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IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

SAMUEL WINDHAM, JR.,

Plaintiff,

No. CIV S-05-0954 GEB GGH P

vs.

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF  
CORRECTIONS, et al.,

Defendants.

ORDER

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Plaintiff is a state prisoner, proceeding pro se and in forma pauperis in this civil rights action pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983. Defendants’ motion for summary judgment was granted and this case was dismissed on February 26, 2009. Plaintiff filed a notice of appeal on March 25, 2009. Plaintiff now seeks a copy of the transcripts of the December 11, 2008, summary judgment hearing.<sup>1</sup>

A litigant who has been granted in forma pauperis status may move to have transcripts produced at government expense. See 28 U.S.C. § 753(f); McKinney v. Anderson, 924 F.2d 1500, 1511-12 (9th Cir.1991). Two statutes must be considered whenever the district court receives a request to prepare transcripts at the government's expense. First, 28 U.S.C. §

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<sup>1</sup> Plaintiff was represented by assigned counsel at that hearing, but later plaintiff requested that counsel be terminated.

1 1915(c) defines the limited circumstances under which the court can direct the government to pay  
2 for transcripts for a litigant proceeding in forma pauperis.

3 (c) Upon the filing of an affidavit in accordance with subsections (a) and (b) and  
4 the prepayment of any partial filing fee as may be required under subsection (b),  
5 the court may direct payment by the United States of the expenses of (1) printing  
6 the record on appeal in any civil or criminal case, if such printing is required by  
7 the appellate court; (2) preparing a transcript of proceedings before a United  
8 States magistrate judge in any civil or criminal case, if such transcript is required  
9 by the district court, in the case of proceedings conducted under section 636(b) of  
10 this title or under section 3401(b) of title 18, United States Code; and (3) printing  
11 the record on appeal if such printing is required by the appellate court, in the case  
12 of proceedings conducted pursuant to section 636(c) of this title. Such expenses  
13 shall be paid when authorized by the Director of the Administrative Office of the  
14 United States Courts.

15 28 U.S.C. § 1915(c).

16 Second, 28 U.S.C. § 753(f) allows the court to order the government to pay for  
17 transcripts only if “the trial judge or a circuit judge certifies that the appeal is not frivolous (but  
18 presents a substantial question).” 28 U.S.C. § 753(f). A request for a transcript at government  
19 expense should not be granted unless the appeal presents a substantial question. Henderson v.  
20 United States, 734 F.2d 483, 484 (9th Cir.1984). Plaintiff has failed to set forth any arguments  
21 why a transcript is needed. Thus, based on plaintiff’s notice of appeal and transcript request, the  
22 court finds that the appeal does not present a substantial question and the request for a transcript  
23 at government expense is denied. In addition, plaintiff is notified that the appellate court has  
24 access to the court’s file in this case, and will request any necessary documents that are in the  
25 record directly from this court.

26 IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that plaintiff’s request is denied.

DATED: July 21, 2009

/s/ Gregory G. Hollows

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GREGORY G. HOLLOWES  
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

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