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

RAUL UVALLES,	)	No. C 09-5221 RMW (PR)
	)	
Plaintiff,	)	ORDER DENYING MOTION TO
	)	COMPEL; CONDITIONALLY
v.	)	GRANTING MOTION FOR
	)	EXTENSION OF TIME;
FRANCISCO JACQUEZ, et al.,	)	DIRECTING PLAINTIFF TO FILE
	)	SUPPLEMENTAL BRIEF
Defendants.	)	
	)	(Docket Nos. 160, 177)

Plaintiff filed a pro se civil rights action pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983. Plaintiff has filed a motion to compel. Defendants have filed a motion for summary judgment. Plaintiff’s timely opposition is more accurately entitled a motion for continuance under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 56(d). As explained below, plaintiff’s motion to compel is DENIED as premature. Further, although plaintiff does not satisfy the requirements of Rule 56(d) at this time, the court provisionally GRANTS a continuance so that plaintiff has an opportunity to make the required showing.

**BACKGROUND**

Plaintiff alleges that various prison officials exhibited cruel and unusual punishment, violated his right to be free from unreasonable search and seizure, violated his right to equal protection, and were deliberately indifferent to his serious medical needs when they placed him

1 into Contraband Surveillance Watch (“CSW”). Plaintiff, a classified Northern Hispanic  
2 suspected of being involved with the Northern Structure Prison Gang, was placed into CSW after  
3 prison officials believed that he possessed contraband within his body. Plaintiff alleges that he  
4 was humiliated when he had to defecate in front of a female officer; that he was not provided  
5 with basic human needs while in CSW; and that the restraints used in CSW injured his back,  
6 shoulder, and hands. Plaintiff also claims that the prison officials discriminated against Northern  
7 Hispanics because one Northern Hispanic inmate had assaulted a staff member in September  
8 2008, and the prison officials, in turn, retaliated against all Northern Hispanics.

## 9 ANALYSIS

### 10 I. Motion to Compel

11 Plaintiff may file a motion to compel discovery, however, only after he satisfies the  
12 “meet and confer” requirements of the discovery rules. See Fed. R. Civ. P. 37(a)(2)(A)  
13 (providing that a motion to compel must include certification that movant has in good faith  
14 conferred and attempted to confer with non-disclosing party in effort to secure disclosure  
15 without court action); N.D. Cal. Civ. R. 37-1 (same). Because plaintiff is detained, however, he  
16 is not required to meet and confer with defendants in person. Rather, if his discovery requests  
17 are denied, and he intends to seek a motion to compel, he must send a letter to defendants to that  
18 effect, offering them one last opportunity to provide him with the sought-after information. On  
19 the record, there is no indication that plaintiff satisfied that requirement. Thus, the motion to  
20 compel is DENIED without prejudice.

### 21 II. Rule 56(d)

22 Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 56(d) provides that if a party opposing summary  
23 judgment demonstrates a need for further discovery in order to obtain facts essential to justify  
24 the party’s opposition, the court may deny the motion for summary judgment or continue the  
25 hearing to allow for such discovery. Fed. R. Civ. P. 56(d); Margolis v. Ryan, 140 F.3d 850, 853  
26 (9th Cir. 1998). In making a Rule 56(d) motion, a party opposing summary judgment must make  
27 clear “what information is sought and how it would preclude summary judgment.” Id. at 853-54  
28

1 (district court correctly denied motion for continuance under Rule 56(f)<sup>1</sup> where plaintiff did not  
2 provide any basis or factual support for his assertions that further discovery would lead to the  
3 facts and testimony he described, and his assertions appeared based on nothing more than “wild  
4 speculation”); see also, e.g., Nicholas v. Wallenstein, 266 F.3d 1083, 1088-89 (9th Cir. 2001)  
5 (district court did not abuse its discretion in denying motion for continuance under Rule 56(f)  
6 where plaintiffs had already conducted a large amount of informal discovery and where they did  
7 not make clear what information was sought and how it would preclude summary judgment).  
8 Rule 56(d) requires that the requesting party show (1) it has set forth in affidavit form the  
9 specific facts it hopes to elicit from further discovery, (2) the facts sought exist, and (3) the  
10 sought-after facts are essential to oppose summary judgment. Family Home and Finance Center,  
11 Inc. v. Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corp., 525 F.3d 822, 827 (9th Cir. 2008).

12 “[S]ummary judgment is disfavored where relevant evidence remains to be discovered,  
13 particularly in cases involving confined pro se plaintiffs.” Jones v. Blanas, 393 F.3d 918, 930  
14 (9th Cir. 2004). In such cases, “summary judgment in the face of requests for additional  
15 discovery is appropriate only where such discovery would be fruitless with respect to the proof  
16 of a viable claim.” Id. (internal quotation marks and citation omitted).

17 Here, the court has reviewed plaintiff’s request for answers to interrogatories as well as  
18 his first request for production of documents. Plaintiff requests, inter alia, policies and  
19 procedures relating to the CSW; policies regarding use of “the tube”; and information regarding  
20 where Northern Hispanics were housed after the September 7, 2008 staff assault. The court has  
21 also reviewed exhibits attached to plaintiff’s amended complaint and defendants’ declarations in  
22 support of their motion for summary judgment, and has found documents and information  
23 responsive to the above mentioned discovery requests within the pleadings filed in this case.

24 Where a plaintiff requests information relating to facts within his control, any request for  
25 that discovery would be “fruitless” and would not warrant a motion under Rule 56(d). Jones,

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27 <sup>1</sup> Former Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 56(f) was amended in 2010. It is now set forth  
28 in Rule 56(d).

1 393 F.3d at 930-31. In addition, a party asking for more time to conduct discovery to oppose  
2 summary judgment bears the burden of demonstrating that the evidence sought actually exists.  
3 Terrell v. Brewer, 935 F.2d 1015, 1018 (9th Cir. 1990). Thus, plaintiff must identify specific  
4 facts he hopes will be demonstrated by the evidence he seeks and explain how that information is  
5 essential to prevent summary judgment. Tatum v. San Francisco, 441 F.3d 1090, 1100 (9th Cir.  
6 2006).

7 Because the court is not convinced at this time that all of plaintiff's requested discovery  
8 would be "fruitless," Jones, 393 F.3d at 930, plaintiff's motion for continuance is provisionally  
9 GRANTED to allow plaintiff time to submit a supplemental declaration explaining what  
10 information or documents he lacks from his original discovery requests, what he expects the  
11 requested evidence will demonstrate, and why those facts will assist in proving the elements of  
12 his claims. Alternatively, if, after reviewing the exhibits attached to defendants' motion for  
13 summary judgment declarations, plaintiff determines that he can file his opposition without the  
14 discovery he originally requested, plaintiff shall file his opposition instead.

#### 15 CONCLUSION

16 As set forth above, plaintiff's motion to compel is DENIED. Plaintiff's motion for a  
17 continuance is provisionally GRANTED, pending plaintiff's compliance with this order.

18 Plaintiff shall file a supplemental declaration including the required information within  
19 **28 days** of the filing date of this order. Any response by defendants shall be filed within **14 days**  
20 thereafter. If plaintiff determines instead, that he can file an opposition without the originally  
21 requested discovery, then he may file his opposition no later than **28 days** of the filing date of  
22 this order. Defendants's reply shall be filed within **14 days** thereafter.

23 **If plaintiff fails to file anything within 28 days, the court will deem defendants'**  
24 **motion for summary judgment submitted and ready for consideration.**

25 IT IS SO ORDERED.

26 DATED: \_\_\_\_\_

27   
28 RONALD M. WHYTE  
United States District Judge

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

RAUL UVALLES,  
Plaintiff,

Case Number: CV09-05221 RMW

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

v.

FRANCISCO JAQUEZ et al,  
Defendant.

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I, the undersigned, hereby certify that I am an employee in the Office of the Clerk, U.S. District Court, Northern District of California.

That on September 17, 2012, I SERVED a true and correct copy(ies) of the attached, by placing said copy(ies) in a postage paid envelope addressed to the person(s) hereinafter listed, by depositing said envelope in the U.S. Mail, or by placing said copy(ies) into an inter-office delivery receptacle located in the Clerk's office.

Raul Uvalles T-59954  
Pelican Bay State Prison  
Housing: C9-116  
P.O. Box 7500  
Crescent City, CA 95532

Dated: September 17, 2012

Richard W. Wieking, Clerk  
By: Jackie Lynn Garcia, Deputy Clerk