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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

CHARLES EASTER,)	Civil No. 09cv555 LAB (RBB)
)	
Plaintiff,)	REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION
)	GRANTING IN PART AND DENYING
v.)	IN PART DEFENDANTS' MOTIONS TO
)	DISMISS [DOC. NO. 15]
CDC, State of California; B.)	
MORRIS, Captain; L. PANICHELLO,)	
Lieutenant; E. Perez,)	
Correctional Officer.)	
)	
Defendants.)	
_____)	

Plaintiff Charles Easter, now a state prisoner proceeding pro se and in forma pauperis, filed this civil rights complaint pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983 on March 18, 2009 [doc. no. 1]. At the time he filed this action, Easter was not incarcerated and was living in Escondido, California. (Compl. 1.) The events giving rise to this suit occurred approximately two and one-half years earlier, while Plaintiff was housed at R.J. Donovan Correctional Facility. (Id.) Easter alleges that Defendants violated the Fifth, Eighth, and Fourteenth Amendments of the United States and California Constitutions by improperly placing him in a prison yard where he had been previously assaulted by other inmates which caused him to be assaulted a second time. (Id. at 3-6.)

1 On August 14, 2009, Defendants Captain B. Morris, Lieutenant
2 L. Panichello, and Officer E. Perez filed a Motion to Dismiss
3 Plaintiff's Complaint for Failure to State a Claim [doc. no. 15].¹
4 Attached to the Motion was a Memorandum of Points and Authorities
5 in Support of Defendants' Motion to Dismiss and the Declaration of
6 James Reinmiller, Custodian of Records for the Government Claims
7 Program [doc. nos. 15-2, 15-3]. Defendants Morris, Panichello, and
8 Perez argue that they cannot be sued for damages in their official
9 capacities; Plaintiff's state law claims are barred; Easter's
10 Fourteenth Amendment claim is duplicative; Plaintiff fails to state
11 a claim for violation of the Fifth Amendment; and Easter fails to
12 show that he is entitled to injunctive relief. (Mot. to Dismiss
13 1.)

14 A Kingele/Rand notice was issued by the Court on October 26,
15 2009 [doc. no. 18]. Plaintiff requested additional time to file
16 his opposition and was granted an extension to December 31, 2009
17 [doc. nos. 21-22]. Easter's Opposition to Defendants' Motion to
18 Dismiss was filed on December 8, 2009 [doc. no. 24]. Easter filed
19 a second Opposition to Memorandum of Points and Authorities nunc
20 pro tunc to December 28, 2009 [doc. no. 26]. Defendants filed a
21 Reply on January 21, 2010 [doc. no. 28]. The Court found
22 Defendants' Motion suitable for decision without oral argument
23 pursuant to civil local rule 7.1(d)(1) [doc. no. 16].

24 For the reasons set forth below, the district court should
25 **GRANT IN PART** and **DENY IN PART** Defendants' Motion to Dismiss.

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28 ¹ Although the Complaint names Lieutenant Panchello, in the
Motion to Dismiss, Defendant corrects his name to L. Panichello.
(Compl. 1-2, 4; Mot. Dismiss Attach. #2 Mem. P. & A. 1-2.)

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I. PROCEDURAL BACKGROUND

This action is a resumption of the lawsuit Easter first filed on January 29, 2007. See Easter v. CDC, Civ. No. 07-cv-187-L(LAB) (S.D. Cal. filed Jan. 29, 2007). In that action, Easter alleged that the Defendants were deliberately indifferent to his safety, acted negligently, and violated his right to be free from cruel and unusual punishment by placing him on the same prison yard where he had been previously assaulted by other inmates. Id. (comp. at 3, 6).

On November 20, 2008, United States District Court Judge M. James Lorenz granted the defendants' motions to dismiss and dismissed the complaint without prejudice. Id. (order adopting & modifying report & recommendation at 1-3). Judge Lorenz concluded that Easter filed his administrative grievance on February 7, 2007, after he had filed suit on January 29, 2007. Because the administrative grievance procedure was ongoing, the court dismissed the complaint without prejudice.

The present Complaint, filed on March 18, 2009, is a continuation of Plaintiff's attempt to litigate the civil rights violations he first alleged on January 29, 2007.

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II. FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Easter was incarcerated at the Richard J. Donovan Correctional Facility ("Donovan"). (Compl. 1.) On August 27, 2006, while housed in yard four of building seventeen, he was assaulted by fifteen inmates and hospitalized. (Compl. 3, 5.) An incident report was completed and Easter's enemy concerns were noted. (Id. at 3.) Plaintiff was initially released to facility two because he had enemies at facility four. (Id. Attach. #1, 11.) Then, he was

1 rehoused with his inmate enemies in building seventeen, yard four,
2 and on November 14, 2006, he "was attacked and stabbed and sent to
3 the hospital with life threatening injuries." (Id.)

4 Easter contends that Captain Morris approved the move;
5 Lieutenant Panichello ordered Plaintiff to move, although Easter
6 complained about his inmate enemies and had other housing; and
7 Correctional Officer Perez oversaw the move, even though he was
8 aware of the prior attack on Easter. (Id. at 3-5.)

9 III. LEGAL STANDARDS

10 APPLICABLE TO DEFENDANTS' MOTION TO DISMISS

11 A. Motions to Dismiss For Failure to State a Claim

12 A motion to dismiss for failure to state a claim pursuant to
13 Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 12(b)(6) tests the legal
14 sufficiency of the claims in the complaint. Davis v. Monroe County
15 Bd. of Educ., 526 U.S. 629, 633 (1999). "The old formula -- that
16 the complaint must not be dismissed unless it is beyond doubt
17 without merit -- was discarded by the Bell Atlantic decision [Bell
18 Atl. Corp. v. Twombly, 550 U.S. 544, 563 n.8 (2007)]." Limestone
19 Dev. Corp. v. Vill. of Lemont, 520 F.3d 797, 803 (7th Cir. 2008).²
20 A complaint must be dismissed if it does not contain "enough facts
21 to state a claim to relief that is plausible on its face." Bell
22 Atl. Corp., 550 U.S. at 570. "A claim has facial plausibility when
23 the plaintiff pleads factual content that allows the court to draw
24 the reasonable inference that the defendant is liable for the

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26 ² Easter asks the Court to take notice that Cruz v. Beto, 405
27 U.S. 319 (1972), provides that "a complaint should not be dismissed
28 for failure to state a claim unless it appears beyond doubt that
plaintiff can prove no set of facts in support of his claim which
would [e]ntitle him to relief." (Opp'n Mem. P. & A. 5 [doc. no.
26] (citing Cruz, 405 U.S. at 322).) Cruz, however, was also
modified by the holding in Bell Atlantic.

1 misconduct alleged." Ashcroft v. Iqbal, 556 U.S. ___, 129 S. Ct.
2 1937, 1949 (2009). The Court must accept as true all material
3 allegations in the complaint, as well as reasonable inferences to
4 be drawn from them, and must construe the complaint in the light
5 most favorable to the plaintiff. Cholla Ready Mix, Inc. v. Civish,
6 382 F.3d 969, 973 (9th Cir. 2004) (citing Karam v. City of Burbank,
7 352 F.3d 1188, 1192 (9th Cir. 2003)); Parks Sch. of Bus., Inc. v.
8 Symington, 51 F.3d 1480, 1484 (9th Cir. 1995); N.L. Indus., Inc. v.
9 Kaplan, 792 F.2d 896, 898 (9th Cir. 1986).

10 The Court does not look at whether the plaintiff will
11 "ultimately prevail but whether the claimant is entitled to offer
12 evidence to support the claims." Scheuer v. Rhodes, 416 U.S. 232,
13 236 (1974); See Bell Atl. Corp., 550 U.S. at 563 n.8. A dismissal
14 under Rule 12(b)(6) is generally proper only where there "is no
15 cognizable legal theory or an absence of sufficient facts alleged
16 to support a cognizable legal theory." Navarro v. Block, 250 F.3d
17 729, 732 (9th Cir. 2001) (citing Balistreri v. Pacifica Police
18 Dep't, 901 F.2d 696, 699 (9th Cir. 1988)).

19 The Court need not accept conclusory allegations in the
20 complaint as true; rather, it must "examine whether [they] follow
21 from the description of facts as alleged by the plaintiff." Holden
22 v. Hagopian, 978 F.2d 1115, 1121 (9th Cir. 1992) (citation
23 omitted); see Halkin v. VeriFone, Inc., 11 F.3d 865, 868 (9th Cir.
24 1993); see also Cholla Ready Mix, 382 F.3d at 973 (citing Clegg v.
25 Cult Awareness Network, 18 F.3d 752, 754-55 (9th Cir. 1994))
26 (stating that when considering a Rule 12(b)(6) motion, a court "is
27 not required to accept legal conclusions cast in the form of
28 factual allegations if those conclusions cannot reasonably be drawn

1 from the facts alleged[]"). "Nor is the court required to accept
2 as true allegations that are merely conclusory, unwarranted
3 deductions of fact, or unreasonable inferences." Sprewell v.
4 Golden State Warriors, 266 F.3d 979, 988 (9th Cir. 2001).

5 In addition, when resolving a motion to dismiss for failure to
6 state a claim, the Court generally does not consider materials
7 outside the pleadings. Schneider v. Cal. Dep't of Corrs., 151 F.3d
8 1194, 1197 n.1 (9th Cir. 1998); Jacobellis v. State Farm Fire &
9 Cas. Co., 120 F.3d 171, 172 (9th Cir. 1997); Allarcom Pay
10 Television Ltd. v. Gen. Instrument Corp., 69 F.3d 381, 385 (9th
11 Cir. 1995). "The focus of any Rule 12(b)(6) dismissal . . . is the
12 complaint." Schneider, 151 F.3d at 1197 n.1. This precludes
13 consideration of "new" allegations that are raised in a plaintiff's
14 opposition to a motion to dismiss brought pursuant to Rule
15 12(b)(6). Id. (citing Harrell v. United States, 13 F.3d 232, 236
16 (7th Cir. 1993); 2 James Wm. Moore et al., Moore's Federal Practice
17 § 12.34[2] (3d ed. 1997) ("The court may not . . . take into
18 account additional facts asserted in a memorandum opposing the
19 motion to dismiss, because such memoranda do not constitute
20 pleadings under Rule 7(a).")).

21 But "[w]hen a plaintiff has attached various exhibits to the
22 complaint, those exhibits may be considered in determining whether
23 dismissal [i]s proper" Parks Sch. of Bus., 51 F.3d at 1484
24 (citing Cooper v. Bell, 628 F.2d 1208, 1210 n.2 (9th Cir. 1980)).
25 The Court may also consider "documents whose contents are alleged
26 in a complaint and whose authenticity no party questions, but which
27 are not physically attached to the pleading" Branch v.
28 Tunnell, 14 F.3d 449, 454 (9th Cir. 1994), overruled on other

1 grounds by Galbraith v. County of Santa Clara, 307 F.3d 1119 (9th
2 Cir. 2002); Stone v. Writer's Guild of Am. W., Inc., 101 F.3d 1312,
3 1313-14 (9th Cir. 1996).

4 These Rule 12 (b)(6) guidelines apply to Defendants' Motion to
5 Dismiss.

6 **B. Standards Applicable to Pro Se Litigants**

7 Where a plaintiff appears in propria persona in a civil rights
8 case, the Court must construe the pleadings liberally.

9 Karim-Panahi v. Los Angeles Police Dep't, 839 F.2d 621, 623 (9th
10 Cir. 1988). The rule of liberal construction is "particularly
11 important in civil rights cases." Ferdik v. Bonzelet, 963 F.2d
12 1258, 1261 (9th Cir. 1992). Still, when examining a pro se civil
13 rights complaint, the Court may not "supply essential elements of
14 claims that were not initially pled." Ivey v. Bd. of Regents of
15 the Univ. of Alaska, 673 F.2d 266, 268 (9th Cir. 1982). "Vague and
16 conclusory allegations of official participation in civil rights
17 violations are not sufficient to withstand a motion to dismiss."
18 Id.; see also Jones v. Cmty. Redev. Agency, 733 F.2d 646, 649 (9th
19 Cir. 1984) (finding conclusory allegations unsupported by facts
20 insufficient to state a claim under § 1983). "The plaintiff must
21 allege with at least some degree of particularity overt acts which
22 defendants engaged in that support the plaintiff's claim." Jones,
23 733 F.2d at 649 (internal quotation omitted).

24 Nevertheless, the Court must give a pro se litigant leave to
25 amend his complaint "unless it determines that the pleading could
26 not possibly be cured by the allegation of other facts." Lopez v.
27 Smith, 203 F.3d 1122, 1127 (9th Cir. 2000) (en banc) (quotation
28 omitted) (citing Noll v. Carlson, 809 F.2d 1446, 1447 (9th Cir.

1 1987)). Thus, before a pro se civil rights complaint may be
2 dismissed, the court must provide the plaintiff with a statement of
3 the complaint's deficiencies. Karim-Panahi, 839 F.2d at 623-24.
4 Where amendment of a pro se litigant's complaint would be futile,
5 denial of leave to amend is appropriate. See James v. Giles, 221
6 F.3d 1074, 1077 (9th Cir. 2000).

7 **C. Stating a Claim Under 42 U.S.C. § 1983**

8 To state a claim under § 1983, the plaintiff must allege facts
9 sufficient to show (1) a person acting "under color of state law"
10 committed the conduct at issue, and (2) the conduct deprived the
11 plaintiff of some right, privilege, or immunity protected by the
12 Constitution or laws of the United States. 42 U.S.C.A. § 1983
13 (West 2003); Shah v. County of Los Angeles, 797 F.2d 743, 746 (9th
14 Cir. 1986).

15 **IV. DISCUSSION**

16 **A. Absolute Immunity**

17 The Eleventh Amendment grants the states immunity from private
18 civil suits. U.S. Const. amend. XI; Seven Up Pete Venture v.
19 Schweitzer, 523 F.3d 948, 952 (9th Cir. 2008); Henry v. County of
20 Shasta, 132 F.3d 512, 517 (9th Cir. 1997), as amended, 137 F.3d
21 1372 (9th Cir. 1998). This immunity applies to civil rights claims
22 brought under § 1983; thus, an inmate cannot recover damages from
23 the state under § 1983 unless the state waives its immunity. Will
24 v. Mich. Dep't of State Police, 491 U.S. 58, 66 (1989); Barber v.
25 Hawaii, 42 F.3d 1185, 1198 (9th Cir. 1994).

26 Eleventh Amendment immunity also extends to state officials
27 sued in federal court in their official capacities. Will, 491 U.S.
28 at 71 (citing Brandon v. Holt, 469 U.S. 464, 471 (1985) ("[A] suit

1 against a state official in his or her official capacity is not a
2 suit against the official but rather is a suit against the
3 official's office."); Seven Up Pete Venture, 523 F.3d at 952-53.
4 "As such, it is no different from a suit against the State itself."
5 Will, 491 U.S. at 71 (citing Kentucky v. Graham, 473 U.S. 159,
6 165-66 (1985); Monell v. Dept. of Soc. Servs., 436 U.S. 658, 690
7 n.55 (1978)).

8 A narrow exception to Eleventh Amendment immunity applies to
9 suits against individuals in their official capacities when the
10 relief sought is "prospective injunctive relief in order to end a
11 continuing violation of federal law." Armstrong v. Wilson, 124
12 F.3d 1019, 1025 (9th Cir. 1997) (quoting Seminole Tribe of Fla. v.
13 Florida, 517 U.S. 44, 73 (1996)) (internal quotations omitted); see
14 also Seven Up Pete Venture, 523 F.3d at 953.

15 Easter's Complaint asserts claims against the Defendants in
16 their individual and official capacities. (Compl. 2.) Defendants
17 argue that they are entitled to immunity under the Eleventh
18 Amendment for actions taken in their official capacities. (Mot.
19 Dismiss Attach. #2 Mem. P. & A. 3.) Plaintiff counters by
20 asserting, "If [an] official was working at the time means they
21 were acting under color of law . . . so all you have to do is prove
22 th[ere] was an injury to bring a su[it] about." (Opp'n Mem. P. &
23 A. 2 [doc. no. 26].)

24 In his prayer for relief, Plaintiff requests compensatory and
25 punitive damages from Defendants totaling \$25,000,000 "after
26 taxes." (Compl. 7.) Easter is correct that he may assert claims
27 against Defendants in their individual and official capacities;
28 however, he may not seek monetary damages from Defendants in their

1 official capacities as a remedy. The requests for monetary damages
2 against Defendants in their official capacities are actually claims
3 against the State of California. See Will, 491 U.S. at 71.
4 Because the state is immune from liability for monetary damages,
5 Defendants' Motion to Dismiss the monetary claims against
6 Defendants Morris, Panichello, and Perez in their official
7 capacities should be **GRANTED** without leave to amend. Accordingly,
8 Easter may only proceed against Defendants in their individual
9 capacities when seeking compensatory and punitive damages.

10 **B. California Tort Claims Act**

11 Easter alleges that Defendants Morris, Panichello, and Perez
12 each participated in transferring him to a prison yard where they
13 knew his inmate enemies had been placed. (Compl. 2-5.) He
14 asserts, in part, that this violated his rights under the
15 California Constitution. (Id.) A plaintiff cannot pursue a
16 violation of the California Constitution under the guise of a
17 federal civil rights claim. See Broam v. Boqan, 320 F.3d 1023,
18 1028 (9th Cir. 2003). Instead, it must be treated as a
19 supplemental state law claim.

20 Defendants construe Plaintiff's allegations as also asserting
21 a claim of negligence against them. (Mot. Dismiss Attach. #2 Mem.
22 P. & A. 4; Reply 2.) But the Complaint does not contain a claim
23 for negligence. (Compl. 3-5.) It indicates there was a prior suit
24 on the same or similar facts in which Easter alleged wonton,
25 willful, and intentional negligence. (Id. at 6.) Plaintiff has
26 not reasserted those claims in his current Complaint. (Id. at 2-
27 6.) Consequently, Easter has failed to state a claim of negligence
28 because he has not given Defendants notice of it. See Fontana v.

1 Haskin, 262 F.3d 871, 877 (9th Cir. 2001) (citing Am. Timber &
2 Trading Co. v. First Nat'l Bank, 690 F.2d 781, 786 (9th Cir. 1982)
3 (explaining that the complaint must make "sufficient factual
4 averments [to] show that the claimant may be entitled to some
5 relief[]").

6 Even if the Complaint were construed to allege a claim of
7 negligence, Defendants assert that a negligence claim, as well as
8 any claims raised under California's Constitution, are barred
9 because Easter has not filed a tort claim with the Victim
10 Compensation and Government Claims Board. (Mot. Dismiss Attach. #2
11 Mem. P. & A. 4; Reply 2-3.)

12 In his Opposition, Easter explains that his cellmate provided
13 him with the forms he needed to submit his claims to the Victim
14 Compensation and Government Claims Board. (Opp'n Mot. Dismiss 1
15 [doc. no. 24].) Plaintiff states, "I did file a board of control
16 claim in February 200[7] with the law library officer (Tanzy) who
17 never returned any of my paper work back to me." (Id.; see also
18 Opp'n Mem. P. & A. 3 [doc. no. 26].) He asks the court not to
19 dismiss his Complaint against Defendants in their individual
20 capacities because Easter argues that he was not required to submit
21 those claims to the state agency before litigating them. (See
22 Opp'n Mot. Dismiss 3 [doc. no. 24]; Opp'n Mem. P. & A. 3 [doc. no.
23 26].) He also asks the Court not to dismiss his claims against
24 Defendants in their official capacities. (Id.) Easter asserts
25 that "42 U.S.C. [§] 1983 allows [him] to sue in federal [court]
26 without filing a Government tort claim." (Opp'n Mem. P. & A. 5
27 [doc. no. 26].)

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1 It is well established that when adjudicating a supplemental
2 state law claim, this Court must apply state substantive law.
3 United Mine Workers of Am. v. Gibbs, 383 U.S. 715, 726 (1966).
4 Under the California Tort Claims Act, filing a tort claim within
5 the time and in the manner prescribed by statute is a prerequisite
6 to filing a lawsuit against any state employee or agency. See Cal.
7 Gov't Code §§ 905.2, 911.2 (West Supp. 2009); Cal. Gov't Code §§
8 945.4, 950.2 (West 1995). A personal injury claim must be filed
9 within six months of when the cause of action accrues. Cal. Gov't
10 Code § 911.2. This applies to "injur[ies] resulting from an act or
11 omission [of a public employee] in the scope of his employment as a
12 public employee" Cal. Gov't Code § 950.2.

13 Defendants assert Easter has not filed any tort claims related
14 to the incident. (Mot. Dismiss Attach. #2 Mem. P. & A. 5; Reply
15 2.) In his declaration, James Reinmiller, Custodian of Records for
16 the Victim Compensation and Government Claims Board, states that he
17 was unable to locate any records that Easter has ever filed a
18 claim. (Mot. Dismiss Attach. #3 Reinmiller Decl. 2.)

19 Easter contends that he has filed a tort claim; he explains
20 that he provided the form to an officer at the law library; but he
21 does not assert that he sent the form to the Victim Compensation
22 and Government Claims Board. (Opp'n Mot. Dismiss 1 [doc. no. 24].)
23 Plaintiff has not provided any evidence of submitting his tort
24 claim. He has attached one hundred pages of exhibits to his
25 Complaint, four exhibits to his Opposition to Motion to Dismiss,
26 and three exhibits to his Opposition to Memorandum of Points and
27 Authorities. (Id. Attach. #1 Exs. 1-100; Opp'n Mot. Dismiss [doc.
28 no. 24] Attach. #1 Exs. A-D; Opp'n Mem. P. & A. [doc. no. 26]

1 Attach. #1 Exs. A-C.) Still, he has not provided a copy of a tort
2 claim submitted to the Victim Compensation and Government Claims
3 Board.

4 For these reasons, the Motion to Dismiss supplemental state
5 claims against Defendants in their official capacities should be
6 **GRANTED** without leave to amend. Accordingly, Easter may only
7 proceed against Defendants in their individual capacities when
8 asserting state law claims.

9 **C. Fourteenth Amendment Claim**

10 Plaintiff disputes that his Fourteenth Amendment claim is
11 duplicative. He contends that "any time you violate a person's
12 right you can state a claim of the amendment of the one being
13 violated." (Opp'n Mem. P. & A. 3 [doc. no. 26].) Additionally,
14 "when you violate any amendments you violate the Fourteenth
15 Amendment" (Id. at 5.)

16 "[T]he treatment a prisoner receives and the conditions under
17 which he is confined are subject to scrutiny under the Eighth
18 Amendment." Helling v. McKinney, 509 U.S. 25, 31 (1993). The
19 Eighth Amendment "requires that inmates be furnished with the basic
20 human needs, one of which is 'reasonable safety.'" Id. at 33
21 (quoting Deshaney v. Winnebago County Dep't of Soc. Servs., 489
22 U.S. 189, 200 (1989)). Claims that Defendants failed to protect
23 Plaintiff from a substantial risk of serious harm at the hands of
24 other inmates are properly analyzed under the Eighth Amendment
25 because Easter was a state inmate incarcerated pursuant to a valid
26 conviction at the time of the attacks. See Farmer v. Brennan, 511
27 U.S. 825, 834 (1994) (citing Helling, 509 U.S. at 35); Wilson v.

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1 Seiter, 501 U.S. 294, 303 (1991); Robinson v. Prunty, 249 F.3d 862,
2 866 (9th Cir. 2001).

3 Here, Easter alleges that Morris, Panichello, and Perez
4 violated his Eighth and Fourteenth Amendment rights by improperly
5 placing him in a prison yard where he was previously assaulted by
6 other inmates; as a result, he was attacked again. (Compl. 3-6.)
7 A Fourteenth Amendment claim is foreclosed by Supreme Court
8 precedent. "Where a particular amendment 'provides an explicit
9 textual source of constitutional protection' against a particular
10 sort of government behavior, 'that Amendment, not the more
11 generalized notion of "substantive due process," must be the guide
12 for analyzing [a plaintiff's] claims.'" Albright v. Oliver, 510
13 U.S. 266, 273 (1994) (Rehnquist, C.J., for plurality) (quoting
14 Graham v. Connor, 490 U.S. 386, 395, (1989)).

15 The Court may limit its inquiry to the Constitutional
16 Amendment that more specifically addresses plaintiff's claim in
17 lieu of general notions of substantive due processes. See Albright
18 v. Oliver, 510 U.S. at 286 (Kennedy & Thomas, JJ., concurring)
19 (refraining from evaluating petitioner's due process claim under §
20 1983 because his allegations could be addressed under the state's
21 malicious prosecution law); Graham v. Connor, 490 U.S. at 395 n.10
22 (citing Whitley v. Albers, 475 U.S., 312, 327 (1986) ("Any
23 protection that 'substantive due process' affords convicted
24 prisoners against excessive force is, we have held, at best
25 redundant of that provided by the Eighth Amendment."); Whitley, 475
26 U.S. at 327 ("[T]he Eighth Amendment . . . serves as the primary
27 source of substantive protection to convicted prisoners . . . where
28 the deliberate use of force is challenged as excessive and

1 unjustified["); Gerstein v. Pugh, 420 U.S. 103, 125 n.27 (1975)
2 (finding that the more specific Fourth Amendment should be used to
3 analyze the protections that must be afforded to those accused of
4 criminal conduct rather than "variable procedural due process");
5 Patel v. Penman, 103 F.3d 868, 874 (9th Cir. 1996), overruled on
6 other grounds by, Unitherm Food Systems, Inc. v. Swift-Eckrich,
7 Inc., 546 U.S. 394 (2006) (finding that the Takings Clause
8 preempted plaintiffs' substantive due process claim in a dispute
9 over city-issued building permits.)

10 Easter has attempted to raise a claim under the Eighth and
11 Fourteenth Amendments based on the same conduct by the Defendants.
12 (Compl. 3-6.) Because the Eighth Amendment provides an explicit
13 source of protection from the type of conduct Plaintiff alleges,
14 his claim is preempted by the Eighth Amendment and should not be
15 analyzed as a substantive due process claim under the Fourteenth
16 Amendment. See Wolff v. Hood, 242 F. Supp. 2d 811, 819 (D. Or.
17 2002) (finding that plaintiff could not state a substantive due
18 process claim for prison officials' failure to protect him from
19 violence by other inmates because the Eighth Amendment provides
20 explicit constitutional protection). Defendants' Motion to Dismiss
21 Easter's substantive due process claim under the Fourteenth
22 Amendment should be **GRANTED** without leave to amend because the
23 allegations should be resolved under the Eighth Amendment.

24 **D. Fifth Amendment Claim**

25 **1. Administrative Segregation**

26 Defendants contend that Easter has failed to state a claim for
27 violation of his Fifth Amendment rights because the Complaint does
28 not allege that "his property was taken, nor his life, and [Easter]

1 was already in custody." (Mot. Dismiss Attach. #2 Mem. P. & A. 6.)
2 Defendants explain that after Plaintiff was assaulted, he was
3 placed in administrative segregation. (Id.; Reply 3.) "[T]his was
4 done for his protection and is not a cognizable constitutional
5 claim." (Mot. Dismiss Attach. #2 Mem. P. & A. 6; see also Reply
6 3.)

7 Easter's Complaint attempts to allege a claim against each
8 Defendant under the Fifth Amendment. (Compl. 3-5.) But Plaintiff
9 does not make any specific allegations regarding how each Defendant
10 violated his Fifth Amendment rights. (Id.) Although Defendants
11 contend that Easter bases his claim on his placement in
12 administrative segregation after his assault, those allegations do
13 not appear in the Complaint. (Id.) Thus, Easter has not stated a
14 claim for violation of the Fifth Amendment.

15 In his Opposition, Plaintiff asserts that after the incident
16 he was "put in ad seg housing and was deprived of appropriate
17 [needs] when [this] wasn't a disciplinary action." (Opp'n Mem. P.
18 & A. 4 [doc. no. 26].) This issue is raised for the first time in
19 Easter's Opposition. Under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure
20 12(b)(6), the Court must focus on the Complaint. Fed. R. Civ. P.
21 12 (b)(6); Schneider, 151 F.3d at 1197 n.1. Thus, when deciding
22 the current Motion, this Court is precluded from considering
23 allegations that first appear in the Opposition. Schneider, 151
24 F.3d at 1197 n.1. (citing Harrell v. United States, 13 F.3d 232,
25 236 (7th Cir. 1993)). Based on the contents of the Complaint,
26 Easter has failed to put Defendants on notice of a claim under the
27 Fifth Amendment. See Fontana, 262 F.3d at 877.

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1 It is not clear whether Easter has exhausted administrative
2 remedies and can cure his pleading defect by alleging additional
3 facts. See Lopez, 203 F.3d at 1127. Still, there may be facts
4 that show that the placement, length, and conditions of
5 administrative segregation constituted an "atypical and significant
6 hardship on the inmate in relation to the ordinary incidents of
7 prison life." See Sandin v. Conner, 515 U.S. 472, 484 (1995).
8 Thus, Defendants' Motion to Dismiss Plaintiff's Fifth Amendment
9 claim regarding his placement in administrative segregation should
10 be **GRANTED** with leave to amend.

11 2. Double Jeopardy

12 In his Opposition, Easter seems to suggest that his Fifth
13 Amendment claim includes a violation of the Double Jeopardy Clause.
14 (Opp'n Mem. P. & A. 3-4 [doc. no. 26].) He contends that he was
15 "twice put in jeopardy of life or limb" by Defendants, and his
16 right to be free from double jeopardy was violated. (Id. at 5.)

17 The Double Jeopardy Clause of the Fifth Amendment states that
18 no person "shall . . . be subject for the same offence to be twice
19 put in jeopardy of life or limb" U.S. Const. amend. V. It
20 is well established that the Double Jeopardy Clause "'protects
21 against a second prosecution for the same offense after acquittal.
22 It protects against a second prosecution for the same offense after
23 conviction. And it protects against multiple punishments for the
24 same offense.'" United States v. Wilson, 420 U.S. 332, 343 (1975)
25 (quoting North Carolina v. Pearce, 395 U.S. 711 (1969)); see also
26 Monge v. California, 524 U.S. 721, 727-28 (1998).

27 [T]he Clause embodies two vitally important interests.
28 The first is the "deeply ingrained" principle that "the
State with all its resources and power should not be
allowed to make repeated attempts to convict an

1 individual for an alleged offense, thereby subjecting
2 him to embarrassment, expense and ordeal and compelling
3 him to live in a continuing state of anxiety and
insecurity, as well as enhancing the possibility that
even though innocent he may be found guilty."

4 Yeager v. United States, __ U.S. __, 129 S. Ct. 2360, 2365-66
5 (2009) (quoting Green v. United States, 355 U.S. 184, 187-88
6 (1957)).)

7 Easter has not alleged that he was prosecuted more than once
8 for the same offense. Plaintiff alleges that on August 27, 2006,
9 while housed in yard four of building seventeen at Donovan, he was
10 assaulted by other inmates. (Compl. 3, 5.) An incident report was
11 completed noting his enemy concerns. (Id. at 3.) Although he was
12 subsequently housed in facility two, Easter was later rehoused with
13 his inmate enemies, and on November 14, 2006, he "was attacked and
14 stabbed and sent to the hospital with life threatening injuries."
15 (Id.) These allegations are more properly analyzed under the
16 Eighth Amendment as discussed above.

17 Defendants' Motion to Dismiss Plaintiff's Fifth Amendment
18 claim, to the extent it alleges a double jeopardy violation, should
19 be **GRANTED** without leave to amend.

20 **E. Injunctive Relief**

21 Injunctive relief is an equitable remedy that is appropriate
22 where the plaintiff can show he will suffer a "likelihood of
23 substantial and immediate irreparable injury" if an injunction is
24 not granted. Hodgers-Durgin v. De La Vina, 199 F.3d 1037, 1049
25 (9th Cir. 1999) (en banc) (quoting City of Los Angeles v. Lyons,
26 461 U.S. 95, 111 (1983)); see also Doran v. Salem Inn, Inc., 422
27 U.S. 922, 932 (1975).

28

1 Defendants assert that Plaintiff is not entitled to an
2 injunction because he fails to allege any ongoing or prospective
3 violations of his rights. (Mot. Dismiss Attach. #2 Mem. P. & A. 7;
4 Reply 4.) Defendants also contend that because Easter is no longer
5 at R.J. Donovan Correctional Facility, there is no risk of
6 continuing or future violations. (Mot. Dismiss Attach. #2 Mem. P.
7 & A. 8; Reply 4.)

8 Easter argues that his claim for injunctive relief "speak[s]
9 for itself." (Opp'n Mem. P. & A. 4 [doc. no. 26].) He explains
10 that when he is released on parole, if he is returned to prison for
11 any reason, he will be sent to the same receiving center. (Id.)
12 That would make him subject to the Defendants' authority once
13 again. (Id.) Easter also asserts that he has suffered an actual
14 injury because these Defendants may have another opportunity to
15 deprive him of his rights. (Id.)

16 The traditional criteria for granting an injunction are "(1)
17 a strong likelihood of success on the merits; (2) the possibility
18 of irreparable injury to the plaintiffs if injunctive relief is not
19 granted; (3) a balance of hardships favoring the plaintiffs; and
20 (4) advancement of the public interest.'" Mayweathers v. Newland,
21 258 F.3d 930, 938 (9th Cir. 2001) (quoting Textile Unltd., Inc. v.
22 A.BMH & Co., 240 F.3d 781, 786 (9th Cir. 2001). Under the
23 alternative test for granting injunctive relief, the Court examines
24 whether "serious questions are raised and the balance of hardships
25 tips sharply in favor of the moving party." Stuhlbarq Intern.
26 Sales Co. v. John D. Brush & Co., 240 F.3d 832, 840 (9th Cir. 2001)
27 (citing Dr. Seuss Enters. v. Penguin Books USA, Inc., 109 F.3d
28

1 1394, 1397 n.1 (9th Cir. 1997)). Under either measure, this
2 Plaintiff is not entitled to injunctive relief.

3 As the Defendants correctly observe, Easter's remedies are
4 limited by the Prison Litigation Reform Act. (Mot. Dismiss Attach.
5 #2 Mem. P. & A. 7.) Section 3626(a)(1) of the Act states,
6 "Prospective relief in any civil action with respect to prison
7 conditions shall extend no further than necessary to correct the
8 violation of the Federal right of a particular plaintiff or
9 plaintiffs." 18 U.S.C.A. § 3626(a) (West 2000). This statutory
10 restriction limits available relief.

11 Plaintiff requests an injunction preventing Defendants "from
12 any future supervision or control over [his] safety/and or [sic]
13 wellbeing or lack thereof." (Compl. 7.) The Court does not have
14 jurisdiction to issue wide-reaching injunctions to remedy
15 inadequacies in prison administration that extend beyond any actual
16 injury suffered by a plaintiff. Lewis, 518 U.S. at 357. "The
17 remedy must of course be limited to the inadequacy that produced
18 the injury in fact that the plaintiff has established." Id.
19 (citing Missouri v. Jenkins, 515 U.S. 70, 88, 89 (1995)).

20 Easter has also failed to demonstrate that he may suffer an
21 imminent injury. In City of Los Angeles v. Lyons, 461 U.S. at 101-
22 02, the Court explained that "[t]he plaintiff must show that he
23 'has sustained or is immediately in danger of sustaining some
24 direct injury' as a result of the challenged official conduct and
25 the injury or threat of injury must be both 'real and immediate,'
26 not 'conjectural' or 'hypothetical.'" Plaintiff is no longer
27 housed at R. J. Donovan Correctional Facility, the location where
28 the Defendants are employed and Easter's inmate enemies are housed.

1 (Compl. 2-5.) Thus, he has failed to demonstrate an imminent
2 injury.

3 Plaintiff is not entitled to injunctive relief unless he can
4 show that he will suffer substantial and immediate irreparable
5 injury for which there is an inadequate remedy at law. Easyriders
6 Freedom F.I.G.H.T. v. Hannigan, 92 F.3d 1486, 1495 (9th Cir. 1996).
7 "Under any formulation of the test [for injunctive relief],
8 plaintiff must demonstrate that there exists a significant threat
9 of irreparable injury." Oakland Tribune, Inc. v. Chronicle Publ'g
10 Co., 762 F.2d 1374, 1376 (9th Cir. 1985). Easter has made no
11 showing of irreparable harm. In addition, because he is no longer
12 housed at R.J. Donovan, Plaintiff lacks standing to seek injunctive
13 relief directed at these Defendants.

14 For all these reasons, Easter's request for an injunction is
15 moot and should be stricken.

16 **F. Legal Access**

17 In his Opposition, Easter asserts that he had legal materials
18 in his possession on October 27, 2009; but, due to a transfer,
19 those documents were removed and have not been returned to him.
20 (Opp'n Mot. Dismiss 2-3 [doc. no. 24]; Opp'n Mem. P. & A. 1 [doc.
21 no. 26].) He asks that his Complaint not be dismissed because he
22 has had difficulty doing legal research to support his Opposition.
23 (Opp'n Mot. Dismiss 3 [doc. no. 24]; Opp'n Mem. P. & A. 1-2 [doc.
24 no. 26].)

25 As stated previously, "The focus of any Rule 12(b)(6) dismissal
26 . . . is the complaint." Schneider, 151 F.3d at 1197 n.1.
27 Resolution of a motion to dismiss for failure to state a claim
28

1 should be limited to the pleadings. Id.; Jacobellis, 120 F.3d at
2 172; Allarcom Pay Television Ltd., 69 F.3d at 385.

3 Even if the Court were to consider Easter's allegations that
4 he experienced complications in opposing the Motion to Dismiss, the
5 result would not change. Easter contends that he had trouble
6 completing his Opposition to the Motion to Dismiss. (Opp'n Mot.
7 Dismiss 2-3 [doc. no. 24]; Opp'n Mem. P. & A. 1-2 [doc. no. 26].)
8 In preparing these recommendations, the Court has considered
9 Plaintiff's assertion. The Motion to Dismiss is based on the
10 insufficiency of the Complaint, which the Court has liberally
11 construed. In addition, Easter was given more time to prepare his
12 Opposition and provide the Court with evidence of any tort claim
13 provided to the Victim Compensation and Government Claims Board.
14 In the second Opposition, filed nunc pro tunc to December 28, 2009,
15 Easter cites relevant case authority, presumably the result of time
16 Plaintiff spent in the law library. His dissatisfaction with the
17 handling of his legal papers when Easter was transferred to a new
18 facility and with the law library access there does not change the
19 Court's conclusions.

20 The Court will consider, however, whether Plaintiff should be
21 given leave to amend to raise a First Amendment access to the
22 courts claim. In Bounds v. Smith, 430 U.S. 817 (1977), the Supreme
23 Court held that "the fundamental constitutional right of access to
24 the courts requires prison authorities to assist inmates in the
25 preparation and filing of meaningful legal papers by providing
26 prisoners with adequate law libraries or adequate assistance from
27 persons trained in the law." Id. at 828. The Court revisited and
28

1 significantly limited Bounds in Lewis v. Casey, 518 U.S. 343
2 (1996).

3 In Lewis, the Court reshaped the right of access to the courts
4 in two respects: (1) by clarifying that every access to courts
5 claim must be founded upon actual injury, and (2) by restricting
6 the scope of the right. Id. at 3496, 351, 354-55. The right of
7 access is only guaranteed for direct and collateral attacks upon a
8 conviction or sentence and civil rights actions challenging the
9 conditions of confinement. Id. at 355. Even among these claims,
10 actual injury will exist only if "a nonfrivolous legal claim had
11 been frustrated or was being impeded." Id. at 353 (footnote
12 omitted) (emphasis added).

13 In Christopher v. Harbury, 536 U.S. 403 (2002), the Supreme
14 Court held that to state a claim for deprivation of the
15 constitutional right to access the courts a plaintiff must allege
16 (1) a lost past, existing, or prospective litigating opportunity
17 and (2) specific actions by government officials that caused the
18 denial of access. Id. at 414-15. To satisfy the "actual injury"
19 requirement found in Lewis, it is not enough simply to state that a
20 "nonfrivolous" claim has been dismissed or impeded due to the
21 action of some government official. Id. at 415-16. Instead, a
22 complaint must contain allegations "sufficient to give fair notice
23 to a defendant[,]" and the complaint should "state the underlying
24 claim in accordance with Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 8(a), just
25 as if it were being independently pursued" Id. at 416-17
26 (footnote omitted).

27 Here, it is not clear that Plaintiff can allege an actual
28 injury that is sufficient to state an access to the courts claim.

1 Furthermore, the events underlying this suit center on Easter's
2 November 2006 placement in a prison yard with his known enemies.
3 In contrast, an access to the courts claim would focus on library
4 access in 2009 at the California Institution for Men (CIM) at
5 Chino, California, where Easter is currently housed. The different
6 location, time period, and defendants all suggest that instead of
7 attempting to amend the pending Complaint, a separate action may be
8 more appropriate. See Fed. R. Civ. P. 18(a), 20(a)(2); George v.
9 Smith, 507 F.3d 605, 607 (7th Cir. 2007) (stating that "[u]nrelated
10 claims against different defendants belong in different suits").
11 For these reasons, Plaintiff's request for injunctive relief should
12 be stricken, and to the extent that Easter is suggesting that he
13 may have a viable access to courts claim, he should not be given
14 leave to amend this Complaint to add that claim here.

15 IV. CONCLUSION

16 Defendants' Motion to Dismiss the monetary claims against
17 Defendants Morris, Panichello, and Perez in their official
18 capacities should be **GRANTED** without leave to amend. Easter may
19 only proceed against Defendants in their individual capacities when
20 seeking compensatory and punitive damages. The Motion to Dismiss
21 supplemental state claims against Defendants in their official
22 capacities should also be **GRANTED** without leave to amend.
23 Plaintiff may only proceed against Defendants in their individual
24 capacities when asserting state law claims. Defendants' Motion to
25 Dismiss Easter's claim under the Fourteenth Amendment should be
26 **GRANTED** without leave to amend because the allegations are
27 preempted by the Eighth Amendment. The Motion to Dismiss
28 Plaintiff's Fifth Amendment claim should be **GRANTED** with leave to

1 amend his claim involving placement in administrative segregation,
2 but **GRANTED** without leave to amend his claim for violation of the
3 prohibition against double jeopardy. Finally, Easter's claim for
4 injunctive relief is moot and should be **STRICKEN**. Under the
5 circumstances of this case, that remedy is not available to him.

6 This Report and Recommendation will be submitted to the United
7 States District Court judge assigned to this case, pursuant to the
8 provisions of 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1). Any party may file written
9 objections with the Court and serve a copy on all parties on or
10 before February 26, 2010. The document should be captioned
11 "Objections to Report and Recommendation." Any reply to the
12 objections shall be served and filed on or before March 8, 2010.
13 The parties are advised that failure to file objections within the
14 specified time may waive the right to appeal the district court's
15 order. Martinez v. Ylst, 951 F.2d 1153 (9th Cir. 1991).

16
17 Dated: February 1, 2010



Ruben B. Brooks
United States Magistrate Judge

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19 cc: Judge Burns
20 All Parties of Record

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