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7 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**
8 **EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**
9

10 ELIAZAR G.C.,¹

Case No. 1:24-cv-01032-EPG-HC

11 Petitioner,

ORDER GRANTING IN PART PETITION
FOR WRIT OF HABEAS CORPUS

12 v.

13 MINGA WOFFORD,

14 Respondent.

15
16 Petitioner, represented by counsel, is a federal immigration detainee proceeding with a
17 petition for writ of habeas corpus pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2241. The parties have consented to
18 the jurisdiction of a United States magistrate judge. (ECF Nos. 43, 47, 48.) For the reasons set
19 forth herein, the petition for writ of habeas corpus is granted in part.

20 **I.**

21 **BACKGROUND**

22 Petitioner is a native and citizen of El Salvador. (ECF No. 1 at 8.²) In 1994, Petitioner
23 migrated to the United States.³ (*Id.* at 9.) Petitioner has been convicted of various offenses and

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¹ The Court partially redacts Petitioner's name to mitigate privacy concerns, as requested by Petitioner
25 and suggested by the Committee on Court Administration and Case Management of the Judicial
26 Conference of the United States. See Memorandum Re: Privacy Concern Regarding Social Security &
Immigration Opinions (May 1, 2018), https://www.uscourts.gov/sites/default/files/18-cv-1-suggestion_cacm_0.pdf.

27 ² Page numbers refer to ECF page numbers stamped at the top of the page.

28 ³ Petitioner alleges that he received Temporary Protected Status ("TPS"). (ECF No. 1 at 9.) Respondent
disagrees that Petitioner was admitted lawfully under TPS, which "is not granted to noncitizens who have

1 most recently was sentenced in June 2017 to an imprisonment term of seven years for forcible
2 rape of a child over fourteen. (ECF No. 1 at 9.)

3 Upon Petitioner’s release from prison on December 22, 2021, Petitioner was issued a
4 final administrative removal order under 8 U.S.C. § 1228, and the Department of Homeland
5 Security (“DHS”) detained Petitioner pursuant to 8 U.S.C. § 1231(a)(2). (ECF No. 1 at 13; ECF
6 No. 1-1 at 95; ECF No. 13 at 10.) On January 5, 2022, an asylum officer conducted a reasonable
7 fear interview, finding Petitioner was credible but had not established reasonable fear of torture
8 or persecution. (ECF No. 1 at 13.) On February 22, 2022, an immigration judge (“IJ”) held a
9 Reasonable Fear Interview Review hearing and affirmed the finding of the asylum officer. (Id.)
10 Petitioner filed a petition for review in the Ninth Circuit. (ECF No. 1 at 13; ECF No. 13-1 at 3.)

11 On June 21, 2022, Petitioner had a bond hearing before an IJ and was denied bond. (ECF
12 No. 1 at 13.) On November 28, 2022, Petitioner was the victim of a data leak when U.S.
13 Immigration and Customs Enforcement (“ICE”) published sensitive and confidential information
14 about detainees, including Petitioner, on their public-facing website. (Id.) Therefore, DHS
15 rescinded the final administrative removal order, and on February 1, 2023, issued a Notice to
16 Appear to begin new removal proceedings. (Id. at 13–14; ECF No. 13-1 at 3.)

17 On July 21, 2023, an IJ denied Petitioner’s applications for relief from removal and
18 ordered Petitioner removed to El Salvador. (ECF No. 28 at 2; ECF No. 28-2.) On January 18,
19 2024, the Board of Immigration Appeals (“BIA”) dismissed Petitioner’s appeal. (ECF No. 28 at
20 2; ECF No. 28-3.) On January 22, 2024, Petitioner filed a petition for review in the Ninth Circuit,
21 and Petitioner was granted a temporary stay of removal. (ECF No. 28 at 2.) On December 5,
22 2024, the Ninth Circuit denied Petitioner’s petition for review. (Memorandum Disposition,
23 E.G.C. v. Bondi, No. 24-348 (9th Cir. Dec. 5, 2024), ECF No. 49.⁴) On December 18, 2024, the

24 not been continuously residing in the United States, and there is not a right to derivative TPS through a
25 family member.” (ECF No. 13 at 9 n.1.) At minimum, “it is clear that [Petitioner] entered the United
26 States in 1994, when he was a minor, and subsequently obtained work authorization based on a
humanitarian application.” (ECF No. 14-1 at 3.)

27 ⁴ The Court “may take notice of proceedings in other courts, both within and without the federal judicial
28 system, if those proceedings have a direct relation to matters at issue.” U.S. ex rel. Robinson Rancheria
Citizens Council v. Borneo, Inc., 971 F.2d 244, 248 (9th Cir. 1992) (internal quotation marks and citation
omitted)). See also United States v. Raygoza-Garcia, 902 F.3d 994, 1001 (9th Cir. 2018) (“A court may

1 Ninth Circuit ordered that the temporary stay of removal shall remain in place until the mandate
2 issues. (Order, E.G.C., No. 24-348 (9th Cir. Dec. 18, 2024), ECF No. 52.) On February 20, 2025,
3 Petitioner filed a petition for panel rehearing and rehearing *en banc*. (Petition, E.G.C., No. 24-
4 348 (9th Cir. Feb. 20, 2025), ECF No. 58.)

5 Meanwhile, on June 26, 2023, Petitioner filed a petition for writ of habeas corpus in the
6 United States District Court for the Northern District of California, challenging his prolonged
7 immigration detention. (ECF No. 1.) On July 21, 2023, Respondent filed an answer. (ECF No.
8 13.) On August 3, 2023, Petitioner filed a traverse. (ECF No. 14.) On June 6, 2024, the parties
9 filed supplemental briefs addressing Doe v. Becerra, 732 F. Supp. 3d 1071 (N.D. Cal. 2024).
10 (ECF Nos. 26, 27.) On August 28, 2024, the United States District Court for the Northern
11 District of California issued an order transferring the petition to this Court in light of Doe v.
12 Garland, 109 F.4th 1188 (9th Cir. 2024). (ECF No. 35.)

13 On September 16, 2024, this Court granted Petitioner leave to file a motion to amend the
14 petition to name a proper respondent. (ECF No. 41.) On September 26, 2024, Petitioner filed a
15 motion to amend the petition to name the correct respondent. (ECF No. 42.) On November 12,
16 2024, Respondent filed a motion to dismiss. (ECF No. 51.) On February 4, 2025, the Court
17 granted Petitioner's motion to amend and granted in part and denied in part Respondent's motion
18 to dismiss. (ECF No. 53.)

19 **II.**

20 **DISCUSSION**

21 **A. Immigration Detention Statutes and Bond Hearings**

22 Congress has enacted a complex statutory scheme governing the detention of noncitizens
23 during removal proceedings and following the issuance of a final order of removal. “Where an
24 alien falls within this statutory scheme can affect whether his detention is mandatory or
25 discretionary, as well as the kind of review process available to him if he wishes to contest the
26

27 take judicial notice of undisputed matters of public record, which may include court records available
28 through PACER.”); Reyn's Pasta Bella, LLC v. Visa USA, Inc., 442 F.3d 741, 746 n.6 (9th Cir. 2006)
 (“We may take judicial notice of court filings and other matters of public record.”).

1 necessity of his detention.” Prieto-Romero v. Clark, 534 F.3d 1053, 1057 (9th Cir. 2008). Here,
2 Petitioner is detained pursuant to 8 U.S.C. § 1226(c),⁵ which provides:

3 (c) Detention of criminal aliens

4 (1) Custody

5 The Attorney General shall take into custody any alien who--

6 (A) is inadmissible by reason of having committed any
7 offense covered in section 1182(a)(2) of this title,

8 (B) is deportable by reason of having committed any
9 offense covered in section 1227(a)(2)(A)(ii), (A)(iii), (B),
(C), or (D) of this title,

10 (C) is deportable under section 1227(a)(2)(A)(i) of this title
11 on the basis of an offense for which the alien has been
12 sentenced¹ to a term of imprisonment of at least 1 year, or

13 (D) is inadmissible under section 1182(a)(3)(B) of this title
14 or deportable under section 1227(a)(4)(B) of this title,

15 when the alien is released, without regard to whether the
16 alien is released on parole, supervised release, or probation,
17 and without regard to whether the alien may be arrested or
18 imprisoned again for the same offense.

19 (2) Release

20 The Attorney General may release an alien described in
21 paragraph (1) only if the Attorney General decides pursuant to
22 section 3521 of Title 18 that release of the alien from custody
23 is necessary to provide protection to a witness, a potential
24 witness, a person cooperating with an investigation into major
25 criminal activity, or an immediate family member or close
26 associate of a witness, potential witness, or person cooperating
27 with such an investigation, and the alien satisfies the Attorney
28 General that the alien will not pose a danger to the safety of
other persons or of property and is likely to appear for any
scheduled proceeding. A decision relating to such release shall
take place in accordance with a procedure that considers the
severity of the offense committed by the alien.

29 8 U.S.C. § 1226(c).

30 In Zadvydas v. Davis, 533 U.S. 678 (2001), the Supreme Court addressed a challenge to
31 prolonged detention under § 1231(a)(6) by noncitizens who “had been ordered removed by the

32 _____
33 ⁵ The Ninth Circuit has “conclude[d] that Subsection C applies throughout the administrative and judicial phases of
34 removal proceedings.” Avilez v. Garland, 69 F.4th 525, 535 (9th Cir. 2023).

1 government and all administrative and judicial review was exhausted, but their removal could
2 not be effectuated because their designated countries either refused to accept them or the United
3 States lacked a repatriation treaty with the receiving country.” Prieto–Romero, 534 F.3d at 1062
4 (citing Zadvydas, 533 U.S. at 684–86). The Supreme Court held that § 1231(a)(6) does not
5 authorize indefinite detention and “limits an alien’s post-removal-period detention to a period
6 reasonably necessary to bring about that alien’s removal from the United States.” Zadvydas, 533
7 U.S. at 689. Thus, after a presumptively reasonable detention period of six months, a noncitizen
8 was entitled to release if “it has been determined that there is no significant likelihood of removal
9 in the reasonably foreseeable future.” Id. at 701.

10 In Demore v. Kim, 538 U.S. 510 (2003), the Supreme Court rejected a facial challenge to
11 mandatory detention under 8 U.S.C. § 1226(c). The Supreme Court upheld its “longstanding
12 view that the Government may constitutionally detain deportable aliens during the limited period
13 necessary for their removal proceedings.” Id. at 526. The Supreme Court distinguished Zadvydas
14 by emphasizing that mandatory detention under § 1226(c) has “a definite termination point” and
15 “in the majority of cases it lasts for less than the 90 days . . . considered presumptively valid in
16 Zadvydas.” Id. at 529. However, Justice Kennedy specifically noted that “a lawful permanent
17 resident alien such as respondent could be entitled to an individualized determination as to his
18 risk of flight and dangerousness if the continued detention became unreasonable or unjustified.”
19 Demore, 538 U.S. at 532 (Kennedy, J., concurring).

20 “In a series of decisions, the [Ninth Circuit] . . . grappled in piece-meal fashion with
21 whether the various immigration detention statutes may authorize indefinite or prolonged
22 detention of detainees and, if so, may do so without providing a bond hearing.” Rodriguez v.
23 Hayes (Rodriguez I), 591 F.3d 1105, 1114 (9th Cir. 2010). This culminated in Rodriguez v.
24 Robbins (Rodriguez III), 804 F.3d 1060 (9th Cir. 2015), in which the Ninth Circuit held that for
25 noncitizens detained under 8 U.S.C. §§ 1225(b), 1226(a), and 1226(c), “the government must
26 provide periodic bond hearings every six months so that noncitizens may challenge their
27 continued detention as ‘the period of . . . confinement grows.’” 804 F.3d at 1089 (quoting Diouf
28 v. Napolitano (Diouf II), 634 F.3d 1081, 1091 (9th Cir. 2011)). Importantly, the Ninth Circuit

1 applied the canon of constitutional avoidance to interpret these immigration detention provisions
2 as providing a *statutory* right to a bond hearing once detention become prolonged. See Rodriguez
3 Diaz v. Garland, 53 F.4th 1189, 1195 (9th Cir. 2022).

4 In Jennings v. Rodriguez, 583 U.S. 281 (2018), the Supreme Court found the Ninth
5 Circuit’s interpretation that § 1226(c) included “an implicit 6-month time limit on the length of
6 mandatory detention” fell “far short of a ‘plausible statutory construction,’” and held that the
7 Ninth Circuit misapplied the constitutional avoidance canon to find a statutory right under 8
8 U.S.C. § 1226(a) to “periodic bond hearings every six months in which the Attorney General
9 must prove by clear and convincing evidence that the alien’s continued detention is necessary.”
10 Jennings, 583 U.S. at 304, 296, 306. The case was remanded to the Ninth Circuit “to consider
11 [the] constitutional arguments on their merits.” Id. at 312. The Ninth Circuit likewise remanded
12 the case to the district court to consider the constitutional arguments in the first instance but
13 observed that it had “grave doubts that any statute that allows for arbitrary prolonged detention
14 without any process is constitutional or that those who founded our democracy precisely to
15 protect against the arbitrary deprivation of liberty would have thought so.” Rodriguez v. Marin,
16 909 F.3d 252, 255, 256 (9th Cir. 2018).

17 There has been “a dearth of guidance regarding the point at which an individual’s
18 continued mandatory detention under Section 1226(c) becomes unconstitutional.” Gonzalez v.
19 Bonnar, No. 18-cv-05321-JSC, 2019 WL 330906, at *3 (N.D. Cal. Jan. 25, 2019). See Rodriguez
20 Diaz, 53 F.4th at 1201, 1203 (observing that “it remains undetermined whether the Due Process
21 Clause requires additional bond procedures under *any* immigration detention statute,” and noting
22 that both the Ninth Circuit “and the Supreme Court have repeatedly declined to decide
23 constitutional challenges to bond hearing procedures in the immigration detention context”). The
24 Ninth Circuit has yet to take a position on whether due process requires a bond hearing for
25 noncitizens detained under 8 U.S.C. § 1226(c), but it has recognized that “district courts
26 throughout this circuit have ordered immigration courts to conduct bond hearings for noncitizens
27 held for prolonged periods under § 1226(c)” based on due process and noted that “[a]ccording to
28 one such court order, the ‘prolonged mandatory detention pending removal proceedings, without

1 a bond hearing, will—at some point—violate the right to due process.”” Martinez v. Clark, 36
2 F.4th 1219, 1223 (9th Cir. 2022) (citation omitted), vacated on other grounds, 144 S. Ct. 1339
3 (2024).

4 **B. Due Process Clause of the Fifth Amendment**

5 “The Due Process Clause of the Fifth Amendment mandates that ‘[n]o person shall . . . be
6 deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law.’” United States v. Quintero, 995
7 F.3d 1044, 1051 (9th Cir. 2021) (quoting U.S. Const. amend. V). “The Due Process Clause
8 ‘protects individuals against two types of government action’: violations of substantive due
9 process and procedural due process.” Id. (quoting United States v. Salerno, 481 U.S. 739, 746
10 (1987)). “[S]ubstantive due process prevents the government from engaging in conduct that
11 shocks the conscience, or interferes with rights implicit in the concept of ordered liberty.”
12 Salerno, 481 U.S. at 746 (internal quotation marks and citations omitted). “When government
13 action depriving a person of life, liberty, or property survives substantive due process scrutiny, it
14 must still be implemented in a fair manner. This requirement has traditionally been referred to as
15 ‘procedural’ due process.” Salerno, 481 U.S. at 746 (citation omitted).

16 1. Procedural Due Process

17 Petitioner contends that “[i]mmigration detention that exceeds six months is prolonged,
18 and therefore presumptively unconstitutional without an individualized hearing.” (ECF No. 1 at
19 23.) Petitioner notes that “[c]ourts that have declined to apply a bright-line rule consider
20 procedural due process challenges to section 1226(c) detention under the Supreme Court’s
21 longstanding *Mathews v. Eldridge* test.” (Id. at 25.) Respondent asserts that Petitioner’s detention
22 does not violate his right to procedural due process and “[e]ven assuming without conceding that
23 *Mathews* applies here, it would not result in an additional hearing.” (ECF No. 13 at 27.)

24 Courts in the Ninth circuit have taken a variety of approaches to determine whether due
25 process requires a bond hearing in a particular case. See, e.g., Rodriguez v. Nielsen, No. 18-cv-
26 04187-TSH, 2019 WL 7491555, at *6 (N.D. Cal. Jan. 7, 2019) (applying a bright-line rule
27 “detention becomes prolonged after six months and entitles [the petitioner] to a bond hearing”);
28 Banda v. McAleenan, 385 F. Supp. 3d 1099, 1117 (W.D. Wash. 2019) (considering six factors,

1 which include: “(1) the total length of detention to date; (2) the likely duration of future
2 detention; (3) the conditions of detention; (4) delays in the removal proceedings caused by the
3 detainee; (5) delays in the removal proceedings caused by the government; and (6) the likelihood
4 that the removal proceedings will result in a final order of removal”); Juarez v. Wolf, No. C20-
5 1660-RJB-MLP, 2021 WL 2323436, at *4 (W.D. Wash. May 5, 2021) (considering, in addition
6 to six factors set forth above, “whether the detention will exceed the time the petitioner spent in
7 prison for the crime that made him [or her] removable” and “the nature of the crimes the
8 petitioner committed”), report and recommendation adopted, 2021 WL 2322823 (W.D. Wash.
9 June 7, 2021); Lopez v. Garland, 631 F. Supp. 3d 870, 879 (E.D. Cal. 2022) (considering “the
10 total length of detention to date, the likely duration of future detention, and the delays in the
11 removal proceedings caused by the petitioner and the government”).

12 There are also some courts that apply the three-part test set forth in Mathews v. Eldridge,
13 424 U.S. 319 (1976). See Zagal-Alcaraz v. ICE Field Off., No. 3:19-cv-01358-SB, 2020 WL
14 1862254, at *3–4 (D. Or. Mar. 25, 2020) (collecting cases), report and recommendation adopted,
15 2020 WL 1855189 (D. Or. Apr. 13, 2020). In Rodriguez Diaz, which concerned a noncitizen
16 detained pursuant to 8 U.S.C. § 1226(a) and whether “continued detention was unconstitutional
17 because under the Due Process Clause of the Fifth Amendment, he is entitled to a second bond
18 hearing at which the government bears the burden of proof by clear and convincing evidence,”
19 the panel majority “assume[d] without deciding” that the Mathews test applied, noting that the
20 Ninth Circuit has “regularly applied *Mathews* to due process challenges to removal
21 proceedings,” and finding “*Mathews* remains a flexible test that can and must account for the
22 heightened governmental interest in the immigration detention context.” Rodriguez Diaz, 53
23 F.4th at 1193, 1206. Similarly, the dissent “agree[d] that the test developed in *Mathews v.*
24 *Eldridge*, 424 U.S. 319, 96 S.Ct. 893, 47 L.Ed.2d 18 (1976), is the appropriate legal framework
25 to determine whether there was a due process violation.” Rodriguez Diaz, 53 F.4th at 1219
26 (Wardlaw, J., dissenting). See also Black v. Decker, 103 F.4th 133, 147 (2d Cir. 2024)
27 (“conclud[ing] that due process challenges to prolonged detention under section 1226(c) should
28 also be reviewed under *Mathews*”). Some courts look to whether the petitioner is requesting an

1 initial bond hearing or a second bond hearing in deciding whether to apply the Mathews test
2 because “[w]hile the Mathews factors may be well-suited to determining whether due process
3 requires a second bond hearing, they are not particularly dispositive of whether prolonged
4 mandatory detention has become unreasonable in a particular case.” Djelassi v. ICE Field Office
5 Dir., No. C19-491-RSM, 2020 WL 263670, at *2 (W.D. Wash. Jan. 17, 2020) (quoting Banda,
6 385 F. Supp. 3d at 1118).

7 Given that the parties have addressed the Mathews test in their pleadings and the fact that
8 Petitioner is seeking a second bond hearing, the Court will apply the Mathews test in addition to
9 addressing the bright-line rule and whether Demore precludes relief.

10 **a. Demore**

11 To the extent Respondent argues that Demore forecloses relief, the Court finds the
12 Second Circuit’s decision in Black v. Decker, 103 F.4th 133 (2d Cir. 2024), instructive. As set
13 forth above, the Supreme Court rejected a *facial* challenge to mandatory detention under 8
14 U.S.C. § 1226(c) in Demore,⁶ upholding its “longstanding view that the Government may
15 constitutionally detain deportable aliens during the *limited* period necessary for their removal
16 proceedings.”⁷ 538 U.S. at 526 (emphasis added). Demore “said nothing about whether due
17 process may *eventually* require a hearing.” Black, 103 F.4th at 149 (emphasis in original).

18 If Demore had, in fact, foreclosed the due process challenge now
19 before us, the Jennings Court would have had no reason to remand
to the Ninth Circuit “to consider . . . in the first instance” the

20 ⁶ See Demore, 538 U.S. at 514 (“Respondent . . . filed a habeas corpus action pursuant to 28 U.S.C.
21 § 2241 . . . challenging the constitutionality of § 1226(c) *itself*.” (emphasis added)); Black, 103 F.4th at
22 150 n.23 (noting that in Demore “the length of . . . detention was not at issue—only ‘the constitutionality
of § 1226(c) *itself*.’” (citing Demore, 538 U.S. at 514, 530–31)).

23 ⁷ Demore noted that “the detention at stake under § 1226(c) lasts roughly a month and a half in the vast
24 majority of cases in which it is invoked, and about five months in the minority of cases in which the alien
25 chooses to appeal,” relying on statistics from the Executive Office for Immigration Review (“EOIR”).
26 538 U.S. at 530. However, “[t]hirteen years after the decision in Demore, the government admitted that
27 the figures it provided to the Court, and which the Court relied on, contained ‘several significant errors,’”
28 and for the years 1999–2001, the “average length of detention in cases where the alien appealed [was] 382
days, or a little more than a year.” Rodriguez v. Nielsen, No. 18-CV-04187-TSH, 2019 WL 7491555, at
*5 (N.D. Cal. Jan. 7, 2019) (citations omitted). “The data from the Jennings case show that 460 members
of the respondent section 1226(c) subclass were detained for an average of 427 days (over fourteen
months) with some individual detention periods exceeding four years.” Id. (citation omitted). The
Government Accountability Office conducted a study and “found that as of 2015, the median length of
time it takes the BIA to complete an appeal of a removal order exceeds 450 days.” Id. (citation omitted).

1 detainees' argument that "[a]bsent . . . a bond-hearing requirement,
2 . . . [section 1226(c)] would violate the Due Process Clause of the
3 Fifth Amendment."

4 Black, 103 F.4th at 149 (quoting Jennings, 583 U.S. at 291, 312). Accordingly, the Court finds
5 that Demore does not necessarily preclude relief.

6 **b. Bright-Line Rule**

7 The First, Second, and Third Circuits have "reject[ed] a bright-line constitutional rule
8 requiring a bond hearing after six months of detention—or after any fixed period of detention—in
9 the context of a Congressional mandate, in the immigration context, to detain." Black, 103
10 F.4th at 150 (citing Reid v. Donelan, 17 F.4th 1, 7–9 (1st Cir. 2021); German Santos v. Warden
11 Pike Cnty. Corr. Facility, 965 F.3d 203, 211 (3d Cir. 2020)). The Court finds such authority
12 persuasive and declines to adopt a bright-line rule that detention without a bond hearing is
13 presumptively unconstitutional when it exceeds six months.

14 **c. Mathews Test**

15 In Mathews, the Supreme Court held that "identification of the specific dictates of due
16 process generally requires consideration of three distinct factors":

17 First, the private interest that will be affected by the official action;
18 second, the risk of erroneous deprivation of such interest through
19 the procedures used, and the probable value, if any, of additional or
substitute procedural safeguards; and finally, the Government's
interest, including the function involved and the fiscal and
administrative burdens that the additional or substitute procedural
requirements would entail.

20 Mathews, 424 U.S. at 334.

21 *i. Private Interest*

22 With respect to the first factor, the Court finds that the private interest at issue here is
23 fundamental. "Freedom from imprisonment—from government custody, detention, or other
24 forms of physical restraint—lies at the heart of the liberty [the Due Process] Clause
25 protects." Zadvydas, 533 U.S. at 690. The Ninth Circuit has held that it "is beyond dispute" an
immigration detainee's "private interest at issue here is 'fundamental': freedom from
26 imprisonment is at the 'core of the liberty protected by the Due Process Clause.'" Hernandez v.
27 Sessions, 872 F.3d 976, 993 (9th Cir. 2017) (quoting Foucha v. Louisiana, 504 U.S. 71, 80

1 (1992)). See Rodriguez Diaz, 53 F.4th at 1207 (“We have also held, more generally, that an
2 individual’s private interest in ‘freedom from prolonged detention’ is ‘unquestionably
3 substantial.’ . . . Rodriguez Diaz has a legitimate and reasonably strong private liberty interest
4 under *Mathews*.” (quoting Singh, 638 F.3d at 1208)).

5 The Court is cognizant that “it is important not to overstate the strength of [Petitioner]’s
6 showing under the first *Mathews* factor,” and that “under the first prong of the *Mathews* analysis,
7 we cannot simply count his months of detention and leave it at that.” Rodriguez Diaz, 53 F.4th at
8 1207, 1208. The Court has considered that Petitioner has received one bond hearing before an IJ
9 and acknowledges his “private interests are further diminished by the fact that he is subject to an
10 order of removal from the United States.” Id. at 1208.

11 Based on the foregoing, the Court finds that the first Mathews factor weighs in favor of
12 Petitioner.

13 *ii. Risk of Erroneous Deprivation*

14 With respect to the second factor, the Court considers the risk of erroneous deprivation of
15 Petitioner’s liberty interest and the probable value of additional procedural safeguards. “In
16 evaluating the risk of erroneous deprivation in the context of noncitizen detention, the Ninth
17 Circuit has looked to whether the detainee has a statutory right to procedural protections, such as
18 individualized custody determinations and the right to seek additional bond hearings throughout
19 detention.” Jensen v. Garland, No. 5:21-cv-01195-CAS (AFM), 2023 WL 3246522, at *6 (C.D.
20 Cal. May 3, 2023) (citing Rodriguez Diaz, 53 F.4th at 1209–10 (finding a small risk of erroneous
21 deprivation where petitioner was detained under § 1226(a) and thus received numerous
22 procedural protections, including individualized custody determinations and right to seek
23 additional bond hearings)).

24 On December 28, 2021, ICE conducted a custody review pursuant to Fraihat v. U.S.
25 Immigr. & Customs Enf’t, 445 F. Supp. 3d 709 (C.D. Cal. 2020), vacated, 2022 WL 20212706
26 (C.D. Cal. Sept. 16, 2022).⁸ ICE concluded that detention was warranted. (ECF No. 13 at 12;

27
28 ⁸ The district court “certified two nationwide classes and issued a preliminary injunction that applied to all
immigration detention facilities in the United States. The injunction imposed a broad range of obligations

1 ECF No. 13-1 at 3.) On February 8, 2022, ICE conducted another custody review pursuant to
2 Fraihat and concluded that continued detention was warranted based on Petitioner's risk to
3 public safety. (Id.) On June 21, 2022, Petitioner had an individualized bond hearing before an IJ
4 pursuant to Aleman Gonzalez v. Barr, 955 F.3d 762 (9th Cir. 2020), rev'd and remanded,
5 Garland v. Aleman Gonzalez, 596 U.S. 543 (2022),⁹ where the government had the burden of
6 establishing by clear and convincing evidence that Petitioner posed a danger to the community or
7 a flight risk if released. (ECF No. 1 at 13; ECF No. 13 at 11; ECF No. 13-1 at 3.) At the hearing,
8 Petitioner presented evidence regarding his ties to the community and his rehabilitation. ((ECF
9 No. 1 at 13.) The IJ found Petitioner a danger to the community and denied bond. (ECF No. 1 at
10 13; ECF No. 13 at 11; ECF No. 13-1 at 3-4, 39.) Petitioner had the right to appeal that decision
11 to the BIA, and to the extent the agency made errors of law in denying Petitioner's request for
12 release on bond, the decision "would also be subject to judicial review in habeas." Rodriguez
13 Diaz, 53 F.4th at 1210.

14 Like the petitioner in Rodriguez Diaz, the determination to detain Petitioner "was subject
15 to numerous levels of review, each offering [Petitioner] the opportunity to be heard by a neutral
16 decisionmaker. These procedures ensured that the risk of erroneous deprivation would be
17 'relatively small.'" Rodriguez Diaz, 53 F.4th at 1210 (quoting Yagman v. Garcetti, 852 F.3d 859,
18 865 (9th Cir. 2017)).

19 On the other hand, Petitioner is now detained under § 1226(c) and thus, does not have a
20 statutory right to a bond hearing or the right to seek additional bond hearings. As additional
21 procedures are not mandated under § 1226(c), the risk of erroneous deprivation as Petitioner's
22 time in detention lengthens is not insignificant. Moreover, it has been thirty-two months since

23 on the federal government, including ordering ICE to identify and track detainees with certain risk factors
24 that the district court identified; requiring ICE to issue a comprehensive Performance Standard covering a
25 myriad of COVID-19-related topics, such as social distancing and cleaning policies; and setting directives
26 for releasing detainees from custody altogether." Fraihat v. U.S. Immigr. & Customs Enf't, 16 F.4th 613,
27 618 (9th Cir. 2021).

28 ⁹ The district court certified a class of individuals who were subject to final removal orders and were
29 detained pursuant to 8 U.S.C. § 1231(a)(6) and issued a preliminary injunction that "require[d] a bond
30 hearing before an IJ after six months of detention for an alien whose release or removal is not imminent"
31 where the government bore "a clear and convincing burden of proof at such a bond hearing to justify an
32 alien's continued detention." Aleman Gonzalez, 955 F.3d at 766.

1 Petitioner's first bond hearing, and since then Petitioner has "completed dozens of additional
2 programs, including courses such as 'advanced interpersonal communication,' 'adapting to
3 change,' and 'anger management.'" (ECF No. 1 at 40.) Petitioner also enrolled in new substance
4 abuse programs and has continued to attend bible study sessions. (ECF No. 14-1 at 3.) Thus,
5 there is value in an additional bond hearing after almost three years of detention with new
6 developments regarding Petitioner's rehabilitation efforts.

7 Again, the Court is cognizant that it should not overstate the strength of Petitioner's
8 showing here. As noted above, Petitioner already had one bond hearing before an IJ where the
9 government bore the burden of establishing by clear and convincing evidence detention was
10 warranted. Additionally, in light of Petitioner's criminal history¹⁰ and the finding of
11 dangerousness by an IJ given Petitioner's 2017 conviction for rape of a minor, it is not certain
12 that consideration in a new bond hearing of Petitioner's completion of programs on
13 communication, anger management, and substance abuse would result in a different detention
14 determination.¹¹

15 Based on the foregoing, the Court finds that the second Mathews factor weighs in favor
16 of Petitioner.

17 *iii. Government's Interest*

18 With respect to the third and final factor, the Court recognizes that "the government
19 clearly has a strong interest in preventing aliens from 'remain[ing] in the United States in
20

21 ¹⁰ On September 1, 1999, Petitioner was convicted of driving without a license and sentenced to twelve
22 months of probation and five days imprisonment. (ECF No. 13 at 9.) On July 20, 2009, Petitioner was
23 convicted of driving without a license and failure to appear for a traffic violation. (Id.) On June 24, 2002,
24 Petitioner was convicted of driving under the influence of alcohol and sentenced to thirty-six months of
25 probation and thirteen days imprisonment. (Id.) On August 20, 2004, Petitioner was convicted of driving
under the influence of alcohol and willful cruelty to a child and sentenced to forty-eight months of
26 probation and thirty days imprisonment. (ECF No. 13 at 10.) On September 14, 2014, Petitioner was
convicted of driving with a suspended license and sentenced to thirty-six months of probation and 120
27 days imprisonment. (Id.) On June 2, 2017, Petitioner was convicted of forcible rape on a child victim over
28 fourteen years and sentenced to seven years imprisonment. (Id.)

¹¹ Counsel for Petitioner claims that Petitioner has not consumed alcohol or drugs since June 2016. (ECF
No. 1-1 at 3.) Petitioner forcibly raped a minor in 2017. (ECF No. 1 at 9; ECF No. 13-1 at 31.). As noted
by Respondent, Petitioner was approximately forty years old when he committed that offense, and "[t]hat
Petitioner raped a minor while not drinking or on drugs undermines any claim that his purported
abstinence from alcohol or drugs renders him non-dangerous." (ECF No. 27 at 5.)

1 violation of our law”” and “has an obvious interest in ‘protecting the public from dangerous
2 criminal aliens.”” Rodriguez Diaz, 53 F.4th at 1208 (quoting Demore, 538 U.S. at 518, 515). The
3 Ninth Circuit has stated that “[t]hese are interests of the highest order that only increase with the
4 passage of time,” noting that “[t]he longer detention lasts and the longer the challenges to an IJ’s
5 order of removal take, the more resources the government devotes to securing an alien’s ultimate
6 removal” and “[t]he risk of a detainee absconding also inevitably escalates as the time for
7 removal becomes more imminent.” Rodriguez Diaz, 53 F.4th at 1208.

8 However, it is important to stress that “the governmental issue at stake [here] is the
9 ability to detain Petitioner *without providing him with another bond hearing*, not whether the
10 government may continue to detain him.” Lopez Reyes v. Bonnar, 362 F. Supp. 3d 762, 777
11 (N.D. Cal. 2019) (emphasis in original). See Zerezghi v. U.S. Citizenship & Immigr. Servs., 955
12 F.3d 802, 810 (9th Cir. 2020) (noting that “the question [under the third Mathews factor] is *not*
13 the government’s interest in immigration enforcement” “in general” (emphasis added));
14 Henriquez v. Garland, No. 5:22-cv-00869-EJD, 2022 WL 2132919, at *5 (N.D. Cal. June 14,
15 2022) (“Although the Government has a strong interest in enforcing the immigration laws and in
16 ensuring that lawfully issued removal orders are promptly executed, the Government’s interest in
17 detaining Petitioner without providing an individualized bond hearing is low.”).

18 Courts generally have found that the cost of providing a bond hearing is relatively
19 minimal, and there is nothing in the record before this Court demonstrating that providing
20 Petitioner with a bond hearing would be fiscally or administratively burdensome. See Marroquin
21 Ambriz v. Barr, 420 F. Supp. 3d 953, 964 (N.D. Cal. 2019) (noting in context of a § 1226(a)
22 detention, the parties did not contest “that the cost of conducting a bond hearing, to determine
23 whether the continued detention of Petitioner is justified, is minimal”); Singh v. Barr, 400 F.
24 Supp. 3d 1005, 1021 (S.D. Cal. 2019) (noting in the context of § 1226(a) detention that “[t]he
25 government has not offered any indication that a [] bond hearing would have outside effects on
26 its coffers”).

27 Accordingly, the third Mathews factor weighs in favor of Petitioner.

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iv. *Weighing the Factors*

Based on the foregoing, the Court finds that each of the Mathews factors weighs in favor of Petitioner. Accordingly, the Court finds that Petitioner is entitled to a second bond hearing.

2. Substantive Due Process

Petitioner also asserts that his “continued detention violates his substantive due process rights because his detention is excessive in relation to the government interests of preventing flight or danger to the community.” (ECF No. 1 at 18.) “As an initial matter, the mere fact that a person is detained does not inexorably lead to the conclusion that the government has imposed punishment.” Salerno, 481 U.S. at 746 (citing *Bell v. Wolfish*, 441 U.S. 520, 537 (1979)).

However, “[i]t is undisputed that at some point, . . . detention can ‘become excessively prolonged, and therefore punitive,’ resulting in a due process violation.” United States v. Torres, 995 F.3d 695, 708 (9th Cir. 2021) (quoting Salerno, 481 U.S. at 747 n.4). “The point at which detention constitutes a due process violation requires a case-by-case analysis.” Torres, 995 F.3d at 708 (citing United States v. Gelfuso, 838 F.2d 358, 359–60 (9th Cir. 1988)). “A due process violation occurs when detention becomes punitive rather than regulatory, meaning there is no regulatory purpose that can rationally be assigned to the detention or the detention appears excessive in relation to its regulatory purpose.” Torres, 995 F.3d at 708 (citing Salerno, 481 U.S. at 747).

“[W]hile the existence of some threshold of *per se* due process violation may be ‘undisputed,’ it has also never been clearly delineated in the context of immigration detention.” Doe v. Becerra, 704 F. Supp. 3d 1006, 1020 (N.D. Cal. 2023) (citation omitted), rev’d on other grounds, Doe v. Garland, 109 F.4th 1188 (9th Cir. 2024).

As Petitioner’s second bond hearing might render his substantive due process challenge moot, the Court will hold the substantive due process challenge in abeyance pending the outcome of the bond hearing. See Doe, 704 F. Supp. 3d at 1020.

C. Remedy

Here, Petitioner “requests that this Court hold the evidentiary hearing itself, rather than ordering an immigration court to undertake the same inquiry.” (ECF No. 1 at 43.) Petitioner also

1 argues that “DHS bears the burden of justifying continued confinement by clear and convincing
2 evidence.” (*Id.* at 44.) Respondent contends that “the appropriate relief is not immediate release,
3 but a new bond hearing before an IJ (not a bail hearing before this Court),” noting that “[c]ircuit
4 courts that have evaluated pre-order detentions (pre-*Jennings*) have determined that an IJ bond
5 hearing is the appropriate remedy for unreasonably prolonged detention.” (ECF No. 13 at 29.)

6 “The Court finds, consistent with other post-*Jennings* cases, that the appropriate remedy
7 is a bond hearing before an immigration judge[.]” *Lopez*, 631 F. Supp. 3d at 882. *See Martinez*
8 *Leiva v. Becerra*, No. 23-cv-02027-CRB, 2023 WL 3688097, at *9 (N.D. Cal. May 26, 2023)
9 (“The Court further concludes that the appropriate remedy here is a bond hearing, and that an IJ,
10 not the Court, should conduct it[.]” (footnote omitted)); *Mansoor v. Figueroa*, No. 3:17-cv-
11 01695-GPC (NLS), 2018 WL 840253, at *4 (S.D. Cal. Feb. 13, 2018) (“The Court finds the IJ is
12 uniquely qualified and situated to make neutral administrative determinations about Petitioner’s
13 eligibility for release on bond and/or placement in a supervised release program such as ISAP.”).

14 The Court now turns to the burden of proof at the bond hearing and which party should
15 bear such burden. Petitioner argues that the government must bear the burden of proof by clear
16 and convincing evidence, citing to *Singh v. Holder*, 638 F.3d 1196, 1203 (9th Cir. 2011). (ECF
17 No. 1 at 44.) Respondent contends that “if the Court determines that an additional bond hearing
18 before an IJ is required, Petitioner should bear the burden in accordance with statute, the
19 Constitution, and the Ninth Circuit’s decision in *Rodriguez Diaz*.” (ECF No. 13 at 30.)

20 Having “previously applied the canon of constitutional avoidance to interpret . . .
21 immigration provisions—8 U.S.C. §§ 1225(b), 1226(c), and 1231(a)(6)—as providing a statutory
22 right to a bond hearing once detention becomes prolonged,” the Ninth Circuit in *Singh*
23 “concluded that for these hearings to comply with due process, the government had to bear the
24 burden of proving by clear and convincing evidence that the alien poses a flight risk or a danger
25 to the community.” *Rodriguez Diaz*, 53 F.4th at 1196 (citing *Singh*, 638 F.3d at 1203–05).
26 Although *Rodriguez Diaz* may have declined to impose the standard articulated in *Singh*, the
27 panel majority specifically stated that it was not “decid[ing] whether *Singh* remains good law in
28 any respect following *Jennings*” and even recognized that *Singh* was based “on general

1 principles of procedural due process, reasoning that a detained person's liberty interest is
2 substantial." Rodriguez Diaz, 53 F.4th at 1202 n.4, 1199. Additionally, the Ninth Circuit has
3 suggested post-Jennings that Singh remains good law in Martinez v. Clark, which took "no
4 position" on "[w]hether due process requires a bond hearing for aliens detained under
5 § 1226(c)," but did address "the scope of federal court review of those bond determinations" and
6 found with respect to a bond hearing for a noncitizen detained under § 1226(c) that "the BIA
7 properly noted that the government bore the burden to establish by clear and convincing
8 evidence that Martinez is a danger to the community." Martinez, 36 F.4th at 1223, 1231. On
9 remand, and after Rodriguez Diaz was decided, the Martinez panel reconfirmed "that the
10 government bore the burden to establish by clear and convincing evidence that Martinez is a
11 danger to the community" and "that the BIA applied the correct burden of proof." Martinez v.
12 Clark, 124 F.4th 775, 785, 786 (9th Cir. 2024).

13 The Court will follow the "overwhelming majority of courts that have held that the
14 government must justify the continued confinement of a non-citizen detainee under § 1226(c) by
15 clear and convincing evidence that the non-citizen is a flight risk or a danger to the community,"
16 Sanchez-Rivera, 2023 WL 139801, at *7, even post-Rodriguez Diaz. See, e.g., Black, 103 F.4th
17 at 138 ("[T]he district court properly required the government to show at such a bond hearing, by
18 clear and convincing evidence, the necessity of his continued detention. It further correctly
19 directed the immigration judge ("IJ"), in setting his bond and establishing appropriate terms for
20 his potential release, to consider his ability to pay and alternative means of assuring
21 appearance."); Pham v. Becerra, 717 F. Supp. 3d 877, 888 (N.D. Cal. 2024); J.P. v. Garland, 685
22 F. Supp. 3d 943, 949 (N.D. Cal. 2023).

23 In the event Petitioner is determined not to be a danger to the community and not to be so
24 great a flight risk as to require detention without bond, the IJ should consider Petitioner's
25 financial circumstances or alternative conditions of release. See Hernandez, 872 F.3d at 1000;
26 Black, 103 F.4th at 138. Additionally, given that the bond hearing before the IJ "may bear upon
27 the future disposition of [Petitioner]'s writ petition, the bond hearing must be transcribed." Doe,
28 704 F. Supp. 3d at 1019.

III.

ORDER

Accordingly, the Court HEREBY ORDERS that:

1. Petitioner's second claim for relief (procedural due process) is GRANTED;
2. Within **FOURTEEN (14) days** of the date of service of this order, Respondent shall provide Petitioner with an individualized bond hearing before an immigration judge at which
 - a. "the government must prove by clear and convincing evidence that [Petitioner] is a flight risk or a danger to the community to justify denial of bond," Singh v. Holder, 638 F.3d 1196, 1203 (9th Cir. 2011);
 - b. the IJ should consider Petitioner's financial circumstances or alternative conditions of release in the event Petitioner is determined not to be a danger to the community and not to be so great a flight risk as to require detention without bond; and
3. The hearing and the IJ's decision (if rendered orally) shall be transcribed.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated: **March 4, 2025**

[S] Eric P. Grosjean

UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE
