

United States District Court
For the Northern District of California

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

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

MARK AARON HAYNIE, BRENDAN JOHN RICHARDS, THE CALGUNS FOUNDATION, INC., and THE SECOND AMENDMENT FOUNDATION, INC.,

Plaintiffs,

v.

KAMALA HARRIS, ATTORNEY GENERAL OF CALIFORNIA and CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE,

Defendants.

No. C 10-01255 SI

ORDER GRANTING DEFENDANTS' MOTION TO DISMISS WITHOUT LEAVE TO AMEND

On February 28, 2014, the Court heard argument on defendants' motion to dismiss plaintiffs' third amended consolidated complaint. Having considered the arguments of the parties and the papers submitted, and for good cause shown, the Court hereby GRANTS defendants' motion to dismiss, without leave to amend.

BACKGROUND

Plaintiffs Mark Aaron Haynie ("Haynie") and Brendan John Richards ("Richards") filed separate lawsuits against California Attorney General Kamala Harris ("Harris") and the California Department of Justice ("DOJ"), alleging that they were wrongfully arrested for lawful possession of certain weapons that officers mistakenly believed were assault weapons banned under the California Assault Weapons

1 Control Act (“AWCA”), California Penal Code sections 12275-12290. The Calguns Foundation and
2 the Second Amendment Foundation are also plaintiffs in both suits. The Calguns Foundation is a
3 “non-profit organization” which “support[s] the California firearms community by promoting education
4 . . . about California and federal firearms laws, rights and privileges, and defend[s] and protect[s] the
5 civil rights of California gun owners.” Third Amended Consolidated Complaint (“ACC”) ¶ 12. The
6 purposes of the Second Amendment Foundation, a “non-profit membership organization,” include
7 “education, research, publishing and legal action focusing on the Constitutional right to privately own[]
8 and possess firearms, and the consequences of gun control.” *Id.* ¶ 13. The Calguns Foundation
9 contributed funds for Haynie’s and Richards’ legal representation during their criminal proceedings.
10 *Id.* ¶¶ 35, 63, 74.

11 The following facts are drawn from the operative complaint.

12
13 **1. Haynie**

14 On February 7, 2009, Haynie was arrested by officers of the Pleasanton Police Department for
15 possession of an assault weapon banned under the AWCA. ACC ¶¶ 22-23. Haynie paid \$6,000 to a bail
16 bondsman. *Id.* ¶ 23. Haynie’s rifle was “based on the popular and common Colt AR-15 rifle,” and was
17 “functionally identical to an AR-15.” *Id.* ¶ 26. However, Haynie’s rifle contained a “bullet button”
18 which makes the magazine of the rifle non-detachable, taking the weapon out of the statutory definition
19 of an assault weapon under California Penal Code sections 12276 and 12276.1. *Id.* ¶¶ 24-25. The
20 Alameda County District Attorney’s Office declined to file an information against Haynie, and the
21 matter was dropped on March 27, 2009. *Id.* ¶ 28. Haynie was released on that same date. *Id.* ¶ 29. On
22 October 21, 2009, Haynie obtained a finding of factual innocence from the Pleasanton Police
23 Department. *Id.* ¶ 32. The Calguns Foundation paid for Haynie’s legal representation. *Id.* ¶ 35. Haynie
24 has since sold his firearms for fear that he would face additional future arrests. *Id.* ¶ 33. He alleges that
25 he has a reasonable fear of reacquiring the rifle because it “looks like a contraband weapon,” making
26 it more likely that he will have future law enforcement contact and possible arrest. *Id.*

27 Haynie originally brought suit against the City of Pleasanton and the City of Pleasanton Police
28 Department, but the City and police department were dismissed from the case after paying Haynie

1 \$6,000 in exchange for a release of all other claims. *Id.* ¶ 37. Haynie alleges that the DOJ is the state
2 agency responsible for the training and education of law enforcement agencies with respect to assault
3 weapons, and that, because the DOJ will not take measures to clarify the detachable magazine feature
4 or bullet-button technology, “innocent gun-owners continue to be arrested by local law enforcement
5 agencies and charged with violating Penal Code section 30600 *et seq.*” *Id.* ¶¶ 38-39. Haynie alleges
6 that the “the entire set of laws and regulations defining California assault weapons are unconstitutionally
7 vague and ambiguous.” *Id.* ¶ 39.

8
9 **2. Richards**

10 Plaintiff Richards was arrested on two separate occasions for the possession of what officers
11 believed were assault weapons banned under California law. *Id.* ¶¶ 40, 50, 65, 67. The first arrest
12 occurred in May of 2010, when a Rohnert Park police officer believed Richards possessed assault
13 weapons within the scope of the AWCA. *Id.* ¶¶ 40, 50-51. Officer Becker, the arresting officer, also
14 seized two pistols and one rifle from Richards on that day. *Id.* ¶ 61. Richards spent six days in jail and
15 was released after paying a \$1,400 fee to a bondsman. *Id.* ¶ 52. On September 9, 2010, the Sonoma
16 County District Attorney’s Office dismissed all charges against Richards based on a report by a
17 criminalist from the California Department of Justice. *Id.* ¶¶ 53-54. The report opined that Richards’
18 firearms lacked features that would make them illegal under the AWCA. *Id.* ¶ 54. One of the firearms
19 deemed to not be an assault weapon under the Penal Code “had a properly installed bullet button, thus
20 rendering the firearm incapable of accepting a detachable magazine that could only be removed from
21 the gun by the use of a tool.” *Id.* ¶ 54(a). Thereafter, all charges against Richards were dismissed and
22 his firearms were returned to him. *Id.* ¶¶ 56, 61.

23 In August of 2011, Richards was arrested a second time, when a Sonoma County Sheriff’s
24 deputy found a Springfield Armory M1A rifle in the trunk of Richards’ car. *Id.* ¶¶ 65-66. The arresting
25 officer believed that the rifle was illegal under the AWCA because it had a “flash suppressor” on it. *Id.*
26 ¶ 67. Richards was released after paying \$2,000 to a bail bondsman. *Id.* ¶ 68. On September 19, 2011,
27 the charges against Richards were dismissed due to a report by a California Department of Justice
28 criminalist stating that Richards’ firearm did not have a flash suppressor and was thus not illegal under

1 the AWCA. *Id.* ¶ 69. All charges against Richards were subsequently dismissed. *Id.* ¶ 72. Richards
2 alleges that because he was arrested twice, he has a reasonable fear that he will face repeated wrongful
3 arrests in the future. *Id.* ¶ 75.

4
5 **3. Procedural History**

6 On May 6, 2011, defendants filed a motion to dismiss Haynie’s first amended complaint
7 (“FAC”). Docket No. 26. On June 20, 2011, plaintiffs and defendants filed a stipulation and proposed
8 order consolidating *Haynie v. Harris* and *Richards v. Harris* because “[b]oth Haynie and Richards
9 present the same legal issues regarding California’s Assault Weapons Control Act and the Department
10 of Justice’s role in enforcing it.” Docket No. 38. Accordingly, on June 21, 2011, the Court ordered the
11 cases to be consolidated for hearing pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 42(a). On October 22,
12 2011, the Court granted defendants’ motion to dismiss but allowed plaintiffs the opportunity to cure the
13 deficiencies by filing an amended consolidated complaint.

14 On November 4, 2011, plaintiffs filed an amended consolidated complaint. Docket No. 43.
15 Richards then brought a related action based on his second arrest, and on December 21, 2011, *Richards*
16 *v. Harris (II)* was ordered to be related with *Haynie v. Harris* and *Richards v. Harris*. Docket No. 47.
17 On November 1, 2012, plaintiffs filed a second amended consolidated complaint. Docket No. 71.
18 Following a case management conference, the parties agreed to voluntarily dismiss from the lawsuit the
19 City of Rohnert Park and Officer Becker.

20 On December 20, 2013, plaintiffs filed the operative complaint. Plaintiffs claim that defendants
21 “intentionally or through deliberate indifference to the rights of law-abiding gun-owners,” have failed
22 to generate appropriate memoranda to assist local law enforcement agencies in properly identifying
23 “assault weapons” under the AWCA. ACC ¶¶ 16-17, 84. Specifically, plaintiffs maintain that because
24 the DOJ will not issue a bulletin or memorandum clarifying that weapons with a “bullet button” are legal
25 to possess, they fear similar wrongful arrests in the future. *Id.* Plaintiffs also argue that the AWCA is
26 unconstitutionally vague and ambiguous on its face and as applied to Haynie and Richards. *Id.* at 86.
27 By the present motion, defendants move pursuant to Federal Rules of Civil Procedure 12(b)(1) and
28

1 12(b)(6) to dismiss the ACC. Docket No. 92, Defendants’ Motion to Dismiss the Third Amended
2 Complaint (“Defs.’ Mot.”).

3
4 **LEGAL STANDARD**

5 **1. Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 12(b)(1)**

6 Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 12(b)(1) allows a party to challenge a federal court’s jurisdiction
7 over the subject matter of the complaint. The party invoking the jurisdiction of the federal court bears
8 the burden of establishing that the court has the requisite subject matter jurisdiction to grant the relief
9 requested. *See Kokkonen v. Guardian Life Ins. Co. of Am.*, 511 U.S. 375, 377 (1994) (citation omitted).
10 “In resolving a Rule 12(b)(1) factual attack on jurisdiction, the district court may review evidence
11 beyond the complaint without converting the motion to dismiss into a motion for summary judgment.”
12 *In re Digimarc Corp. Derivative Litig.*, 549 F.3d 1223, 1236 (9th Cir. 2008) (citation omitted). A
13 complaint will be dismissed if, looking at the complaint as a whole, it appears lacking in federal
14 jurisdiction either “facially” or “factually.” *Thornhill Publ’g Co., Inc. v. Gen. Tel. & Elecs. Corp.*, 594
15 F.2d 730, 733 (9th Cir. 1979). When the complaint is challenged for lack of subject matter jurisdiction
16 on its face, all material allegations in the complaint will be taken as true and construed in the light most
17 favorable to the plaintiff. *NL Indus. v. Kaplan*, 792 F.2d 896, 898 (9th Cir. 1986). In deciding a Rule
18 12(b)(1) motion which mounts a factual attack on jurisdiction, “no presumption of truthfulness attaches
19 to plaintiff’s allegations, and the existence of disputed material facts will not preclude the trial court
20 from evaluating for itself the merits of jurisdictional claims.” *Mortensen v. First Fed. Savings & Loan*
21 *Ass’n*, 549 F.2d 884, 891 (3d Cir. 1977).

22
23 **2. Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 12(b)(6)**

24 Under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 12(b)(6), a district court must dismiss a complaint if it
25 fails to state a claim upon which relief can be granted. The question presented by a motion to dismiss
26 is not whether the plaintiff will prevail in the action, but whether the plaintiff is entitled to offer
27 evidence in support of the claim. *See Scheuer v. Rhodes*, 416 U.S. 232, 236 (1974), *overruled on other*
28 *grounds by Davis v. Scherer*, 468 U.S. 183 (1984). Dismissal of a complaint may be based “on the lack

1 of a cognizable legal theory or the absence of sufficient facts alleged under a cognizable legal theory.”
2 *Balistreri v. Pacifica Police Dep’t*, 901 F.2d 696, 699 (9th Cir. 1990). In answering this question, the
3 Court must assume that the plaintiff’s allegations are true and must draw all reasonable inferences in
4 the plaintiff’s favor. *See Usher v. City of L.A.*, 828 F.2d 556, 561 (9th Cir. 1987).

5
6 **DISCUSSION**

7 In their FAC, plaintiffs sought an order from the Court compelling defendants to issue a
8 statewide bulletin clarifying the bullet button technology. FAC ¶ 36. In ruling on the motion to dismiss
9 the FAC, the Court found that plaintiffs failed to plead sufficient facts to show standing to seek
10 injunctive relief. In the operative complaint now before the Court, plaintiffs slightly modified their
11 theory of recovery, but seek similar injunctive and declaratory relief, asserting that California’s AWCA
12 is unconstitutionally vague and ambiguous. ACC ¶ 113. They assert that the confusion caused by the
13 AWCA has had a “chilling effect on the fundamental right to ‘keep and bear arms.’” *Id.* ¶ 111.
14 Specifically, plaintiffs seek an order from the Court suspending enforcement of the AWCA until
15 defendants “take steps to clarify the definition of Assault Weapon.” *Id.*

16 Defendants contend that plaintiffs do not meet the requirements of standing for prospective
17 equitable relief and present unripe claims. Defendants further contend that the AWCA is not
18 unconstitutionally vague.

19 For the following reasons, the Court finds that plaintiffs do not have standing to seek injunctive
20 relief and present unripe claims.

21
22 **1. Haynie and Richards Cannot Establish Standing to Seek Injunctive Relief.**

23 Defendants argue that plaintiffs Haynie and Richards lack standing because they do not meet the
24 standards for injunctive relief. The doctrine of standing sets forth minimum constitutional requirements
25 under Article III that serve to limit the jurisdiction of federal courts to the adjudication of actual cases
26 or controversies. *City of L.A. v. Lyons*, 461 U.S. 95, 101 (1983) (citations omitted). The question of
27 whether a plaintiff has standing presents both constitutional and prudential considerations. *Gladstone*
28 *Realtors v. Vill. of Bellwood*, 441 U.S. 91, 99 (1979); *Warth v. Seldin*, 422 U.S. 490, 498 (1975).

1 Before a federal court can consider the merits of a legal claim, the party seeking to invoke the court’s
2 jurisdiction must establish the requisite standing to sue. *Whitmore v. Ark.*, 495 U.S. 149, 154 (1990).

3 To establish Article III standing, a plaintiff must establish three elements:

4 First, the plaintiff must have suffered an injury in fact – an invasion of a
5 legally protected interest which is (a) concrete and particularized and (b)
6 actual or imminent, not conjectural or hypothetical. Second, there must
7 be a causal connection between the injury and the conduct complained of
8 – the injury has to be fairly . . . trace[able] to the challenged action of the
defendant, and not . . . the result [of] the independent action of some third
party not before the court. Third, it must be likely, as opposed to merely
speculative, that the injury will be redressed by a favorable decision.

9 *Lujan v. Defenders of Wildlife*, 504 U.S. 555, 560-61 (1992) (internal citations and quotations omitted).

10 “The party invoking federal jurisdiction bears the burden of establishing these elements.” *Id.* at 561.

11 Moreover, plaintiffs seeking equitable relief must also show a “likelihood of substantial and immediate
12 irreparable injury,” a separate and additional jurisdictional requirement. *Lyons*, 461 U.S. at 111
13 (internal citations omitted). “Past exposure to illegal conduct does not in itself show a present case or
14 controversy regarding injunctive relief . . . if unaccompanied by any continuing, present adverse
15 effects.” *O’Shea v. Littleton*, 414 U.S. 488, 495-96 (1974).

16 Defendants contend that plaintiffs have not established the imminent threat of irreparable harm
17 needed for standing to seek injunctive relief, and also fail to overcome prudential limitations.
18 Specifically, they argue that Haynie’s and Richards’ allegations of fear of being subjected to repeated
19 wrongful arrests for AWCA violations are speculative and fall short of showing a likelihood of
20 substantial and immediate irreparable injury. Defs.’ Mot. at 9. Defendants argue that absent this
21 showing, federalism considerations weigh in favor of judicial restraint from intervening with the state’s
22 criminal law matters through issuance of injunctions. *Id.*

23 In *Lyons*, a case where the plaintiff sought a preliminary and permanent injunction against the
24 City of Los Angeles barring the use of the chokeholds, the United States Supreme Court elaborated upon
25 the standing requirements for injunctive relief:

26 In order to establish an actual controversy in this case, *Lyons* would have
27 had not only to allege that he would have another encounter with the
28 police but also to make the incredible assertion either, (1) that *all* police
officers in Los Angeles always choke any citizen with whom they happen
to have an encounter, whether for the purpose of arrest, issuing a citation

1 or for questioning or, (2) that the City ordered or authorized police
2 officers to act in such manner.

3 461 U.S. at 105-06 (emphasis in original). In the earlier ruling on the motion to dismiss the FAC, this
4 Court applied *Lyons* and held that “to show a real and immediate threat and demonstrate a case or
5 controversy, Haynie and Richards would have to allege either that *all* law enforcement officers in
6 California *always* arrest any citizen they come into contact with who is lawfully in possession of a
7 weapon with a bullet button, or that the DOJ has ordered or authorized California law enforcement
8 officials to act in such a manner.” Docket No. 42, Order Granting Defendants’ Motion to Dismiss and
9 Granting Leave to Amend (“FAC Order”).

10 The motion to dismiss the FAC was granted despite Haynie’s and Richards’ arrests because “past
11 exposure to illegal conduct without any continuing, current adverse effects is not enough to show a case
12 or controversy for injunctive relief, and that even allegation of routine misconduct is not sufficient.”
13 *Id.* at 11 (citing *Lyons*, 461 U.S. at 102, 105). Furthermore, the Court found that plaintiffs’ allegation
14 that the “DOJ has been simultaneously advising residents of California that their possession of certain
15 semi-automatic firearms is legal, while at the same time warning them that any one of the 58 of the
16 State’s District Attorneys might come to a different conclusion and prosecute them” did not amount to
17 an official policy of instructing law enforcement to arrest citizens lawfully in possession of weapons
18 with a bullet button. *Id.* at 12. For the reasons discussed below, the Court now finds that plaintiffs
19 failed to adequately address these shortcomings in the ACC.

20 Plaintiffs fail to make the necessary showing of “imminent threat of irreparable harm” because
21 they fail to demonstrate they will suffer continuing, adverse effects in the absence of an injunction.
22 Haynie alleges that, after his false arrest, he sold his firearms for fear of future arrests, and now has a
23 reasonable fear of reacquiring similar firearms. ACC ¶ 33. As in the first motion to dismiss, Haynie’s
24 single arrest is not sufficient to demonstrate a real and immediate threat because “past exposure to illegal
25 conduct” alone is not enough to meet the standard for injunctive relief. *See Lyons*, 461 U.S. at 102, 105.
26 Moreover, his claim that he will have similar future encounters with law enforcement officers is pure
27 speculation, especially given the fact that he no longer owns the firearms at issue. ACC ¶ 33.
28

1 Richards also fails to adequately allege present, adverse effects. Richards contends that because
2 he was arrested twice, he is realistically threatened by a repetition of wrongful arrests. *Id.* ¶ 75. The
3 Court addressed the issue of Richards’ second arrest in a motion to dismiss his separate lawsuit, prior
4 to the consolidation of cases. The Court stated that the allegations regarding his second arrest “will not
5 suffice to establish standing to seek injunctive relief under *Lyons*.” C 11-2493, Docket No. 39, Order
6 Granting In Part and Denying In Part Defendants’ Motion to Dismiss (“Richards Order”). “Past
7 exposure to illegal conduct does not in itself show a present case or controversy regarding injunctive
8 relief . . . if unaccompanied by any continuing, present adverse effects.” *Lyons*, 461 U.S. at 95-96. The
9 Court further determined that “even assuming that both arrests . . . constituted illegal conduct, these
10 arrests alone do not provide evidence of continuing adverse effects.”¹ Richards Order at 7; *see Lyons*,
11 461 U.S. at 103 (“[C]ase or controversy considerations obviously shade into those determining whether
12 the complaint states a sound basis for equitable relief . . . even if the complaint presented an existing
13 case or controversy, an adequate basis for equitable relief against petitioners had not been
14 demonstrated.”) (citing *O’Shea*, 414 U.S. at 499, 502).

15 To demonstrate that there are continuing adverse effects, plaintiffs cite to additional instances
16 of false arrests of citizens based on firearms being misidentified by police. Plaintiff’s Opposition to
17 Defendants’ Motion to Dismiss the ACC (“Pls.’ Opp’n”), 16; ACC ¶ 104. However, as detailed above,
18 even an allegation of routine misconduct is not sufficient, as it does not amount to an allegation that all
19 law enforcement officers in California always wrongly arrest any citizen with whom they come into
20 contact who is lawfully in possession of a weapon with a bullet button, as *Lyons* requires. *Lyons*, 461
21 U.S. at 102, 105.

22
23 ¹ Richards’ separate lawsuit sought prospective injunctive relief against the City of Rohnert Park.
24 The Court determined that Richards’ claims contained substantially similar allegations to those made
25 in the FAC, which was dismissed for lack of standing. Citing the FAC Order, the Court found that “to
26 seek injunctive relief against the City of Rohnert Park, Richards would have to allege that every Rohnert
27 Park police officer will without fail arrest anyone who he finds in possession of a firearm with a bullet
28 button.” Richards Order at 7. The Court further stated that “Richards’ second arrest by the Sonoma
County Sheriff’s Office cannot support his claim for injunctive relief against the City of Rohnert Park”
because they are “separate and distinct governmental entities.” *Id.* Though the present case pertains
to one governmental entity, namely the California DOJ, the Court has made clear that plaintiffs must
meet the *Lyons* standard by alleging that every officer will arrest anyone who he finds in possession of
a firearm with a bullet button. Thus, even two past false arrests for the same conduct are not sufficient
to meet this standard, especially absent a current threat of prosecution.

1 Plaintiffs cite to two Ninth Circuit cases to support their arguments for standing; however, these
2 cases are distinguishable from the present case, and are ultimately unavailing. The Supreme Court in
3 *Lyons* made clear that “recognition of the need for a proper balance between state and federal authority
4 counsels restraint in the issuance of injunctions against state officers engaged in the administration of
5 the states’ criminal laws in the absence of irreparable injury which is both great and immediate.” *Id.*
6 at 112. Plaintiffs, in their opposition, cite to *LaDuke v. Nelson*, 762 F.2d 1318 (9th Cir. 1985) and
7 *Hawkins v. Comparet-Cassani*, 251 F.3d 1230 (9th Cir. 2001), two Ninth Circuit cases applying *Lyons*,
8 as a basis for standing to seek injunctive relief. In *LaDuke*, the Ninth Circuit upheld the District Court’s
9 issuance of an injunction prohibiting federal immigration officers from conducting farm and ranch
10 checks of migrant farm housing without a warrant, probable cause, or articulable suspicion. 762 F.2d
11 at 1333. While the Court held that plaintiffs demonstrated “a likelihood of recurrent injury,” it also
12 concluded that unlike *Lyons*, prudential limitations of comity were not a concern because the injunction
13 involved federal immigration issues, rather than state law enforcement matters. *Id.* at 1324-25. The
14 Ninth Circuit stated:

15 A third distinguishing feature that separates the present case from *Lyons*
16 is the absence of the prudential limitations circumscribing federal court
17 intervention in state law enforcement matters. *Lyons*, *Rizzo*, and *O’Shea*
18 all involved attempts by plaintiffs to entangle federal courts in the
19 operations of state law enforcement and criminal justice institutions. *See*
20 *City of Los Angeles v. Lyons*, 461 U.S. 95 (1983) (city law enforcement
21 practices); *Rizzo v. Goode*, 423 U.S. 362 (1976) (same); *O’Shea v.*
22 *Littleton*, 414 U.S. 488 (1974) (county criminal justice system).
23 Obviously, none of the considerations inherent in the judicial concept of
24 “Our Federalism,” *Younger v. Harris*, 401 U.S. 37, 44, (1971), are
25 implicated in constitutional challenges to executive branch behavior in
26 federal courts. This court cannot rely on a state judiciary to correct the
27 unconstitutional practices of federal officials. *Cf. Los Angeles v. Lyons*,
28 461 U.S. at 113 (comity counsels in favor of permitting state judiciary
systems to oversee state law enforcement practices). Accordingly, the
comity considerations which influenced the Supreme Court’s decisions
in *O’Shea*, *Rizzo* and *Lyons* are inapplicable in this case.

15 *Id.* As in *Lyons* and unlike *LaDuke*, the present case involves a request for federal court intervention
16 in state law enforcement matters. Therefore, it is particularly important for plaintiffs to meet their
17 burden of demonstrating a likelihood of imminent and irreparable harm before the Court may issue
18 injunctive relief.

1 *Hawkins* is also distinguishable from the present case. In *Hawkins*, the Ninth Circuit held that
2 the plaintiff had standing to seek injunctive relief, despite federalism considerations, because he
3 demonstrated a likelihood of irreparable injury. 251 F.3d at 1237. The plaintiff, a defendant in an
4 ongoing criminal prosecution, sought an injunction to prevent the county sheriff’s office from using an
5 electrical restraint “stun belt” while plaintiff appeared in court, based on plaintiff’s alleged past
6 misbehavior while in court. *Id.* at 1236-37. The Ninth Circuit determined that there was a likelihood
7 of reoccurrence because plaintiff remained imprisoned and in custody of defendants, and “needed only
8 to enter a Los Angeles courtroom to justify use” of the belt. *Id.* (“Since use of the belt is based on past
9 conduct, Hawkins need not have been arrested or engaged in illegal behavior to subject him to its use.”)
10 The Ninth Circuit also noted that, unlike the conduct in *Lyons*, the use of the belt stemmed from the
11 Sheriff’s official written policy. *Id.* at 1237.

12 As discussed above, Haynie and Richards have failed to demonstrate a likelihood of
13 reoccurrence, and there is no official DOJ policy that instructs officers to arrest citizens who own
14 firearms that are lawful under the AWCA. Unlike the plaintiff in *Hawkins*, Haynie and Richards would
15 need to suffer an entirely new arrest, based on new conduct – an entirely speculative set of events.
16 Because Haynie and Richards have failed to make a showing of likelihood of reoccurrence, comity
17 considerations weigh in favor of judicial restraint, and the ACC must be dismissed for lack of standing.
18 Further leave to amend will not be given, since leave to amend was already given on this very issue.
19 *See Bonin v. Calderon*, 59 F.3d 815, 845 (9th Cir. 1995).

20
21 **2. The Calguns Foundation and The Second Amendment Foundation Lack Standing.**

22 The Court further finds that both the Calguns Foundation and the Second Amendment
23 Foundation lack standing to bring this action on behalf of members or in their own right. Associations
24 have standing to sue on behalf of their members “only if (a) their members would otherwise have
25 standing to sue in their own right; (b) the interests that the organizations seek to protect are germane to
26 their purpose; and (c) neither the claim asserted nor the relief requested requires the participation of
27 individual members in the lawsuit.” *San Diego Cnty. Gun Rights Comm. v. Reno*, 98 F.3d 1121, 1130-31
28 (9th Cir. 1996) (citing *Hunt v. Wash. State Apple Adver. Comm’n*, 432 U.S. 333, 343 (1977), superseded

1 in part by statute as stated in *United Food & Commer. Workers Union Local 751 v. Brown Grp.*, 517
2 U.S. 544 (1996)).

3 Because associations have standing to sue on behalf of their members “only if . . . their members
4 would otherwise have standing to sue in their own right” and because Richards and Haynie failed to
5 establish standing to sue for injunctive relief, the Calguns Foundation and the Second Amendment
6 Foundation similarly do not have standing to seek injunctive relief against defendants in this Court. *See*
7 *San Diego Cnty. Gun Rights Comm.*, 98 F.3d at 1130-31.

8 Furthermore, an association has direct standing only if “it [shows] a drain on its resources from
9 both a diversion of its resources and frustration of its mission.” *Fair Hous. Council of San Fernando*
10 *Valley v. Roommate.com, LLC*, 666 F.3d 1216, 1219 (9th Cir. 2012) (citing *Fair Hous. of Marin v.*
11 *Combs*, 285 F.3d 899, 905 (9th Cir.2002)). However, “standing must be established independent of the
12 lawsuit filed by the plaintiff.” *Walker v. City of Lakewood*, 272 F.3d 1114, 1124 n. 3 (9th Cir. 2001)).
13 An association “cannot manufacture [an] injury by incurring litigation costs or simply choosing to spend
14 money fixing a problem that otherwise would not affect the organization at all.” *La Asociacion de*
15 *Trabajadores de Lake Forest v. City of Lake Forest*, 624 F.3d 1083, 1088 (9th Cir. 2010).

16 The Calguns Foundation’s allegations that it paid for the defense of several members, including
17 Haynie and Richards, does not suffice to establish associational standing. *See Combs*, 285 F.3d at 903
18 (“[A]n organization cannot, of course, manufacture the injury necessary to maintain a suit from its
19 expenditure of resources on that very suit”) (internal quotation marks omitted). In addition, the
20 Calguns Foundation and the Second Amendment Foundation do not allege that they have incurred any
21 expenses aside from the litigation costs. *Id.* at 903 (“[A]n organization establishes Article III injury if
22 it alleges that purportedly illegal action increases the resources the group must devote to programs
23 independent of its suit challenging the action.”) (internal citations omitted); *see also Havens Realty*
24 *Corp. v. Coleman*, 455 U.S. 363, 379 (1982) (“[C]oncrete and demonstrable injury to the organization’s
25 activities with the consequent drain on the organization’s resources constitutes far more than simply a
26 setback to the organization’s abstract social interests.”). Therefore, the Calguns Foundation and the
27 Second Amendment Foundation do not have standing to sue in their own right.

28

1 To challenge the constitutionality of a statute as applied, a party must have standing. *O’Shea*,
2 414 U.S. at 493 (“Those who seek to invoke the power of federal courts must allege an actual case or
3 controversy . . . a plaintiff must allege some threatened or actual injury before a federal court may
4 assume jurisdiction.”). All plaintiffs – both individual and institutional – have failed to show standing
5 to seek injunctive relief, and therefore the Court may not address plaintiffs’ constitutional challenge to
6 the AWCA. *See Fleck & Assocs., Inc. v. Phoenix, City of, an Arizona Mun. Corp.*, 471 F.3d 1100, 1106
7 (9th Cir. 2006) (holding that the district court erred in reaching the merits where plaintiff’s complaint
8 failed to demonstrate a cognizable injury and did not establish associational standing.).

9
10 **3. Plaintiffs’ Claims for Injunctive Relief are Not Ripe for Adjudication.**

11 Finally, defendants contend that plaintiffs’ claims for injunctive and declaratory relief are not
12 ripe for review. Defs.’ Mot. at 7. They argue that “allegations in the ACC affirmatively demonstrate
13 that [Haynie] no longer own guns, demonstrating that no present controversy exists as to him, and the
14 allegations as to [Richards’] present gun ownership were inconclusive.” Defs.’ Mot. at 1. With respect
15 to Haynie, plaintiffs argue his fear of future wrongful arrest is ripe for review because he alleged a desire
16 to reacquire a firearm like the one that got him arrested. Pls.’ Opp’n at 9. With respect to Richards,
17 plaintiffs argue that it can be reasonably inferred that he recovered his firearms from the arresting
18 agency after his second arrest. *Id.* For the following reasons, the Court finds that plaintiffs fail to allege
19 sufficient facts demonstrating ripeness.

20 “Ripeness doctrine protects against premature adjudication of suits in which declaratory relief
21 is sought.” *Hodgers-Durgin v. de la Vina*, 199 F.3d 1037, 1044 (9th Cir. 1999) (internal citations
22 omitted). “In suits seeking both declaratory and injunctive relief against a defendant’s continuing
23 practices, the ripeness requirement serves the same function in limiting declaratory relief as the
24 imminent-harm requirement serves in limiting injunctive relief.” *Id.* Ripeness is “peculiarly a question
25 of timing.” *Regional Rail Reorg. Act Cases*, 419 U.S. 102, 140, (1974). Significantly, “[a] claim is not
26 ripe for adjudication if it rests upon contingent future events that may not occur as anticipated, or indeed
27 may not occur at all.” *Texas v. United States*, 523 U.S. 296, 300 (1998) (internal quotations omitted).

28

1 In addition to plaintiffs’ failure to show a likelihood of substantial and immediate injury required
2 for standing to seek injunctive relief, the ACC must also be dismissed because plaintiffs fail to allege
3 sufficient facts demonstrating ripeness. Specifically, neither Haynie nor Richards adequately alleges
4 that he currently possesses a weapon that might subject him to prosecution under the AWCA. Haynie
5 alleges that he sold his firearms and fears that he may be arrested again should he reacquire them. ACC
6 ¶ 33 (“[Haynie] may suffer repeated wrongful arrests in the future if he reacquires a firearm”). Because
7 Haynie’s fear of future arrests depends upon the contingency of his reacquiring a new firearm that might
8 in turn be subject to AWCA enforcement, his claims are not ripe for relief. *See Thomas v. Anchorage*
9 *Equal Rights Comm’n*, 220 F.3d 1134, 1138-40 (9th Cir. 2000) (en banc) (“[S]uch ‘some day’
10 intentions—without . . . specification of when the some day will be—do not support a finding of the
11 ‘actual or imminent’ injury that our cases require.”) (quoting *Lujan*, 504 U.S. at 564).


12 Similarly, Richards does not allege in the ACC that his firearms were returned to him after his
13 second arrest, nor does he allege that he currently owns firearms that are subject to enforcement under
14 the AWCA. Because Richards has not sufficiently alleged that he currently owns the firearms at issue,
15 he also fails to demonstrate a case or controversy that is ripe for review. Though it is possible that
16 Richards could amend the ACC to cure this defect, amendment would be futile because he still lacks
17 standing for injunctive relief. Accordingly, the Court grants defendants’ motion to dismiss, without
18 leave to amend. *See Bonin*, 59 F.3d at 845.

19
20 **CONCLUSION**

21 For the foregoing reasons and for good cause shown, and the basis of the record before it, the
22 Court hereby GRANTS defendants’ motion to dismiss plaintiffs’ Third Amended Consolidated
23 Complaint, without leave to amend. This order resolves Docket No. 92.

24
25 **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

26 Dated: March 4, 2014

27 
28 _____
SUSAN ILLSTON
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE