

1 Jared Hebert, Wes Townsley, Brandon Largent, Becky Zufall, and Does 1-10
2 (collectively “Defendants”) for the death of Steven Motley (“Decedent”). Presently before
3 the Court is Defendants’ Motion for Summary Judgment, seeking adjudication of four of
4 the causes of action in this consolidated proceeding.² Defs.’ Mot., ECF No. 60.
5 Defendants move for summary judgment on grounds Plaintiffs cannot show their injury
6 was caused by an official policy of the City of Redding, and therefore cannot establish
7 municipal liability against the City of Redding for unconstitutional customs or policies
8 under 42 U.S.C. § 1983. Additionally, Defendants assert that Plaintiffs fail to show any
9 act or omission by Chief Paoletti as an individual that caused any deprivation of
10 Plaintiffs’ civil rights. For the reasons set forth below, Defendants’ motion is GRANTED
11 in part and DENIED in part.³

12 13 **BACKGROUND⁴**

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15 On October 5, 2013, Redding Police Officer Jared Hebert observed Decedent
16 driving what Officer Hebert believed was a stolen vehicle. A high speed chase ensued.
17 Ultimately, Decedent crashed the GMC pickup he was operating and attempted to run
18 from the scene. Officer Hebert exited his patrol vehicle and pursued Decedent on foot
19 through a residential neighborhood. While being pursued, Decedent circled back to the
20 unmanned patrol vehicle, got in the driver seat, and drove away. Decedent only drove
21 the police vehicle a short distance before abandoning it and fleeing once again on foot.
22 As Officer Townsley arrived on scene, he saw Decedent fleeing the area and followed
23 on foot.

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25 ² Defendants are seeking adjudication of the fourth and fifth claims of the McCain complaint and
the sixth and seventh claims of the Bianco complaint.

26 ³ Having determined that oral argument would not be of material assistance, the Court ordered this
27 matter submitted on the briefs in accordance with E.D. Local Rule 230(g).

28 ⁴ Unless specifically stated, the following recitation of facts is taken, sometimes verbatim, from
Plaintiffs’ Opposition. ECF No. 68, at 2-5.

1 After observing Decedent in a residential backyard, Officer Townsley jumped the
2 fence and confronted him. When Decedent attempted to run, Officer Townsley deployed
3 his Taser and was able to stun Decedent momentarily to the ground. Townsley Depo.,
4 ECF No. 61-3, at 28:7-29:17. Decedent proceeded to disengage the Taser probes from
5 his arm. Id. As Decedent was preparing to get up, Officer Townsley drove a knee into
6 his back, keeping him on the ground chest-down. Id. at 29:22-30:5. After failing to
7 subdue Decedent through several pain compliance techniques, Officer Townsley
8 testified that he positioned himself on top of the Decedent in a “mounted” position with
9 Decedent facing him, and struck Decedent several times in the jaw. Id. at 34:16-22.
10 After successfully stunning Decedent, Officer Townsley was able to turn him over onto
11 his chest and employ a carotid restraint, which briefly rendered Decedent unconscious.
12 Id. at 34:22-25.

13 While Decedent was momentarily unconscious, Officer Townsley was able to
14 throw to the side a knife that had been in a sheath, hanging from Decedent’s waistband.⁵
15 Id. at 22:20-23:7. However, before Officer Townsley was able to handcuff Decedent, he
16 regained consciousness and continued to resist being detained. Id. at 23:1-4. Officer
17 Townsley testified that during the ensuing struggle he used verbal commands, a Taser,
18 multiple control holds, strikes when the control holds failed, and a carotid restraint, all in
19 an attempt to detain the Decedent. Id. at 14:13-22. Until additional law enforcement
20 officers arrived to assist, Officer Townsley used his whole body weight to keep Decedent
21 face-down on the ground with the officer’s hand close to the back of Decedent’s head.
22 Id. at 43:11-45:2.

23 Multiple backup officers then descended on the scene. Upon arrival, Officer
24 Largent struck Decedent’s right arm five to seven times with his baton, while Officer

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26 ⁵ Because Decedent had access to a patrol vehicle containing firearms, there was initially concern
27 he had weapons in his possession. There was no radio transmission to that effect, however. Largent
28 Depo., ECF No. 62, at 28:2-30:1. While officers stated they saw a sheath and feared the presence of a
weapon, other than Officer Townsley (who had taken the knife from the sheath while Decedent was
unconscious), officers stated they never saw Decedent in possession of a weapon during the incident. Id.
at 25:18-26:17; Zufall Depo., ECF No. 62-1, at 11:14-24.

1 Townsley was still “mounted” on top of Decedent’s back. Largent Depo., ECF No. 62, at
2 16:14-17:25. At approximately the same time, Corporal Jacoby struck Decedent twice in
3 the right forearm area with his baton. Jacoby Depo., ECF No. 63, at 10:2-23. At one
4 point, Officer Porter was also on the Decedent’s back attempting to restrain him and
5 place him in handcuffs. Zufall Depo., ECF No. 62-1, at 18:1-10.

6 After finally succeeding in handcuffing Decedent, officers observed that his right
7 arm appeared to be fractured. Townsley Depo., ECF No. 61-3, at 52:23-53:6; Largent
8 Depo., ECF No. 62, at 33:4-34:23. They then used their radio to broadcast that the
9 Decedent had been detained and to request medical help due to his broken arm.
10 Jacoby Depo., ECF No. 63, at 27:10-16. Additionally, a hobble restraint was requested
11 and retrieved in an attempt to further control Decedent. Largent Depo., ECF No. 62, at
12 46:1-4; Jacoby Depo., ECF No. 63, at 29:8-31:3.

13 While multiple officers were attempting to restrain Decedent’s upper body,
14 additional officers were endeavoring to restrain his lower body. Officer Zufall struggled
15 to control Decedent’s legs using her body weight, and when that proved unsuccessful,
16 she struck his legs three or four times with her baton. *Id.* at 14:6-25. After Decedent
17 was handcuffed, both Officer Zufall and Officer Smyrnos attempted to control Decedent’s
18 legs by bending one foot behind a knee and then folding the leg up into a figure four
19 position, pressing Decedent’s legs towards his buttocks. Zufall Depo., ECF No. 62-1, at
20 21:14-22:2.

21 As Decedent was being subsequently searched, Officers Largent and Zufall
22 observed his face change color. Largent Depo., ECF No. 62, at 43:15-45:14, 68:13-
23 71:24; Zufall Depo., ECF No. 62-1, at 25:4-18. Decedent then went limp and became
24 unresponsive, at which point his legs were released and allowed to extend, and he was
25 moved from the prone position to a side position. Jacoby Depo., ECF No. 63, at 31:22-
26 37:21.

27 Officer Largent testified that he checked for a pulse on Decedent’s carotid while
28 Decedent was still chest down on the ground. Largent Depo., ECF No. 62, at 71:25-

1 75:13. Officer Largent felt a heartbeat and observed that Decedent was still breathing.
2 Id. at 72:16-75:13. The officers requested that an ambulance be dispatched as soon as
3 possible, and proceeded to move Decedent, using a so-called “fireman’s carry,” closer to
4 where medical personnel could quickly reach him. Id. at 75:18-77:10; Jacoby Depo.,
5 ECF No. 63, at 33:21-35:20. Decedent was then placed on his side in a rescue posture
6 and Officer Largent again felt a pulse on Decedent’s carotid. Largent Depo., ECF
7 No. 62, at 77:11-78:2. At a point when Officer Largent no longer felt a pulse, he started
8 chest compressions until he was able to regain a pulse, and testified that he heard a
9 loud, verbal exhale sound from the Decedent. Id. at 79:14-80:22. When the paramedics
10 arrived Decedent was not breathing and did not have a pulse. Id. at 80:23-81:4.
11 Decedent was initially transported by ambulance to a local hospital and then later by air
12 ambulance to an out of area hospital.

13 Three days later, on October 8, 2013, Steven Motley succumbed to his injuries
14 and died without ever regaining consciousness.⁶ The cause of death was listed as
15 cardiopulmonary arrest during a violent struggle with police. Decedent’s death was
16 further attributed to so-called “excited delirium” given the fact the he was determined to
17 be under the influence of methamphetamine.⁷ Josselson Depo., ECF No. 63-1, at 14:8-
18 15:10. A subsequent examination completed by a forensic pathologist retained by the
19 District Attorney’s Office during their review of the incident, however, found no evidence
20 of a stimulant-induced excited delirium. Instead, the forensic pathologist opined that the
21 cause of death was a cardiopulmonary arrest during a violent struggle with law

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25 ⁶ During the course of an autopsy, the medical examiner found numerous injuries to the Decedent
26 including two scalp lacerations, large scalp contusions, a small subdural hemorrhage of the brain, a
27 bilateral intercostal muscle hemorrhage, left rib fractures, a fracture of the right radius, a fracture of the
right ulna, and a fracture of the left fibula. Josselson Depo., ECF No. 63-1, at Ex. 1.

28 ⁷ The autopsy revealed Decedent had methamphetamine in his system at the low end of a
potentially toxic level. Josselson Depo., ECF No. 63-1, at 13:8-24.

1 enforcement that resulted in multiple blunt force traumas.⁸ Id. at Ex. 2. The District
2 Attorney’s pathologist also stated that asphyxia was potentially a contributing factor. Id.
3 Even the Plaintiffs’ expert, contrary to the findings of the initial autopsy report, believed
4 that Decedent likely lost consciousness due to restraint asphyxia, with fatal compression
5 asphyxia thereafter occurring when Decedent was restrained by officers in a prone
6 position with weighted pressure. O’Halloran Decl., ECF No. 68-2, at ¶¶ 6-14.

8 STANDARD

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10 The Federal Rules of Civil Procedure provide for summary judgment when “the
11 movant shows that there is no genuine dispute as to any material fact and the movant is
12 entitled to judgment as a matter of law.” Fed. R. Civ. P. 56(a); see also Celotex Corp. v.
13 Catrett, 477 U.S. 317, 322 (1986). One of the principal purposes of Rule 56 is to
14 dispose of factually unsupported claims or defenses. Celotex, 477 U.S. at 325.

15 Rule 56 also allows a court to grant summary judgment on part of a claim or
16 defense, known as partial summary judgment. See Fed. R. Civ. P. 56(a) (“A party may
17 move for summary judgment, identifying each claim or defense—or the part of each
18 claim or defense—on which summary judgment is sought.”); see also Allstate Ins. Co. v.
19 Madan, 889 F. Supp. 374, 378-79 (C.D. Cal. 1995). The standard that applies to a
20 motion for partial summary judgment is the same as that which applies to a motion for
21 summary judgment. See Fed. R. Civ. P. 56(a); State of Cal. ex rel. Cal. Dep’t of Toxic
22 Substances Control v. Campbell, 138 F.3d 772, 780 (9th Cir. 1998) (applying summary
23 judgment standard to motion for summary adjudication).

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26 ⁸ Pursuant to critical incident protocol, both the Shasta County District Attorney’s Office and the
27 Shasta County Sheriff’s Office independently investigated the incident. Pls.’ SSUF, ECF No. 68-1, at ¶¶ 9-
28 12. The District Attorney’s Office issued findings that raised questions about the use of force by the
officers who used baton strikes in an effort to subdue Decedent, but concluded that, given the chaotic
circumstances confronting the officers, there was no basis to second-guess the officers’ use of force.
Accordingly, the District Attorney’s Office declined to file charges. Id. at ¶ 12.

1 In a summary judgment motion, the moving party always bears the initial
2 responsibility of informing the court of the basis for the motion and identifying the
3 portions in the record “which it believes demonstrate the absence of a genuine issue of
4 material fact.” Celotex, 477 U.S. at 323. If the moving party meets its initial
5 responsibility, the burden then shifts to the opposing party to establish that a genuine
6 issue as to any material fact actually does exist. Matsushita Elec. Indus. Co. v. Zenith
7 Radio Corp., 475 U.S. 574, 586-87 (1986); First Nat’l Bank v. Cities Serv. Co., 391 U.S.
8 253, 288-89 (1968).

9 In attempting to establish the existence or non-existence of a genuine factual
10 dispute, the party must support its assertion by “citing to particular parts of materials in
11 the record, including depositions, documents, electronically stored information,
12 affidavits[,] or declarations . . . or other materials; or showing that the materials cited do
13 not establish the absence or presence of a genuine dispute, or that an adverse party
14 cannot produce admissible evidence to support the fact.” Fed. R. Civ. P. 56(c)(1). The
15 opposing party must demonstrate that the fact in contention is material, i.e., a fact that
16 might affect the outcome of the suit under the governing law. Anderson v. Liberty Lobby,
17 Inc., 477 U.S. 242, 248, 251-52 (1986); Owens v. Local No. 169, Assoc. of W. Pulp and
18 Paper Workers, 971 F.2d 347, 355 (9th Cir. 1987). The opposing party must also
19 demonstrate that the dispute about a material fact “is ‘genuine,’ that is, if the evidence is
20 such that a reasonable jury could return a verdict for the nonmoving party.” Anderson,
21 477 U.S. at 248. In other words, the judge needs to answer the preliminary question
22 before the evidence is left to the jury of “not whether there is literally no evidence, but
23 whether there is any upon which a jury could properly proceed to find a verdict for the
24 party producing it, upon whom the onus of proof is imposed.” Anderson, 477 U.S. at 251
25 (quoting Improvement Co. v. Munson, 81 U.S. 442, 448 (1871)) (emphasis in original).
26 As the Supreme Court explained, “[w]hen the moving party has carried its burden under
27 Rule [56(a)], its opponent must do more than simply show that there is some
28 metaphysical doubt as to the material facts.” Matsushita, 475 U.S. at 586. Therefore,

1 “[w]here the record taken as a whole could not lead a rational trier of fact to find for the
2 nonmoving party, there is no ‘genuine issue for trial.’” Id. 87.

3 In resolving a summary judgment motion, the evidence of the opposing party is to
4 be believed, and all reasonable inferences that may be drawn from the facts placed
5 before the court must be drawn in favor of the opposing party. Anderson, 477 U.S. at
6 255. Nevertheless, inferences are not drawn out of the air, and it is the opposing party’s
7 obligation to produce a factual predicate from which the inference may be drawn.
8 Richards v. Nielsen Freight Lines, 602 F. Supp. 1224, 1244-45 (E.D. Cal. 1985), aff’d,
9 810 F.2d 898 (9th Cir. 1987).

11 ANALYSIS

13 A. Municipal Liability

14 A municipality may only be liable where it individually causes a constitutional
15 violation via “execution of a government’s policy or custom, whether by its lawmakers or
16 by those whose edicts or acts may fairly be said to represent them.” Monell v. Dept. of
17 Social Services, 436 U.S. 658, 694 (1978); Ulrich v. City & County of San Francisco,
18 308 F.3d 968, 984 (9th Cir. 2002). Municipal liability under Monell can arise three ways:

19 (1) [W]hen official policies or established customs inflict a
20 constitutional injury; (2) when omissions or failures to act
21 amount to a local government policy of deliberate indifference
22 to constitutional rights; or (3) when a local government official
with final policy-making authority ratifies a subordinate’s
unconstitutional conduct.

23 Rodelo v. City of Tulare, No. 1:15-cv-1675-KJM-BAM, 2016 WL 561520, at *3 (E.D. Cal.
24 Feb. 12, 2016). After proving that one of the circumstances exists, a plaintiff must also
25 show that the municipality’s action was the cause of the constitutional deprivation.
26 Trevino v. Gates, 99 F.3d 911, 918 (9th Cir. 1996). Here, Plaintiffs assert a Monell claim
27 under two separate theories: (1) the municipality’s failure to train amounts to deliberate
28 indifference; and (2) ratification of unconstitutional conduct.

1 **1. Failure to Train**

2 A municipality’s failure to train its employees may create § 1983 liability where the
3 “failure to train amounts to deliberate indifference to the rights of persons with whom the
4 police come into contact.” Connick v. Thompson, 563 U.S. 51, 61 (2011); City of
5 Canton v. Harris, 489 U.S. 378, 388 (1989). Additionally, “it may happen that in light of
6 the duties assigned to specific officers or employees the need for more or different
7 training is so obvious, and the inadequacy so likely to result in the violation of
8 constitutional rights, that the policymakers of the city can reasonably be said to have
9 been deliberately indifferent to the need.” City of Canton at 390; see also Clouthier v.
10 County of Contra Costa, 591 F.3d 1232, 1249 (9th Cir. 2010).

11 Generally, in order to prove deliberate indifference under circumstances like those
12 present here, plaintiffs must demonstrate “a pattern of similar constitutional violations by
13 untrained employees.” Connick, 563 U.S. at 62 (citing Board of the County Comm’rs v.
14 Brown, 520 U.S. 397, 409 (1997)). The Supreme Court nonetheless has recognized that
15 even a “single incident” of indifference can, if egregious enough, substitute for the
16 pattern of violations ordinarily necessary to establish municipal liability.” Connick, at 63.
17 The Court further explained that the “single-incident” theory represents the Supreme
18 Court’s refusal to “foreclose upon the possibility” that when a failure to train is so patently
19 obvious, a single constitutional violation will suffice to give rise to municipal liability under
20 § 1983. Id. at 64. However, the Court took care to note that only “in a narrow range of
21 circumstances” might it be unnecessary to demonstrate a pattern of similar violations.
22 Id. at 63 (quoting Board of the County, 520 U.S. at 409). A violation under such
23 circumstances must be a “highly predictable consequence” of a failure to train. Id. By
24 way of example, “the Court theorized that a city’s decision not to train officers about
25 constitutional limits in the use of deadly force could reflect the city’s deliberate
26 indifference to the ‘highly predictable consequence,’ namely, violations of constitutional
27 rights. Id. (quoting Board of the County, 520 U.S. at 409).

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1 In this case, Plaintiffs allege a deficiency of training by the City of Redding Police
2 Department pertaining to the acceptable use of force, specifically the failure to train in
3 the proper application of restraint techniques. Pls.' Opp'n, ECF No. 68, at 8. Plaintiffs
4 assert that applying proper restraints is a fundamental law enforcement task that
5 requires training, especially due to the potential health risks that are associated with
6 improper restraints. Id. Plaintiffs further allege that the restraint techniques used against
7 Decedent were unreasonable due to the numerous baton strikes by multiple officers that
8 resulted in several broken bones, the additional leg restraints by officers, and the risk of
9 asphyxia occasioned by the fact that restraints were employed while Decedent was in a
10 prone position with the weight of multiple officers' pressing upon his body. Id. at 9.

11 In response, Defendants assert that they meet and exceed so-called POST
12 standards⁹ in all areas, including the proper use of force. Defs.' Reply, ECF No. 70 at 2.
13 According to the City, each of the officers involved in the subject incident passed a
14 POST certified police academy prior to beginning their career as police officers, and the
15 City maintains it provides training to its officers in all aspects of law enforcement that
16 meets or exceeds POST standards, including use of force, response to critical incident
17 circumstances, and the provision of reasonable and necessary medical care. See Defs.'
18 Mot., ECF No. 60 at 7. Defendants further assert Plaintiffs misrepresent the record as to
19 how Decedent's restraints were accomplished. See Defs.' Reply at 3, 5.

20 In this case, disputed facts preclude the entry of summary judgment on Plaintiffs'
21 allegations of a failure to train. These factual issues, which bear on whether the officers
22 in fact received proper training, include but are not limited to: (1) whether the amount of
23 resistance officers faced while attempting to detain Decedent warranted the amount of
24 force utilized and types of restraints employed; (2) whether multiple officers utilized their
25 body weight on Decedent's torso while he was in a prone position; (3) the length of time
26 Decedent was restrained in a prone position and whether and how that may have

27 ⁹ The Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training ("POST") sets standards for the basic
28 and continued training of peace officers, and certifies local law-enforcement agencies and their officers as
being in compliance with those standards. See Defs.' Ex. B, ECF No. 63-2.

1 resulted in his subsequent death; (4) the effect of the figure four restraint on Decedent's
2 legs while he was in the prone position; and (5) whether the cause of death was
3 attributable to excited delirium and/or improper restraints.

4 Given these disputed factual issues, the Court cannot rule out a conclusion that
5 the City's failure to train its officers in proper restraint methods was so obviously deficient
6 that municipal liability could stem from the single constitutional deprivation presently at
7 issue. Therefore, Defendants' Motion is DENIED as to Plaintiffs' Monell claim alleging
8 the City's failure to train.

9 2. Ratification

10 Failure by a city to discipline a particular officer is insufficient by itself to
11 demonstrate the city's ratification of that officer's conduct. See Haugen v. Brosseau,
12 351 F.3d 372, 393 (9th Cir. 2003). There must be something more. In Larez v. City of
13 L.A., 946 F.2d 630 (9th Cir. 1991), for example, the court held there was sufficient
14 evidence to support a jury finding that the chief of police ratified the excessive use of
15 force against the plaintiffs when he unquestioningly accepted the findings of an
16 investigation that had been conducted by the agency responsible for the alleged
17 constitutional violation, despite the fact that said investigation contained gaps and
18 inconsistencies. If sufficient facts have been alleged, ratification becomes a question for
19 the jury. See Christie v. Iopa, 176 F.3d 1231, 1238-9 (9th Cir. 1999); Fuller v. City of
20 Oakland, 47 F.3d 1522, 1534 (9th Cir. 1995).

21 In support of their ratification theory, Plaintiffs allege the City did not take steps to
22 change any policy or train its staff in the proper arrest and control procedures after the
23 incident at issue here. Pls.' Opp'n, ECF No. 68, at 10. Plaintiffs point to numerous
24 failings in that regard. Id. They assert the City ignored the finding of the District
25 Attorney's forensic pathologist that asphyxia was potentially a contributing factor, failed
26 to recognize the egregiousness of the violations of POST training with respect to the
27 restraint and positional asphyxia of Decedent, and failed to take disciplinary measures or
28 mandate follow up training for the officers involved in the incident. Id. at 10-13. Plaintiffs

1 contend that these actions by the City, coupled with conduct that was so outrageous a
2 reasonable administrator should have known action was required, indicate a systemic,
3 organizational, cultural pattern and practice thereby ratifying officers' excessive and
4 unnecessary force. Id.

5 Defendants assert Plaintiffs' ratification theory is premised on mere allegations of
6 the City's ostensible failure to discipline the officers involved, and is not factually
7 supported. Defs.' Reply, ECF No. 70, at 6. Defendants state that any concerns based
8 upon the findings of the District Attorney's Office are an after-the-fact observation of a
9 single incident and not indicative of any municipal policy. Defs.' MSJ, ECF No. 60, at 11.
10 Further, Defendants point out that additional training on excited delirium was initiated by
11 the police department after the incident with Decedent. Id.

12 As detailed above, numerous factual disputes surround the issue of whether or
13 not the City may have ratified the officers' actions. Given those disputes, the Court finds
14 that a rational juror could find that the City's failure to train, re-train, or discipline the law
15 enforcement officers after the incident in question could rise to the level of ratification
16 sufficient to support liability by the City for Steven Motley's death. In this Court's
17 estimation, questions of material fact have been raised as to whether steps should have
18 been taken to train, re-train, or discipline officers involved in the altercation with
19 Decedent. Further, the conflicting expert opinions on the causes of death, particularly
20 when coupled with the District Attorney's findings as to the propriety of force associated
21 with the officers' baton strikes, as well as the potential of restraint asphyxia relating to
22 Steven Motley's death, all could lead a reasonable juror to find that by not taking action
23 concerning the training of restraints and baton strikes after the altercation with Decedent,
24 the City was essentially ratifying the officers' use of force. Therefore, Defendants'
25 Motion is DENIED as to Plaintiffs' claim under a Monell theory of ratification.

26 **B. Individual Liability**

27 "Liability is imposed against a supervisory official in his individual capacity for his
28 own culpable action or inaction in the training, supervision, or control of his subordinates,

1 for his acquiescence in the constitutional deprivations of which the complaint is made, or
2 for conduct that showed a reckless or callous indifference to the rights of others.”
3 Johnson v. City of Vallejo, 99 F. Supp. 3d 1212, 1219 (E.D. Cal. 2015) (quoting
4 Menotti v. City of Seattle, 409 F.3d 1113, 1149 (9th Cir. 2005)). A suit against a
5 governmental official in his official capacity, on the other hand, is equivalent to a suit
6 against the entity itself and hence is superfluous where, as here, the entity has been
7 sued. Larez v. City of Los Angeles, 946 F.2d at 646.

8 While respondeat superior liability does not attach to a § 1983 claim, “a supervisor
9 is liable for the acts of his subordinates ‘if the supervisor participated in or directed the
10 violations, or knew of the violation [of subordinates] and failed to act to prevent them.’”
11 Preschooler II v. Clark County Sch. Bd. of Trs., 479 F.3d 1175, 1182 (9th Cir. 2007)
12 (quoting Taylor v. List, 880 F.2d 1040, 1045 (9th Cir. 1989)). “The requisite causal
13 connection may be established when an official sets in motion a ‘series of acts by others
14 which the actor knows or reasonably should know would cause others to inflict
15 constitutional harms.” Johnson, 99 F. Supp. at 1219 (quoting Johnson v. Duffy,
16 588 F.2d 740, 743 (9th Cir. 1978).

17 Plaintiffs allege Chief Paoletti, both in his official and individual capacities, was
18 responsible for the constitutional deprivations that befell Decedent because he
19 condoned, ratified, and encouraged the excessive force utilized by the Defendant
20 officers. Pls.’ Opp’n, ECF No. 68 at 14. The Court agrees with Defendants, however,
21 that the only real claims against Chief Paoletti are being asserted in his individual
22 capacity, since any official capacity claims are subsumed by the City’s inclusion in this
23 lawsuit. With that understanding, the Court only addresses Plaintiffs’ claim against Chief
24 Paoletti in his individual capacity.

25 Defendants assert that Plaintiffs have failed to offer facts establishing that Chief
26 Paoletti knew of any purported pattern of citizen complaints sufficient to establish
27 individual liability, or establishing any violation of Plaintiffs’ federal civil rights attributable
28 to Chief Paoletti’s individual acts or omissions. Defs.’ Mot., ECF No. 60, at 2, 13.

