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United States District Court  
For the Northern District of California

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

|                       |   |                             |
|-----------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| ENRIQUE DIAZ,         | ) | No. C 13-04575 EJD (PR)     |
|                       | ) |                             |
| Plaintiff,            | ) | ORDER OF SERVICE; DIRECTING |
|                       | ) | DEFENDANTS TO FILE          |
| v.                    | ) | DISPOSITIVE MOTION OR       |
|                       | ) | NOTICE REGARDING SUCH       |
| J. STEVENSON, et al., | ) | MOTION; INSTRUCTIONS TO     |
|                       | ) | CLERK                       |
| Defendants.           | ) |                             |
| _____                 | ) |                             |

Plaintiff, a state prisoner at Salinas Valley State Prison (“SVSP”), filed the instant civil rights action in pro se pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983, against SVSP prison officials. Plaintiff’s motion for leave to proceed in forma pauperis will be granted in a separate 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,

1 fail to state a claim upon which relief may be granted or seek monetary relief from a  
2 defendant who is immune from such relief. See id. § 1915A(b)(1),(2). Pro se  
3 pleadings must, however, be liberally construed. See Balistreri v. Pacifica Police  
4 Dep't, 901 F.2d 696, 699 (9th Cir. 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  
7 was violated, and (2) that the alleged violation was committed by a person acting  
8 under the color of state law. See West v. Atkins, 487 U.S. 42, 48 (1988).

9 **B. Plaintiff's Claims**

10 Plaintiff claims that Defendant P. Sullivan “falsified/fabricated disciplinary  
11 charges” against Plaintiff for making threats on June 26, 2011, and issued him a  
12 Rules Violation Report (“RVR”) based thereon. (Compl. at 3.) Plaintiff claims that  
13 Defendant J. Stevenson found him guilty of the false charge, and that Defendants R.  
14 A. Kessler and Warden Binkele agreed with the outcome. (Id. at 4-A.) When  
15 Plaintiff appealed the matter, he claims that the SVSP appeals coordinator dismissed  
16 the RVR after finding that Plaintiff was “improperly charged” and that “all  
17 administrative safeguards and due process rights were not upheld.” (Id.) Plaintiff  
18 seeks compensatory damages for the violation of his due process rights which  
19 resulted in his placement in segregation and the loss of privileges. (Id. at 3.)  
20 Liberally construed, Plaintiff states a cognizable due process claim, see Wolff v.  
21 McDonnell, 418 U.S. 539, 556 (1974), which, if successful, may entitle him to at  
22 least nominal damages. See Raditch v. United States, 929 F.2d 478, 481 n.5 (9th  
23 Cir. 1991) (citing Carey v. Piphus, 435 U.S. 247, 266-67 (1978); Vanelli v.  
24 Reynolds School Dist. No. 7, 667 F.2d 773, 781 (9th Cir. 1982)).

25  
26 **CONCLUSION**

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

- 28 1. The Clerk of the Court shall mail a Notice of Lawsuit and Request for

1 Waiver of Service of Summons, two copies of the Waiver of Service of Summons, a  
2 copy of the complaint, all attachments thereto, and a copy of this order upon  
3 **Defendants Lt. P. Sullivan, Lt. J. Stevenson, Lt. R. A. Kessler, and Warden R.**  
4 **Binkele** at the **Salinas Valley State Prison** (P.O. Box 1020, Soledad, CA 93960-  
5 1020). The Clerk shall also mail a copy of this Order to Plaintiff.

6 The Clerk shall terminate Defendant P. Stevenson from this action as Plaintiff  
7 makes no allegations against this individual.<sup>1</sup>

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

25 3. No later than **ninety (90) days** from the date of this order, Defendants

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<sup>1</sup>“P. Stevenson” appears to have been typed in error by Plaintiff in the  
28 heading on page 1 of his Complaint, as no such name is listed as a defendant under  
“Parties” on the following page.

1 shall file a motion for summary judgment or other dispositive motion with respect to  
2 the claims in the complaint found to be cognizable above.

3 a. If Defendants elect to file a motion to dismiss on the grounds  
4 Plaintiff failed to exhaust his available administrative remedies as required by 42  
5 U.S.C. § 1997e(a), Defendants shall do so in an unenumerated Rule 12(b) motion  
6 pursuant to Wyatt v. Terhune, 315 F.3d 1108, 1119-20 (9th Cir. 2003), cert. denied  
7 Alameida v. Terhune, 540 U.S. 810 (2003). **The Ninth Circuit has held that**  
8 **Plaintiff must be provided with the appropriate warning and notice under**  
9 **Wyatt concurrently with Defendants' motion to dismiss. See Woods v. Carey,**  
10 **Nos. 09-15548 & 09-16113, slip op. 7871, 7874 (9th Cir. July 6, 2012).**

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

18 4. Plaintiff's opposition to the dispositive motion shall be filed with the  
19 Court and served on Defendants no later than **twenty-eight (28) days** from the date  
20 Defendants' motion is filed.

21 a. **In the event Defendants file a motion for summary**  
22 **judgment, the Ninth Circuit has held that Plaintiff must be concurrently**  
23 **provided the appropriate warnings under Rand v. Rowland, 154 F.3d 952, 963**  
24 **(9th Cir. 1998) (en banc). See Woods, Nos. 09-15548 & 09-16113, slip op. at**  
25 **7874.**

26 Plaintiff is also advised to read Rule 56 of the Federal Rules of Civil  
27 Procedure and Celotex Corp. v. Catrett, 477 U.S. 317 (1986) (holding party  
28 opposing summary judgment must come forward with evidence showing triable

1 issues of material fact on every essential element of his claim). Plaintiff is cautioned  
2 that failure to file an opposition to Defendants' motion for summary judgment may  
3 be deemed to be a consent by Plaintiff to the granting of the motion, and granting of  
4 judgment against Plaintiff without a trial. See Ghazali v. Moran, 46 F.3d 52, 53-54  
5 (9th Cir. 1995) (per curiam); Brydges v. Lewis, 18 F.3d 651, 653 (9th Cir. 1994).

6 5. Defendants shall file a reply brief no later than **fourteen (14) days**  
7 after Plaintiff's opposition is filed.

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

10 7. All communications by the Plaintiff with the Court must be served on  
11 Defendants, or Defendants' counsel once counsel has been designated, by mailing a  
12 true copy of the document to Defendants or Defendants' counsel.

13 8. Discovery may be taken in accordance with the Federal Rules of Civil  
14 Procedure. No further court order under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 30(a)(2) or  
15 Local Rule 16-1 is required before the parties may conduct discovery.

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

20 10. Extensions of time must be filed no later than the deadline sought to be  
21 extended and must be accompanied by a showing of good cause.

22  
23 DATED: 4/4/2014

  
EDWARD J. DAVILA  
United States District Judge

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

ENRIQUE DIAZ,  
Plaintiff,

Case Number: CV13-04575 EJD

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

v.

J. STEVENSON, 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 4/7/2014, 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.

Enrique Diaz K-70268  
Salinas Valley State Prison  
A4-122  
P.O. Box 1050  
Soledad, CA 93960

Dated: 4/7/2014

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