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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

RICHARD J. RYAN,

Plaintiff,

v.

CITY OF LINCOLN, a municipal
corporation; COUNTY OF PLACER, a
charter County; TONI FRAYJI, an
individual, FRAYJI DESIGN GROUP
INC., a California Corporation, and DOES
1 through 100, inclusive,

Defendants.

No. 2:18-cv-00096-KJM-DB

ORDER

Defendant City of Lincoln moves under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 12(b)(1) to dismiss all claims against it in plaintiff Richard Ryan’s operative First Amended Complaint (“FAC”), for lack of subject matter jurisdiction. ECF No. 12. Having reviewed the complaint’s allegations and the parties’ respective briefing on the motion, the court GRANTS defendant’s motion.

I. BACKGROUND

Ryan brings five claims against the City of Lincoln, among other defendants, related to defendants’ alleged taking of Ryan’s property for public use without providing just compensation. FAC ¶ 23. Two of the claims are federal claims: Inverse condemnation in

1 violation of the Fifth Amendment (claim 1) and violation of due process under the Fourteenth
2 Amendment (claim 2). *Id.* ¶¶ 23–32. The other three claims are state claims: Making a false
3 promise (claim 3) and two claims for intentional misrepresentation (claims 4 and 5). *Id.* ¶¶ 33–
4 44. Ryan purchased the subject property—968 Virginiatown Road, Lincoln, California—in 2001.
5 *Id.* ¶¶ 12–13. In January 2015, Placer County issued Ryan a residential construction permit to
6 build his personal residence on the property. *Id.* ¶¶ 13–14, 17, 20. On May 6, 2015, the City
7 formally began annexation proceedings with respect to a large portion of County territory to
8 facilitate development of a master-plan community known as the Lincoln Village 1 Specific Plan
9 (“Village 1 Plan”). *Id.* ¶ 15. Ryan’s property sits within the territory that was annexed. *Id.* Ryan
10 alleges he did not receive notice from the City of the annexation until after it become final, *id.*
11 ¶ 16; the City promised him, despite the annexation, that he could still “absolutely build his
12 house,” *id.* ¶ 17; but the City and County then conspired to prevent him from completing
13 construction of his home, *id.* ¶ 18. Further, Ryan alleges County officials informed him on March
14 14, 2017 of a discrepancy involving a water well on his property, and told him that if the
15 discrepancy was not resolved by the residential construction permit’s expiration date of May 5,
16 2017, the County would not renew his permit. *Id.* ¶¶ 14, 20. Ryan did not resolve the
17 discrepancy and the County declined to renew his permit. *Id.* ¶ 21. Finally, Ryan claims the City
18 has demanded he move his house pad to a new location, which is cost prohibitive. *Id.*
19 Alternatively, by zoning the property “Open Space” under the Village 1 Plan, Ryan alleges the
20 City has effectively rendered his property void of all intended use. *Id.*

21 II. LEGAL STANDARD

22 Under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 12(b)(1), a defending party may move for
23 dismissal for lack of subject matter jurisdiction. “A Rule 12(b)(1) jurisdictional attack may be
24 facial or factual.” *Safe Air for Everyone v. Meyer*, 373 F.3d 1035, 1039 (9th Cir. 2004). A facial
25 attack claims the “allegations contained in [the] complaint are insufficient on their face to invoke
26 federal jurisdiction,” whereas a factual attack “disputes the truth of the allegations that, by
27 themselves, would otherwise invoke federal jurisdiction.” *Id.* If there is ambiguity as to whether
28 the attack is facial or factual, the court applies a facial analysis. *See Wichansky v. Zoel Holding*

1 *Co., Inc.*, 702 F. App'x 559, 560 (9th Cir. 2017) (district court erred in construing defendants'
2 12(b)(1) motion as factual, rather than facial, where ambiguity existed).

3 The court treats a jurisdictional “facial attack as it would a motion to dismiss under
4 Rule 12(b)(6): Accepting the plaintiff’s allegations as true and drawing all reasonable inferences
5 in the plaintiff’s favor, the court determines whether the allegations are sufficient as a legal matter
6 to invoke the court's jurisdiction.” *Leite v. Crane Co.*, 749 F.3d 1117, 1121 (9th Cir. 2014).
7 Accordingly, the court ordinarily “may not consider any material beyond the pleadings” when
8 deciding the motion. *Lee v. City of Los Angeles*, 250 F.3d 668, 688 (9th Cir. 2001). The court
9 may, however, consider extrinsic evidence under Federal Rule of Evidence 201 by taking judicial
10 notice of “matters of public record.” *Id.* at 688–89 (quoting *Mack v. South Bay Beer Distrib.*, 798
11 F.2d 1279, 1282 (9th Cir. 1986)).

12 Here, although it does not say so explicitly, the City appears to bring a facial
13 attack. *See* ECF No. 19 (citing *O’Bryan v. Holy See*, 556 F.3d 361, 376 (6th Cir. 2009)
14 (addressing standards applicable “in a 12(b)(1) facial challenge . . .”). Ryan does not take a
15 position to the contrary. Therefore, the court analyzes the motion as a facial challenge. *See*
16 *Wichansky*, 702 F. App’x at 560; *see also BP Chemicals Ltd. v. Jiangsu Sopo Corp.*, 285 F.3d
17 677, 680 (8th Cir. 2002) (treating 12(b)(1) motion as facial where movant, although not explicitly
18 asking, confined jurisdictional challenge to the allegations in the complaint only).

19 III. REQUESTS FOR JUDICIAL NOTICE

20 As a preliminary matter, both the City and Ryan ask the court to take judicial
21 notice of several documents in support of their respective positions. Reqs. for Jud. Notice, ECF
22 Nos. 17, 20. Ryan seeks judicial notice of a claim form filed with the City complaining of his
23 inability to build his home. ECF No. 17. The City requests the Village 1 Plan and portions of the
24 City’s zoning ordinance be judicially noticed. ECF No. 20. As explained below, Ryan’s request
25 for judicial notice is DENIED, and the City’s request is GRANTED.

26 The court may judicially notice a fact so long as it is not subject to reasonable
27 dispute because it “(1) is generally known within the trial court’s territorial jurisdiction; or (2) can
28 be accurately and readily determined from sources whose accuracy cannot reasonably be

1 questioned.” Fed. R. Evid. 201(b). Generally, “public records and government documents
2 available from reliable sources on the Internet, such as websites run by governmental agencies”
3 are subject to judicial notice. *Gerritsen v. Warner Bros. Entm't Inc.*, 112 F. Supp. 3d 1011, 1033
4 (C.D. Cal. 2015).

5 Here, Ryan asks the court to judicially notice a “City of Lincoln Liability Claim
6 Form” that he says he submitted seeking monetary damages related to the inability to construct
7 his home as planned. ECF No. 17. The City objects to Ryan’s request “to the extent it seeks to
8 take judicial notice of anything beyond the fact that Plaintiff filed the claim.” ECF No. 19 at 12
9 n.5.¹ The court declines to take judicial notice of the contents of Ryan’s claim form because the
10 contents are not readily determined from indisputable sources. Nor is the claim form
11 incorporated by reference in the operative complaint, and the truth of the contents are generally
12 disputed by the City. *Cf. Pierce v. Cty. of Marin*, 291 F. Supp. 3d 982, 990 n.3 (N.D. Cal. 2018)
13 (taking judicial notice of county claim form because it was referenced in complaint and
14 undisputed by opposing party). While the court could take notice of the date on which the claim
15 form was filed and the fact of its filing, these judicially noticeable facts are irrelevant to the issues
16 before the court. *See Schaldach v. Dignity Health*, No. 2:12-CV-02492-MCE-KJN, 2015 WL
17 5896023, at *3 (E.D. Cal. Oct. 6, 2015) (“The Court has no obligation to take judicial notice of
18 irrelevant facts and declines to do so here.”).

19 The City’s unopposed request for judicial notice is granted because the Village 1
20 Plan and portions of the City’s zoning ordinance are readily available public records maintained
21 on a government agency website. *See Cty. of Santa Clara v. Trump*, 250 F. Supp. 3d 497, 510 n.2
22 (N.D. Cal.) (taking judicial notice of letter from Assistant Attorney General maintained on
23 official government website), *recon. denied*, 267 F. Supp. 3d 1201 (N.D. Cal. 2017), *appeal*
24 *dismissed as moot sub nom. City & Cty. of San Francisco v. Trump*, No. 17-16886, 2018 WL
25 1401847 (9th Cir. Jan. 4, 2018). The court thus relies on the information contained in the Village

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28 ¹ ECF page cites refer to ECF pagination only, not internal document pagination.

1 Plan and portions of the City’s zoning ordinance, specifically Lincoln Municipal Code
2 §§ 18.54.030, 18.54.040, 18.58.020, in resolving this motion.

3 A. Claim One: Inverse Condemnation

4 Under the Fifth Amendment, “[w]hen the government physically takes possession
5 of an interest in property for some public purpose, it has a categorical duty to compensate the
6 former owner, regardless of whether the interest that is taken constitutes an entire parcel or
7 merely a part thereof.” *Tahoe-Sierra Pres. Council, Inc. v. Tahoe Reg’l Planning Agency*, 535
8 U.S. 302, 322 (2002) (citation omitted). A Fifth Amendment takings action brought in federal
9 court is ripe for review only if two requirements are satisfied: (1) “the government entity charged
10 with implementing the regulations [must have] reached a final decision regarding the application
11 of the regulations to the property at issue,” and (2) the plaintiff must have sought “compensation
12 through the procedures the State has provided for doing so.” *Williamson Cty. Reg’l Planning
13 Comm’n v. Hamilton Bank of Johnson City*, 473 U.S. 172, 186, 194 (1985). If these two prongs,
14 referred to as the “finality” prong and the “exhaustion” prong respectively, are not satisfied, the
15 claim is unripe and must be dismissed for lack of subject matter jurisdiction. *Carson Harbor
16 Vill., Ltd. v. City of Carson*, 353 F.3d 824, 830 (9th Cir. 2004).

17 There is, however, one exception Ryan suggests is relevant here. A “futility
18 exception” can apply to the finality prong: “[u]nder this exception, the requirement of the
19 submission of a development plan is excused if such an application would be an idle and futile
20 act.” *Hohbach Realty Co. P’ship v. City of Palo Alto*, No. 10-339-JF (PVT), 2010 WL 2077212,
21 at *8 (N.D. Cal. May 20, 2010) (citing *Kinzli v. City of Santa Cruz*, 818 F.2d 1449, 1454 (9th Cir.
22 1987)) (internal quotations omitted). For this exception to apply, plaintiff “bears the heavy
23 burden of showing that compliance with local ordinances would be futile.” *Id.* (internal
24 alterations omitted).

25 As explained below, because Ryan fails to satisfy the finality prong, or show
26 applicability of the futility exception, his first claim must be DISMISSED.

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1 1. Finality

2 Ordinances governing the property at issue here provide the procedures for
3 obtaining a final land use determination. *See, e.g., Hodel v. Virginia Surface Mining Reclamation*
4 *Assn., Inc.*, 452 U.S. 264, 297 (1981) (finding claim unripe where appellees had not availed
5 themselves of variance or waiver procedures provided by act they sought to challenge). Here, the
6 Lincoln Municipal Code (“LMC”) details the manner in which property disputes may be filed
7 with and reviewed by the City. Specifically, LMC § 18.54.030 provides, “Applications for a
8 variance or conditional use permit shall be made in writing by the property owner or his agent to
9 the planning commission or . . . city planner, on a form to be prescribed by the commission.” *See*
10 ECF No. 20 at 222. After an application is filed, the matter is calendared before the planning
11 commission or city planner for public hearing. *Id.* (copy of LMC § 18.54.040). Under §
12 18.58.020, the planning commission may grant a variance upon a showing of “special
13 circumstances” related to unique property characteristics or equitable use restrictions. *See id.* at
14 223.

15 Here, the City contends Ryan’s takings claim as pled cannot satisfy the finality
16 prong because the operative complaint does not allege he filed a variance application with the
17 City; without a variance application no final determination can be made. ECF No. 12–1 at 6–7.
18 In opposition, Ryan claims the City made a final determination when it “communicated [] that he
19 would be unable to build his home because the property was now Open Space,” and thereafter
20 “took actions or failed to take actions to prevent [him] from completing construction of his
21 house.” ECF No. 16 at 2. Based on the City’s acts, Ryan claims he should “not be forced to file
22 applications or variances when the [City] has no intent to grant them.” *Id.* at 4. In essence, Ryan
23 argues that a formal determination was made by the City, and that the futility exception applies.

24 Viewing the complaint in Ryan’s favor as required, *see Leite*, 749 F.3d at 1121,
25 Ryan fails to plead facts sufficient to satisfy the finality prong. The complaint alleges the County
26 issued Ryan a building permit for his property in January 2015. FAC ¶ 14. Once Ryan became
27 aware that his property was subject to the Lincoln-Placer annexation, he asked the City what
28 effect the annexation would have on his property. *Id.* ¶¶ 16–17. The City responded by e-mail

1 that Ryan could “absolutely build his house.” *Id.* ¶ 17. Thereafter, both the City and County
2 “took actions or failed to take actions to prevent [him] from completing construction of his
3 house.” *Id.* ¶ 18. These actions included the City’s knowing exclusion of Ryan’s active permits
4 from the formal documents required when it “annexed the property, approved tentative map
5 plans, or processed the [annexation] application.” *Id.* ¶ 17. Ryan also alleges the City took
6 further acts, or omitted to take certain acts, given that the location of his proposed residential
7 construction “prevented a future road as part of Phase 1 of the Village 1 development.” *Id.* ¶ 18.
8 Finally, Ryan claims that a dispute with the County over the location of a water well led to the
9 County’s rejection of his permit renewal and subjected his property to zoning restrictions under
10 the Village 1 Plan. *Id.* ¶¶ 20–21.

11 Taking Ryan’s allegations as true, the complaint makes no mention of Ryan’s
12 attempt, if any, to apply for a variance with the City. It is unclear from the complaint which
13 governing body retained jurisdiction over Ryan’s building permit: Did the City absorb permitting
14 responsibilities through annexation, or did the County retain that responsibility as might be
15 inferred by the County’s denial of Ryan’s request to renew his permit? Regardless, the
16 complaint’s allegations as pled, fairly construed, mean that Ryan knew his property was subject
17 to the zoning regulations under the Village 1 Plan, and learned he would be “depriv[ed] [] of the
18 use of his property,” but made no attempt to apply for a variance. *Id.* ¶ 21. The provisions of the
19 LMC, of which the court has taken notice, provide a framework for seeking variances but nothing
20 in his pleadings indicates Ryan availed himself of this framework. His claims of e-mailed
21 promises and acts of omission or commission by the City, *see id.* ¶¶ 17–18, fall short of
22 establishing any official submission and determination. *See Williamson*, 473 U.S. at 190 (having
23 refused to follow variance formalities, “respondent hardly can maintain that the Commission’s
24 disapproval of the preliminary plat was equivalent to a final decision that no variances would be
25 granted.”).

26 The futility exception does not relieve Ryan of these shortcomings. The exception
27 may apply to the “extent that development [or variance] application procedures are either unfair
28 or unreasonably slow.” *Zilber v. Town of Moraga*, 692 F. Supp. 1195, 1206 (N.D. Cal. 1988).

1 But, as noted above, the Ninth Circuit places a heavy burden on the proponent of the exception.
2 *Am. Sav. & Loan Ass'n v. Marin Cty.*, 653 F.2d 364, 371 (9th Cir. 1981). Conclusory allegations
3 of a city's "mere opposition" to a proposed development or variance do not satisfy this burden,
4 and such allegations "need not be accepted" by the court. *Hohbach*, 2010 WL 2077212, at *8.
5 Here, the court cannot find the futility exception applies where Ryan has not pled even the
6 slightest facts alleging his attempt to test the efficiency or inequity of the City's variance
7 application process. Ryan merely argues, in his opposition brief, that he "should not be forced to
8 file applications, or variances when the [City] has no intent to grant them." ECF No. 16 at 4.
9 Such a bare assertion fails to satisfy the burden Ryan bears in the Ninth Circuit. *Am. Sav. &*
10 *Loan*, 653 F.2d at 371.

11 2. Exhaustion

12 Because Ryan has not satisfied the finality prong, the court need not reach the
13 merits of the exhaustion prong. That said, the court does address Ryan's request that the court
14 abstain from ruling on exhaustion until the U.S. Supreme Court has decided the case of *Knick v.*
15 *Twp. of Scott, PA*, in which the Court has granted certiorari on the question of whether
16 *Williamson* should be abrogated to the extent it requires exhaustion of state court remedies for
17 takings claims to ripen. *See Knick*, 138 S. Ct. 1262 (limited grant of certiorari; Mar. 5, 2018);
18 2017 WL 5158056 (petition for writ of certiorari articulating question of exhaustion); *see also*
19 ECF No. 16 at 7.

20 This court is bound to apply current Supreme Court precedent unless an
21 intervening decision demands otherwise. *Pan-Pac. & Low Ball Cable Television Co. v. Pac.*
22 *Union Co.*, 919 F.2d 145 (9th Cir. 1990) ("The Supreme Court's decisions are binding on all
23 pending appellate court cases, pursuant to the doctrine of limited retroactivity"); *In re Consol.*
24 *U.S. Atmospheric Testing Litig.*, 820 F.2d 982, 991 (9th Cir. 1987) ("As a general rule, a judge
25 should apply the law in effect on the date of a decision."). Regarding the exhaustion prong,
26 *Williamson* binds this court at this time and there is no persuasive reason for the court to abstain
27 or stay a decision here pending a decision in *Knick*.

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1 B. Claim Two: Due Process

2 Ryan also brings a claim for violation of his due process rights under the
3 Fourteenth Amendment. FAC ¶¶ 27–32. The City argues the claim is a substantive due process
4 claim and therefore subject to the same ripeness analysis as the inverse condemnation claim, as
5 discussed above. See ECF No. 12–1 at 8 (citing *Galland v. City of Clovis*, 24 Cal. 4th 1003,
6 1034–1035 (2001), as modified (Mar. 21, 2001)). Ryan has not responded to this argument. See
7 generally ECF No. 16. For the reasons set forth below, whether the due process claim is
8 substantive or procedural is immaterial; the City’s motion is GRANTED as to claim two.

9 First, although the complaint does not explicitly state whether Ryan’s due process
10 claim is brought on substantive or procedural grounds, the complaint’s language suggests a
11 procedural basis for the claim. See FAC ¶ 30 (persons must be “enabl[ed] . . . to contest the basis
12 upon which a State proposes to deprive them of protected interests.”); *id.* (“The core of these
13 requirements is notice and a hearing . . .”); *id.* ¶ 31 (“Plaintiff was given no notice . . . or any
14 opportunity to defend his property rights.”). If procedural deprivation is indeed the claim, the
15 applicability of the ripeness analysis to such a claim depends on the circumstances of the case.
16 *Harris v. County of Riverside*, 904 F.2d 497, 500 (9th Cir. 1990). In *Harris*, plaintiff challenged
17 the county’s rezoning of his property from commercial to residential. *Id.* at 499. In determining
18 the ripeness analysis did not apply, the court explained: “In contrast to [plaintiff’s] taking claim,
19 however, his procedural due process claim challenges the rezoning decision in isolation, as a
20 single decision with its own consequences, rather than as one in a series of County actions
21 resulting in a taking.” *Id.* at 501. Conversely, in *Herrington v. County of Sonoma*, the court
22 engaged in ripeness analysis where plaintiff’s “procedural due process claim . . . relates to the
23 process by which the County reached its conclusion.” 857 F.2d 567, 569 n.1 (9th Cir. 1988)
24 (emphasis in original).

25 Here, Ryan’s due process claim as pled implicates the collective actions of the
26 City and County by which the alleged deprivation occurred, rather than identifying a procedural
27 deprivation in isolation. The operative complaint alleges not only a lack of notice regarding the
28 proposed annexation, FAC ¶ 16, but also a bureaucratic runaround delaying Ryan’s permit

1 renewal, *id.* ¶ 19, and various permitting and zoning tactics to impede Ryan’s full use of his
2 property, *id.* ¶¶ 21–22. When a claim implicates the process of deprivation more than the
3 decision itself, as here, it gives rise to ripeness concerns “whether the initial decisionmaker has
4 arrived at a definitive position on the issue that inflicts an actual concrete injury.” *Harris*, 904
5 F.2d at 500 (quoting *Williamson*, 473 U.S. at 193). Ryan’s procedural due process claim thus is
6 subject to the same ripeness analysis engaged in above, and must be dismissed for the same
7 reasons.

8 Second, even if Ryan were making a substantive due process claim, the outcome
9 would be the same. The Ninth Circuit addressed the distinction between a Fifth Amendment
10 takings claim and a substantive due process claim in *Crown Point Dev., Inc. v. City of Sun Valley*,
11 506 F.3d 851 (9th Cir. 2007). In *Crown Point*, the court noted that following two intervening
12 Supreme Court decisions, its prior precedent of *Armendariz v. Penman*, 75 F.3d 1311 (9th Cir.
13 1996), could no longer be read to preclude as a general rule substantive due process claims as a
14 means of challenging land use regulation. 507 F.3d at 856 (discussing effects of *County of*
15 *Sacramento v. Lewis*, 523 U.S. 833 (1998) and *Lingle v. Chevron U.S.A., Inc.*, 125 S. Ct. 2074
16 (2005) on *Armendariz*). In *Crown Point*, the circuit clarified that “the Fifth Amendment w[ill]
17 preclude a due process challenge only if the alleged conduct is actually covered by the Takings
18 Clause.” *Id.* at 855. As the court explained, the actions pled in support of a substantive due
19 process claim must yield to construction as a takings claim if they fit any one of the following
20 categories: “where [the] government requires an owner to suffer a permanent physical invasion of
21 property; where a regulation deprives an owner of all economically beneficial use of property;
22 and where the *Penn Central* factors are met, *Penn Central Transp. Co. v. New York City*, 438
23 U.S. 104, 124 (1978) [regulation has economic impact on claimant, has interfered with
24 investment-backed expectations, and government action resembles physical deprivation].” *Id.*
25 (some citations omitted). If any of these categories applies, a substantive due process claim is
26 properly a takings claim and subject to the same ripeness requirements as any claim brought
27 expressly under the Fifth Amendment.

1 Here, whether Ryan’s due process claim falls into any of these categories is best
2 determined by addressing the threshold question posed in *Crown Point* and comparing his
3 allegations to substantive due process pleadings standards in the property context. To sufficiently
4 plead an independent substantive due process claim, Ryan must show, among other things, that
5 the City’s actions “lacked a rational relationship to a government interest.” *N. Pacifica LLC v.*
6 *City of Pacifica*, 526 F.3d 478, 485 (9th Cir. 2008); *see also Christensen v. Yolo Cty. Bd. of*
7 *Sup’rs*, 995 F.2d 161, 165 (9th Cir. 1993) (“The rational relationship test also applies to
8 substantive due process challenges to property zoning ordinances.”). Ryan does not allege the
9 absence of such a relationship. The complaint merely claims that Ryan “was given no notice as
10 to the taking of his property . . . or any opportunity to defend his property rights.” FAC ¶¶ 27–32.
11 Neither does he make any allegation the City acted in a manner devoid of any legitimate interest.
12 Rather, as noted above, he simply asserts without any factual detail that “the [City] has no intent
13 to grant” him a variance or approve an application he submits, and then leaps to the conclusion he
14 “should not be forced to file applications, or variances . . .” ECF No. 16 at 4.

15 Because Ryan has not pled proper grounds for an independent substantive due
16 process claim, his due process allegations are properly construed as a takings claim and
17 concerning either a government action resulting in permanent or physical deprivation of property,
18 or a deprivation of all economically beneficial use of the property. *See Crown Point*, 506 F.3d at
19 855. The court need not consider whether the *Penn Central* factors are met.

20 Under any analysis, claim two must be dismissed on ripeness grounds for the same
21 reason as claim one, failure to satisfy the finality prong.

22 C. Claims Three, Four and Five

23 The court’s dismissal of claims one and two means the court does not have subject
24 matter jurisdiction based on these claims. “When a federal court concludes that it lacks subject-
25 matter jurisdiction, the court must dismiss the complaint in its entirety.” *Arbaugh v. Y&H Corp.*,
26 546 U.S. 500, 514 (2006). This rule leaves the court with no discretion to exercise supplemental
27 jurisdiction over state claims. *Herman Family Revocable Tr. v. Teddy Bear*, 254 F.3d 802, 806
28 (9th Cir. 2001). Here, because the remaining claims against the City involve matters of state

1 law—false promise and intentional misrepresentation—the court lacks the power to exercise
2 supplemental jurisdiction over them.

3 D. Dismissal Without Leave to Amend

4 Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 15 provides that “[t]he court should freely give
5 leave [to amend] when justice so requires.” However, leave to amend may be denied where there
6 is evidence of “undue delay, bad faith or dilatory motive on the part of the movant, repeated
7 failure to cure deficiencies by amendments previously allowed, undue prejudice to the opposing
8 party by virtue of allowance of the amendment, futility of amendment, etc.” *Foman v. Davis*, 371
9 U.S. 178, 182 (1962). If subject matter jurisdiction is in doubt or appears lacking, “[a]n action
10 should be dismissed . . . only if it is clear that the jurisdiction deficiency cannot be cured by
11 amendment.” *Castle v. United States*, No. C 01-0543 MEJ, 2001 WL 1602689, at *5 (N.D. Cal.
12 Dec. 10, 2001).

13 Here, granting amendment would be futile and cause undue delay, not because
14 Ryan is clearly incapable of eventually curing the deficiencies in the complaint, but because of
15 the length of the administrative process Ryan still must undergo to satisfy the ripeness
16 requirement. Although the court has discretion when setting a time period for amendment, *see* 4
17 A.L.R. Fed. 123 (originally published in 1970), traditionally that period is closely anchored to the
18 21-day default period provided by Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 15(a). *See, e.g., De Chellis v.*
19 *Ocwen Loan Servicing LLC*, No. 2:13-CV-0148-KJM-CMK, 2014 WL 1330648, at *1 (E.D. Cal.
20 Mar. 31, 2014) (granting 30 days to amend complaint); *see also Gauchat-Hargis v. Forest River,*
21 *Inc.*, No. CIV S-11-2737 KJM, 2012 WL 5187980, at *2 (E.D. Cal. Oct. 18, 2012) (granting
22 plaintiff 14 days to file amended complaint). Granting Ryan sufficient time to cure his complaint
23 would stretch the standard period for amendment unreasonably and cause prejudice if not undue
24 delay to the City by requiring it to continue to respond to this litigation when the claims against
25 the City are premature at best. For those reasons, the court grants the City’s motion and declines
26 to grant leave to amend in this case at this time.

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IV. CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, the City of Lincoln’s motion to dismiss is GRANTED without prejudice, and the court declines to grant Ryan leave to amend any claims related to the City. This order resolves ECF No. 12. The Clerk of Court is directed to enter judgment on behalf of the City of Lincoln only, and this matter is to remain open as to the County of Placer.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

DATED: December 5, 2018.


UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE