

United States District Court
Northern District of California

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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

UNITED STATES, ex rel. MATTHEW
ZUGSBERGER and MATTHEW
ZUGSBERGER,

Plaintiffs,

v.

T L PETERSON, INC., et al.,

Defendants.

Case No. [4:17-cv-02277-KAW](#)

**ORDER GRANTING PLAINTIFF'S
MOTION FOR PARTIAL SUMMARY
JUDGMENT**

Re: Dkt. Nos. 65, 93

On May 3, 2018, Plaintiff and Relator Matthew Zugsberger ("Plaintiff" or "Zugsberger") filed a motion for partial summary judgment for reinstatement of maintenance and cure, payment of past maintenance and cure, and to set the maintenance rate. (Pl.'s Mot., Dkt. No. 65.)

The Court finds this matter suitable for resolution without hearing pursuant to Civil Local Rule 7-1(b). Upon consideration of the parties' filings, and for the reasons set forth below, the Court GRANTS Plaintiff's motion for partial summary judgment.

I. BACKGROUND

Plaintiff's general maritime law claims for maintenance and cure arise from injuries he allegedly sustained while employed by Defendants Galindo Construction Company, Inc. ("Galindo Construction") and Don Ron Galindo ("Ron Galindo") as a commercial diver between August and November 2016. (Decl. of Matthew Zugsberger, "Zugsberger Decl.," Dkt. No. 70 ¶ 2; Decl. of Ron Galindo, "Galindo Decl.," Dkt. No. 86, Ex. K ¶ 3.)

Defendant Galindo Construction worked as a subcontractor on the National Park Service ("NPS") project in Drakes Estero, near Point Reyes, California, from August 2016 until April 2017 ("the Project"). (Galindo Decl. ¶¶ 2-3; Decl. of John Williams, "Williams Decl.," Dkt. No.

1 86, Ex. M ¶ 2.) Galindo Construction subcontracted through T.L. Peterson to remove a collection
2 of oyster racks from the water. (Galindo Decl. ¶ 2; Zugsberger Decl. ¶ 3.) T.L. Peterson was
3 awarded a the contract, executed in June 2016, to dispose of debris from Drakes Estero at a “Class
4 I Landfill” capable of receiving toxic materials, in exchange for \$1.6 million. (Contract, Decl. of
5 Nicholas Neidzwski, “Nedizwski Decl.,” Dkt. No. 68, Ex. O at O-11.)

6 To remove the racks, Galindo Construction operated a mini-excavator, which was resting
7 on a barge. (Decl. of David Schultz, “Schultz Decl.,” Dkt. No. 86, Ex. N ¶ 3; Decl. of John Moats,
8 “Moats Decl.,” Dkt. No. 86, Ex. L ¶ 5.) Galindo employees Zugsberger and David Schultz would
9 get in the water and rig a chain to the oyster racks so that the mini-excavator could pull the oyster
10 racks onto the barge. (Schultz Decl. ¶¶ 3-4; Zugsberger Decl. ¶ 3.) Plaintiff performed the vast
11 majority of this work diving off a vessel (the “Vessel”) which was owned and/or operated by
12 Galindo Construction and/or Ron Galindo. (Zugsberger Decl. ¶ 4.)

13 According to Plaintiff’s medical records, on September 10, 2016, during the Project, he
14 was seen by David Greene, MD, DABR. Dr. Greene noted in the History of Present Illness
15 section (“HPI”) that:

16 The patient reports development of progressive erythema,
17 progressing to blistering and ultimately desquamation of all exposed
18 skin to include chiefly trunk, back, extensor and flexor surfaces of
bilateral UE after skin exposure to water at a commercial dive site
where he has been employed removing pilings and creosote treated
lumber from a site in western Marin county.

19 (Neidzwski Decl., Ex. F at F-1.) Plaintiff also reported that he was not wearing full dive gear or
20 protective hazmat gear at the time of exposure and was not fully submerging his head in the water
21 “at the site.” Id. As a result, Dr. Greene made the following assessment: “40 year old commercial
22 diver with painful burns at exposed skin. Clinically consistent with chemical burn likely
23 secondary to petrochemical or other toxic exposure. No evidence of systemic toxicity at this
24 time.” Id. at pg. F-2. Plaintiff contends that, while he continued to incur medical treatment and
25 expenses from the injuries sustained during the Project, he has been unable to seek all necessary
26 treatment, because he has not received any amount of cure and maintenance from Defendants.
27 (Zugsberger Decl. ¶¶ 7-8, 15.)

28 On May 3, 2018, Plaintiff and Relator Matthew Zugsberger filed a motion for partial

1 summary judgment for instatement of maintenance and cure, payment of past maintenance and
2 cure, and to set the maintenance rate. (Pl.'s Mot., Dkt. No. 65.) On July 3, 2018, Defendants filed
3 a corrected opposition. (Defs.' Opp'n, Dkt. No. 86.) On July 10, 2018, Plaintiff filed a reply.
4 (Pl.'s Reply, Dkt. No. 87.) Also on July 10, 2018, Plaintiff filed a Declaration of Nicholas J.
5 Neidzwski in support of their reply. (Decl. of Nicholas Neidzwski in Support of Reply to Motion
6 for Partial Summary Judgment, "Reply Neidzwski Decl.," Dkt. No. 88.) On July 17, 2018,
7 Defendants filed objections to reply evidence, in which they also attempted to attach additional
8 evidence pursuant to Civil Local Rule 7-3(d). (Defs.' Obj., Dkt. No. 92; Decl. of Lukas J. Clary
9 Requesting Court Approval, Dkt. No. 92-1.) Defendants, however, did not obtain leave of court to
10 submit new evidence, pursuant to Civil Local Rule 7-11, which would have provided Plaintiff an
11 opportunity to respond, so those exhibits are stricken. The Court will, however, consider the
12 objections. On July 26, 2018, Plaintiff filed a motion for leave to file additional evidence pursuant
13 to Civil Local Rule 7-3(d). (Dkt. Nos. 93 & 94.) On September 7, 2018, Plaintiff filed another
14 motion for leave to file additional evidence pursuant to Civil Local Rule 7-3(d). (Dkt. Nos. 103 &
15 104.) The two motions for leave and supporting declarations are similarly improper, because
16 Plaintiff did not seek leave under the proper local rule, and untimely even if proper, so the
17 documents are stricken and the motions for leave are both DENIED.

18 On July 31, 2018, the Court ordered the parties to submit supplemental briefing on the
19 reasonable maintenance rate in the three locations where Plaintiff resided, and to address the
20 propriety of the medical treatment Plaintiff seeks in his claim for cure. (Dkt. No. 95.) On August
21 17, 2018, Plaintiff filed his supplemental brief and supporting declarations from Dr. Greene and
22 Nicholas J. Neidzwski. (Pl.'s Suppl. Br., Dkt. No. 96; Decl. of David Greene, "Greene Decl.,"
23 Dkt. No. 97; Decl. of Nicholas J. Neidzwski, "Suppl. Neidzwski Decl. Suppl. Neidzwski Decl.,"
24 Dkt. No. 98.) On August 31, 2018, Defendants filed their response. (Defs.' Resp., Dkt. No. 102.)

25 II. LEGAL STANDARD

26 A party may move for summary judgment on a "claim or defense" or "part of... a claim or
27 defense." Fed. R. Civ. P. 56(a). Summary judgment is appropriate when, after adequate
28 discovery, there is no genuine issue as to material facts and the moving party is entitled to

1 judgment as a matter of law. *Id.*; see *Celotex Corp. v. Catrett*, 477 U.S. 317, 322-23 (1986).
2 Material facts are those that might affect the outcome of the case. *Anderson v. Liberty Lobby, Inc.*,
3 477 U.S. 242, 248 (1986). A dispute as to a material fact is “genuine” if there is sufficient
4 evidence for a reasonable jury to return a verdict for the nonmoving party. *Id.*

5 A party seeking summary judgment bears the initial burden of informing the court of the
6 basis for its motion, and of identifying those portions of the pleadings and discovery responses
7 that demonstrate the absence of a genuine issue of material fact. *Celotex*, 477 U.S. at 323. Where
8 the moving party has the burden of proof at trial, it must affirmatively demonstrate that no
9 reasonable trier of fact could find other than for it. *S. Calif. Gas. Co. v. City of Santa Ana*, 336
10 F.3d 885, 888 (9th Cir. 2003). Once the moving party meets its initial burden, the opposing party
11 must then set forth specific facts showing some genuine issue for trial to defeat the motion. See
12 Fed. R. Civ. P. 56(e); *Anderson*, 477 U.S. at 250. The non-moving party must produce “specific
13 evidence, through affidavits or admissible discovery material, to show that the dispute exists.”
14 *Bhan v. NMS Hosps., Inc.*, 929 F.2d 1404, 1409 (9th Cir. 1991). Conclusory or speculative
15 testimony in affidavits and moving papers is insufficient to raise a genuine issue of material fact to
16 defeat summary judgment. *Thornhill Publ’g Co., Inc. v. Gen. Tel. & Elecs. Corp.*, 594 F.2d 730,
17 738 (9th Cir. 1979). In deciding summary judgment, a court must view the evidence in the light
18 most favorable to the nonmoving party and draw all justifiable inferences in its favor. *Anderson*,
19 477 U.S. at 255; *Hunt v. City of Los Angeles*, 638 F.3d 703, 709 (9th Cir. 2011).

20 Admiralty’s approach, however, is “to do justice with slight regard to formal matters.”
21 *Cont’l Grain Co. v. The Barge FBL–585*, 364 U.S. 19, 25 (citation omitted). “The administration
22 of maintenance should be ‘easy and ready,’ with ‘few exceptions or conditions to stir contentions,
23 cause delays, and invite litigations.” *Barnes v. Sea Hawaii Rafting, LLC*, 889 F.3d 517, 538 (9th
24 Cir. 2018) (quoting *Vella v. Ford Motor Co.*, 421 U.S. 1, 4 (1975)). While some courts have
25 declined to resolve pretrial motions for maintenance and cure under a Rule 56 summary judgment
26 standard, the Ninth Circuit recently held that such a standard and admiralty procedures are not
27 incompatible. *Barnes*, 889 F.3d at 538. While it is often difficult for a party to prevail on summary
28 judgment, “the seaman seeking maintenance has an easier task as a result of the breadth of the

1 shipowner's duty." Id. Indeed, "[t]o establish his entitlement to maintenance," the seaman need
2 only prove that he "bec[ame] ill" or "injured while in the service of the ship." Id. (citing Vella, 421
3 U.S. at 3.) "The shipowner's duty to pay maintenance 'arises irrespective of the absence of
4 shipowner negligence and indeed irrespective of whether the illness or injury is suffered in the
5 course of the seaman's employment.'" Id. (quoting Vella, 421 U.S. at 4.) The obligation to pay
6 maintenance and cure continues until the seaman reaches "maximum cure," which is recovery as
7 complete as the injury allows. *Permanente S.S. Corp. v. Martinez*, 369 F.2d 297, 298-99 (9th Cir.
8 1966). "[S]o broad is the shipowner's obligation [that even] negligence or acts short of culpable
9 misconduct on the seaman's part will not relieve (the shipowner) of the responsibility." Vella, 421
10 U.S. at 4 (quoting *Aguilar v. Standard Oil Co.*, 318 U.S. 724, 730-31 (1943)).

11 Thus, "in practice, a seaman will have little difficulty demonstrating his entitlement to
12 maintenance under a summary judgment standard." *Barnes*, 889 F.3d at 539. As a result, a
13 seaman's initial entitlement to maintenance and cure can be properly resolved on summary
14 judgment, as can the amount of maintenance. Id. at 539-40.

15 III. DISCUSSION

16 As an initial matter, Defendants misstate the summary judgment standard for maintenance
17 (funds to cover living expenses) and cure (funds to obtain necessary medical care) claims in
18 admiralty cases. Despite their protestations that the motion is premature, Plaintiff need not show
19 that there are no disputes of material fact that he was injured exactly as claimed, the extent thereof,
20 or even causation. Instead, in order to establish his entitlement to maintenance, Plaintiff "need
21 only prove that he 'bec[ame] ill or . . . injured while in the service of the ship.'" *Barnes v. Sea*
22 *Hawaii Rafting, LLC*, 889 F.3d 517, 538 (9th Cir. 2018)(quoting *Vella v. Ford Motor Co.*, 421
23 U.S. 1, 3 (1975)). A shipowner's duty to provide maintenance and cure "arises irrespective of the
24 absence of shipowner negligence and indeed irrespective of whether the illness or injury is
25 suffered in the course of the seaman's employment." Vella, 421 U.S. at 4 (citing *Calmar S.S.*
26 *Corp. v. Taylor*, 303 U.S. 525, 527 (1938)). Thus, the only issue to be decided at this juncture is
27 whether Plaintiff was injured during his employment for the purposes of the Jones Act, and, if so,
28 the amount of maintenance and cure to which he is entitled.

1 **A. Maintenance and Cure Claim Requirements**

2 To establish pre-trial entitlement to maintenance and cure, the plaintiff bears the slight
3 burden of demonstrating that: (1) plaintiff was employed as a seaman, (2) plaintiff was injured in
4 the service of the ship, and (3) plaintiff is incurring expenses for medical treatment, board, and
5 lodging. *Dean v. Fishing Co. of Alaska, Inc.*, 177 Wash.2d 399, 409 (2013) (citations omitted).
6 Plaintiff’s burden is “relatively light.” *Id.* (citations omitted). “After a seaman has proved his
7 initial entitlement to maintenance and cure, the burden shifts to the shipowner to prove that
8 maximum cure has been reached.” *Id.* at 409 (citing *Tuyen Thanh Mai*, 160 Wash.App. 528, 539
9 (2011)). The Court will address each element below.

10 **i. Whether Plaintiff was employed as a seaman**

11 The first element is whether Plaintiff was employed as a seaman pursuant to the Jones Act.
12 To establish seaman status, the maritime worker must have an “employment-related connection to
13 a vessel in navigation,” which requires that “[t]he worker’s duties must contribute to the function
14 of the vessel or to the accomplishment of its mission, and the worker must have a connection to a
15 vessel in navigation (or an identifiable group of vessels) that is substantial in terms of both its
16 duration and its nature.” *Chandris, Inc. v. Latsis*, 515 U.S. 347, 376 (1995). The threshold
17 requirement of contributing to the ship’s work is very broad, because “[a]ll who work at sea in the
18 service of a ship’ are eligible for seaman status.” *Id.* at 368 (quoting *McDermott Int’l, Inc. v.*
19 *Wilander*, 498 U.S. 337, 354 (1991)). There is no dispute that Plaintiff satisfies the first
20 requirement, as Defendants argue only that the ship was not in navigable waters, thus precluding
21 Plaintiff’s seaman status. (See Defs.’ Opp’n at 9-14.) Specifically, Defendant argues that Drakes
22 Estero cannot bear commercial shipping due to being a land-locked estuary closed off by a long
23 sandbar, rendering it inaccessible by motorboat during Plaintiff’s employment. (Def.’s Opp’n at
24 12; Moats Decl. ¶ 13.) Plaintiff argues that Defendants misstate the law. (Pl.’s Reply at 4.)

25 a. Whether Drakes Estero is “navigable”

26 Pursuant to the Code of Federal Regulations, “[n]avigable waters of the United States are
27 those waters that are subject to the ebb and flow of the tide and/or are presently used, or have been
28 used in the past, or may be susceptible for use to transport interstate or foreign commerce.” 33

1 C.F.R. § 329.4. Generally, in order to be navigable, “the following conditions must be satisfied:
2 (a) Past, present, or potential presence of interstate or foreign commerce; (b) Physical capabilities
3 for use by commerce as in paragraph (a) of this section; and (c) Defined geographic limits of the
4 waterbody.” 33 C.F.R. § 329.5.

5 First, “it is sufficient to establish the potential for commercial use at any past, present, or
6 future time.” 33 C.F.R. § 329.6. This may be accomplished by showing the “historical use of
7 canoes, bateaux, or other frontier craft, as long as that type of boat was common or well-suited to
8 the place and period.” *Id.* Despite Defendants’ argument in opposition, there is no requirement that
9 the waters be navigable during Plaintiff’s employment or that it be navigable by motorboat. (See
10 Def.’s Opp’n at 12.) Moreover, “the particular items of commerce may vary widely, depending
11 again on the region and period. The goods involved might be grain, furs, or other commerce of the
12 time.” 33 C.F.R. § 329.6.

13 Perhaps more importantly, the United States Supreme Court has held that “[w]hen once
14 found to be navigable, a waterway remains so.” *United States v. Appalachian Elec. Power Co.*,
15 311 U.S. 377, 408 (1940). Here, in support of his position that Drakes Estero is navigable,
16 Plaintiff presents a document titled “Land Use Survey & Economic Feasibility Report on Point
17 Reyes National Seashore,” which was prepared by the U.S. Department of the Interior. (Pl.’s Mot.
18 at 18; Land Use Survey, Neidzwski Decl., Ex. K at 15-49). The reports states that “[f]or many
19 years the produce from Point Reyes Peninsula was transported from Drakes Estero and Tomales
20 Bay to the San Francisco markets in shallow-draft, coastal schooners.” (Land Use Survey at 26.)
21 Defendants do not dispute that Drakes Estero was previously used in interstate or foreign
22 commerce, and the Land Use Survey also provides that Drakes Estero was well known to traders,
23 whalers, and fur hunters of the United States, Mexico, Great Britain, and Russia. *Id.*

24 Rather than producing evidence that the waterway is not navigable, Defendants argue that
25 the Land Use Survey is inadmissible, because it was not authenticated by Mr. Neidzwski’s
26 declaration, it lacks foundation, and is inadmissible hearsay.¹ (Defs.’ Opp’n at 14.) The Court

27

28 ¹ In his reply, Plaintiff did not proffer a specific response to Defendants’ argument that the Land Use Survey is inadmissible. However, Plaintiff argues that his medical records and other evidence

1 disagrees. First, it was authenticated by Mr. Neidzski’s declaration. (See Neidzski Decl. ¶ 12.)
2 Second, the document does not lack foundation, as it is a government report, so the Court may
3 take judicial notice. See *Tribe v. McMahon*, No. EDCV151538DMGFFMX, 2017 WL 6883765, at
4 *6 (C.D. Cal. Sept. 5, 2017) (taking judicial notice of a “Land Survey”). Lastly, the document is
5 not inadmissible hearsay because the Court finds that it falls under the hearsay exception of a
6 “public record” under Federal Rules of Evidence 803(8). See Fed. R. Evid. 803(8) (“A record or
7 statement of a public office if: (A) it sets out: ... (i) a matter observed while under a legal duty to
8 report”); *Sw. Bell Tel. Co. v. City of El Paso*, 168 F. Supp. 2d 640, 648 (W.D. Tex. 2001)
9 (“Exhibits 3–5 are admissible insofar as they are public land records and reports of public
10 agencies.”) (citing Fed. R. Evid. 803(8)).

11 Accordingly, the Court finds that Drakes Estero is a navigable waterway, and that Plaintiff
12 is a seaman under the Jones Act. Hence, the Court need not consider any evidence provided by
13 the parties for the worker’s compensation claim, so there is no practical effect of striking the
14 supplemental evidence that the parties improperly submitted under Civil Local Rule 7-3(d).

15 **ii. Whether Plaintiff sustained an injury**

16 The second element is whether Plaintiff was injured in the service of a ship. Plaintiff has
17 presented evidence that he was injured during his employment by way of medical records and
18 supporting declarations. (Medical Records, Neidzski Decl., Ex. F; Zugsberger Decl. ¶¶ 5-6;
19 Decl. of Christina Florida, Dkt. No. 71 ¶¶ 4-6.) On September 10, 2016, Plaintiff was seen by Dr.
20 Greene, who opined that Plaintiff’s burns on his exposed skin was “[c]linically consistent with
21 chemical burn likely secondary to petrochemical or other toxic exposure.” (Medical Records at 2.)

22 In opposition, Defendants, in failing to recognize the admiralty summary judgment
23 standard prescribed in *Barnes*,² effectively argue only that the declarations and supporting medical
24 records are inadmissible. (See Defs.’ Mot. at 15-20.) To the contrary, Plaintiff need only show

26 are authenticated and fall under hearsay exceptions, specifically “FRE 803(4) and/or 803(6), and
27 to the extent necessary, under FRE 807.” (Pl.’s Reply at 12.)

28 ² See discussion *supra* Part III, wherein the Court notes that, to prevail on a maintenance and cure
claim, Plaintiff need not show that there are no disputes of material fact that he was injured exactly
as claimed, the extent thereof, or even causation.

1 that he was injured during his three months in service of the ship, and his declaration and Dr.
2 Greene’s assessment, which was produced to Defendants and authenticated by Plaintiff’s counsel,
3 are sufficient to establish that he sustained some injury for the purposes of the maintenance and
4 cure claim only. (See Neidzwski Decl. ¶ 7, Ex. F.)

5 Moreover, it is irrelevant to this claim whether Plaintiff reported the injury or need for
6 medical treatment to his supervisor or to other employees, so that these facts are disputed is
7 immaterial for the purposes of this motion. (See Defs.’ Mot. at 17.)

8 Accordingly, the Court finds that Plaintiff sustained an injury in the service of the ship.

9 **iii. Whether Plaintiff is incurring expenses for medical treatment, board, and**
10 **lodging**

11 The third element is whether Plaintiff is incurring expenses for medical treatment, board,
12 and lodging. There is no dispute that Plaintiff has been incurring living and medical expenses
13 since his injury. (See Pl.’s Mot. at 20.)

14 In opposition, however, Defendants argue that Plaintiff has offered no evidence of his
15 amount of medical expenses he has incurred, as he has submitted only one medical bill despite
16 having received only four of forty treatments listed and having only paid for “some.” (Defs.’
17 Opp’n at 21.) Furthermore, Defendants argue that Plaintiff waiting for more than a year after his
18 injury to seek maintenance and cure suggests that he was not suffering illness without aid. (Defs.’
19 Opp’n at 21.) Plaintiff contends that the gap in timely medical treatment was due to Defendants’
20 failure to pay maintenance or cure. (Pl.’s Mot. at 20.) The Court agrees that the realities of our
21 health care system may preclude treatment if there is an inability to pay, and will not fault Plaintiff
22 for not obtaining treatment prior to receiving funds for same.

23 Since there is no genuine dispute that Plaintiff has incurred some expenses for maintenance
24 and cure, he satisfies this element.

25 **B. Amount of Maintenance and Cure**

26 Since Plaintiff qualifies as an injured seaman under the Jones Act for the purposes of
27 obtaining maintenance and cure, Plaintiff also moves for the undersigned to set the amount. (Pl.’s
28 Mot. at 21.)

1 The summary judgment standard also governs a pretrial request to set a maintenance
2 amount. Barnes, 889 F.3d at 539-40. Plaintiff bears the burden of presenting evidence sufficient
3 for the court to estimate his actual costs. Id. at 540 (citing Hall v. Noble Drilling (U.S.) Inc., 242
4 F.3d 582, 590 (5th Cir. 2001)). This evidentiary burden, however, “is ‘feather light,’ and a court
5 may award reasonable expenses, even if the precise amount of actual expenses is not conclusively
6 proved.” Barnes, 889 F.3d at 540 (quoting Hall, 242 F.3d at 588) (internal quotations omitted).
7 Furthermore, “[a] seaman need not present evidence of the reasonable rate; a court may take
8 judicial notice of the prevailing rate in the district.” Barnes, 889 F.3d at 540. Notwithstanding,
9 should the court conclude that the plaintiff’s actual expenses were inadequate to provide him with
10 reasonable food and lodging, he is entitled to the reasonable cost of food and lodging. Hall, 242
11 F.3d at 590. This ensures that an injured seaman’s “inability to pay for food and lodging in the
12 absence of maintenance payments does not prevent him from recovering enough to afford himself
13 reasonable sustenance and shelter.” Id.

14 As the denial of summary judgment as to the maintenance amount would undermine the
15 remedy’s “easy and ready administration,” the Ninth Circuit has identified two ways in which the
16 problem may be mitigated. Barnes, 889 F.3d at 539. First, a seaman who demonstrates his
17 entitlement can receive the portion of those expenses which are undisputed. Id. Second, a district
18 court may hold an expedited trial on the claim under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 42(b). Id.

19 **i. Maintenance**

20 While the plaintiff bears the burden to provide an evidentiary basis for the court to estimate
21 his actual costs, the burden is “feather light,” such that seaman’s testimony is sufficient to support
22 an award of reasonable expenses. See Barnes, 889 F.3d at 540 (citing Hall, 242 F.3d at 588
23 (quoting Yelverton v. Mobile Labs., Inc., 782 F.2d 555, 558 (5th Cir. 1986))).

24 Here, Plaintiff claims that his actual monthly expenses are as follows:

25 Expenses averaging \$37.26 per day while residing at his residence
26 located at 10650 Rancheria Road, Upper Lake, California 95485
27 (“Upper Lake residence”) from August 16, 2016 through March 1,
28 2017 and then from October 1, 2017 through February 14, 2018.
 (Zugsberger Decl. ¶¶ 9-10.)

 Expenses averaging \$60.59 per day while residing at 1965 36th

1 Street Sacramento, California 95816 (“Sacramento residence”) from
2 March 1, 2017 through October 1, 2017. (Zugsberger Decl. ¶¶ 13-
14.)

3 Expenses averaging \$78.33 per day since renting his property at
4 8293 Lorient Place, Apt. 2432, Chula Vista, California 91913
5 (“Chula Vista residence”) from February 15, 2018 through present
6 date. (Zugsberger Decl. ¶¶ 11-12.)

7 (Pl.’s Mot. at 22.) The Court notes that the expenses from the Chula Vista residence include
8 expenses from the Upper Lake residence. (See Zugsberger Decl. ¶¶ 12.) The Court is not inclined
9 to award maintenance for two, separate residences, despite Plaintiff’s claim that he lives and
10 works in Chula Vista, in part to receive treatment from Dr. Greene. (Zugsberger Decl. ¶ 11.)
11 Plaintiff, however, is entitled to recover maintenance for the Chula Vista residence, which is the
12 more expensive of the two residences at \$1600.00 per month, or \$53.33 per day. See *id.*

13 In opposition, Defendants argue that they have not had the opportunity to challenge
14 Plaintiff’s “self-serving” cost-of-living assertions through discovery. (Defs.’ Opp’n at 21.)
15 Defendants are again conflating the typical summary judgment standard with summary judgment
16 in the maintenance and cure context. In *Barnes*, the Ninth Circuit while agreeing with Hall, also
17 adopted the Second Circuit’s burden-shifting framework in *Incandela v. Am. Dredging Co.*, 659
18 F.2d 11, 14 (2d. Cir. 1981), which shifted the burden to the defendant to demonstrate that the
19 actual expenditures were unreasonable once the plaintiff offered evidence of his actual living
20 expenses. 889 F.3d at 541. Given admiralty’s position that maintenance should be an easy remedy
21 provided without delay, Defendants’ failure to conduct discovery on this matter is unavailing.
22 Thus, Defendants have failed to satisfy their burden of showing that Plaintiff’s actual expenditures
23 were unreasonable. See *Barnes*, 889 F.3d at 541 (The defendant’s failure to submit evidence
24 showing the purported maintenance amount was unreasonable resulted in the plaintiff carrying his
25 burden that no genuine issue of material fact existed as to the reasonableness of his actual
26 expenses.).

27 Accordingly, Plaintiff is entitled to past maintenance so long as the actual costs are
28 reasonable. Plaintiff claims that he incurred \$3,390.66 in maintenance for the Upper Lake
residence, where he resided from December 1, 2016 through March 1, 2017, which is 91 days
multiplied by \$37.26 per day. (Zugsberger Decl. ¶¶ 9-10.) From March 2, 2017 through October 1,

1 2017, Plaintiff resided in Sacramento, which is 214 days multiplied by \$60.59 per day, and totals
2 \$12,966.26. (Zugsberger Decl. ¶¶ 13-14.) Plaintiff returned to the Upper Lake residence from
3 October 2, 2017 to February 14, 2018, which is 136 days multiplied by \$37.26 per day, and totals
4 \$5,067.36. (Zugsberger Decl. ¶¶ 9-10.) Lastly, Plaintiff began residing at the Chula Vista
5 residence on February 15, 2018 through the date of the September 28, 2018 hearing, which is 226
6 days multiplied by \$53.33 per day, and totals \$12,052.58. Thus, the total amount of past
7 maintenance, as of September 28, 2018, is \$33,476.86.

8 In Plaintiff's supplemental briefing, he addressed the prevailing rates in Upper Lake,
9 Sacramento, and Chula Vista by focusing on two primary factors, (1) the reasonable costs in each
10 region Plaintiff resided and (2) maintenance rates awarded in other cases for seamen in the same
11 region.³ (Pl.'s Suppl. Br. at 2.)

12 For (1) the reasonable costs in each region Plaintiff resided, Plaintiff asserts that the
13 general cost of living in each location is evidence of reasonable costs. (Id. at 4.) (citing Hall, 242
14 F.3d at 592, n.46 ("We offer only the admonishment that uniform maintenance awards require that
15 courts account of changes in the cost of living over time and between localities.")). Plaintiff then
16 states that his maintenance calculations and rates are based upon his actual living expenses in (a)
17 Upper Lake, California; (b) Sacramento, California and (c) Chula Vista, California, which were all
18 "necessary to the provision of habitable housing" in these locations. (Pl.'s Suppl. Br. at 3.) Plaintiff
19 further notes that cost of living statistics for each of the aforementioned three locations are based
20 upon data from Sperling's Best Places, which calculate its costs of living indices on a U.S. average
21 of 100: an amount below 100 in Sperling's statistics means that the location is cheaper than the
22 U.S. average, and an amount above 100 means that the location is more expensive than the U.S.

23

24 ³ Plaintiff initially listed the four factors from Barnes: "In determining the reasonable costs of food
25 and lodging, the court may consider [1] evidence in the form of the seaman's actual costs, [2]
26 evidence of reasonable costs in the locality or region, [3] union contracts stipulating a rate of
27 maintenance or per diem payments for shoreside food or lodging while in the service of a vessel,
28 and [4] maintenance rates awarded in other cases for seamen in the same region." Barnes, 889
F.3d at 540 (citing Hall, 242 F.3d 582; Yelverton, 782 F.2d at 555-58). Then, Plaintiff noted, as
reflected in the Court's Order (Dkt. No. 95), Plaintiff's actual maintenance costs ([1] above) are no
longer at issue, and further, there was no union contract ([3] above). (Pl.'s Suppl. Br. at 2). Thus,
the remaining factors to be assessed are [2] and [4] above. (Id.)

1 average. (Id.) (citing Suppl. Neidzwski Decl. at 11 (Ex. B at 1).)

2 For Upper Lake, its cost of living received a Sperling's statistic rating of 119.3 (19.30%
3 higher than the U.S. average), its grocery costs received a rating of 116.1 (16.1% higher than the
4 U.S. average), its housing costs received a rating of 133 (33% higher than the U.S. average), and
5 the average studio apartment in Upper Lake rents for \$684.00/month, and the average one
6 bedroom apartment in Upper Lake rents for \$726.00/month. (Pl.'s Suppl. Br. at 3-4.) (citing
7 Neidzwski Decl. II at 11-12 (Ex. B at 1-2).) Plaintiff points out that his rent in Upper Lake is
8 \$500.00/month, "which is well below the average rent for studio and one bedroom apartments"
9 and that his food costs are in excess of \$367.80/month (or \$12.26/day) are "well below reasonable
10 costs, especially considering that Upper Lake's grocery costs are 16.1% higher than the U.S.
11 average." (Pl.'s Suppl. Br. at 4) (citing Zugsberger Decl. ¶ 10.) Thus, Plaintiff concludes that in
12 sum, comparing the above Sperling's statistics to his actual expenses in excess of \$37.26/day for
13 his Upper Lake residence demonstrates that his actual expenses for Upper Lake are well below
14 reasonable expenses. (Id.)

15 For Sacramento, its cost of living received a Sperling's rating of 121.0 (21.00% higher than
16 the U.S. average), its grocery costs received a rating of 111.8 (11.8% higher than the U.S.
17 average), its housing costs received a rating of 149 (49% higher than the U.S. average), and the
18 average studio apartment in Sacramento rents for \$685.00/month and the average one bedroom
19 apartment rents for \$776/month. (Pl.'s Suppl. Br. at 4) (citing Suppl. Neidzwski Decl. at 17 (Ex. C
20 at 2), 21-22 (Ex. D at 1-2).) Plaintiff points out that his expenses were in excess of \$60.59/day
21 while residing at his Sacramento residence (Zugsberger Decl. ¶ 14) and his rent there was
22 \$1200/month, which even though is above average in Sacramento according to the above
23 Sterling's ratings, this rent "was necessary for Plaintiff to live in a decent area and was actually
24 below reported rent for both 480 square feet and 900 square feet accommodations in 'normal' areas
25 of Sacramento. (Pl.'s Suppl. Br. at 5) (citing Suppl. Neidzwski Decl. at 26-32 (Ex. E).) Similar to
26 Upper Lake, Plaintiff further indicates that his food costs of \$367.80/month are well below
27 reasonable costs in Sacramento and notably, \$12.26/day would not even cover two meals, without
28 large fries and large drink and with taxes, at the McDonald's at 3006 K Street, Sacramento,

1 California 95816, approximately 1.1 miles from Plaintiff's Sacramento residence. (Pl.'s Suppl. Br.
2 at 5) (citing Suppl. Neidzwski Decl. at 33-37 (Ex. F).) Therefore, Plaintiff concludes that in sum,
3 comparing his actual expenses in Sacramento with the reasonable expenses in the area, his actual
4 expenses of \$60.59/day for food and lodging are below reasonable costs. (Pl.'s Suppl. Br. at 5.)

5 For Chula Vista, its cost of living received a Sperling's rating of 154.0 (54.00% higher than
6 the U.S. average), its grocery costs received a rating of 106.8 (6.8% higher than the U.S. average),
7 its housing costs received a rating of 255 (155% higher than the U.S. average) and the average
8 studio apartment in Chula Vista rents for \$1,298.00/month and the average one bedroom
9 apartment rents for \$1,430/month. (Pl.'s Suppl. Br. at 5-6) (citing Suppl. Neidzwski Decl. at 40
10 (Ex. G at 2), 44-45 (Ex. H at 1-2).) Plaintiff asserts that his rent of \$900.00/month in Chula Vista
11 (Zugsberger Decl. ¶ 12) is far below the average rent for a studio and one bedroom apartment in
12 the area according to the Sperling's rating, and that his food costs of \$450.00/month
13 (approximately \$15.00/day) are also below reasonable. As a result, Plaintiff concludes that his
14 combined rent and utilities in Chula Vista and Upper Lake were also reasonable as he was forced
15 to simultaneously pay living expenses in those two localities so that he could obtain some of his
16 needed medical treatment at Dr. Greene's clinic. (Zugsberger Decl. ¶¶ 11-12.)

17 For (2) the maintenance rates awarded in other cases for seamen in the same region, even
18 though Plaintiff states that no federal or state case law was found setting maintenance rates for
19 other seamen in Upper Lake, Sacramento, or Chula Vista, an examination of historical
20 maintenance rates reflects that his actual expenses and corresponding proposed maintenance rates
21 are consistent with, or below, the upward progression of daily maintenance rates, based upon
22 yearly inflation. (Pl.'s Suppl. Br. at 6-7) (citing Hall, 242 F.3d at 582, 591-92 n.42-46 (The Fifth
23 Circuit summarizing that in the 1940s until the 1970s, a maintenance rate was usually \$8.00/day);
24 Barnes, 889 F.3d 517, 540 n.19 ("From the 1940s until the 1980s, the reasonable rate was
25 generally held by courts to be eight dollars per day, despite the deteriorating value of that fixed
26 amount over four decades...More recently, courts have allowed [a] seaman to prove that higher
27 costs of living require a higher maintenance amount.") (citations and internal quotes omitted)).

28 Plaintiff further notes that in the late 1970s and early 1980s, the Fifth Circuit affirmed

1 awards of \$15.00/day, \$20.00/day and \$30.00/day, and in the Hall case, the Fifth Circuit upheld
2 the district court's finding that maintenance rates of \$30.50/day and \$31.50/day were reasonable
3 amounts for single seamen, noting that a \$15.00/day award in 1978 was equivalent to \$38.35/day
4 in 1999 dollars and a \$20.00/day award in 1981 was equivalent to approximately \$36.68/day in
5 1999 dollars. (Pl.'s Suppl. Br. at 7) Plaintiff also points out that using the Bureau of Labor
6 Statistics CPI Inflation Calculation, July 2018 equivalent buying power amounts for \$8.00/day
7 from the month of January in the following years are: 1945 (\$113.26), 1950 (\$85.79), 1955
8 (\$75.51), 1960 (\$68.81), 1965 (\$64.62), 1970 (\$53.33), 1975 (\$38.70). (Id. at 8-9.) Moreover,
9 Plaintiff states that using the same CPI Inflation Calculator, \$15.00 in January 1978 has the same
10 buying power as \$60.48 in July 2018 and \$20.00 in January 1981 has the same buying power as
11 \$57.93 in July 2018. (Id. at 9) (citing Zugsberger Decl. ¶ 11.)

12 Accordingly, Plaintiff concludes that his actual expenses in each of the three
13 aforementioned locations are either well below or roughly equivalent to the (1) \$8.00/day rate
14 typically awarded by the Fifth Circuit from 1945-1960, (2) \$15.00/day rate awarded in 1978, and
15 (3) \$20.00/day rate awarded in 1981, and given the high cost of living in those three locations,
16 Plaintiff's reasonable maintenance rates should exceed the buying power of those historical
17 uniform rates. (Pl.'s Suppl. Br. at 8.) Plaintiff asserts that his reasonable maintenance rates should
18 exceed (1) a \$20.00 rate in January, 1981 (equaling \$57.93/day today), (2) a \$15.00 rate in
19 January, 1978 (equaling \$60.48/day today) and (3) the average \$8.00 rate from 1945-1965
20 (equaling well over \$60.00/day today). (Id.) Moreover, Plaintiff argues that given his ongoing
21 denial of all maintenance and cure required for him to move to Chula Vista to receive treatment
22 from Dr. Greene (Zugsberger Decl. ¶¶ 11-12), his claim of simultaneous rent and utilities in Upper
23 Lake and Chula Vista is reasonable as well. (Id.)

24 In light of the foregoing, the undersigned finds that the past and present maintenance
25 amounts are reasonable, particularly in light of the fact that costs in Northern District of California
26 frequently exceed Plaintiff's actual costs. See Hall, 242 F.3d at 589 (A seaman may recover his
27 actual expenses if they are less than the reasonable cost of food and lodging in his locality.) The
28 historical comparisons and extrapolations of rates awarded by the Fifth Circuit are also convincing

1 in establishing that Plaintiff's maintenance rates are reasonable as well.

2 Accordingly, Plaintiff is entitled to past maintenance in the amount of \$33,476.86, and
3 \$53.33 in maintenance per day going forward until he has reached maximum cure for his injuries,
4 subject to modification after trial.

5 **ii. Cure**

6 Plaintiff contends that Defendants waived their opportunity to deny his claim for
7 maintenance and cure, because they failed to perform a prompt and diligent investigation. (Pl.'s
8 Mot. at 24.) In his moving papers, however, Plaintiff does not explicitly explain what additional
9 care he requires, and the undersigned declines to find that Defendants have waived their
10 opportunity to contest the cure sought. (See Pl.'s Mot. at 20.)

11 In opposition, Defendants argue that Plaintiff has failed to offer any evidence of incurred
12 medical expenses entitled him to cure payments. (Defs.' Opp'n at 20.) While the fact that Plaintiff
13 has not obtained all of the necessary medical treatment does not foreclose recovery, the Court
14 agrees that Plaintiff did not sufficiently address his need for medical treatment. As a result, and
15 due to the Ninth Circuit's preference for prompt payment contemporaneous to the illness or injury,
16 the Court ordered supplemental briefing rather than deny the motion as it pertained to the cure
17 portion of the fourth cause of action. See Barnes, 889 F.3d at 543.

18 In his supplemental brief, Plaintiff incorporates the Declaration of Dr. David Greene
19 (Green Decl.) in its entirety. As set forth in his declaration, Dr. Greene treated Plaintiff before and
20 after the project giving rise to this action. (Greene Decl. ¶¶ 7-25.) Prior to the project, Plaintiff
21 passed routine dive physicals performed periodically by Dr. Greene since March 2013 and
22 Plaintiff did not exhibit any symptoms of toxic or chemical exposure. (Id. ¶¶ 7-8.) During the
23 project, on September 10, 2016, Plaintiff was evaluated and diagnosed by Dr. Greene with
24 progressive erythema, blistering and desquamation, which Plaintiff reported began during his dive
25 work while removing pilings and creosote treated lumber, and these conditions on Plaintiff's body
26 were consistent with chemical burns caused by petrochemical or other toxic exposure, according
27 to Dr. Greene. (Id. ¶¶ 9, 11.) The progression of Plaintiff's symptoms from September 2016
28 through February 2018 was also consistent with conditions caused and/or aggravated by

1 petrochemical or other toxic exposure and all likely related to Plaintiff's conditions which Dr.
2 Greene observed during the project on September 10, 2016. (Id. ¶¶ 12-21.) Plaintiff avers that Dr.
3 Greene's treatment recommendations on February 28, 2018 (Id. ¶¶ 19-20) all likely relate to the
4 conditions which Dr. Greene diagnosed and observed in Plaintiff on September 10, 2016 (Id. ¶
5 27.) These recommendations consist of a neurology consultation, an interventional radiology
6 consultation for biopsy of hepatic and bone tissue, a gastroenterology consultation, and forty (40)
7 additional hyperbaric oxygen treatments. (Id.) Dr. Greene also concurs with Dr. Neal Varghis'
8 recommendation of an EMG/NCS of Plaintiff's bilateral upper and lower extremities. (Id. ¶¶ 31-
9 32.) As reflected in Dr. Greene's invoice attached as Exhibit B to his declaration (Id. at 14-15),
10 Plaintiff currently owes Dr. Greene a total of \$32,000 for past treatment related to Plaintiff's
11 conditions sustained during the project. (Id. ¶ 24.)

12 Plaintiff argues that to date, no amount of maintenance or cure has been paid or authorized
13 by Defendants and Defendants have continued to deny their ongoing maintenance and cure
14 obligation with no medical evidence offered to date. (Pl.'s Suppl. Br at 10.) Plaintiff further asserts
15 that he has not reached maximum medical improvement, remains in need of medical care which he
16 cannot receive, and cannot pay basic bills and in sum, his condition is exigent. (Id.) Thus, Plaintiff
17 requests that the Court grant his Motion for Partial Summary Judgment. (Id.)

18 **C. Defendants' Objections**

19 Defendants raise a number of objections to the evidence Plaintiff submitted in his reply for
20 his motion for partial summary judgment. (Defs.' Obj. at 1-5.)

21 Defendants argue that Exhibit A in the Declaration of Nicholas J. Neidzwski in support of
22 Plaintiff's reply for the motion for partial summary judgment (Reply Neidzwski Decl., Ex. A) is
23 inadmissible based on inadequate authentication provided by Mr. Neidzwski in paragraph 2
24 (Reply Neidzwski Decl. ¶ 2) because Mr. Neidzwski offered no facts regarding whether the
25 photograph has been altered or is an accurate representation of the scene photographed, nor has he
26 offered facts regarding whether the photograph represents the scene at the time Plaintiff worked in
27 Drakes Estero, that is, August through November of 2016. (Defs.' Obj. at 2.) Defendants further
28 contend that even under the evidentiary standard for a non-moving party, which Plaintiff attempts

1 to apply to himself (Pl.'s Reply at 11), Exhibit A would be inadmissible at trial based on the
2 inadequate authentication provided by Mr. Neidzwski in paragraph 2. (Defs.' Obj. at 2.) The
3 website offered by Mr. Neidzwski for Exhibit A also indicates that a person, presumably named
4 Bobbi Simpson, created the image and Mr. Neidzwski has not indicated whether this person would
5 be available to authenticate this image at trial. (Id.; Reply Neidzwski Decl. ¶ 9.) Defendants also
6 argue that Exhibit A is inadmissible because it is not relevant to the issues in this case. (Defs.'
7 Obj. at 2.) Defendants point out that the website in Exhibit A indicates the image was created on
8 February 15, 2012, and even if Mr. Neidzwski could offer facts establishing the truth of that
9 creation date and that the image accurately represented the scene, Defendants argue that the image
10 would not be relevant because it predates Plaintiff's work in Drake Estero by over four years, and
11 Plaintiff has also offered no facts to establish that an image from February 2012 would accurately
12 depict Drakes Estero as it appeared in August through November of 2016. (Id. at 2-3.) Defendants
13 then cite a Ninth Circuit case to argue that the case quote of "[w]hen once found to be navigable, a
14 waterway remains so" refers to determining navigability for the purposes of determining the extent
15 of the commercial power of Congress, which is distinct from navigability determinations for the
16 purpose of determining admiralty jurisdiction. (Id.)

17 Defendants next argue that Exhibit B (Reply Neidzwski Decl., Ex. B) in the same above-
18 discussed Declaration (Reply Neidzwski Decl.) is inadmissible based on the inadequate
19 authentication provided by Mr. Neidzwski in paragraph 3 (Reply Neidzwski Decl. ¶ 3) because
20 Mr. Neidzwski does not have knowledge of the creation of the email. (Defs.' Obj. at 3.) Defendants
21 object to the admissibility of Exhibit B for reasons similar to why they object to the admissibility
22 of Exhibit A e.g., Mr. Neidzwski does not indicate whether the author of Exhibit B is available to
23 testify at trial, and because Exhibit B is not relevant to the issues in the case because Plaintiff
24 seeks to use the email to establish when Defendants first received notice of his alleged injuries and
25 such notice is not one of the elements of his claims for maintenance and cure. (Id. at 3-4.)

26 Defendants then argue that paragraphs 4, 6, 7 and 8 and Exhibits C, D and E of the
27 Declaration of Mr. Neidzwski discussed immediately above (Reply Neidzwski Decl.) and Exhibits
28 C, E, F, and G of the first Declaration of Mr. Neidzwski (Neidzwski Decl.) are inadmissible

1 medical records that are unauthenticated and unable to support summary judgment because Mr.
2 Neidzwski offers no personal knowledge as to how the records were created, how they were
3 stored, or whether they have been altered since their creation. (Defs.' Obj. at 4.) Defendants
4 additionally argue that even though purported medical records (Neidzwski Decl., Exs. C, E, F, G)
5 might be admissible under an exception to the hearsay rule, Plaintiff has offered no facts showing
6 that the statements made in the aforementioned exhibits meet the requirements of any exception.
7 (Defs.' Obj. at 4.)

8 Defendants further argue that paragraph 5 in the Reply Declaration of Mr. Neidzwski
9 (Reply Neidzwski Decl.) and Exhibit D in the first Declaration of Mr. Neidzwski (Neidzwski
10 Decl.), an expert report, are inadmissible, with the expert report being unsworn and not made
11 under penalty of perjury and thus unable to support summary judgment because Mr. Neidzwski
12 offers no personal knowledge as to how the expert report was created, how it was stored, or
13 whether it has been altered since creation. (Defs.' Obj. at 4-5.)

14 Finally, Defendants argue that Mr. Clary's statement that "[o]n one occasion during his
15 employment, Mr. Zugsberger mentioned having a rash that he suggested was caused by algae in
16 the water" (Pl.'s Reply at 9-10; Neidzwski Decl., Ex. J at 1) is inadmissible because Mr. Clary has
17 no personal knowledge of what Plaintiff, Mr. Zugsberger, mentioned during his employment.
18 (Defs.' Obj. at 5.)

19 To the extent that Defendants object to the admissibility of Plaintiff's medical evidence as
20 described in detail above, those issues have been sufficiently resolved via Plaintiff's supplemental
21 briefing. Accordingly, Defendants' objections are overruled.

22 **D. Defendants' Response to Plaintiff's Supplemental Briefing**

23 In their response to the supplemental briefing, Defendants argue that the Court should
24 reject Plaintiff's claims for unneeded cure and unreasonable maintenance for several reasons.
25 (Defs.' Resp. at 1.) First, Defendants argue that their cure obligation does not cover Plaintiff's
26 election to receive expensive and unreasonable care rather than free care. (Id. at 1-4.) Second,
27 Defendants contend that the Court should strike or exclude Plaintiff's new evidence of causation,
28 including Dr. Greene's new testimony regarding causation, which violates the Court's order and

1 gives Defendants no chance to respond (Id. at 4-5) and is not admissible because Dr. Greene is not
2 qualified on the subject and his opinions are not based on reliable facts (Id. at 5-9). Specifically,
3 Defendants assert that Dr. Greene is not qualified to testify as to whether or not chemical or toxic
4 exposure caused Plaintiff's injuries (Id. at 6-7), his opinions on causation are not based on
5 sufficient facts and data (Id. at 7-8), and his failure to perform differential diagnoses means his
6 opinions on causation are not based on reliable methods (Id. at 8-9). Defendants additionally aver
7 that if the Court considers Plaintiff's new evidence of causation, it should also consider evidence
8 from Defendants' expert, Dr. Jonathan S. Rutchik, and allow him to examine Plaintiff. (Id. at 9.)
9 Finally, Defendants argue that Plaintiff's claim for rent and utilities for a house in Upper Lake and
10 an apartment in Chula Vista at the same time is unreasonable because a jury would not find it
11 reasonable, Plaintiff offers no explanation as to why he could not move out of the Upper Lake
12 house he was renting or find a subtenant when he moved to Chula Vista, and Plaintiff also offers
13 no explanation as to why he could not obtain treatment closer to home so that he would not have
14 to move. (Id. at 9-10.)

15 Although Defendants attempt to address Plaintiff's supplemental briefing in their response,
16 the Court finds Defendants' arguments largely unavailing because the Court has already performed
17 the analysis in determining that Plaintiff should be entitled to maintenance and cure, as detailed
18 above. As a result, Plaintiff has proven that there is no disputed question of fact as to instatement
19 of maintenance and cure, payment of past maintenance and cure, and to a proper setting of the
20 maintenance rate as well.

21 **IV. CONCLUSION**

22 In light of the foregoing, the Court GRANTS Plaintiff's motion for partial summary
23 judgment, as follows:

24 1. Defendants Galindo Construction Company, Inc. ("Galindo Construction") and
25 Don Ron Galindo ("Ron Galindo") must pay, within 60 days from the date of this order, all cure
26 incurred by Plaintiff during or since his employment with Galindo Construction and Ron Galindo
27 from August 2016 through November 2016.

28 2. Defendants Galindo Construction and Ron Galindo must pay, within 60 days from

1 the date of this order, past maintenance owed to Plaintiff through the date of this order, September
2 28, 2018, in the total amount of \$33,476.86. The past due maintenance amount is calculated as
3 follows:

- 4 • December 1, 2016 through March 1, 2017: \$3,390.66 (91 days multiplied by
5 \$37.26 per day);
- 6 • March 2, 2017 through October 1, 2017: \$12,966.26 (214 days multiplied by
7 \$60.59 per day);
- 8 • October 2, 2017 through February 14, 2018: \$5,067.36 (136 days multiplied by
9 \$37.26 per day);
- 10 • February 15, 2018 through the date of this order, September 28, 2018: \$12,052.58
11 (226 days multiplied by \$53.33 per day).

12 3. Plaintiff has not reached maximum cure for his injuries which manifested during
13 the Project.

14 4. Defendants Galindo Construction and Ron Galindo must pay Plaintiff maintenance
15 at the rate of \$53.33 per day on an ongoing basis from September 28, 2018 forward until (1)
16 Plaintiff reaches maximum cure for his injures which manifested during the Project, at which time
17 Defendants' maintenance obligation will cease, (2) until Plaintiff's living expenses change, at
18 which time Plaintiff's maintenance rate may change, or (3) subject to modification after trial.

19 5. Defendants Galindo Construction and Ron Galindo must pay and authorize on an
20 ongoing basis all reasonable cure incurred by Plaintiff on or after the date of this Order until
21 Plaintiff reaches maximum cure for his injuries which manifested during the Project. This cure
22 includes, but is not limited to, the following: (1) an EMG/NCS of Mr. Zugsberger's bilateral
23 upper and lower extremities as recommended by Neal Varghis, MD, on or around February 1,
24 2018; (2) an appointment with Dr. Jonathan S. Rutchik, as recommended by John H. Fullerton,
25 MD, MRO, CMD, CFP, FACP, AGSF, FAAHP; and (3) all recommended treatment as set forth
26 by Dr. David Greene in his February 28, 2018 chart record. (Neidzwski Decl., Ex. F at 5).

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IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated: September 28, 2018



KANDIS A. WESTMORE
United States Magistrate Judge