

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

3
4 EDWARD THOMAS,
5 Plaintiff,
6 v.
7 R.T.C. GROUNDS, et al.,
8 Defendants.

Case No.: C 13-4367 CW (PR)

ORDER DENYING MOTION FOR
PRELIMINARY INJUNCTION AND TO
INCORPORATE ADDITIONAL
DEFENDANTS

Doc. no. 19

9
10 INTRODUCTION

11 Plaintiff Edward Thomas, a state prisoner incarcerated at the
12 California State Prison at Corcoran (CSP-COR), has filed a pro se
13 civil rights action pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983, alleging the
14 violation of his constitutional rights by prison officials at
15 Salinas Valley State Prison (SVSP), where he was formerly
16 incarcerated. On April 11, 2014, the Court issued an order
17 serving cognizable claims. On July 10, 2014, Plaintiff filed a
18 motion to add employees at CSP-COR as defendants in this lawsuit
19 and for preliminary and permanent injunctions against them.
20 Defendants have filed an opposition. For the reasons discussed
21 below, Plaintiff's motion is denied.

22 DISCUSSION

23 I. Adding Defendants to this Action

24 Plaintiff asserts that employees at CSP-COR are violating his
25 constitutional rights by forcing him to accept "incompatible"
26 inmates as cellmates and seeks to add these employees as
27 defendants in this action. Defendants argue that the joinder of
28 these individuals is improper under Federal Rule of Civil
Procedure 20(a)(2).

1 Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 20(a)(2) provides that all
2 persons may be joined in one action as defendants if: "(A) any
3 right to relief is asserted against them jointly, severally, or in
4 the alternative with respect to or arising out of the same
5 transaction, occurrence, or series of transactions or occurrences;
6 and (B) any question of law or fact common to all defendants will
7 arise in the action." Put simply, claims against different
8 parties may be joined together in one complaint only if the claims
9 have similar factual backgrounds and have common issues of law or
10 fact. Coughlin v. Rogers, 130 F.3d 1348, 1350-51 (9th Cir. 1997).

11 Plaintiff's assertions against the CSA-COR individuals
12 support the same Eighth Amendment unsafe conditions claim that
13 Plaintiff asserts in his complaint. Thus, there are common issues
14 of law, satisfying the joinder requirement in Rule 20(a)(2)(B).
15 However, Plaintiff's motion alleges violations by the CSA-COR
16 individuals that do not arise out of the same transaction,
17 occurrence or series of transactions or occurrences as his claim
18 against the SVSP Defendants. Thus, the joinder requirement in
19 Rule 20(a)(2)(A) is not met and joinder of the CSP-COR individuals
20 to the present lawsuit would be improper. Plaintiff's motion to
21 add them as defendants is DENIED.¹

22 II. Preliminary Injunction

23 Because Plaintiff's motion for a preliminary injunction is
24 directed at individuals at CSP-COR, who are not parties to this

25 ¹ Plaintiff may, but is not required to, bring a separate action
26 against these individuals in the Eastern District of California,
27 the venue in which CSP-COR is located.
28

1 action, the motion for a preliminary injunction is DENIED without
2 prejudice so that Plaintiff may re-submit it if he files an action
3 against them in the Eastern District. See Fed. R. Civ. P. 65(d)
4 (injunction is binding only on parties to the action, their
5 officers, agents, servants, employees and attorneys). For the
6 same reason, Plaintiff's request for a permanent injunction is
7 DENIED without prejudice.

8 CONCLUSION

9 Based on the foregoing, the Court orders as follows:

10 1. Plaintiff's motion to add defendants and for preliminary
11 and permanent injunctions is DENIED.

12 2. This order terminates docket number 19.

13 IT IS SO ORDERED.

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15 Dated: 8/29/2014



16 CLAUDIA WILKEN
17 UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE
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