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

JOSELUIS MORALES,	)	No. C 11-05211 EJD (PR)
Plaintiff,	)	ORDER OF SERVICE; DIRECTING
vs.	)	DEFENDANTS TO FILE DISPOSITIVE
	)	MOTION OR NOTICE REGARDING
MATHEW CATE, et al.,	)	SUCH MOTION; INSTRUCTIONS TO
Defendants.	)	CLERK

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Plaintiff, a California inmate currently incarcerated at the Pelican Bay State Prison (“PBSP”) in Crescent City, filed the instant civil rights action in pro se pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983 against prison officials for unconstitutional acts. Plaintiff’s motion for leave to proceed in forma pauperis will be granted in a separate written order.

**DISCUSSION**

**A. Standard of Review**

A federal court must conduct a preliminary screening in any case in which a prisoner seeks redress from a governmental entity or officer or employee of a governmental entity. See 28 U.S.C. § 1915A(a). In its review, the court must identify any cognizable claims and dismiss any claims that are frivolous, malicious, fail to state a

1 claim upon which relief may be granted or seek monetary relief from a defendant who is  
2 immune from such relief. See id. § 1915A(b)(1),(2). Pro se pleadings must, however, be  
3 liberally construed. See Balistreri v. Pacifica Police Dep't, 901 F.2d 696, 699 (9th Cir.  
4 1988).

5 To state a claim under 42 U.S.C. § 1983, a plaintiff must allege two essential  
6 elements: (1) that a right secured by the Constitution or laws of the United States was  
7 violated, and (2) that the alleged violation was committed by a person acting under the  
8 color of state law. See West v. Atkins, 487 U.S. 42, 48 (1988).

### 9 **B. Plaintiff's Claims**

10 Plaintiff alleges that PBSP officials violated his right to due process when they  
11 validated him as an active prison gang member in 2011. (Compl. at 6.) Plaintiff also  
12 claims that the validation was “in conspiracy to retaliate against Plaintiff for his legal  
13 activities” and that Defendants retaliated against him for his legal activities, in violation  
14 of his First Amendment rights. (Id. at 9, 11.) Lastly, Plaintiff claims that supervisors are  
15 liable for their subordinates’ unconstitutional acts. (Id. at 13.) Liberally construed, these  
16 claims are cognizable under § 1983 to the extent they were properly exhausted in the  
17 inmate appeals.

18 Plaintiff’s allegation that Defendants’ actions caused defamation fails to state a  
19 cognizable claim. See Paul v. Davis, 424 U.S. 693, 701-710 (1976) (recognizing that  
20 defamation alone does not state a constitutional claim, even when done under color of  
21 state law). Accordingly, Plaintiff's defamation claim will be DISMISSED without leave  
22 to amend.

## 23 24 **CONCLUSION**

25 For the reasons stated above, the Court orders as follows:

26 1. The Clerk of the Court shall mail a Notice of Lawsuit and Request for  
27 Waiver of Service of Summons, two copies of the Waiver of Service of Summons, a copy  
28 of the complaint, all attachments thereto, and a copy of this order upon **Defendants**

1 **Warden, G. D. Lewis, Associate Warden Patrick Smith, Officer K. Osborne, Officer**  
2 **Andrew Barneburg and Officer R. Bell** at the **Pelican Bay State Prison**, (P.O. Box  
3 7000, Crescent City, CA 95531-700), upon **Defendant Secretary Mathew Cate**, at the  
4 **California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation** (Office of Legal Affairs,  
5 P.O. Box 942883, Sacramento, CA 94283), and upon **Defendants Special Agents R.**  
6 **Burt and J. Evangelista** of CDCR at 2880 Sunrise Blve, #130, Rancho Cordova, CA  
7 95742.

8 The Clerk of the Court shall also mail a courtesy copy of the complaint and a copy  
9 of this Order to the California Attorney General's Office. Additionally, the Clerk shall  
10 mail a copy of this Order to Plaintiff.

11 2. Each Defendant is cautioned that Rule 4 of the Federal Rules of Civil  
12 Procedure requires him to cooperate in saving unnecessary costs of service of the  
13 summons and complaint. Pursuant to Rule 4, if Defendant, after being notified of this  
14 action and asked by the Court, on behalf of Plaintiff, to waive service of the summons,  
15 fails to do so, he will be required to bear the cost of such service unless good cause shown  
16 for their failure to sign and return the waiver form. If service is waived, this action will  
17 proceed as if Defendant had been served on the date that the waiver is filed, except that  
18 pursuant to Rule 12(a)(1)(B), Defendant will not be required to serve and file an answer  
19 before **sixty (60) days** from the day on which the request for waiver was sent. (This  
20 allows a longer time to respond than would be required if formal service of summons is  
21 necessary.) Defendant is asked to read the statement set forth at the foot of the waiver  
22 form that more completely describes the duties of the parties with regard to waiver of  
23 service of the summons. If service is waived after the date provided in the Notice but  
24 before Defendant has been personally served, the Answer shall be due **sixty (60) days**  
25 from the date on which the request for waiver was sent or **twenty (20) days** from the date  
26 the waiver form is filed, whichever is later.

27 3. No later than **sixty (60) days** from the date of this order, Defendants shall  
28 file a motion for summary judgment or other dispositive motion with respect to the claims

1 in the complaint found to be cognizable above, or, within such time, notify the Court that  
2 Defendants are of the opinion that this case cannot be resolved by such a motion.

3 a. If Defendants elect to file a motion to dismiss on the grounds that  
4 Plaintiff failed to exhaust his available administrative remedies as required by 42 U.S.C.  
5 § 1997e(a), Defendants shall do so in an unenumerated Rule 12(b) motion pursuant to  
6 Wyatt v. Terhune, 315 F.3d 1108, 1119-20 (9th Cir. 2003), cert. denied Alameida v.  
7 Terhune, 540 U.S. 810 (2003).

8 b. Any motion for summary judgment shall be supported by adequate  
9 factual documentation and shall conform in all respects to Rule 56 of the Federal Rules of  
10 Civil Procedure. **Defendants are advised that summary judgment cannot be granted,**  
11 **nor qualified immunity found, if material facts are in dispute. If Defendants are of**  
12 **the opinion that this case cannot be resolved by summary judgment, they shall so**  
13 **inform the Court prior to the date the summary judgment motion is due.**

14 4. Plaintiff's opposition to the dispositive motion shall be filed with the Court  
15 and served on Defendants no later than **thirty (30) days** from the date Defendants'  
16 motion is filed.

17 a. In the event Defendants file an unenumerated motion to dismiss  
18 under Rule 12(b), Plaintiff is hereby cautioned as follows:<sup>1</sup>

19 The Defendants have made a motion to dismiss pursuant to Rule  
20 12(b) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, on the ground you have not  
21 exhausted your administrative remedies. The motion will, if granted, result  
22 in the dismissal of your case. When a party you are suing makes a motion  
23 to dismiss for failure to exhaust, and that motion is properly supported by  
24 declarations (or other sworn testimony) and/or documents, you may not  
25 simply rely on what your complaint says. Instead, you must set out specific  
26 facts in declarations, depositions, answers to interrogatories, or documents,  
27 that contradict the facts shown in the Defendant's declarations and  
28 documents and show that you have in fact exhausted your claims. If you do  
not submit your own evidence in opposition, the motion to dismiss, if  
appropriate, may be granted and the case dismissed.

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27 <sup>1</sup> The following notice is adapted from the summary judgment notice to be given to pro  
28 se prisoners as set forth in Rand v. Rowland, 154 F.3d 952, 963 (9th Cir. 1998) (en banc).  
See Wyatt v. Terhune, 315 F.3d at 1120 n.14.

1           b.       In the event Defendants file a motion for summary judgment, the  
2 Ninth Circuit has held that the following notice should be given to Plaintiff:

3           The defendants have made a motion for summary judgment by  
4 which they seek to have your case dismissed. A motion for summary  
5 judgment under Rule 56 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure will, if  
6 granted, end your case.

7           Rule 56 tells you what you must do in order to oppose a motion for  
8 summary judgment. Generally, summary judgment must be granted when  
9 there is no genuine issue of material fact--that is, if there is no real dispute  
10 about any fact that would affect the result of your case, the party who asked  
11 for summary judgment is entitled to judgment as a matter of law, which will  
12 end your case. When a party you are suing makes a motion for summary  
13 judgment that is properly supported by declarations (or other sworn  
14 testimony), you cannot simply rely on what your complaint says. Instead,  
15 you must set out specific facts in declarations, depositions, answers to  
16 interrogatories, or authenticated documents, as provided in Rule 56(e), that  
17 contradict the facts shown in the defendants' declarations and documents  
18 and show that there is a genuine issue of material fact for trial. If you do  
19 not submit your own evidence in opposition, summary judgment, if  
20 appropriate, may be entered against you. If summary judgment is granted  
21 in favor of defendants, your case will be dismissed and there will be no  
22 trial.

23           See Rand v. Rowland, 154 F.3d 952, 963 (9th Cir. 1998) (en banc).

24           Plaintiff is advised to read Rule 56 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and  
25 Celotex Corp. v. Catrett, 477 U.S. 317 (1986) (holding party opposing summary judgment  
26 must come forward with evidence showing triable issues of material fact on every  
27 essential element of his claim). Plaintiff is cautioned that failure to file an opposition to  
28 Defendants' motion for summary judgment may be deemed to be a consent by Plaintiff to  
the granting of the motion, and granting of judgment against plaintiff without a trial. See  
Ghazali v. Moran, 46 F.3d 52, 53-54 (9th Cir. 1995) (per curiam); Brydges v. Lewis, 18  
F.3d 651, 653 (9th Cir. 1994).

5.       Defendants shall file a reply brief no later than **fifteen (15) days** after  
Plaintiff's opposition is filed.

6.       The motion shall be deemed submitted as of the date the reply brief is due.  
No hearing will be held on the motion unless the Court so orders at a later date.

7.       All communications by the Plaintiff with the Court must be served on  
Defendants, or Defendants' counsel once counsel has been designated, by mailing a true

1 copy of the document to Defendants or Defendants' counsel.

2 8. Discovery may be taken in accordance with the Federal Rules of Civil  
3 Procedure. No further Court order is required before the parties may conduct discovery.

4 9. It is Plaintiff's responsibility to prosecute this case. Plaintiff must keep the  
5 Court informed of any change of address and must comply with the Court's orders in a  
6 timely fashion. Failure to do so may result in the dismissal of this action for failure to  
7 prosecute pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 41(b).

8  
9 DATED: 3/30/2012

  
EDWARD J. DAVILA  
United States District Judge

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

JOSELUIS MORALES,  
Plaintiff,

Case Number: CV11-05211 EJD

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

v.

MATHEW CATE, et al.,  
Defendants.

\_\_\_\_\_/

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 4/2/2012, 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.

Joseluis Morales P 63392  
Pelican Bay State Prison  
Crescent City, CA 95532

Dated: 4/2/2012

Richard W. Wieking, Clerk  
/s/By: Elizabeth Garcia, Deputy Clerk