Braillard v. Maricopa County*, 232 P.3d 1263,  
7 1269 (Ariz. Ct. App. 2010) (holding that “Governmental entities have no inherent power  
8 and possess only those powers and duties delegated to them by their enabling statutes.”).

9 Because this issue has not been properly briefed and/or argued, the Court will not  
10 address the jural entity question at this time and the Hildale Defendants’ request to  
11 dismiss the Hildale-Colorado City Utilities as non-jural entities in the Hildale  
12 Defendants’ Motion for Summary Judgment is denied without prejudice.

13 **B. Vicarious Liability of all Defendants**

14 The Cooke Plaintiffs and Plaintiff-Intervenor (collectively, “Plaintiffs”) move for  
15 a summary judgment ruling that (1) the town council, utility and building departments,  
16 and Marshal’s Office of the Town of Colorado City are sub-parts of Colorado City whose  
17 conduct is legally considered conduct of the town and (2) that the mayors, individual  
18 council members, employees of the utility and building departments, employees of the  
19 Marshal’s Office, and the Utility Board and individual Utility Board members of  
20 Colorado City and the City of Hildale are servants of Colorado City and the City of  
21 Hildale when acting in their municipal capacities. Plaintiffs argue that “answering such  
22 legal questions now will simplify and clarify issues for the jury.” (Doc. 266 at 9).

23 Plaintiffs argue that they are entitled to such a ruling because municipalities are  
24 liable for violations they commit under the Federal Fair Housing Act and vicarious  
25 liability has been found under respondeat superior standards for claims under the Federal  
26 Fair Housing Act. Plaintiffs further argue that, because the Arizona Fair Housing Act  
27 parallels the Federal Fair Housing Act, the same standards of vicarious liability apply.  
28 Defendants do not dispute these legal conclusions.

1 Plaintiffs then make a lengthy and broad legal argument regarding agency and  
2 vicarious liability law, which they argue compels findings from the Court that (1) the  
3 town council, utility and building departments, and Marshal's Office of the Town of  
4 Colorado City are sub-parts of Colorado City whose conduct is legally considered  
5 conduct of the town and (2) that the mayors, individual council members, employees of  
6 the utility and building departments, employees of the Marshal's Office, and the Utility  
7 Board and individual Utility Board members of Colorado City and the City of Hildale are  
8 servants of Colorado City and the City of Hildale when acting in their municipal  
9 capacities.

10 In Response, Defendants first argue that Plaintiffs improperly treat the Town of  
11 Colorado City, Arizona and the City of Hildale, Utah as if they were one entity without  
12 explaining the legal or factual basis for treating them as one entity. Defendants further  
13 argue that Plaintiffs' request that the Court enter "a blanket order that Colorado City [and  
14 the City of Hildale] are per se vicariously liable for all the conduct of [their] town  
15 council, utility and building departments, and Marshal's Office, as well as for all the  
16 conduct of every individual who has ever served as [their] mayor, on a town council, as  
17 an employee of the utility and building departments, or as an employee of the Marshals'  
18 Office" is overly broad, premature, ignores the possibility of common law defenses to  
19 vicarious liability, and fails to specify exactly which entity may be liable for any specific  
20 person's or other entity's conduct. The Court agrees.

21 First, Plaintiffs' request for a "summary judgment" appears, in part, to seek that  
22 the Court confirm Plaintiffs' understanding of the law regarding vicarious liability and  
23 confirm that the Court will instruct the jury on Plaintiffs' understanding of that law. In  
24 fact, in Plaintiffs' Reply in Support of their Motion for Summary Judgment, Plaintiffs  
25 state that "Plaintiffs simply ask the Court to affirm that the official municipal actions of  
26 Colorado City's council, departments, and Marshal's Office are the actions of Colorado  
27 City for liability purposes. The Plaintiffs do not seek a ruling holding the Twin Cities  
28 accountable for every action ever taken by someone who may have been associated with

1 them.” (Doc. 301 at 8). Likewise, in Reply, Plaintiffs argue that the second part of their  
2 request “merely affirms that the established master-servant and principal-agent liability  
3 rules apply to the types of municipal servants involved in this case.” (Doc. 301 at 8-9).  
4 Plaintiffs’ characterization of its requested summary judgment ruling appears to be a  
5 premature request for the Court to confirm that it will give specific jury instructions,  
6 which the Court declines to do in deciding whether summary judgment is appropriate.

7 Second, to the extent that Plaintiffs are not simply prematurely requesting jury  
8 instructions, and actually seek that the Court enter the requested “judgment,” as proposed  
9 by Plaintiffs, such proposed judgment is overly broad, as it fails to identify specific  
10 individuals or entities that may or may not be liable for any other specific individuals’ or  
11 entities’ conduct, the scope of such liability, ignores defenses to such liability, and is  
12 premature based on the evidence in the summary judgment motions that Plaintiffs have  
13 presented to the Court.

14 Accordingly, Plaintiffs have failed to meet their burden of establishing that there  
15 are no genuine disputed issues of material fact regarding vicarious liability that would  
16 allow the Court to enter a summary judgment that (1) the town council, utility and  
17 building departments, and Marshal’s Office of the Town of Colorado City are sub-parts  
18 of Colorado City whose conduct is legally considered conduct of the town and (2) that  
19 the mayors, individual council members, employees of the utility and building  
20 departments, employees of the Marshal’s Office, and the Utility Board and individual  
21 Utility Board members of Colorado City and the City of Hildale are servants of Colorado  
22 City and the City of Hildale when acting in their municipal capacities.

23 Based on the foregoing, Plaintiffs’ Motion for Summary Judgment is denied to the  
24 extent that it requests that the Court find vicarious liability on behalf of the Town of  
25 Colorado City and the City of Hildale for the unspecified conduct of various individuals  
26 and entities as discussed herein. To the extent that Plaintiffs are seeking specific jury  
27 instructions, Plaintiffs may re-raise those issues when the Court instructs the Parties to  
28 submit proposed jury instructions.

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28

**C. Count Three**

Defendant Colorado City and the Hildale Defendants claim they are entitled to summary judgment on Count Three of the Joint Second Amended Complaint. In Count Three, the Cooke Plaintiffs allege a 42 U.S.C. section 1983 (“section 1983”) claim based on unlawful discrimination against all Defendants. Defendants argue that Count Three fails because (1) a 42 U.S.C. section 1983 claim is foreclosed because 42 U.S.C. sections 3604 and 3617 provide Plaintiffs’ exclusive remedy and (2) if Plaintiffs intended to assert a Fourteenth Amendment equal protection violation pursuant to 42 U.S.C. section 1983, no evidence supports such claim.

In Response, Plaintiffs argue that they should be permitted to pursue a 42 U.S.C. section 1983 claim as well as their claims pursuant to 42 U.S.C. sections 3604 and 3617 alleged in Count Four. Plaintiffs also argue that they have shown that there is a disputed issue of fact regarding direct evidence of discriminatory intent of the Town of Colorado City and the City of Hildale.

In order to determine whether Plaintiffs’ section 1983 claim is foreclosed because the Fair Housing Act provides Plaintiffs their exclusive remedy or whether Plaintiffs have demonstrated a disputed issue of fact that would allow their section 1983 to survive, the Court must first determine which of Plaintiffs’ “rights, privileges, or immunities secured by the Constitution and laws” have allegedly been violated. *See* 42 U.S.C.A. § 1983.<sup>7</sup>

---

<sup>7</sup> The full text of 42 U.S.C. section 1983 is:

Every person who, under color of any statute, ordinance, regulation, custom, or usage, of any State or Territory or the District of Columbia, subjects, or causes to be subjected, any citizen of the United States or other person within the jurisdiction thereof to the deprivation of any rights, privileges, or immunities secured by the Constitution and laws, shall be liable to the party injured in an action at law, suit in equity, or other proper proceeding for redress, except that in any action brought against a judicial officer for an act or omission taken in such officer's judicial capacity,

1 Unfortunately, the Court has been unable to determine the basis for Plaintiffs' section  
2 1983 claim. Defendants have hypothesized that Plaintiffs' section 1983 claim may be  
3 based on the rights secured by 42 U.S.C. sections 3604 and 3617 or the Equal Protection  
4 Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment, but admit that they do not know the basis of  
5 Plaintiffs' section 1983 claims. *See* Doc. 267 at 5 (When moving for summary judgment  
6 on Count Three of the Complaint, the Hildale Defendants state: (1) "Based upon the  
7 Cookes' claims and allegations regarding the FHA *in Count Four*, the Hildale  
8 Defendants *assume* the Cookes allege violations of the FHA to pursue their relief under §  
9 1983" and "To the extent the Hildale Defendants *can understand* and respond to [the  
10 allegations in Count Three], the Cookes *seem* to be asserting violations of the Equal  
11 Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment based on their religion (or lack thereof)  
12 and disabilities."<sup>8</sup>) (emphasis added). Having reviewed the Complaint and Plaintiffs'  
13 Response to Defendants' Motions for Summary Judgment, the Court cannot ascertain  
14 whether Defendants' *assumptions* as to the basis of Plaintiffs' claims are correct. While  
15 Plaintiffs do not appear to dispute Defendants' assumptions as to what their 1983 claim is  
16 based on, they also do not provide any clarification or explanation to the Court as to the  
17 basis of such claim. For instance, Plaintiffs never use the terms "Fourteenth  
18 Amendment" or "equal protection" in their Complaint or in their Response to  
19 Defendants' Motion for Summary Judgment.

20 Nonetheless, the Parties appear to expect the Court to assume that Plaintiffs

---

21  
22 injunctive relief shall not be granted unless a declaratory  
23 decree was violated or declaratory relief was unavailable. For  
24 the purposes of this section, any Act of Congress applicable  
25 exclusively to the District of Columbia shall be considered to  
26 be a statute of the District of Columbia.

27 42 U.S.C.A. §1983.

28 <sup>8</sup> Defendant Colorado City likewise hypothesizes that Plaintiffs' section 1983  
claims are either based on alleged Fair Housing Act violations or a an alleged Fourteenth  
Amendment equal protection violation. (Doc. 264 at 5-7).



1 intended to state a section 1983 claim based on a violation of their Fourteenth  
2 Amendment rights and decide based on the “facts”<sup>9</sup> cited by the Parties whether there is  
3 a disputed issue of material fact. Thus, this Court is expected to invent Plaintiffs’ legal  
4 theory behind its section 1983 claim out of whole cloth, by applying some facts cited by  
5 Plaintiffs, which are substantially unsupported by citations to any statement of facts, to  
6 apply those facts to a legal standard, never cited or referred to by Plaintiffs, and decide  
7 whether there is a disputed issue of fact based on this legal theory thought up by the  
8 Court.

9 This the Court cannot do. *See Pliler v. Ford*, 542 U.S. 225, 231, (2004) (wherein

10 \_\_\_\_\_  
11 <sup>9</sup> To complicate an already convoluted issue, Plaintiffs repeatedly violated Federal  
12 Rule of Civil Procedure 56(c) and LRCiv 56.1(e) in their Response to Defendants’  
13 Motion for Summary Judgment by failing to cite to specific paragraphs in the statement  
14 of facts to support the assertions made on which they rely in opposition to Defendants’  
15 Motion for Summary Judgment. For instance, with regard to their opposition to Count  
16 Three, Plaintiffs make numerous arguments based on evidence that is allegedly in the  
17 Record, but fail to cite to the statement of facts or any other document, which supports  
18 their argument. For example, Plaintiffs state that 109 water connections were hooked up  
19 during and after the time period the Cookes were denied water. However, Plaintiffs fail  
20 to point to any statement of fact or evidence supporting this statement. While Plaintiffs  
21 may believe that they have somehow supported this statement in one of the **21** documents  
22 submitted to this Court in connection with the Parties’ cross-motions for summary  
23 judgment, Rule 56(c) requires a party to support each of its factual assertions with  
24 citations to the record instead of relying on the Court to find support for its arguments.  
25 *See Orr v. Bank of America*, 285 F.3d 764, 775 (9th Cir. 2002) (internal quotation  
26 omitted) (“Judges need not paw over the files without assistance from the parties.”);  
27 *Indep. Towers of Wash. v. Washington*, 350 F.3d 925, 929 (9th Cir. 2003) (“[J]udges are  
28 not like pigs, hunting for truffles buried in briefs.”) (citation omitted). Further Plaintiffs  
have prejudiced Defendants by failing to cite to specific portions of the Statement of  
Facts because Defendants cannot agree with or dispute a fact if they do not know the  
evidence that Plaintiffs believe supports the fact.

25 Nonetheless, the Court has attempted to determine the basis for Plaintiffs’ factual  
26 statements made without any citation to the Record. However, to the extent the Court  
27 determined that the statement could not be supported due to Plaintiffs’ failure to comply  
28 with the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and the Local Rules of this Court, the Court  
has considered Defendants’ facts undisputed for purposes of the Motions. *See Fed. R.*  
*Civ. P. 56(e)(2).*

1 the Supreme Court instructed that it is inappropriate for courts to give parties advice  
2 because advice undermines the district judge's role as an impartial decision maker). As  
3 such, the Court cannot see how guessing what Plaintiffs' legal theories are, and then  
4 applying facts (many that do not have citation to the Record) to such guesses to  
5 determine whether there is a disputed issue of material fact could be anything other than  
6 legal advice. Such conduct by the Judge may actually constitute acting in the role of  
7 Plaintiffs' attorney.

8 As Defendants theorize, it appears that the Cooke Plaintiffs' section 1983 claim  
9 could be based on Defendants' alleged violations of 42 U.S.C. section 3604 or 3617,  
10 although those sections are never mentioned in Count Three of the Complaint or in  
11 Plaintiffs' opposition to granting summary judgment on Count Three. It likewise appears  
12 that Plaintiffs' section 1983 claim could be based on a Fourteenth Amendment equal  
13 protection violation, although Plaintiffs never mention the Fourteenth Amendment or  
14 equal protection in their Complaint or in their opposition to granting summary judgment  
15 on Count Three. In Count Three of their Complaint, Plaintiffs simply state "Defendants  
16 have engaged in, and continue to engage in a policy, pattern and practice of  
17 discrimination against non-FLDS affiliated residents of Colorado City, including the  
18 Cookes, due to Plaintiffs' lack of religious affiliation with FLDS and because of Cooke's  
19 disabilities, *in violation of* 42 U.S.C. §1983." (Doc. 169 at 23) (emphasis added).

20 However, there is no independent legal action for a violation of 42 U.S.C. section  
21 1983. Such action must be premised on some deprivation of rights, privileges, or  
22 immunities secured by the Constitution and laws. The Court will not speculate which  
23 rights, privileges, or immunities secured by the Constitution and/or laws Plaintiffs believe  
24 Defendants may have infringed that could constitute a cause of action under section 1983.

25 Moreover, it is not clear to the Court why Defendants chose to "guess" at the basis  
26 of the claim in Count Three rather than either move to dismiss or ascertain the basis of  
27 those claims through the discovery process. Likewise, it is not clear to the Court why the  
28 Cooke Plaintiffs did not argue, clarify, or otherwise explain the nature of those claims in

1 response to Defendants’ Motion for Summary Judgment on those claims. As such,  
2 Plaintiffs have failed to establish that there is a disputed issue of material fact regarding  
3 their section 1983 claim.

4 Accordingly, Defendants’ Motions for Summary Judgment on Count Three are  
5 granted.

6 **D. Counts Four Through Eight**

7 Count Four alleges various violations of the Federal Fair Housing Act. Counts  
8 Five through Eight allege individual violations of the Arizona Fair Housing Act.<sup>10</sup> The  
9 Parties agree that certain provisions of the Federal Fair Housing Act and certain  
10 provisions of the Arizona Fair Housing Act are substantially equivalent and can be  
11 analyzed and decided together for purposes of summary judgment. Accordingly, for  
12 organizational purposes, rather than analyzing whether summary judgment can be  
13 granted on Counts Four through Eight, the Court will analyze whether summary  
14 judgment can be granted regarding particular claims contained in Counts Four through  
15 Eight. Further, if those claims are substantially equivalent under the Federal Fair  
16 Housing Act and the Arizona Fair Housing Act such that the Parties have agreed they  
17 should be analyzed and decided together, those claims will be discussed in one section,  
18 although they are alleged in separate counts of the Complaint.<sup>11</sup>

---

19  
20 <sup>10</sup> In a footnote to their Motion for Summary Judgment, the Hildale Defendants  
21 argue that Counts Five through Eight should be dismissed against Defendant City of  
22 Hildale because “[a]s a Utah municipality the Arizona Fair Housing Act does not apply to  
23 Hildale and thus [Counts Five through Eight] must be dismissed” against Defendant City  
24 of Hildale. (Doc. 267 n. 34). Defendants fail to cite to any law or to state any reasoning  
25 to support their argument. If Defendant City of Hildale violated the Arizona Fair  
26 Housing Act with regard to Arizona housing, the Court can see no reason (and  
27 Defendants have not provided any reason) why the City of Hildale would not be liable for  
28 violations of the Arizona Fair Housing Act. Accordingly, the Hildale Defendants’  
request to dismiss the City of Hildale from Counts Five through Eight because the  
Arizona Fair Housing Act does not apply to the City of Hildale is denied.

<sup>11</sup> The Court notes that the Cooke Plaintiffs’ generally claim that they are moving  
for summary judgment on “Count Four” of their Complaint, without specifying the

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28

**1. 42 U.S.C. section 3604(a) (part of Count 4) and Arizona Revised Statutes section 41-1491.14(A) (Count 7)**

Defendant Colorado City and the Hildale Defendants claim they are entitled to summary judgment on Count Four of the Joint Second Amended Complaint. In Count Four, the Cooke Plaintiffs allege that all Defendants, with the intent of denying equal housing opportunities to Plaintiffs, allegedly made unavailable dwellings to persons because of religion in violation of 42 U.S.C. § 3604(a).

42 U.S.C. 3604(a) provides,

As made applicable by section 3603 of this title and except as exempted by sections 3603(b) and 3607 of this title, it shall be unlawful--

(a) To refuse to sell or rent after the making of a bona fide offer, or to refuse to negotiate for the sale or rental of, or otherwise make unavailable or deny, a dwelling to any person because of race, color, religion, sex, familial status, or national origin.

42 U.S.C.A. § 3604(a).

Further, Defendant Colorado City and the Hildale Defendants claim they are entitled to summary judgment on Count Seven of the Joint Second Amended Complaint. In Count Seven, the Cooke Plaintiffs and Plaintiff-Intervenor allege a claim of unlawful

---

claim(s) within Count Four on which they believe they are entitled to summary judgment. Having read all of the briefing on the Motions for Summary Judgment, the Court concludes that the Cooke Plaintiffs only intended to move for summary judgment on the claim in Count Four that alleges that all Defendants, with the intent of denying equal housing opportunities to Plaintiffs, allegedly discriminated on the basis of disability in connection with the sale or rental of a dwelling by refusing to make a reasonable accommodation in violation of 42 U.S.C. § 3604(f). Accordingly, the Court treats the Cooke Plaintiffs' Motion for Summary Judgment on Count Four as only referring to their 42 U.S.C. § 3604(f) claim. To the extent the Cooke Plaintiffs did intend to move for summary judgment on the remaining claims alleged in Count Four of their Complaint, such motion is denied for the procedural reason that Plaintiffs have failed to carry their burden of demonstrating an entitlement to summary judgment on the remaining claims in Count Four (by failing to include any briefing regarding summary judgment on any of those remaining claims).

1 discrimination in violation of Arizona Revised Statutes section 41-1491.14(A) against all  
2 Defendants. Pursuant to Arizona Revised Statutes section 41-1491.14(A),

3 A. A person may not refuse to sell or rent after a bona fide  
4 offer has been made or refuse to negotiate for the sale or  
5 rental of or otherwise make unavailable or deny a dwelling to  
6 any person because of race, color, religion, sex, familial status  
or national origin.

7 Ariz. Rev. Stat. § 41-1491.14(A).

8 Defendants argue that they are entitled to summary judgment on these claims  
9 because the language in 42 U.S.C.A. § 3604(a) and Arizona Revised Statutes section 41-  
10 1491.14(A) refers solely to the availability of the housing and not the habitability of the  
11 housing, and thus the denial of utility services cannot affect the availability of the  
12 Cooke's housing. Defendants further argue that it was the UEP, as managed by Wisan,  
13 and not Defendants that determined whether the Cookes were entitled to housing and that  
14 UEP, in fact, made housing available to the Cookes. Defendants argue that Defendants  
15 were never in a position to make housing available to the Cookes and that failure to  
16 provide the Cookes with a new culinary water connection does not impact the  
17 "availability" of the residence as required to state a claim under 42 U.S.C.A. § 3604(a)  
18 and Arizona Revised Statutes section 41-1491.14(A). Defendants argue that a claim for  
19 denial of services is properly brought under 42 U.S.C. section 3604(b) and 41-1491.14(B)  
20 because those sections directly address discrimination in the provision of services.

21 In Response, Plaintiffs argue that denial of basic utilities can constitute denial of  
22 housing in violation of 42 U.S.C. section 3604(a) and Arizona Revised Statutes section  
23 41-1491.14(A). Plaintiffs cite the Arizona Administrative Code Rule 10-2-104(b)(4) as  
24 providing that the Arizona Attorney General has interpreted the Arizona Fair Housing  
25 Act sections 41-1491.14(A) and (B) as prohibiting the denial of municipal services  
26 because of religion and as prohibiting the provision of services differently because of  
27 religion. Plaintiffs argue that this Court should accord considerable weight to the  
28 Arizona Attorney General's interpretation and find that Arizona Revised Statutes section

1 41-1491.14(A) and 42 U.S.C. section 3604(a) apply to the discriminatory provision of  
2 services in that such discrimination makes the housing “unavailable” as defined in those  
3 statutes.

4 The Parties agree that the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals has not addressed the  
5 scope of the word “availability” in 42 U.S.C. section 3604(a) and Arizona Revised  
6 Statutes section 41-1491.14(A). Further, both Plaintiffs and Defendants have a  
7 reasonable basis for their arguments. Plaintiffs are correct that there are certainly  
8 circumstances where the denial of the provision of services, such as water and utility  
9 services, could make the dwelling unavailable within the meaning of 42 U.S.C. section  
10 3604(a) and Arizona Revised Statutes section 41-1491.14(A). For instance, if the City or  
11 other entity required a permit that residences be habitable before it allowed occupancy of  
12 those residences, the denial of services could render a home unavailable within the  
13 meaning of 42 U.S.C. section 3604(a) and Arizona Revised Statutes section 41-  
14 1491.14(A).

15 On the other hand, where, as here, there is no evidence that the Academy Avenue  
16 Property was unavailable to Plaintiffs, but rather, evidence that the home was made less  
17 habitable and/or that Defendants otherwise interfered with Plaintiffs enjoyment of the  
18 residence because of discrimination in the provision of services, Plaintiffs can state a  
19 claim under other sections of the Federal Fair Housing Act and Arizona Fair Housing  
20 Act, such as 42 U.S.C. section 3604(b) and Arizona Revised Statutes section 41-  
21 1491.14(B), but have provided no evidence that the Academy Avenue Property was  
22 actually made unavailable to Plaintiffs by any Defendant within the meaning of 42 U.S.C.  
23 section 3604(a) and Arizona Revised Statutes section 41-1491.14(A). *See Cox v. City of*  
24 *Dallas*, 430 F.3d 734, 740 (5th Cir. 2005) (finding that allegations that City failed to  
25 enjoin illegal dumping on land near Plaintiffs’ residences due to racial discrimination did  
26 not state a claim under 42 U.S.C. section 3604(a) because “[t]he failure of the City to  
27 police the Deepwood landfill may have harmed the housing market, decreased home  
28 values, or adversely impacted homeowners’ ‘intangible interests,’ but such results do not

1 make dwellings ‘unavailable’ within the meaning of [section 3604(a)]”).

2 Accordingly, because Plaintiffs have provided no evidence that the Academy  
3 Avenue Property was unavailable to them within the meaning of 42 U.S.C. section  
4 3604(a) and Arizona Revised Statutes section 41-1491.14(A), Defendant Colorado City  
5 and the Hildale Defendants’ Motion for Summary Judgment is granted on the 42 U.S.C.  
6 3604(a) claim in Count Four of Plaintiffs’ Complaint and on Count Seven of Plaintiffs’  
7 Complaint.

8 **2. 42 U.S.C. section 3604(b) (part of Count 4) and Arizona**  
9 **Revised Statutes section 41-1491.14(B) (Count 6)**

10 Defendant Colorado City and the Hildale Defendants claim they are entitled to  
11 summary judgment on the 42 U.S.C. section 3604(b) claim in Count Four of the Joint  
12 Second Amended Complaint. In Count Four, the Cooke Plaintiffs allege that all  
13 Defendants, with the intent of denying equal housing opportunities to Plaintiffs allegedly  
14 discriminated on the basis of religion in the terms, conditions, or privileges of the  
15 provision of services or facilities in connection with the sale or rental of a dwelling in  
16 violation of 42 U.S.C. § 3604(b).

17 42 U.S.C. section 3604(b) provides,

18 As made applicable by section 3603 of this title and except as  
19 exempted by sections 3603(b) and 3607 of this title, it shall  
20 be unlawful--

21 . . .

22 (b) To discriminate against any person in the terms,  
23 conditions, or privileges of sale or rental of a dwelling, or in  
24 the provision of services or facilities in connection therewith,  
25 because of race, color, religion, sex, familial status, or  
26 national origin.

27 42 U.S.C. § 3604(b).

28 Defendant Colorado City and the Hildale Defendants claim they are entitled to  
summary judgment on Count Six of the Joint Second Amended Complaint. In Count Six,  
the Cooke Plaintiffs and Plaintiff-Intervenor allege a claim of unlawful discrimination in  
violation of Arizona Revised Statutes section 41-1491.14(B) against all Defendants.

1 Pursuant to Arizona Revised Statutes section 41-1491.14(B),

2 **B.** A person may not discriminate against any person in the  
3 terms, conditions or privileges of sale or rental of a dwelling,  
4 or in providing services or facilities in connection with the  
5 sale or rental, because of race, color, religion, sex, familial  
6 status or national origin.

7 Ariz. Rev. Stat. § 41-1491.14 (B).

8 The Cooke Plaintiffs allege that Defendants refused and/or delayed providing  
9 utility services to the Cookes, including water, electricity, and sewer because the Cookes  
10 were non-FLDS members in violation of 42 U.S.C. section 3604(b) and Arizona Revised  
11 Statutes section 41-1491.14(B).

12 To establish a prima facie disparate treatment claim under the Fair Housing Act,  
13 Plaintiffs must establish that (1) the Cooke Plaintiffs were members of a protected class,  
14 (2) the Cooke Plaintiffs applied for water, electricity, and sewer connections and were  
15 qualified to receive them, (3) water, electricity, and sewer connections were denied  
16 despite the fact that the Cooke Plaintiffs were qualified to receive them, and (4)  
17 Defendants approved water, electricity, and sewer connections for a similarly situated  
18 party during the time period relatively near when the Cooke Plaintiffs were denied their  
19 sewer connection. *Budnick v. Town of Carefree*, 518 F.3d 1109, 1114 (9th Cir. 2008)  
(internal citation omitted).

20 “In lieu of satisfying the elements of a prima facie case, a plaintiff may also  
21 ‘simply produce direct or circumstantial evidence demonstrating that a discriminatory  
22 reason more likely than not motivated’ the challenged decision.” *Id.* (internal citation  
23 omitted). “The burden then shifts to the defendant to articulate ‘a legitimate  
24 nondiscriminatory reason for its action.’ *Id.* (internal citation omitted). “The plaintiff  
25 must then prove by a preponderance of the evidence that the defendant’s asserted reason  
26 is a pretext for discrimination.” *Id.* (internal citation omitted).



1 Plaintiffs argue that they have produced direct and circumstantial evidence  
2 demonstrating that a discriminatory reason more likely than not motivated Defendants'  
3 decisions to deny the Cooke Plaintiffs water, electricity, and sewer connections.  
4 Plaintiffs argue that they have produced enough evidence regarding the history of the  
5 Colorado City and the City of Hildale, and have shown enough direct and circumstantial  
6 evidence surrounding the decisions to deny the Cookes water, electricity, and sewer  
7 connections to establish that a discriminatory reason more likely than not motivated the  
8 decision to deny the Cookes water, electricity and sewer connections.

9 Specifically, Plaintiffs argue that, among other evidence, the following  
10 circumstantial evidence makes the requisite showing: the deliberate concealment of water  
11 resources, the changed practice regarding the expiration of building permits, the  
12 deviations from the alleged policy and different treatment of Twin City Improvement  
13 Association, the different treatment accorded to existing water connections as opposed to  
14 new water service connections, the FLDS historical treatment of apostates, the temporal  
15 proximity between the water shortage policy and the appointment of Wisan as the Special  
16 Fiduciary to the UEP Trust, and the similar treatment of other non-FLDS individuals.  
17 Plaintiffs argue that this evidence shows that a discriminatory reason more likely than not  
18 motivated the decision to deny the Cooke Plaintiffs water, electricity and sewer  
19 connections. The Court agrees. Plaintiffs have met their burden of showing that the  
20 Cookes were likely denied water, electricity, and sewer connections because they were  
21 not FLDS members for purposes of surviving summary judgment.

22 Defendants argue that they have articulated legitimate, non-discriminatory reasons  
23 for denying the Cookes a new water connection, namely that there was a water shortage<sup>12</sup>  
24 and, after a well-pump motor burned out, a policy of not allowing new water connections  
25 to burden the system was implemented. The Court agrees that Defendants have

---

26  
27 <sup>12</sup> Plaintiffs dispute the existence of an actual water shortage. However, the  
28 Court assumes that there was a water shortage for the purposes of this Order.

1 articulated legitimate, non-discriminatory reasons for denying the Cookes a new water  
2 connection.

3 Plaintiffs argue that they have shown that a preponderance of the evidence  
4 suggests that Defendants' legitimate, non-discriminatory reasons were pre-textual. The  
5 Court agrees. Defendants rely on a policy that was apparently implemented shortly after  
6 Wisan was appointed as the Special Fiduciary for UEP. Although this policy was  
7 unwritten and not formally adopted, it was used as an excuse to deny the Cooke Plaintiffs  
8 water. Although the policy was based on an alleged water shortage that was discovered  
9 when a well-pump was replaced, the policy only placed additional requirements on  
10 individuals who needed new water connections and placed no requirements on  
11 individuals who needed re-connection of existing water lines.

12 Plaintiffs have presented evidence that the differentiation between requiring  
13 individuals who needed new water connections to bring physical water to the system and  
14 not requiring individuals who needed to reconnect to the water is likely to adversely  
15 affect UEP land because, when that land was abandoned by a number of Jeffs' followers,  
16 dozens of homes on it were left unfinished and in various stages of completion. Plaintiffs  
17 have presented evidence that a new water connection did not place any more burden on  
18 the system than a reconnection. Further, Plaintiffs have presented evidence that  
19 Defendants deviated from this policy for the benefit of Twin City Improvement  
20 Association, who was building outside UEP land for the benefit of FLDS members, by  
21 allowing Twin City Improvement Association to obtain water in exchange for "water  
22 rights," rather than physical water.

23 Based on this evidence, Plaintiffs have shown that a preponderance of the  
24 evidence suggests that Defendants' legitimate, non-discriminatory reason was pre-textual  
25 and is sufficient to create a disputed issue of fact for the jury on this claim.

26 Accordingly, Defendants' Motions for Summary Judgment on the 42 U.S.C.  
27 section 3604(b) in Count 4 and Count 6 are denied.  
28

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28

**3. 42 U.S.C. section 3604(f) (part of Count 4) and Arizona Revised Statutes section 41-1491.19 (Count 5)**

The Cooke Plaintiffs, Defendant Colorado City, and the Hildale Defendants claim they are entitled to summary judgment on Count Four of the Joint Second Amended Complaint. In Count Four, the Cooke Plaintiffs allege that all Defendants, with the intent of denying equal housing opportunities to Plaintiffs, allegedly discriminated on the basis of disability in connection with the sale or rental of a dwelling by refusing to make a reasonable accommodation in violation of 42 U.S.C. § 3604(f).

42 U.S.C. section 3604(f) provides in relevant part,

As made applicable by section 3603 of this title and except as exempted by sections 3603(b) and 3607 of this title, it shall be unlawful--

...

(2) To discriminate against any person in the terms, conditions, or privileges of sale or rental of a dwelling, or in the provision of services or facilities in connection with such dwelling, because of a handicap of--

(A) that person; or

(B) a person residing in or intending to reside in that dwelling after it is so sold, rented, or made available; or

(C) any person associated with that person.

(3) For purposes of this subsection, discrimination includes--

...

(B) a refusal to make reasonable accommodations in rules, policies, practices, or services, when such accommodations may be necessary to afford such person equal opportunity to use and enjoy a dwelling; or

...

42 U.S.C.A. § 3604(f)(2)(A)-(C)&(3)(B).

The Cooke Plaintiffs, Plaintiff-Intervenor, Defendant Colorado City, and the Hildale Defendants claim they are entitled to summary judgment on Count Five of the Joint Second Amended Complaint. In Count Five, the Cooke Plaintiffs and Plaintiff-Intervenor allege a claim of unlawful discrimination in violation of Arizona Revised Statutes section 41-1491.19 against all Defendants. Arizona Revised Statutes section 41-

1 1491.19 provides, in relevant part,

2 B. A person may not discriminate against any person in the  
3 terms, conditions or privileges of sale or rental of a dwelling  
4 or in the provision of services or facilities in connection with  
5 the dwelling because of a disability of:

6 1. That person.

7 ...

8 E. For the purposes of this section, “discrimination” includes:

9 ...

10 2. A refusal to make reasonable accommodations in rules,  
11 policies, practices or services if the accommodations may be  
12 necessary to afford the person equal opportunity to use and  
13 enjoy a dwelling.

14 ...

15 Ariz. Rev. Stat. § 41-1491.19(B)(1) & (E)(2).

16 The Court notes at the outset that, in response to Defendants’ Motions for  
17 Summary Judgment on Count 5, Plaintiffs only refer to Defendants’ denial of a culinary  
18 water connection to the Cooke Plaintiffs and do not address Defendants’ denial or delay  
19 in providing other utility services to the Cookes based on disability discrimination.  
20 Accordingly, Defendants’ Motions for Summary Judgment on the 42 U.S.C. section  
21 3604(f) claim in Count 4 and Count 5 are granted in part—to the extent those Counts  
22 refer to Defendants’ denial of any utility except the culinary water connection.

23 The Parties agree that, to demonstrate a violation of these provisions in the Federal  
24 Fair Housing Act and Arizona’s Fair Housing Act, Plaintiffs must show: (1) that the  
25 Ronald Cooke is disabled; (2) that Defendants knew or should reasonably be expected to  
26 know of Mr. Cooke’s disability; (3) that accommodation of the disability may be  
27 necessary to afford the disabled person an equal opportunity to use and enjoy the  
28 dwelling; (4) that the accommodation is reasonable; and (5) Defendants refused to make  
the requested accommodation. *See DuBois v. Association of Apartment Owners of 2987  
Kalakaua*, 453 F.3d 1175, 1179 (9th Cir. 2006).

Here, Plaintiffs argue that the requested reasonable accommodation was that  
Defendants provide Mr. Cooke culinary water. Defendants argue that the requested

1 accommodation was that Defendants waive the requirement in their policy of requiring an  
2 applicant for culinary water service to bring physical water to the system due to his  
3 disability.

4 Because it is undisputed that Defendants told the Cookes that they would need to  
5 bring physical water to the system to obtain a culinary water connection and the Cookes  
6 have presented no evidence that they would have been denied a culinary water  
7 connection if they had brought physical water to the system, the Court assumes for the  
8 purposes of analyzing this Count that the requested reasonable accommodation was that  
9 Defendants waive the physical water requirement in their policy.

10 Although Plaintiffs argue that they could not bring physical water to the system  
11 because they did not know the amount of physical water that Defendants required they  
12 bring to the system, Plaintiffs have not presented any evidence that Defendants refused to  
13 provide them with such information or otherwise obstructed Plaintiffs' efforts to comply  
14 with the stated policy. Rather, the Cooke Plaintiffs argue that they informed Defendants  
15 that, because Mr. Cooke was disabled, they needed a culinary water connection. But this  
16 request only demonstrates that Plaintiffs believed that they should not be required to  
17 comply with the stated policy because of Mr. Cooke's disability, not that the requested  
18 accommodation was actually a culinary water connection.

19 Defendants argue that Plaintiffs have failed to present any evidence that (1) the  
20 accommodation was reasonable and (2) that the accommodation was necessary to afford  
21 Mr. Cooke an equal opportunity to use and enjoy the dwelling. With regard to necessity,  
22 Defendants argue that Plaintiffs need to establish a causal link between the requested  
23 accommodation and Mr. Cooke's disability. Indeed, to show that an accommodation is  
24 necessary, Plaintiffs "must show that, but for the accommodation, they likely will be  
25 denied an equal opportunity to enjoy the housing of their choice." *U.S. v. California*  
26 *Mobile Home Park Management Co.*, 107 F.3d 1374, 1390 (9th Cir. 1997) (quoting *Smith*  
27 *& Lee Assocs., Inc. v. City of Taylor*, 102 F.3d 781, 795 (6th Cir. 1996).

28 Defendants argue that, because Plaintiffs have failed to show that Mr. Cooke's

1 disability prevented him from bringing physical water to the system, they have failed to  
2 establish a causal link between Mr. Cooke's disability and the requested accommodation,  
3 such that the requested accommodation was necessary because of Mr. Cooke's disability.  
4 The Court agrees.

5 Plaintiffs have failed to present evidence that Mr. Cooke's disability prevented  
6 him from bringing physical water to the system. There is no evidence that if Mr. Cooke  
7 brought physical water to the system, he would have been denied a culinary water  
8 connection. Accordingly, Plaintiffs have failed to establish that but for the requirement  
9 that he bring physical water to the system, Mr. Cooke likely would be denied an equal  
10 opportunity to enjoy the housing of his choice. Accordingly, Plaintiffs have failed to  
11 present evidence showing that the requested accommodation was necessary as required  
12 by 42 U.S.C. section 3604(f) and Arizona Revised Statutes section 41-1491.19.

13 Based on the foregoing, the Cooke Plaintiffs' Motion for Summary Judgment on  
14 the 42 U.S.C. section 3604(f) claim in Count Four is denied. Defendants' Motions for  
15 Summary Judgment on the 42 U.S.C. section 3604(f) claim in Count Four are granted.  
16 The Cooke Plaintiffs' and Plaintiff-Intervenor's Motions for Summary Judgment on  
17 Count 5 are denied. Defendants' Motions for Summary Judgment on Count 5 are  
18 granted.

19 **4. 42 U.S.C. section 3617 (part of Count 4) and Arizona**  
20 **Revised Statutes section 41-1491.18 (Count 8)**

21 Defendant Colorado City, and the Hildale Defendants claim they are entitled to  
22 summary judgment on Count Four of the Joint Second Amended Complaint. In Count  
23 Four, the Cooke Plaintiffs allege that all Defendants, with the intent of denying equal  
24 housing opportunities to Plaintiffs, violated 42 U.S.C. § 3617.

25 42 U.S.C. section 3617 provides,

26 It shall be unlawful to coerce, intimidate, threaten, or interfere  
27 with any person in the exercise or enjoyment of, or on  
28 account of his having exercised or enjoyed, or on account of

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28

his having aided or encouraged any other person in the exercise or enjoyment of, any right granted or protected by section 3603, 3604, 3605, or 3606 of this title.

42 U.S.C.A. § 3617.

Defendant Colorado City and the Hildale Defendants claim they are entitled to summary judgment on Count Eight of the Joint Second Amended Complaint. In Count Eight, the Cooke Plaintiffs and Plaintiff-Intervenor allege a claim of unlawful discrimination in violation of Arizona Revised Statutes section 41-1491.18 against all Defendants. Pursuant to Arizona Revised Statutes section 41-1491.18,

A person may not coerce, intimidate, threaten or interfere with any person in the exercise or enjoyment of, or having exercised or enjoyed, or on account of his having aided or encouraged any other person in the exercise or enjoyment of, any right granted or protected by this section and §§ 41-1491.14, 41-1491.15, 41-1491.16, 41-1491.17, 41-1491.19, 41-1491.20 and 41-1491.21.

Ariz. Rev. Stat. § 41-1491.18.

To prevail on these claims, the Cooke Plaintiffs must show that (1) they were engaged in a protected activity; (2) they suffered an adverse action via coercion, intimidation, threats or interference; and (3) a causal link exists between the protected activity and the adverse action. *See Brown v. City of Tucson*, 336 F.3d 1181, 1191-92 (9th Cir. 2003) (citing *Walker v. City of Lakewood*, 272 F.3d 1114, 1128 (9th Cir. 2001)).

Defendants argue that the Cookes have not shown that Defendants participated in any form of coercion, intimidation, threats or interferences. Defendants argue that Defendants, at all time, encouraged the Cookes to comply with the policy, so the Cookes could enjoy the Academy Avenue Property. Plaintiffs argue that Defendants discriminatory refusal or delay in providing the Cookes municipal services interfered with the Cookes' enjoyment of their dwelling.

As discussed more fully in the Court's discussion of Count 6 and part of Count 4 above, the Court finds that, from the evidence presented by Plaintiffs, a reasonable jury

1 could find that the Cookes were either delayed in getting or did not receive municipal  
2 services because they were not FLDS members.

3 Accordingly, Defendants' Motions for Summary Judgment on the 42 U.S.C.  
4 section 3617 claim in Count 4 and Count 8 are denied.

5 **E. Count Nine**

6 Defendant Colorado City and the Hildale Defendants claim they are entitled to  
7 summary judgment on Count Nine of the Joint Second Amended Complaint. In Count  
8 Nine, Plaintiff-Intervenor alleges a claim of a pattern and practice of unlawful  
9 discrimination in violation of Arizona Revised Statutes section 41-1491.35 against all  
10 Defendants. Arizona Revised Statutes section 41-1491.35 provides, in relevant part,

11 A. The attorney general may file a civil action in superior  
12 court for appropriate relief if the attorney general has  
13 reasonable cause to believe that either:

- 14 1. A person is engaged in a pattern or practice of resistance to  
15 the full enjoyment of any right granted by this article.  
16 2. A person has been denied any right granted by this article  
17 and that denial raises an issue of general public importance.

18 Ariz. Rev. Stat. § 41-1491.35.

19 Plaintiff-Intervenor alleges that “the Cookes and other non-FLDS persons who  
20 reside on or have applied to reside on land owned by the UEP in Colorado City, Arizona  
21 and seek to have water connections and other utilities provided by Defendants for  
22 housing on UEP property without regard to religion, have been denied rights under Ariz.  
23 Rev. Stat. §§ 41-1491.14 and 41-1491.18 of the AFHA by Defendants, and that denial of  
24 rights by municipal defendants raises an issue of general public importance.” (Doc. 169  
25 at ¶ 142). Plaintiffs further allege that “Defendants are engaged in a pattern or practice of  
26 resistance to the full enjoyment of rights granted by the AFHA based on religion.” (Doc.  
27 169 at ¶ 143).

28 The Court has already concluded that there a genuine issues of material fact as to  
whether Defendants have violated Arizona Revised Statutes sections 41-1491.14 and 41-



1 1491.18. Defendants argue that Plaintiffs have failed to present evidence that non-FLDS  
2 persons other than the Cookes applied for and were denied water connections and other  
3 utilities and, thus, have failed to present evidence sufficient to establish a pattern and  
4 practice of discrimination on the part of Defendants.<sup>13</sup>

5 In Response, Plaintiffs argue that they have shown a demonstrated policy of  
6 discrimination and they do not need to prove numerous specific instances of  
7 discrimination. Plaintiffs argue that they have presented testimony from several non-  
8 FLDS individuals that were either told there was no point in applying for utility services  
9 or felt that it would be futile to apply based on their knowledge of discrimination against  
10 non-FLDS individuals by the Cities and their agents. Plaintiffs further argue that they  
11 have presented evidence that Defendants' refusals to cooperate with the efforts of the  
12 UEP to make housing available to non-FLDS individuals and to subdivide trust property  
13 were well known and would have discouraged others from applying for utilities and  
14 water connections.

15 There are disputed issues of fact with regard to Defendants' alleged violations of  
16 41-1491.14 and 41-1491.18. Further, Plaintiffs have presented evidence that the Cooke  
17 Plaintiffs frequently applied for and were denied a water connection and utilities because  
18 they were non-FLDS. As such, Plaintiffs have presented disputed issues of material fact  
19 as to whether the Cookes were denied any rights under the Arizona Fair Housing Act.  
20 Further, the denial of utilities and water service on the basis of religion is an issue of  
21 general public importance and, thus, Plaintiffs have presented disputed issues of material  
22

---

23  
24 <sup>13</sup> Defendant City of Hildale argues that, as a municipality of Utah, this claim  
25 cannot be asserted against it. Hildale cites to no authority to support this position.  
26 Plaintiffs have presented evidence that individuals that may or may not have been acting  
27 as agents of the City of Hildale discriminated against the Cookes on the basis of religion.  
28 If the State of Arizona can prove that such discrimination was a pattern and practice of  
individuals that were acting on behalf of the City of Hildale, the Court can see no reason  
why a claim under Arizona Revised Statutes section 41-1491.35(A) could not be brought  
against the City of Hildale.

1 fact as to whether Defendants have violated § 41-1491.35.

2 Accordingly, Defendants' Motions for Summary Judgment on Count Nine are  
3 denied.

4 **F. Count Ten**

5 The Cooke Plaintiffs, Defendant Colorado City, and the Hildale Defendants claim  
6 they are entitled to summary judgment on Count Ten of the Joint Second Amended  
7 Complaint. In Count Ten, the Cooke Plaintiffs allege that:

8 Defendants' refusal to provide water to the Cookes on the  
9 same terms and basis as other residents of Colorado City  
10 illegally discriminated against the Cookes in violation of  
11 established Arizona Law. *See Town of Wickenburg v. Sabin*,  
12 68 Ariz. 75, 200 P.2d 342 (1948); *TDB Tucson Group, LLC[]*  
13 *v. City of Tucson*, 2CA0CV 2011-0025, Set. 27, 2011 (Div.  
14 2); A.R.S. § 45-492.

15 . . .

16 As a result thereof, the Court should issue a Writ of  
17 Mandamus ordering that the Cookes receive culinary water  
18 under the same terms and conditions as all other residents of  
19 the city and they should be granted damages for their  
20 expenses, loss of water, pain and suffering, emotional  
21 distress, inconvenience and denial of their state statutory  
22 rights.

23 Doc. 169 at 30.

24 In their Motion for Summary Judgment, the Cooke Plaintiffs state that they were  
25 denied a water hookup for the Academy Avenue Property by the Joint Utility Board,  
26 acting under the authority of Defendants Hildale and Colorado City. The Cooke  
27 Plaintiffs argue that the Cities' stated policy of denying water connections to properties  
28 that did not have previous water connections unless those properties brought new water  
to the system and of allowing properties with previous water connections to resume  
service without the requirement that they bring new water to the Cities discriminates  
between persons in the service area of the Cities who have not had prior water  
connections and those who reside on a property where a prior water connection existed.

1           The Cooke Plaintiffs argue that the Arizona Supreme Court, in the *Town of*  
2 *Wickenburg v. Sabin*, recognized that “all inhabitants of a city must be treated equally  
3 with respect to the availability of water services.” The Cooke Plaintiffs argue that,  
4 because they have presented evidence that their neighbors who reside on the same block  
5 as the Academy Avenue Property have lateral connections to the water line, Defendants’  
6 requirement that the Cookes contribute water to the system in order to get a new hookup  
7 while allowing others to reconnect to the water system without providing a hookup  
8 violates the rule that once a municipality decides to provide a utility service to its  
9 residents, it must do so for all without discrimination.

10           In Response, Defendants argue that they are entitled to summary judgment on  
11 Count Ten because, in the Complaint, the Cookes rely on Arizona Revised Statutes  
12 section 45-492, which does not apply to Defendants because they are not active  
13 management areas within the meaning of that statute. In Reply, the Cooke Plaintiffs’  
14 withdrew their reliance on Arizona Revised Statutes section 45-492 as a basis for their  
15 claim in Count Ten.

16           Further, Defendant Hildale argues that Plaintiffs cannot obtain a writ of mandamus  
17 against it because it has no duty to provide water service to non-residents of its  
18 municipality. Indeed, in Court Ten of the Complaint, Plaintiffs only allege that  
19 Defendant Colorado City illegally discriminated against the Cookes in violation of  
20 established Arizona law by failing to provide them water. The Court agrees that, if a writ  
21 of mandamus is an available remedy in this case, it could not be an available remedy  
22 against the Hildale Defendants because Plaintiffs have failed to establish that the City of  
23 Hildale has a duty to provide residents of Colorado City with municipal services. The  
24 Cooke Plaintiffs have failed to address this argument in their reply in support of their  
25 Motion for Summary Judgment. Accordingly, summary judgment is granted in favor of  
26 the Hildale Defendants on Count Ten.

27           Defendant Colorado City argues that *Sabin* and *TDB Tucson Group, L.L.C. v. City*  
28 *of Tucson*, do not support the Cooke Plaintiffs’ request for summary judgment.

1           In *Sabin*, the Town of Wickenburg, a municipal corporation, was the owner of the  
2 municipal water and electric distributions systems with an exclusive monopoly within the  
3 boundaries of the Town of Wickenburg. 200 P.2d at 342. Mr. Sabin lived in a  
4 subdivision that had become part of the Town of Wickenburg five and a half months  
5 prior to the day he applied for water and electric service to the town clerk. *Id.* When Mr.  
6 Sabin applied to the town clerk for water and electric service for the tent house where he  
7 lived, he attempted to tender the customary \$5.00 fee for receipt of each of the services.  
8 *Id.* at 343. Although the water distribution system and the electric line had been  
9 previously extended by the Town of Wickenburg into the immediate area adjacent to Mr.  
10 Sabin’s home in his subdivision, Mr. Sabin was informed by the town clerk that his  
11 application for utility services would be denied unless he put up a \$50.00 deposit to  
12 guarantee the building of a permanent residence on the lot. *Id.* When Mr. Sabin refused  
13 to comply with the condition, the Town of Wickenburg denied him both water and  
14 electric service. *Id.*

15           Mr. Sabin then brought a mandamus action in the Superior Court of Maricopa  
16 County to compel the town to extend him utility services. *Id.* After briefing and a  
17 hearing<sup>14</sup> wherein the Superior Court made factual findings, the Superior Court issued a  
18 peremptory writ of mandamus directing the town to furnish services upon payment of the  
19 usual and customary fees to Mr. Sabin. *Id.*

20           The Town of Wickenburg then appealed to the Arizona Supreme Court. *Id.* Mr.  
21 Sabin argued that he was entitled to the writ of mandamus based on the Town of

---

22  
23           <sup>14</sup> The *Sabin* opinion states that there was a hearing, but later refers to testimony  
24 heard at “trial.” *Compare* 200 P.3d at 343 (“after a hearing before the court and  
25 consideration by it of the briefs submitted by the parties, it was ordered that a peremptory  
26 writ of mandamus issue ordering and directing the town to furnish the services upon  
27 payment of the usual and customary fees. This appeal by the town followed.”) *with* 200  
28 P.3d at 344 (“It developed, however, at the trial that appellee with Chapman’s consent,  
had made an unauthorized electrical connection . . .”). It is not clear to the Court  
whether the Arizona Supreme Court was referring to two different events, a hearing and a  
later trial or if the Court considered the “hearing” to be a bench trial.

1 Wickenburg's arbitrary and unjust discrimination against him. *Id.* Mr. Sabin argued that  
2 the decision to require him to pay \$50.00 was arbitrary and discriminatory because his  
3 neighbor, Chapman, who was living in a similar tent house on an adjacent lot only paid  
4 the customary fees and was given utilities services. *Id.* There was no question that the  
5 Town of Wickenburg had an abundant supply of water and sufficient electric power to  
6 supply the needs of all within its limits. *Id.*

7 Although there was some dispute, evidence presented at the hearing established  
8 that, to connect Mr. Sabin's home with the water line serving the Chapman's house  
9 would require four hours of labor, one pole, and 600 feet of wire. *Id.* The Town of  
10 Wickenburg argued that the power line serving Chapman's home was not up to standard  
11 and to attempt to extend that power line to Mr. Sabin's home would require the  
12 rebuilding of two spans of secondary and one span of primary line, the installation of  
13 poles and a transformer and a cost of \$250 to \$275. *Id.* The Court found this argument  
14 contradicted by the fact that Mr. Sabin actually made an unauthorized connection to the  
15 power line serving Chapman's home, which was apparently successful, until the Town of  
16 Wickenburg learned of it and cut Mr. Sabin's connection off. *Id.*

17 At the hearing, the town clerk admitted from the witness stand that there had been  
18 no official ordinance or resolution enacted or passed requiring the collection of a \$50.00  
19 deposit or the giving of a bond to insure the construction of permanent buildings. *Id.*  
20 Further, such deposit or bond had not been required by any other member of the town.  
21 *Id.*

22 The Arizona Supreme Court summarized the law on discrimination as applied to  
23 public service corporations as:

24 The rule forbidding unjust discrimination has been variously  
25 expressed: The charges must be equal to all for the same  
26 service under like circumstances. A public service  
27 corporation is impressed with the obligation of furnishing its  
28 service to each patron at the same price it makes to every  
other patron for the same or substantially the same or similar

1 service. It “must be equal in its dealings with all.” It “must  
2 treat the members of the general public alike.” All patrons of  
3 the same class are entitled to the same service on equal terms.  
4 “The law will not and cannot tolerate discrimination in the  
5 charges of these quasi-public corporations. There must be  
6 equality of rights to all and special privileges to none.” “A  
7 person having a public duty to discharge is undoubtedly  
8 bound to exercise such office for the equal benefit of all.”  
9 “All should be treated alike; equality of rights requires  
10 equality of service.” “The duty owed to all alike involved  
11 obligations to treat all alike.” “The common law upon the  
12 subject is founded on public policy which requires one  
13 engaged in a public calling to charge a reasonable and  
14 uniform price to all persons for the same service rendered  
15 under the same circumstances.

16 *Id.* at 343-44 (quoting McQuillin Municipal Corporations, 2d Ed., Vol. 4, section 1829).

17 The Arizona Supreme Court then stated, “And a municipality undertaking to  
18 supply water to its inhabitants stands in no different relation as to the right to discriminate  
19 from that of private corporations.” *Id.* at 343 (quoting 27 R.C.L., Waterworks, sec. 66)  
20 (other citations omitted). “A requirement by a public service corporation that its patrons  
21 furnish a deposit or a guaranty as security for payment of future service has been held to  
22 be improper discrimination, where it is enforced against some, but not against all, of its  
23 patrons.” *Id.* (quoting 43 Am. Jur., Public Utilities and Services, sec. 44).

24 In light of this law, the Arizona Supreme Court speculated that if “granting utility  
25 services to appellee involved an extension of services into an entirely new territory within  
26 the town limits,” the action of the Town of Wickenburg, in rejecting the service, might  
27 well be justified because “a municipality, as distinguished from a private utility  
28 corporation, may exercise a governmental discretion as to the limits to which it is  
advisable to extend its water mains and power lines, and an extension will not be  
compelled by the courts at the instances of an inhabitant.” *Id.* at 345. Despite this  
speculation, the Arizona Supreme Court found it unnecessary to adopt this rule for the  
purposes of deciding the case. *Id.*

The Arizona Supreme Court then found that there was ample evidence in the

1 record

2 that appellee had suffered an arbitrary and unjust  
3 discrimination at the hands of the appellant, acting through its  
4 regularly constituted officers, by the attempted exaction of the  
5 \$50.00 deposit or bond not required of others, and the refusal,  
6 unless this requirement was met, to grant to him the utility  
7 services accorded his neighbors.

8 *Id.* at 345.

9 The Arizona Court of Appeals has recently stated that the rule announced in *Sabin*  
10 and its progeny stands for the proposition that “although it is not required to do so, once a  
11 municipality decides to provide a utility service to its residents, it must do so for all  
12 [residents within municipal boundaries] without discrimination.” *TDB Tucson Group,*  
13 *L.L.C. v. City of Tucson*, 263 P.3d 669, 673 (Ariz. Ct. App. 2011).

14 The Cooke Plaintiffs argue that, as in *Sabin*, in this case, Colorado City chose to  
15 provide water service to some of its residents (those requesting reconnection as opposed  
16 to a new connection) without requiring them to bring physical water to the system and  
17 Colorado City provided such services to individuals on the same block as the Academy  
18 Avenue Property, but denied the Cookes service. Plaintiffs argue that, when Colorado  
19 City required the Cookes to bring physical water to the system to obtain water service,  
20 without imposing the same requirement against individuals requesting reconnection of  
21 their water, Colorado City arbitrarily and unjustly discriminated against the Cookes.

22 Colorado City argues that *Sabin* is distinguishable because, in *Sabin*, the town of  
23 Wickenburg owned the water and electric systems and, in this case, Twin City Water  
24 Works owns the water rights and supplies all the water to the system. Defendant  
25 Colorado City further argues that, in *Sabin*, the Town of Wickenburg admitted it had an  
26 abundant supply of water and here, Colorado City has experienced a shortage of culinary  
27 water. Further, Defendant Colorado City argues that, in *Sabin*, the \$50 policy was first  
28 applied to Plaintiff and, in this case, Colorado City had the policy before the Cookes  
requested culinary water. Further, Colorado City argues that, unlike the Town of  
Wickenburg in *Sabin*, it has always treated people of the same class on equal terms.

1 Colorado City argues that Plaintiffs can only succeed on this claim upon a finding that  
2 the governmental decision to limit new culinary water connections was arbitrary, and  
3 thus, the Cookes are entitled at best to a factual determination following trial.

4 The Court finds summary judgment on this Count inappropriate. Defendant  
5 Colorado City has failed to convince the Court that the differences between *Sabin* and  
6 this case are dispositive on Count Ten. For instance, the fact that Twin City Water  
7 Works actually owns the water at issue could be relevant under certain factual  
8 circumstances not discussed by either party on summary judgment. Nonetheless, the rule  
9 of *Sabin* still applies— because Colorado City decided “to provide a utility service to its  
10 residents, it must do so for all [residents within municipal boundaries] without  
11 discrimination.” Plaintiffs have provided evidence that the “policy” at issue was arbitrary  
12 and discriminatory between residents of the town in equivalent positions.

13 Nonetheless, the Court finds summary judgment in favor of Plaintiffs  
14 inappropriate on their claim against Colorado City because the Court needs to make  
15 factual findings that are not in the Record to support issuance of a writ of mandamus.  
16 Further, Plaintiffs have not convinced the Court that it can issue a writ of mandamus as  
17 requested. *See* Fed. R. Civ. P. 81(b) (“The writs of scire facias and mandamus are  
18 abolished. Relief previously available through them may be obtained by appropriate  
19 action or motion under these rules.”). Accordingly, the Court denies the Cooke  
20 Plaintiffs’ Motion for Summary Judgment on Count Ten of the Complaint and denies  
21 Colorado City’s Motion for Summary Judgment on Count Ten of the Complaint.

22 Within 20 days of the date of this Order, the Cooke Plaintiffs and Defendant  
23 Colorado City shall submit separate trial memoranda to the Court addressing (1) under  
24 what authority this Court may issue a writ of mandamus; (2) stating whether the Parties’  
25 believe that Count Ten presents an issue for the Court, and not the jury; and (3) a  
26 proposed order containing proposed findings of fact, conclusions of law, including (for  
27 the Cooke Plaintiffs only) the language of the proposed “writ;” and (4) the Cooke  
28 Plaintiffs shall state under what authority they are entitled to the other remedies sought in



1 Count Ten of their Complaint. Each trial memorandum is not to exceed eight pages,  
2 excluding caption and signature lines. If such trial memorandum does exceed eight  
3 pages, it will be stricken from the Record.

4 **IV. CONCLUSION**

5 Based on the foregoing,

6 **IT IS ORDERED** that Defendant the Town of Colorado City's Motion for  
7 Summary Judgment (Doc. 264) is granted in part and denied in part as follows:

8 Defendant Colorado City's Motion for Summary Judgment is granted on Count  
9 Three, the 42 U.S.C. 3604(a) and 42 U.S.C. section 3604(f) claims in Count Four, Count  
10 Five, and Count Seven.

11 Defendant Colorado City's Motion for Summary Judgment is denied on the 42  
12 U.S.C. section 3604(b) and 42 U.S.C. section 3617 claims in Count 4, Count 6, Count 8,  
13 Count 9, and Count 10.

14 **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that the Cooke Plaintiffs' Motion for Partial  
15 Summary Judgment (Doc. 266) is denied as follows:

16 The Cooke Plaintiffs' Motion for Summary Judgment is denied to the extent that it  
17 requests that the Court find vicarious liability on behalf of the Town of Colorado City  
18 and the City of Hildale for the unspecified conduct of various individuals and entities as  
19 discussed herein. To the extent that Plaintiffs are seeking specific jury instructions,  
20 Plaintiffs' may re-raise those issues when the Court instructs the Parties to submit  
21 proposed jury instructions.

22 The Cooke Plaintiffs' Motion for Summary Judgment on the 42 U.S.C. section  
23 3604(f) claim in Count Four, Count 5 and Count 10 is denied.

24 **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that Plaintiff-Intervenor the State of Arizona's  
25 Motion for Summary Judgment (Doc. 269) is denied as follows:

26 Plaintiff-Intervenor's Motion for Summary Judgment on Count 5 is denied.

27 **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that the City of Hildale, Hildale-Colorado City  
28 Utilities, Twin City Power, and Twin City Water Authority's Motion for Summary

1 Judgment (Doc. 267) is granted in part and denied in part as follows:

2 The Hildale Defendants' request to dismiss the Hildale-Colorado City Utilities as  
3 non-jural entities in the Hildale Defendants' Motion for Summary Judgment is denied  
4 without prejudice.

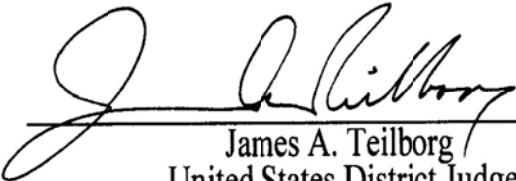
5 The Hildale Defendants' Motion for Summary Judgment is granted on Count  
6 Three, the 42 U.S.C. 3604(a) and the 42 U.S.C. section 3604(f) claims in Count Four,  
7 Count Five, Count Seven, and Count Ten.

8 The Hildale Defendants' Motion for Summary Judgment is denied on the 42  
9 U.S.C. section 3604(b) and the 42 U.S.C. section 3617 claims in Count 4, Count 6, Count  
10 8, and Count 9.

11 **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that, within 20 days of the date of this Order, the  
12 Cooke Plaintiffs and Defendant Colorado City shall submit separate trial memoranda to  
13 the Court addressing (1) under what authority this Court may issue a writ of mandamus;  
14 (2) stating whether the Parties' believe that Count Ten presents an issue for the Court,  
15 and not the jury; and (3) a proposed order containing proposed finds of fact, conclusions  
16 of law, including (for the Cooke Plaintiffs only) the language of the proposed "writ;" (4)  
17 the Cooke Plaintiffs shall likewise state under what authority they are entitled to the other  
18 remedies sought in Count Ten of their Complaint. Each trial memorandum is not to  
19 exceed eight pages, excluding caption and signature lines. If such trial memorandum  
20 does exceed eight pages, it will be stricken from the Record.

21 Dated this 13th day of February, 2013.

22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28



---

James A. Teilborg  
United States District Judge