

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

3  
4                    MANUEL E. SHOTWELL,

5                                    Plaintiff,

6                    v.

7                    S. BRANDT, et al.,

8                                    Defendants.

Case No.: C 10-5232 CW (PR)

ORDER GRANTING MOTION FOR  
EXTENSION OF TIME TO FILE  
AMENDED COMPLAINT; DENYING  
PLAINTIFF'S REQUESTS FOR REFUND  
OF FILING FEE AND THE  
APPOINTMENT OF COUNSEL;  
DIRECTING CLERK OF THE COURT TO  
SEND CIVIL RIGHTS COMPLAINT  
FORM TO PLAINTIFF

(Docket no. 54)

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13                    Plaintiff, a state prisoner incarcerated at Salinas Valley  
14 State Prison (SVSP), filed this pro se civil rights action under  
15 42 U.S.C. § 1983, complaining of the violation of his  
16 constitutional rights by prison officials at SVSP. Now pending  
17 before the Court are various motions filed by Plaintiff.

18                    A. Motion for Extension of Time

19                    Upon initial review of the complaint, the Court found  
20 Plaintiff failed to state a claim upon which relief may be  
21 granted; the Court dismissed all claims in the complaint without  
22 leave to amend. However, the Court granted Plaintiff leave to  
23 file an amended complaint raising claims concerning events that  
24 have transpired since the original complaint was filed.

25                    Plaintiff moves for an extension of time to file his amended  
26 complaint and to be provided with a copy of the court's civil  
27 rights complaint form. Good cause appearing, the request is  
28 GRANTED.

1 B. Motion for Appointment of Counsel

2 Plaintiff moves for the appointment of counsel to assist him  
3 with the preparation of his amended complaint. There is no  
4 constitutional right to counsel in a civil case unless an  
5 indigent litigant may lose his physical liberty if he loses the  
6 litigation. Rand v. Rowland, 113 F.3d 1520, 1525 (9th Cir.  
7 1997). The court may ask counsel to represent an indigent  
8 litigant under 28 U.S.C. § 1915 only in "exceptional  
9 circumstances," the determination of which requires an evaluation  
10 of both (1) the likelihood of success on the merits, and (2) the  
11 ability of the plaintiff to articulate his claims pro se in light  
12 of the complexity of the legal issues involved. See id. at 1525.  
13 Both of these factors must be viewed together before reaching a  
14 decision on a request for counsel under § 1915. See id. Here,  
15 it is too early in the proceedings for the Court to determine  
16 Plaintiff's likelihood of success on the merits and, with the  
17 assistance of other inmates, he has been able to articulate his  
18 claims adequately in light of the complexity of the legal issues  
19 involved. Accordingly, the motion for the appointment of counsel  
20 is DENIED without prejudice.

21 C. Request for Refund of Filing Fee

22 At the time Plaintiff filed this action he applied for leave  
23 to proceed in forma pauperis (IFP). Because the application was  
24 deficient, the Clerk notified Plaintiff that he must submit a  
25 completed application or pay the filing fee. Approximately two  
26 weeks later, on November 30, 2010, Plaintiff sent a letter to the  
27 Court stating that his request to have prison officials take  
28 \$350.00 from his prison trust account to pay the filing fee had

1 been approved, and that the fee should be paid within the next  
2 thirty days. Subsequently, on December 8, 2010, the Court  
3 received from Plaintiff a completed IFP application. On December  
4 15, 2010, the Court granted Plaintiff's request to proceed IFP.  
5 On December 16, 2012, the \$350.00 filing fee was paid.  
6 Consequently, the Court vacated the order granting Plaintiff IFP  
7 status and directed the Court's Finance Office to refund to  
8 Plaintiff any fees that had been paid out of his trust account as  
9 a result of the grant of IFP status.

10 Plaintiff now moves the Court to restore his IFP status and  
11 refund the \$350.00 filing fee because he is indigent. The  
12 request is DENIED. The fee in this case has been paid and is not  
13 refundable.<sup>1</sup>

14 CONCLUSION

15 For the foregoing reasons, the Court orders as follows:

16 1. Plaintiff's motion for an extension of time to file his  
17 amended complaint and to be provided with the court's civil  
18 rights complaint form is GRANTED.

19 Plaintiff shall file his amended complaint by no later than  
20 **March 1, 2013**. The failure to do so will result in the dismissal  
21 of this action without prejudice.

22 The Clerk of the Court is DIRECTED to send Plaintiff the  
23 court's civil rights complaint form together with this Order.

24 2. Plaintiff's motion for the appointment of counsel is  
25 DENIED.

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28 <sup>1</sup> Even if Plaintiff were proceeding IFP, he would be  
responsible for paying the entire \$350.00 filing fee, albeit in  
monthly installments. See 28 U.S.C. § 1915(b)(1).

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3. Plaintiff's request to refund the filing fee is DENIED.  
This Order terminates Docket no. 54.  
IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated: 1/14/2013

  
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CLAUDIA WILKEN  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE