

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

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

ANTHONY W. ROBINSON,  
Plaintiff,  
v.  
COUNTY OF SAN JOAQUIN,  
Defendant.

No. 2:12-cv-2783 MCE GGH PS

ORDER

Previously pending on this court’s law and motion calendar for April 24, 2014 was plaintiff’s motion to compel non-party EEOC’s compliance with subpoenas, filed March 11, 2014.<sup>1</sup> Defendant filed an opposition on March 14, 2014, the EEOC filed a late permitted opposition on April 2, 2014, and plaintiff filed responses on March 21 and April 7, 2014 to court orders filed March 19 and April 4, 2014 regarding the subpoenas. Plaintiff appeared in pro se. The County was represented by Velma Lim. Sirithon Thanasombat appeared telephonically on behalf of non-party EEOC. After hearing oral argument and reviewing the pertinent papers, the court now issues the following order.

BACKGROUND

Plaintiff’s motion seeks to compel the EEOC’s compliance with subpoenas issued December 4, 2013, (ECF No. 60-2 at 18), and February 14, 2014, (ECF No. 60-2 at 33). The

---

<sup>1</sup> This matter was previously taken off calendar and under submission without a hearing (ECF No. 59); however, a hearing has been determined necessary in light of later filings.

1 subpoenas seek “recorded questions and answers of witnesses during EEOC Fact Finding  
2 Conference held June 20, 2012 for EEOC complaints 550-2010-00655 and 550-2011-01730.”  
3 Both subpoenas make the identical request.<sup>2</sup> The EEOC represents that it produced notes from  
4 this fact finding conference and produced them on December 18, 2013,<sup>3</sup> subject to redactions  
5 based on certain privileges, including the deliberative process privilege, and sovereign immunity.  
6 Other objections were: overbroad, vague, ambiguous and uncertain, and that the subpoena did not  
7 name the proper agency official and was not served on that individual. In response to the  
8 February 14, 2014 subpoena, the EEOC responded that it had already produced all non-privileged  
9 documents.

#### 10 DISCUSSION<sup>4</sup>

11 Plaintiff’s motion seeks to expand the terms of the original subpoena by seeking a record  
12 of the fact finding conference in his current request for written documentation and/or transcripts  
13 of the fact finding conference; however, plaintiff may not broaden the parameters of the original  
14 subpoena through a motion to compel. Furthermore, the EEOC definitively states that there was  
15 no transcript of the conference. (ECF No. 60-1 at 5; Baldonado Dec., ¶ 11, ECF No. 73.)  
16 Therefore, this order is limited to addressing the documents responsive to plaintiff’s subpoena,  
17 recorded questions and answers of witnesses at the fact finding conference.

18 The EEOC opposes the motion, contending that it has responded promptly and completely  
19 by producing documents responsive to the subpoenas, subject to privileges, but that it also

---

21 <sup>2</sup> The December, 2013 subpoena was served on Malcolm Loungeway and/or Scott Doughtie,  
22 officials at the EEOC. The February, 2014 subpoena was served on Michael Baldanano or Scott  
Doughie, both officials at the EEOC. (ECF No. 60-2 at 18, 33.)

23 <sup>3</sup> The EEOC had previously produced 450 pages of documents to plaintiff in October, 2012,  
24 pursuant to a FOIA request, but conducted another search after receiving the first subpoena and  
25 located notes from the June 20, 2012 fact finding conference that had not previously been  
produced.

26 <sup>4</sup> The County also filed an opposition to plaintiff’s motion. It argues that the documents have  
27 either been produced, are not relevant, or are protected by the deliberative process privilege.  
28 Defendant does not have standing to oppose the motion except to assert *its own* privilege claims  
relating to documents sought to be compelled. W.W. Schwarzer, A.W. Tashima & J. Wagstaffe,  
Federal Civil Procedure Before Trial § 11:2286.

1 produced “any and all written documentation” from the conference, subject to privileges, which  
2 goes beyond the request of the subpoena. Furthermore, the EEOC argues that contrary to  
3 plaintiff’s claims, it did not simply provide him with a summation of the June 20th conference by  
4 defense counsel Gutierrez, but provided non-privileged notes taken by the EEOC during the  
5 conference.

#### 6 I. Sovereign Immunity

7 The EEOC contends that it is only subject to suit for disclosure of documents under the  
8 FOIA, exclusively. It claims it has not waived its immunity in any other aspect, and so informed  
9 plaintiff when it produced the documents voluntarily. Federal subpoenas issued to non-party  
10 federal officials to produce official records or to testify are fully enforceable despite any claim of  
11 immunity. Exxon Shipping Co. v. United States Dep’t of Interior, 34 F.3d 774, 778 (9th Cir.  
12 1994). The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals limited the statute which permits the head of a federal  
13 agency to promulgate regulations governing the use of its records by stating that 5 U.S.C. § 301<sup>5</sup>  
14 “does not, by its own force, authorize federal agency heads to withhold evidence sought under a  
15 valid federal court subpoena.” Id. at 777. Rather, the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure apply in a  
16 federal case where a subpoena is issued against a federal agency. Id. See 5 U.S.C. § 301 (“This  
17 section does not authorize withholding information from the public or limiting the availability of  
18 records to the public.”).

19 The Exxon court held that the Department of the Interior could not adopt regulations  
20 withholding information or shielding government employees from a valid subpoena. 34 F.3d at  
21 776-78. It reasoned that such a case was distinguishable from one involving a state court  
22 attempting to subpoena federal officials. The doctrine of sovereign immunity prevents a state  
23

---

24 <sup>5</sup> Section 301 states:

25 The head of an Executive department or military department may  
26 prescribe regulations for the government of his department, the  
27 conduct of its employees, the distribution and performance of its  
28 business, and the custody, use, and preservation of its records,  
papers, and property. This section does not authorize withholding  
information from the public or limiting the availability of records to  
the public.

1 court from compelling discovery from a federal employee, because “[t]he limitations on a state  
2 court’s subpoena and contempt powers stem from the sovereign immunity of the United States  
3 and from the Supremacy Clause. Such limitations do not apply when a federal court exercises its  
4 subpoena power against federal officials.” Id. at 778. In fact, the Exxon court specifically found  
5 that Touhy<sup>6</sup> regulations do not authorize “federal agencies to refuse to comply with proper  
6 discovery requests.” Id. at 780. The court specifically held: “the district court erred in holding  
7 that § 301 [the statutory authority for Touhy regulations] authorizes federal agencies to refuse to  
8 comply with proper discovery requests. Section 301 does not create an independent privilege to  
9 withhold government information or shield federal employees from valid subpoenas.” Id. “[T]he  
10 regulations simply set forth administrative procedures to be followed when demands for  
11 information are received.” Kwan Fai Mak v. F.B.I., 252 F.3d 1089, 1092 (9th Cir. 2001).

12 In a similar case, the Sixth Circuit held that the Federal Reserve regulations could not be  
13 enforced because they allowed that agency to “effectively override the application of the Federal  
14 Rules of Civil Procedure and, in essence, divest a court of jurisdiction over discovery....” In re  
15 Bankers Trust Co., 61 F.3d 465, 470 (6th Cir. 1995). To do so, an “enabling statute must be more  
16 specific than a general grant of authority” as found in the regulation at issue there which required  
17 a subpoenaed party to continually decline to disclose information or testimony. Id.

18 Based on these cases, the EEOC may not claim sovereign immunity. This federal case is  
19 governed by the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, and the EEOC is a non-party federal agency  
20 whose federal officials have possession of official records requested by a federal subpoena, and is  
21 therefore governed by those federal rules.

## 22 II. Deliberative Process Privilege

### 23 A. Standards

#### 24 1. Procedural Prerequisites

25 Executive privileges asserted by a government agency have procedural prerequisites:

26 There must be a formal claim of privilege, lodged by the head of  
27 the department which has control over the matter, after actual

---

28 <sup>6</sup> United States ex rel. Touhy v. Ragen, 340 U.S. 462, 71 S. Ct. 416, 95 L.Ed. 417 (1951).

1 personal consideration by that officer. The court itself must  
2 determine whether the circumstances are appropriate for a claim of  
privilege ...

3 United States v. O'Neill, 619 F.2d 222, 225 (3rd Cir. 1980) (quoting United States v. Reynolds,  
4 345 U.S. 1, 7-8, 73 S. Ct. 528, 97 L.Ed. 727 (1953). These requirements have been applied to all  
5 forms of “executive” privilege. Yang v. Reno, 157 F.R.D. 625, 632 (1994); Martin v. Albany  
6 Business Journal, Inc., 780 F.Supp. 927, 932 (N.D.N.Y.1992). Courts have allowed the claim to  
7 be made by a person in an executive policy position. See Reynolds, 345 U.S. at 8 n. 20, 73 S. Ct.  
8 at 532 n. 20 (“The essential matter is that the decision to object should be taken by the minister  
9 who is the political head of the department, and that he or she should have seen and considered  
10 the contents of the documents and himself have formed the view that on grounds of public  
11 interest they ought not to be produced ...”). See also Scott Paper Co., 943 F.Supp. 501  
12 (E.D.Pa.1996); Yang, 157 F.R.D. at 632-34 & n. 4 (1994) (considering official status necessary to  
13 invoke privilege, collecting cases, and finding executive secretary of National Security Council  
14 could not invoke governmental privileges); Mobil Oil Corp. v. Department of Energy, 102 F.R.D.  
15 1, 6 (N.D.N.Y.1983) (official invoking the privilege may be an agency head or a subordinate with  
16 high authority). Some jurisdictions do not allow the agency head to delegate the authority to  
17 claim the privilege. Scott, 943 F.Supp. at 502. Other jurisdictions which allow the authority to  
18 be delegated require the delegation to be accompanied by detailed guidelines regarding the use of  
19 the privilege. Id. at 503.

20 The official making the declaration of privilege must: “1) make a knowing and formal  
21 claim of privilege; 2) submit a Declaration stating the precise reasons for preserving the  
22 confidentiality of the investigative report; and 3) identify and describe the documents.” E.E.O.C.  
23 v. Continental Airlines, Inc., 395 F.Supp.2d 738, 741 (N.D. Ill. 2005).

24 Of critical importance, “the information for which the privilege is claimed must be  
25 specified, with an explanation why it properly falls within the scope of the privilege.” In re  
26 Sealed Case, 856 F.2d 268, 271 (D.C.Cir.1988) (law enforcement privilege) (emphasis added).  
27 An official cannot invoke a privilege without personally considering the material for which the  
28 privilege is sought. Yang, 157 F.R.D. at 634. In the instant case, the EEOC has produced a

1 declaration by EEOC Deputy District Director Michael Connolly. Although Connolly is a proper  
2 agency head, his declaration makes no statements in support of the EEOC's privilege claims. His  
3 declaration addresses only the nature of the EEO charges filed by plaintiff, what documents the  
4 EEOC produced in response to his request for documents, that some documents were withheld or  
5 redacted on the basis of exemptions to the FOIA, and that no transcript exists from the June 20,  
6 2012 fact-finding conference. (Connolly Dec., ECF No. 60-3 at 1-3.)

7 This declaration does not contain the specifics required of an agency head official, most  
8 importantly the nature of the policy invoked that would warrant protection of the documents at  
9 issue, and why the material is qualified under this privilege. One must use a rule of reason in  
10 determining whether the procedural requirements of invoking the deliberative process privilege  
11 have been satisfied. There may be cases in which every single document withheld is unique unto  
12 itself, and should be declared privileged only after a document-by-document analysis or, in other  
13 cases, where the documents do not vary in their type or purpose. In the latter case, a collective  
14 judgment on the need for invoking deliberative process may be given. The EEOC has not met the  
15 procedural requirements of invoking the privilege. Despite that failing, the merits of the claimed  
16 privilege will be examined because the essential privilege here is directed to an agency  
17 adjudicative process—something that usually is, and should be, protected from discovery insofar  
18 as the information to be protected constitutes the mental impressions of an EEOC case decision  
19 maker.

## 20 2. Substantive Standards

21 The deliberative process privilege protects the quality of agency decisions by allowing  
22 candor in formulating policy, and encouraging public review based on the decision itself rather  
23 than the considerations that contributed to the decision. N.L.R.B. v. Sears, Roebuck & Co., 421  
24 U.S. 132, 151-152, 95 S. Ct. 1504, 44 L.Ed.2d 29 (1975). The privilege “shields certain intra-  
25 agency communications from disclosure to allow agencies freely to explore possibilities, engage  
26 in internal debates, or play devil’s advocate without fear of public scrutiny.” Lahr v. Nat’l  
27 Transp. Safety Board, 569 F.3d 964, 979 (9th Cir. 2009). Its aim is to protect the policy making  
28 process. It requires a two-step review by the court. See Carter v. U.S. Dept. Of Commerce, 307

1 F.3d 1084, 1089 (9th Cir. 2002) (stating standards and holding that standards for invoking  
2 deliberative process in a FOIA context are identical to those in civil discovery).

3 First, the matter protected must be pre-decisional, generated before the adoption of an  
4 agency policy or decision. Predecisional matters are prepared “in order to assist an agency  
5 decisionmaker in arriving at his decision.” Renegotiation Board v. Grumman Aircraft Eng’g  
6 Corp., 421 U.S. 168, 184, 95 S. Ct. 1491, 1500, 44 L.Ed.2d 57 (1975); accord, Assembly of State  
7 of Cal. v. U.S. Dept. of Commerce, 968 F.2d 916, 920-21 (9th Cir.1992). Predecisional material  
8 is distinguished from material supporting a decision already made. Id. Accordingly, in  
9 determining whether the “predecisional” prong applies, this circuit looks first to the purpose of  
10 the matter to be discovered. See Assembly of State of Cal., 968 F.2d at 920-21 (looking to the  
11 purpose for which a document was prepared to determine whether it meets the “predecisional”  
12 prong).

13 A “predecisional” document is one prepared in order to assist an  
14 agency decisionmaker in arriving at his decision, and may include  
15 recommendations, draft documents, proposals, suggestions, and  
16 other subjective documents which reflect the personal opinions of  
17 the writer rather than the policy of the agency. A predecisional  
document is a part of the “deliberative process,” if the disclosure of  
the materials would expose an agency’s decisionmaking process in  
such a way as to discourage candid discussion within the agency  
and thereby undermine the agency’s ability to perform its functions.

18 Lahr, 569 F.3d at 979–80 (quoting Assembly of Cal. v. U.S. Dep’t of Commerce, 968 F.2d 916,  
19 920 (9th Cir.1992)).

20 Second, the matter to be protected must be deliberative, concerning opinions,  
21 recommendations, or advice about agency policies. F.T.C. v. Warner Communications Inc., 742  
22 F.2d 1156, 1161 (9th Cir. 1984). The privilege applies if material to be discovered reveals the  
23 mental processes of decision makers. Assembly of State of Cal., 968 F.2d at 921. If material  
24 sought to be discovered would “inaccurately reflect or prematurely disclose the views of the  
25 agency,” it would come within the deliberative process privilege. National Wildlife Federation v.  
26 U.S. Forest Serv., 861 F.2d 1114, 1118 (9th Cir.1988) (citing Coastal States Gas Corp. v.  
27 Department of Energy, 617 F.2d 854, 866 (D.C. Cir. 1980)).

28 ////

1           Although facts are not protected by the privilege, if the facts are inextricably interwoven  
2 with the deliberative process, the entire matter may be protected by the privilege. National  
3 Wildlife Federation, 861 F.2d at 1116 (explaining that if the disclosure of facts would necessarily  
4 reveal the deliberative process, the information is protected). It is important to emphasize, as the  
5 Ninth Circuit has, that the privilege applies to the deliberative process as well as deliberative  
6 material. National Wildlife Fed. v. U.S. Forest Service, 861 F.2d at 1118. “In other words, the  
7 document is considered to be part of the ‘deliberative process’ as long as it is ‘actually....related  
8 to the process by which policies are formulated.’” Id. (Emphasis in original).

9           The deliberative process privilege is a qualified one and can be overridden if the need for  
10 accurate fact-finding outweighs the government’s interest in non-disclosure. F.T.C. v. Warner  
11 Communications, Inc., 742 F.2d at 1161. Three relevant factors are weighed to determine if  
12 disclosure is appropriate:

- 13                   1) the relevance of the evidence; 2) the availability of other
- 14                   evidence; 3) the government’s role in the litigation; 4) the extent to
- 15                   which disclosure would hinder frank and independent discussion
- regarding contemplated policies and decisions.

15 Id.

16           B. Analysis

17           Prior to the hearing, the EEOC submitted a declaration which did not reference this  
18 privilege specifically but stated that it mailed letters to plaintiff explaining that some information  
19 was withheld or redacted pursuant to FOIA exemptions. (Connolly Dec., ¶ 7, ECF No. 60-3 at 2.)  
20 This declaration by Deputy District Director Connolly attached letters to plaintiff which pre-date  
21 the subpoenas at issue here, but which were sent in response to plaintiff’s September, 2012 FOIA  
22 request. The EEOC’s letters set forth the various privileges, including deliberative process  
23 privilege, and then concludes the letters with a list of documents withheld pursuant to all of its  
24 objections. (ECF No. 60-3 at 10, 13.) The EEOC list contains the title of the document, the  
25 Charge or complaint number to which the document pertains, date of the document, what portion

26 /////

27 /////

28 /////



1 of the document was redacted or withheld, and the applicable exemption. All documents were  
2 withheld under FOIA Exemption 5, 6 or 7(c).<sup>7</sup> (Id.)

3 All FOIA exemptions are not applicable here, where plaintiff requested documents  
4 pursuant to a subpoena, which is the subject of his motion to compel, not pursuant to a FOIA  
5 request.

6 In any event, because the EEOC did not create a privilege log in regard to the subpoenas,  
7 the only account of documents withheld and their descriptions was in response to plaintiff's  
8 previous FOIA requests, and it is the only document akin to a privilege log filed by the EEOC.  
9 The withheld or redacted documents are listed as follows:

10 1. Redacted Case Routing Sheet concerning Charge No.  
11 550201101730, Dated: N/A, one column of deliberative analysis  
redacted, Page(s) withheld: N/A, Exemption 5.

12 2. Redacted charge Detail Inquiry concerning Charge No.  
13 550201101730, Dated: 092111, Processing Code in two locations  
redacted, Page(s) withheld: N/A, Exemption 5.

14 3. Redacted Enforcement Investigator's Recommendation  
15 Memorandum to Local Director concerning Charge No.  
16 550201101730, Dated: 062912, one column and nineteen lines of  
pre-decisional, deliberative analysis and recommendations redacted,  
Page(s) withheld: N/A, Exemption 5.

17 4. Redacted Respondent's Reemployment List (Exhibit B)  
18 with other employees names concerning Charge No.  
19 550201101730, Dated: FY11/12, all occurrences of names and  
Empl ID except for Charging Party personal and Proprietary  
information redacted, Page(s) withheld: N/A, Exemption 6, 7(c).

20 5. Redacted Respondent's Layoff Impacted Employees List  
21 (Exhibit 9) with other employees names concerning Charge No.  
550201101730, Dated: FY 11/12, all occurrences of names except

---

22 <sup>7</sup> Exemption 5 protects from disclosure under FOIA documents consisting of "inter-agency or  
23 intra-agency memorandums or letters which would not be available by law to a party other than  
24 an agency in litigation with the agency." 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(5). "Exemption 5 covers documents  
25 reflecting advisory opinions, recommendations and deliberations comprising part of a process by  
26 which governmental decisions and policies are formulated." See Carter v. U.S. Dep't of  
Commerce, 307 F.3d 1084, 1088-89 (9th Cir.2002) (citation and quotation marks omitted).

26 Exemption 6 covers "personnel and medical files and similar files the disclosure of which  
27 would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy." 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(6).  
28 Exemption 7(c) protects "records or information compiled for law enforcement purposes, but only  
to the extent that the production of such law enforcement records or information ... (C) could  
reasonably be expected to constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy...."

1 for Charging Party personal and proprietary information redacted,  
2 Page(s) withheld: N/A, Exemption 6, 7(c).

3 (ECF No. 60-3 at 10.)

4 1. Redacted Case Routing Sheet concerning Charge No.  
5 550201000655, Dated: N/A, one column of deliberative analysis  
6 redacted, Page(s) withheld, N/A, Exemption 5.

7 2. Redacted Charge Detail Inquiry concerning Charge No.  
8 550201000655, Dated: 021610, Processing Code in two locations  
9 redacted, Page(s) withheld: N/A, Exemption 5.

10 3. Redacted Enforcement Investigator's Recommendation  
11 Memorandum to Director concerning Charge No. 550201000655,  
12 Dated: 062912, one column and thirty lines of pre-decisional,  
13 deliberative analysis and recommendations redacted, Page(s)  
14 withheld: N/A, Exemption 5.

15 (ECF No. 60-3 at 13.)

16 The EEOC's substantive objections based on the deliberative process privilege merely  
17 describe the privilege and cite cases, but the EEOC has not analyzed how the privilege applies in  
18 this case. Although the listings above are similar to a privilege log, some of the entries do not  
19 appear to be deliberative in nature, but appear to be claimed in order to protect the privacy of  
20 third parties. The EEOC has not claimed a privacy protection *herein*, and there is no support for  
21 such a protection in the circumstances of this case.<sup>8</sup> Furthermore, some entries may include facts  
22 which are not protected unless they are inextricably interwoven with the deliberative process.

23 The deliberative process privilege may be asserted by the EEOC in the context of their  
24 investigations. EEOC v. Continental Airlines, Inc., 395 F.Supp.2d 738, 741 (N.D. Ill. 2005). It  
25 protects from disclosure documents "which reveal the 'give and take of the consultative  
26 process.'" Id. (citation omitted). The court in Continental Airlines found that the EEOC's  
27 investigative report was a predecisional document because it was created before the EEOC made  
28 its decision and related to the process used to formulate policies. It met the second factor because  
it was created to assist the EEOC in its decision regarding the employee's charge and reflects the

---

<sup>8</sup> That the EEOC may have withheld documents for an out-of-court FOIA request based in part on privacy, does not *ipso facto* mean that it has raised privacy as a concern in this *court* proceeding. This is why privilege logs are important—a party must unambiguously assert a privilege and associate the privilege with a particular request. The EEOC did no such thing here.

1 investigator's mental impressions about the information discovered during the course of the  
2 investigation, as well as his recommendations concerning the charge. Id.

3 At the hearing, the EEOC represented that some documents requested by the subpoena  
4 (not the FOIA requests as responded to above), were not produced at all,<sup>9</sup> and others were  
5 produced in redacted form. The declaration submitted by the EEOC after the hearing, however,  
6 states that all of the fact finding conference notes were produced, but that some were produced in  
7 redacted form based on privileges asserted. (Baldonado Dec., ¶ 10, ECF No. 73 at 3.) Plaintiff,  
8 however, described events surrounding the fact finding conference which create a question  
9 whether further non-privileged documents exist. For example, plaintiff stated that when he was  
10 present at the fact finding conference, Malcolm Loungway told him that the answers were being  
11 simultaneously typed on a computer by himself and Mimi Gentry, an intern with the EEOC.  
12 Plaintiff stated that he received no such notes written by the EEOC representatives in the  
13 production. Plaintiff cited another example in which the EEOC's production included a quote  
14 that Malcolm Loungway at the conference stated that he would allow defendant's attorney to  
15 answer questions because he had done the research; however, at the conference itself, Loungway  
16 said only that the defense attorney was allowed to answer questions, period. The summation had  
17 added the reason that was not expressed at the conference. The aforementioned examples by  
18 plaintiff do not constitute *facts* which must be disclosed.

---

19 <sup>9</sup> Although the EEOC raised conciliation posture as an objection to production, and raised it at the  
20 hearing, claiming that some documents were not produced at all on this basis, it did not make any  
21 argument on this ground in its opposition. See ECF No. 60-1. Title 42 U.S.C. § 2000e-5(b)  
22 provides that “[n]othing said or done during and as a part of such informal endeavors [conference,  
23 conciliation, and persuasion] may be made public by the Commission, its officers or employees,  
or used as evidence in a subsequent proceeding without the written consent of the persons  
concerned.”

24 The EEOC cannot have it both ways. To the extent the documents at issue are protected  
25 by the deliberative process privilege, they must be predecisional or prior to the formation of a  
26 policy. To the extent they concern conciliation efforts, they must relate to the EEOC's  
27 application of an *existing* policy. See E.E.O.C. v. Swissport Fueling, Inc., 2012 WL 1648416,  
28 \*18 (D. Ariz. May 10, 2012). Furthermore, the proceeding for which plaintiff seeks discovery is  
the fact finding conference, not a meeting for purposes of conciliation. See E.E.O.C. v. Philip  
Services Corp., 635 F.3d 164, 167 (5th Cir. 2011) (noting distinction between factual material  
related to the merits of the charge and proposals and counter-proposals of compromise made by  
parties during conciliation).

1           Nevertheless, plaintiff at hearing also explained his belief that the EEOC omitted from  
2 production certain facts which came to light at the conference. For example, Theresa Parker  
3 admitted at the conference that she did not do her research until after plaintiff had complained,  
4 which is an important fact in this case, but which was not contained in the notes produced.  
5 Plaintiff also referred to a statement by Mike Miller who identified temporary funding and  
6 receiving that in early January, 2009 which precipitated the ability for plaintiff and other  
7 employees to start writing OJT contracts, which is a central fact in this case. These facts did not  
8 appear in the summation of notes from the conference received from the EEOC, according to  
9 plaintiff at the hearing.

10           Because plaintiff has presented pertinent facts not produced by the EEOC, which would  
11 not be shielded by the deliberative process privilege, the court directed the EEOC to submit a  
12 further declaration that these notes of facts do not exist, or that they have found them. On May 1,  
13 2013, Michael Baldonado, District Director of the EEOC's San Francisco office, submitted a  
14 declaration stating not only that the EEOC had produced redacted fact finding conference notes  
15 on December 18, 2013, but also in regard to the issues raised at the hearing:

16                   10. I have reviewed the administrative files related to Robinson's  
17 charges of discrimination. After a thorough search of the relevant  
18 hard-copy files and electronically stored files, the only documents  
19 responsive to Robinson's subpoenas were the Fact Finding  
20 Conference notes produced to Robinson by the EEOC on December  
21 18, 2013. No other document responsive to Robinson's two  
subpoenas exists in Robinson's administrative files. Except for the  
redactions made pursuant to applicable privileges, said Fact Finding  
Conference notes are complete: no additional pages, statements, or  
admissions were omitted from the EEOC's production of said notes  
made to Robinson on December 18, 2013.

22 (ECF No. 73, ¶ 10.)

23           Also in response to the events at hearing, counsel for the EEOC filed a declaration on May  
24 1, 2014, which addresses events in December, 2013. Sirithon Thanasombat states that she spoke  
25 to Malcolm Loungway on December 11, 2013, the day that the EEOC received plaintiff's  
26 subpoena, and that Loungway stated that Mimi Gentry had taken notes at the fact finding  
27 conference and emailed them to him. The EEOC was able to locate these notes and produced  
28 them to plaintiff in redacted form on December 18, 2013. (ECF No. 72, ¶¶ 5-7.) All of these

1 responses by the EEOC are qualified by its use of the term “redacted,” which is the precise issue  
2 here: did the EEOC redact factual information which is not privileged?

3 Based on plaintiff’s representations at hearing, it appears that the EEOC may have  
4 redacted facts which are not protected by the deliberative process privilege. Furthermore, if the  
5 EEOC has redacted names and identities, it has not claimed or shown support for privacy  
6 protection, and this information is discoverable.

7 Therefore, the EEOC shall unredact all facts, names and identities from the documents  
8 produced as a result of plaintiff’s subpoena, which is limited to “recorded questions and answers  
9 of witnesses” at the fact finding conference, and produce such documents in unredacted form to  
10 plaintiff. The EEOC is not required to unredact information which reflects its deliberative  
11 process, including its mental impressions regarding testimony, but must unredact notes of the  
12 testimony itself.

13 CONCLUSION

14 Accordingly, IT IS ORDERED that:

15 1. Plaintiff’s motion to compel the EEOC’s compliance with subpoena (ECF No. 45) is  
16 granted in part. The EEOC shall produce all documents requested by the subpoena in unredacted  
17 form which reflect facts, names and identities, as described herein, within **seven** days of this  
18 order.

19 2. The Clerk of the Court is directed to serve this order on counsel of record for the  
20 EEOC at the address indicated in its filing.

21 Dated: May 14, 2014

22 /s/ Gregory G. Hollows

23 UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

24  
25  
26 GGH:076/Robinson2783.EEOC  
27  
28