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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

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|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| PHILLIP SPECTOR,         | CASE No. 1:12-cv-01450-AWI-MJS (PC) |
| Plaintiff,               | FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATION         |
| v.                       | DENYING PLAINTIFF'S APPLICATION FOR |
| CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF | ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE IN RE           |
| CORRECTIONS, STATE OF    | TEMPORARY RETRAINING ORDER AND      |
| CALIFORNIA, et al.,      | PRELIMINARY INJUNCTION              |
| Defendants.              | (ECF No. 6)                         |
|                          | FOURTEEN (14) DAY DEADLINE          |

**I. PROCEDURAL HISTORY**

Plaintiff Phillip Spector, a state prisoner, initiated this action on August 29, 2012 in Kings County Superior Court.<sup>1</sup> (Notice of Removal, ECF No. 1, Attach. 1.) In it, he alleges negligence, violation of prison regulations, and violation under 42 U.S.C. § 1983. Plaintiff names as Defendants (1) California Substance Abuse Treatment Facility

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<sup>1</sup> Phillip Spector v. California Department of Corrections, et al., Kern County Super. Ct. Case No. 12C0261.

1 (“CSATF”), (2) California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (“CDCR”), (3) Dr.  
2 Kumar D.D.S., (4) Dr. Pringle D.D.S., and (5) Does 1-10. (Id. at 2.)

3 Defendant Kumar was served on September 5, 2012. and immediately removed  
4 this action to this Court. (Notice of Removal at 1 and 2.) Defendants CSATF and CDCR  
5 consented to removal. (Joinder, ECF Nos. 4 & 13.) On September 12, 2012, Defendants  
6 CSTAF and Kumar filed their Answer to the Complaint. (Answer, ECF No. 5.) On  
7 October 4, 2012, Defendant CDCR filed its Answer to the Complaint. (Answer, ECF No.  
8 14.)

9  
10 On September 13, 2012, Plaintiff filed an Ex Parte Application for Order to Show  
11 Cause in re Temporary Restraining Order and Preliminary Injunction (Appl. for  
12 TRO/Prelim. Inj., ECF No. 6) to permit him to have dental work completed as previously  
13 begun by his private dentist. On October 5, 2012, Defendants CDCR, CSATF, and  
14 Kumar filed Opposition to the Application. (Opp’n to TRO/Prelim. Inj., ECF No. 15.)  
15 Plaintiff did not file a Reply brief within the time for doing so or at all. On October 17,  
16 2012, the Court deemed the matter submitted for ruling on the papers filed and without  
17 oral argument. (Minute Order, ECF No. 16.)

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20 **II. SUMMARY OF CLAIMS AND APPLICATION**

21 Plaintiff claim Defendants have been deliberately indifferent to his serious dental  
22 needs by denying him access to a Dr. Albus, his private dentist of long standing, for  
23 completion of dental implants and other dental work begun by him. He also alleges  
24 Defendants have negligently provided dental care to him and caused him severe, and  
25 activity limiting, pain. He asserts that such actions violate the cruel and unusual  
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1 punishments clause of article 1, section 17 of the California Constitution,<sup>2</sup> the Eighth and  
2 Fourteenth Amendments of the U.S. Constitution, Cal. Code Regs. tit. 15 § 3354(c), and  
3 state negligence law. (Notice of Removal, Attach. 1 at 13-20.)

4  
5 Plaintiff has been incarcerated at CSATF since June 2009. (Id. at 4.) He is over  
6 70 years old and alleges severe dental problems including infections, loss of teeth and  
7 periodontal disease. (Id. at 4, 13.) Until August 2010, Dr. Albus was allowed to provide  
8 dental care to Plaintiff at Dr. Albus' Burbank, California office, pursuant to a treatment  
9 plan that included decay removal and preliminary work for dental implants. Relying on  
10 CDCR's authorization of such treatment, Plaintiff paid the entire cost thereof which  
11 exceeded \$10,000. (Id. at 5 and 11.)

12  
13 In August 2010, the CDCR updated its Inmate Dental Services Program, Policies  
14 & Procedures Manual ("P&P") (Id. at 6) so that CDCR dentists were prohibited from  
15 initiating, completing, or repairing dental implants for inmates even for inmates with  
16 dental implants begun but not completed at the time of incarceration.<sup>3</sup> Thereafter, the  
17 CDCR, through Defendant Kumar, D.D.S., CSATF Supervising Dentist, declined to allow  
18 Plaintiff's continued treatment by Dr. Albus. (Id.) Specifically, Defendant Kumar and  
19 Defendant Pringle, D.D.S., CDCR Region III Dentist Director, citing to the P&P, informed  
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22 <sup>2</sup> Plaintiff's cruel and unusual punishments claim is properly analyzed under the Eighth  
23 Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. See Giraldo v. California Dep't of Corr. and Rehab., 168 Cal.App.4th  
24 231, 253-57 (Cal.Ct. App. 2008), citing Katzberg v. Regents of the University of California, 29 Cal.4th 300,  
25 329 (2002) (there is no private cause of action for damages for violation of the cruel and unusual  
26 punishments clause of the California Constitution at article 1, section 17); Los Angeles County Bar Assoc.  
v. Eu, 979 F.2d 697, 705 (9th Cir. 1992), citing Payne v. Superior Court, 17 Cal.3d 908, 914 at n.3 (Cal.  
1976) (the discussion of plaintiff's federal constitutional claim resolves both the federal and state  
27 constitutional claim.)

<sup>3</sup> CDCR Division of Correctional Health Care Services, P&P, Ch. 2.11 "Implants".

1 Plaintiff in November 2010 that he would no longer be allowed treatment by Dr. Albus.  
2 (Id.) Dr. Albus' May 2011 request for permission to treat Plaintiff was denied by Dr.  
3 Kumar. (Id. at 13.) Plaintiff alleges Dr. Kumar then provided dental care which was  
4 contrary to Dr. Albus' treatment plan, undermined the work Dr. Albus had done, and  
5 caused Plaintiff severe ongoing pain. (Id. at 7.)

7 Plaintiff filed a claim with the State Victim Compensation and Government Claims  
8 Board. It was rejected on January 19, 2012. (Id. at 13.) Plaintiff's health care appeal,  
9 seeking treatment by Dr. Albus was denied at the Third Level in April of 2012, on the  
10 ground that CDCR was providing constitutionally appropriate treatment. (Id. at 12.)

11 Plaintiff seeks monetary damages and injunctive relief directing Defendants to  
12 allow Plaintiff to receive immediate dental treatment from Dr. Albus at Plaintiff's  
13 expense. (Id. at 20.) As noted, his current application seeks an order allowing Dr. Albus  
14 to resume and complete his treatment plan forthwith at Plaintiff's expense.

16 **III. LEGAL STANDARD FOR INJUNCTIVE RELIEF**

17 Injunctive relief, whether temporary or permanent, is an "extraordinary remedy,  
18 never awarded as of right." Winter v. Natural Res. Defense Council, 555 U.S. 7, 22  
19 (2008). "A plaintiff seeking a preliminary injunction must establish that he is likely to  
20 succeed on the merits, that he is likely to suffer irreparable harm in the absence of  
21 preliminary relief, that the balance of equities tips in his favor, and that an injunction is in  
22 the public interest." Am. Trucking Ass'ns, Inc. v. City of Los Angeles, 559 F.3d 1046,  
23 1052 (9th Cir. 2009), quoting Winter, 555 U.S. at 20. An injunction may only be awarded  
24 upon a clear showing that the plaintiff is entitled to relief. Winter, 555 U.S. at 22.

26 Requests for prospective relief are further limited by 18 U.S.C. § 3626(a)(1)(A) of  
27

1 the Prison Litigation Reform Act (“PLRA”), which requires that the Court find the “relief  
2 [sought] is narrowly drawn, extends no further than necessary to correct the violation of  
3 the federal right, and is the least intrusive means necessary to correct the violation of the  
4 federal right.”

5  
6 Injunctive relief is to be granted “sparingly, and only . . . in clear and plain  
7 case[s].” Rizzo v. Goode, 423 U.S. 362, 378 (1976).

8 **IV. ANALYSIS**

9 **A. Plaintiff Has not Shown Likely Success on the Merits**

10 1. Eleventh Amendment and Personal Participation

11 Plaintiff’s claims against the CDCR and CSATF are barred by the Eleventh  
12 Amendment. The Eleventh Amendment prohibits suits against state agencies. See  
13 Natural Res. Def. Council v. California Dep’t of Transp., 96 F.3d 420, 421 (9th Cir.  
14 1996). The CDCR including its CSATF facility are entitled to Eleventh Amendment  
15 immunity from suit. See Hunt v. Dental Dept., 865 F.2d 198, 200-01 (9th Cir. 1989)  
16 (dental department of state prison part of state Department of Corrections and immune  
17 from § 1983 actions.)  
18

19  
20 Plaintiff also makes no allegations against any of the Doe Defendants. To state a  
21 claim under § 1983, Plaintiff must demonstrate that each individually named defendant  
22 personally participated in the deprivation of his rights. Jones v. Williams, 297 F.3d 930,  
23 934 (9th Cir. 2002).

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1                   2.     Medical Indifference

2             Plaintiff's allegations of medical indifference on the part of Defendants Kumar and  
3 Pringle are disputed. The facts alleged do not reflect a likelihood that Plaintiff will  
4 succeed on the merits.<sup>4</sup>

5             "[T]o maintain an Eighth Amendment claim based on prison medical treatment,  
6 an inmate must show 'deliberate indifference to serious medical needs.'" Jett v. Penner,  
7 439 F.3d 1091, 1096 (9th Cir. 2006), quoting Estelle v. Gamble, 429 U.S. 97, 106  
8 (1976). The two prong test for deliberate indifference requires the plaintiff to show (1) "a  
9 serious medical need' by demonstrating that 'failure to treat a prisoner's condition could  
10 result in further significant injury or the unnecessary and wanton infliction of pain,'" and  
11 (2) "the defendant's response to the need was deliberately indifferent." Jett, 439 F.3d at  
12 1096, quoting McGuckin v. Smith, 974 F.2d 1050, 1059 (9th Cir. 1992).

13             Deliberate indifference is shown by "a purposeful act or failure to respond to a  
14 prisoner's pain or possible medical need, and harm caused by the indifference." Jett,  
15 439 F.3d at 1096, citing McGuckin, 974 F.2d at 1060). In order to state a claim for  
16 violation of the Eighth Amendment, a plaintiff must allege sufficient facts to support a  
17 claim that the named defendants "[knew] of and disregard[ed] an excessive risk to  
18 [plaintiff's] health . . . ." Farmer v. Brennan, 511 U.S. 825, 837 (1994).

19             In applying this standard, the Ninth Circuit has held that before it can be said that  
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24             <sup>4</sup> Plaintiff's medical indifference claim is covered by the more explicit clause of the Eighth  
25 Amendment, rather than the Due Process Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment. See County of  
26 Sacramento v. Lewis, 523 U.S. 833, 842 (1998) ("Where a particular amendment provides an explicit  
27 textual source of constitutional protection against a particular sort of government behavior, that  
Amendment, not the more generalized notion of substantive due process, must be the guide for analyzing  
a plaintiff's claims.")

1 a prisoner's civil rights have been abridged, “the indifference to his medical needs must  
2 be substantial. Mere ‘indifference,’ ‘negligence,’ or ‘medical malpractice’ will not support  
3 this cause of action.” Broughton v. Cutter Laboratories, 622 F.2d 458, 460 (9th Cir.  
4 1980), citing Estelle, 429 U.S. at 105–06. A complaint that a physician has been  
5 negligent in diagnosing or treating a medical condition does not state a valid claim of  
6 medical mistreatment under the Eighth Amendment. Even gross negligence is  
7 insufficient to establish deliberate indifference to serious medical needs. See Wood v.  
8 Housewright, 900 F.2d 1332, 1334 (9th Cir. 1990).

10 A difference of opinion between medical professionals concerning the appropriate  
11 course of treatment generally does not amount to deliberate indifference to serious  
12 medical needs. Toguchi v. Chung, 391 F.3d 1051, 1058 (9th Cir. 2004); Sanchez v. Vild,  
13 891 F.2d 240, 242 (9th Cir. 1989). Similarly, “a difference of opinion between a  
14 prisoner-patient and prison medical authorities regarding treatment does not give rise to  
15 a [§] 1983 claim.” Franklin v. Oregon, 662 F.2d 1337, 1344 (9th Cir. 1981). To establish  
16 that such a difference of opinion amounted to deliberate indifference, the prisoner “must  
17 show that the course of treatment the doctors chose was medically unacceptable under  
18 the circumstances” and “that they chose this course in conscious disregard of an  
19 excessive risk to [the prisoner’s] health.” See Jackson v. McIntosh, 90 F.3d 330, 332  
20 (9th Cir. 1996).

23 Plaintiff alleges chronic dental pain, periodontal disease and loss of teeth. He  
24 claims he has trouble speaking and has lost weight because chewing is painful. (Decl. of  
25 Phillip Spector in Supp. at ¶ 12; Decl. of Dr. Jerry Albus in Supp. at ¶ 11.) These  
26 alleged conditions are sufficient to show a serious need for dental treatment satisfying  
27

1 the first prong of deliberate indifference. See Chance v. Armstrong, 143 F.3d 698, 702  
2 (2d Cir. 1998) (chronic great pain, inability to chew properly and inadequate treatment  
3 causing tooth degeneration to point requiring extraction as sufficient to state a serious  
4 medical condition.) “Dental care is an important medical need, the denial of which may  
5 constitute an Eighth Amendment violation.” Dixon v. Bannister, 845 F.Supp.2d 1136,  
6 1143 (D. Nev. 2012).

7  
8 However, the facts alleged do not suggest a likelihood Plaintiff can show  
9 Defendants Kumar and Pringle were deliberately indifferent to these serious dental  
10 needs.

11 Dr. Albus, who has not examined Plaintiff since June 2010, believes the CDCR is  
12 incapable of treating Plaintiff’s gum disease appropriately and providing the implants  
13 necessary to enable Plaintiff to chew food. (Decl. of Dr. Jerry Albus in Supp. at ¶¶ 10-  
14 11.) He feels Plaintiff’s partially complete dental implant treatments need be finished  
15 urgently. (Id. at ¶ 12.)

16  
17 Plaintiff has no right to treatment by a private dentist. Cal. Code Regs. tit. 15 §  
18 3354(a)(c)(f). Dr. Albus’ reported dental implant plan is not binding on Defendants and it,  
19 in any event, exceeds the basic dental treatment available from CDCR. (Decl. of Phillip  
20 Spector in Supp. at ¶¶ 10-11.) There also is professional disagreement as to the proper  
21 course of treatment.

22  
23 The CDCR’s Deputy Statewide Dental Director, M. Rosenberg, D.D.S., opines  
24 that Plaintiff’s ongoing CDCR dental care is constitutionally adequate. (Decl. of  
25 Rosenberg in Opp’n at ¶ 9; Opp’n to TRO/Prelim. Inj. at Attach. 2.) He reports that such  
26 care includes treatment for gum disease and maintenance, cleaning and scaling, tooth  
27

1 restoration and, where necessary, extraction, and removable denture adjustment, fitting  
2 and replacement. (Decl. of Rosenberg in Opp'n at ¶ 61.) It is Dr. Rosenberg's medical  
3 opinion that Plaintiff has no urgent conditions and requires no outside dental treatment.

4 (Id.)

5 As noted, Plaintiff's and his dentist's difference of opinion with Defendants as to  
6 appropriate medical care is not sufficient to show deliberate indifference where, as here,  
7 there are no facts alleged which would support a finding that CDCR's dental care is  
8 knowingly inadequate. Plaintiff has seen CDCR dentists regularly since 2009. They  
9 have made available to Plaintiff ongoing essential assessment, maintenance, care and  
10 treatment of his various dental conditions and, they report, they have done so in  
11 compliance with the prevailing standard of care. (Decl. of Rosenberg in Opp'n at ¶ 63;  
12 Opp'n to TRO/Prelim. Inj. at Attachment 2.) Nothing before the Court is sufficient to  
13 support the conclusion that Defendants are unable to care, and are not caring, for  
14 Plaintiff's essential dental health. The Court is unable to conclude on the basis of the  
15 disputed evidence before it at this early stage of the proceedings that dental implants  
16 are indeed necessary to enable Plaintiff to chew food and that partial dentures will not  
17 suffice for that purpose. See Dixon, 845 F.Supp.2d at 1144 (prison dentist not  
18 deliberately indifferent by extracting inmate's teeth and providing partial denture, rather  
19 than allowing inmate to visit outside dentist for crowns or veneers, as course chosen  
20 was medically acceptable.) Dr. Rosenberg characterizes Dr. Albus' 2009  
21 recommendations as outdated, and he disagrees that removal of plaintiff's temporary  
22 implants and installation of permanent ones is necessary. (Decl. of Rosenberg in Opp'n  
23 at ¶ 54.) He advises that other portions of Dr. Albus treatment plan have been or will be  
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1 implemented by CDCR dentists as necessary. (Id. at ¶¶ 56-59.)

2 Plaintiff's claim that while in prison he has lost teeth which Dr. Albus would have  
3 saved is speculative and unsupported. (Decl. of Phillip Spector in Supp. at ¶ 14.) Dr.  
4 Rosenberg believes that Plaintiff's loss of teeth in prison is unrelated to the implant  
5 treatment or the lack thereof; he notes that Dr. Albus himself extracted five of the total  
6 seven teeth extracted. (Id. at ¶ 55.)

7  
8 Dr. Rosenberg also notes that Plaintiff's body weight is normal for his height and  
9 that there is no loss of weight attributable to his dental condition. (Id. at ¶ 62.)

10 Certainly, the Court can appreciate Plaintiff's desire to be treated by his own  
11 personal dentist and can also see that there may be benefit to the state in allowing such  
12 treatment at Plaintiff's expense. However, the inaccessibility of such care is not of  
13 constitutional moment. As noted, Plaintiff's and his medical expert's disagreement with  
14 Defendants' treatment decisions is not alone a basis for a federal claim. The Eighth  
15 Amendment does not require that prisoners receive "unqualified access to health care."  
16 Hudson v. McMillian, 503 U.S. 1, 9 (1992).

17  
18 In summary, nothing presently before the Court establishes a likelihood of Plaintiff  
19 establishing that any named Defendant intentionally provided inadequate dental  
20 treatment or actually knew of, and disregarded, an excessive risk of harm to Plaintiff  
21 from the dental care and treatment provided or as a result of the denial of the care  
22 Plaintiff seeks. Plaintiff alleges at most a difference of opinion which does not appear to  
23 reach even a level which would support a finding of dental negligence or malpractice.  
24 Even if the contrary were true, such negligence does not by itself state or support a  
25 federal claim. Wood, 900 F.2d at 1334; Scotton v. Amerongen, - - - F.Supp.2d - - - - ,  
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1 2009 WL 1853311 at \*5 (N.D. Iowa June 29, 2009) (negligent acts by prison officials are  
2 not actionable under § 1983.)

3 3. Private Dental Care

4 Plaintiff argues that the August 2010 P&P change does not preclude private care,  
5 and that Cal. Code Regs. tit. 15 § 3354(c) actually requires it here, where the inmate has  
6 offered to pay all costs of such private treatment. (Notice of Removal, Attach. 1 at 9, 17-  
7 18.)

8  
9 Although a prisoner has a right to adequate medical care, a prisoner has “no  
10 independent constitutional right to outside medical care additional and supplemental to  
11 the medical care provided by the prison staff within the institution.” Dixon, 845 F.Supp.2d  
12 at 1143, citing Roberts v. Spalding, 783 F.2d 867, 870 (9th Cir. 1986). Outside dental  
13 care for Plaintiff is left to prison staff discretion based on specific case factors. Cal. Code  
14 Regs. tit. 15 § 3354(a)(c)(f); P&P at Ch. 5:15(IV)(B). The policy of the CDCR is to  
15 provide only the most essential dental services. CDCR - Operations Manual § 91030.1.  
16 For the reasons discussed above, the Court is unable to conclude based on the present  
17 record that Plaintiff’s dental care is constitutionally inadequate. Moreover, Defendants  
18 have noted what appear to be quite legitimate safety and security concerns attendant to  
19 transporting Plaintiff, an inmate of notoriety, for outside care. Six officers are needed to  
20 transport Plaintiff to Dr. Albus’ Office. (Decl. of Lt. J. Perez in Opp’n at ¶¶ 5-7.) Past  
21 visits have been disrupted and security threatened by arrival of paparazzi and Plaintiff’s  
22 wife at Dr. Albus’ offices. (Id.)

23  
24  
25 Furthermore, even an adequately alleged violation of prison regulations does not  
26 give rise to a redressable § 1983 claim. The Court is unaware of any authority giving rise  
27

1 to a private right of action for violation of Title 15 regulations. See e.g. Gonzaga  
2 University v. Doe, 536 U.S. 273, 283-86 (2002) (basing a claim on an implied private  
3 right of action requires a showing that the statute both contains explicit rights-creating  
4 terms and manifests an intent to create a private remedy); Parra v. Hernandez, 2009 WL  
5 3818376 at \*8 (S.D. Cal. Nov. 13, 2009); Davis v. Kissinger, 2009 WL 256574 at \*12 n.4  
6 (E.D. Cal. Feb. 3, 2009), adopted in full, 2009 WL 647350 (Mar. 10, 2009). Plaintiff  
7 cannot conjure such a right by claiming detrimental reliance upon the staff's previous  
8 decision to allow outside dental care. Plaintiff does not challenge the validity or  
9 constitutionality of the prison regulation. "Where the state regulation is neither  
10 unreasonable nor arbitrary, the courts will not interfere with the administrative functions  
11 of state prisons." Brooks v. Wainwright, 428 F.2d 652, 653 (5th Cir. 1970).

12  
13           Accordingly, Plaintiff has failed to allege facts establishing a likelihood he will  
14 prevailing on the merits of his claim under Cal. Code Regs. tit. 15 § 3354(c).

#### 15           4.     State Law Negligence

16           Plaintiff alleges Defendants negligently provided dental care to him and thereby  
17 caused him to suffer severe pain and distress.

18           Plaintiff also fails to allege facts showing a likelihood of success on this state law  
19 tort claim. "To establish a medical malpractice claim, a plaintiff must allege in the  
20 complaint: (1) defendant's legal duty of care toward plaintiff; (2) defendant's breach of  
21 that duty; (3) injury to plaintiff as a result of that breach—proximate or legal cause; and  
22 (4) damage to plaintiff." Rightley v. Alexander, 1995 WL 437710 at \*3 (N.D. Cal. July 13,  
23 1995), citing Hoyem v. Manhattan Beach School Dist., 22 Cal.3d 508, 514 (Cal. 1978); 6  
24 B.E. Witkin, Summary of California Law, Torts § 732 (9th ed.1988). "[M]edical personnel  
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1 are held in both diagnosis and treatment to the degree of knowledge and skill ordinarily  
2 possessed and exercised by members of their profession in similar circumstances.”

3 Hutchinson v. United States, 838 F.2d 390, 392–93 (9th Cir. 1988).

4 Defendants’ evidence is that Plaintiff’s treatment was in accord with applicable  
5 standards of care. (Decl. of Rosenberg in Opp’n at ¶ 63; Opp’n to TRO/Prelim. Inj. at  
6 Attach. 2.) Plaintiff has not established the contrary nor that he has suffered physical or  
7 other injury as a result of Defendants’ care and treatment.<sup>5</sup> (Decl. of Rosenberg in  
8 Opp’n at ¶¶ 10-63.)

9  
10 Additionally, under the California Tort Claims Act (“CTCA”), a plaintiff may not  
11 maintain an action for damages against a public employee unless he has presented a  
12 written claim to the state Victim Compensation and Government Claims Board within six  
13 months of accrual of the action. Cal. Gov’t Code §§ 905, 911.2(a), 945.4 & 950.2;  
14 Mangold v. California Pub. Utils. Comm’n, 67 F.3d 1470, 1477 (9th Cir.1995). A plaintiff  
15 may file a written application for leave to file a late claim up to one year after the cause  
16 of action accrues. Cal. Gov’t Code § 911.4. Presentation of a written claim, and action  
17 on or rejection of the claim are conditions precedent to suit. Shirk v. Vista Unified Sch.  
18 Dist., 42 Cal.4th 201, 208–09 (Cal. 2007). Thus, in pleading a state law claim, a plaintiff  
19 must allege facts demonstrating that he has complied with CTCA’s presentation  
20 requirement. State of California v. Superior Court (Bodde), 32 Cal.4th 1234, 1240 (Cal.  
21 2004). Failure to demonstrate compliance constitutes a failure to state a cause of action  
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25  
26 <sup>5</sup> The Prison Litigation Reform Act provides that “[N]o Federal civil action may be brought by a  
27 prisoner confined in jail, prison, or other correctional facility, for mental and emotional injury suffered while  
in custody without a prior showing of physical injury.” 42 U.S.C. § 1997e(e). The physical injury “need not  
be significant but must be more than *de minimis*.” Oliver v. Keller, 289 F.3d 623, 627 (9th Cir. 2002).

1 and will result in the dismissal of state law claims. Id.

2 Here Plaintiff does allege that “he filed a claim with the Victim Compensation and  
3 Government Claims board which was rejected on January 19, 2012.” (Notice of  
4 Removal, Attach. 1 at ¶ 46.) This alone does not show that Plaintiff complied fully with  
5 CTCA’s presentation requirements.

6 Accordingly, Plaintiff has failed to allege facts establishing a likelihood of  
7 prevailing on the merits of his state law negligence claims.  
8

9 5. Qualified Immunity

10 The Court need not address Defendants’ qualified immunity argument as Plaintiff  
11 has failed to establish a likelihood of prevailing on the merits of his claims for the  
12 reasons stated above.

13 **B. Plaintiff Establishes No Irreparable Harm**

14 Plaintiff asserts, without identifying competent support therefor, that Defendants’  
15 care and treatment, and their failure follow Dr. Albus’ circa 2009 treatment plan, is  
16 causing him irreparable injury.  
17

18 As noted, Defendants have been providing Plaintiff with ongoing and frequent  
19 dental care and treatment, including prioritized treatment, medication for pain and  
20 infection, and prophylaxis. Dr. Rosenberg describes Plaintiff’s dental condition as non-  
21 urgent and reports that the essential care portions of Dr. Albus treatment plan which are  
22 not outdated have been or will be implemented by CDCR dentists as necessary. (Decl.  
23 of Rosenberg at ¶¶ 56-59, 61.) Inasmuch as Plaintiff apparently has not seen Dr. Albus  
24 in over two years, the logical inclination is to defer to the more current health and  
25 treatment plan prescribed by prison medical staff based upon Plaintiff’s evolving dental  
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1 condition and needs.

2 Plaintiff has not adduced facts of irreparable harm arising from Defendants'  
3 failure to fully implement Dr. Albus' treatment plan or provide implants. (Decl. of  
4 Rosenberg at ¶ 54.) The claim that Plaintiff's future dental treatment options have been  
5 impacted adversely by Defendants' care and treatment can not be said to be supported  
6 by the evidence before the Court. (Id. at ¶ 63.) Plaintiff has failed to demonstrate he is  
7 likely to suffer irreparable harm in the absence of preliminary relief. See City of Los  
8 Angeles v. Lyons, 461 U.S. 95, 101–102 (1983) (plaintiff must show "real and  
9 immediate" threat of injury, and "past exposure to illegal conduct does not in itself show  
10 a present case or controversy regarding injunctive relief . . . if unaccompanied by any  
11 continuing, present, adverse effects.")

12  
13 **C. The Equities and Public Interest do not Favor Plaintiff**

14 The absence of a likelihood of success on the merits and the failure of Plaintiff to  
15 show irreparable harm leaves nothing to tip the balance of equities in Plaintiff's favor or  
16 suggest that an injunction would be in the public interest.

17 Even the projected cost savings to the state from granting the relief sought here  
18 would not justify or enable the Court to step in and substitute its judgement for that of  
19 the Defendants. Absent the existence of exceptional circumstances not present here,  
20 the Court will not intervene in the day-to-day management of prisons. See e.g., Overton  
21 v. Bazzetta, 539 U.S. 126, 132 (2003) (prison officials entitled to substantial deference);  
22 Sandin v. Conner, 515 U.S. 472, 482-83 (1995) (disapproving the involvement of federal  
23 courts in the day-to-day-management of prisons.)

24  
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26 //

1 **V. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATION**

2 Plaintiff fails to provide facts which would enable the Court to find that he is in  
3 need of, and entitled to injunctive relief.

4 Accordingly, for the reasons stated above the Court RECOMMENDS that  
5 Plaintiff's Application for Order to Show Cause in re Temporary Restraining Order and  
6 Preliminary Injunction (ECF No. 6) be DENIED without prejudice. These findings and  
7 recommendation are submitted to the United States District Judge assigned to the case,  
8 pursuant to the provisions of Title 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1). Within fourteen (14) days after  
9 being served with these findings and recommendation, any party may file written  
10 objections with the Court and serve a copy on all parties. Such a document should be  
11 captioned "Objections to Magistrate Judge's Findings and Recommendation." Any reply  
12 to the objections shall be served and filed within ten (10) days after service of the  
13 objections. The parties are advised that failure to file objections within the specified time  
14 may waive the right to appeal the District Court's order. Martinez v. Ylst, 951 F.2d 1153  
15 (9th Cir. 1991).  
16  
17

18  
19 IT IS SO ORDERED.

20  
21 Dated: November 15, 2012

/s/ Michael J. Seng  
22 UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE  
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