

1
2 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
3 NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
4

5 LLOYD MASON,

6 Plaintiff,

No. C 10-2201 PJH

7 v.

**ORDER GRANTING MOTION TO
DISMISS IN PART AND DENYING
IT IN PART**

8 AMBROSE RECREATION AND PARK
9 DISTRICT, et al.,

10 Defendants.
_____ /

11 Defendants' motion to dismiss the first and third through eighth causes of action for
12 failure to state a claim came on for hearing before this court on August 4, 2010. Plaintiff
13 appeared by his counsel R. Ernest Montanari, and defendants appeared by their counsel
14 Carrie A. Frederickson. Having read the parties' papers and carefully considered their
15 arguments, and the relevant legal authority, the court hereby GRANTS the motion in part
16 and DENIES it in part, as follows and for the reasons stated at the hearing.

17 In his opposition to the motion, plaintiff stated that he was withdrawing the third and
18 fourth causes of action, and plaintiff's counsel confirmed at the hearing that plaintiff
19 intended to dismiss those two causes of action. Accordingly, the motion is GRANTED as to
20 those claims.

21 With regard to the motion to dismiss the first cause of action under 42 U.S.C.
22 § 1983, the motion is GRANTED. The dismissal is with LEAVE TO AMEND, to clarify that
23 the sole allegation under this cause of action is that plaintiff's procedural due process rights
24 were violated; to plead facts stating a claim for a procedural due process violation, as to
25 each defendant; and as to defendant Ambrose Recreation and Park District ("Ambrose"), to
26 allege a claim under Monell v. v. New York City Dep't. of Soc. Servs., 436 U.S. 658 (1978).

27 With regard to the motion to dismiss the fifth cause of action under California Labor
28 Code § 98.6 for failure to state a claim the motion is GRANTED. The dismissal is with

1 LEAVE TO AMEND, to clarify which rights protected under which provision of the Labor
2 Code provide a basis for this claim; and also to clarify that plaintiff is not asserting a claim
3 of First Amendment violations under the guise of the § 98.6 claim. As for the question
4 whether the claim should be dismissed for failure to exhaust administrative remedies by
5 filing a claim with the Department of Labor, the motion is DENIED. The law appears to be
6 unsettled; moreover, the court is more persuaded by the reasoning in Lloyd v. County of
7 Los Angeles, 172 Cal. App. 4th 320 (2009).

8 With regard to the motion to dismiss the sixth cause of action for breach of contract,
9 and the seventh cause of action for breach of the implied covenant for failure to state a
10 claim, the motion is GRANTED in part and DENIED in part. The motion is GRANTED,
11 WITH PREJUDICE, to the extent that the complaint asserts the existence of an express
12 contract. The motion is DENIED with regard to any claim of breach of implied contract, or
13 the claim of breach of the implied covenant of good faith and fair dealing.

14 With regard to the eighth cause of action for respondeat superior, the motion is
15 GRANTED, WITH PREJUDICE. Respondeat superior is not an independent cause of
16 action – rather, it is a doctrine or theory of liability, under which, for example, and employer
17 may be held liable for the negligent acts of its employees. See Hollinger v. Titan Capital
18 Corp., 914 F.2d 1564, 1577 n.28 (9th Cir. 1990).

19 Finally, with regard to the motion to dismiss the claim for punitive damages as to
20 Ambrose, the motion is GRANTED, WITH PREJUDICE. See Cal. Gov't Code § 818.

21 As stated at the hearing, any amended complaint shall be filed no later than
22 September 3, 2010.

23
24 **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

25 Dated: August 5, 2010



PHYLLIS J. HAMILTON
United States District Judge