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CLERK, U.S. DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

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8 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**
9 **SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**
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11 NORTH COUNTY COMMUNICATIONS
12 CORPORATION,

Plaintiff,

13 vs.

14 SPRINT COMMUNICATIONS COMPANY,
15 L.P.,

Defendant.
16

CASE NO. 09-cv-02685 BEN (WMc)

ORDER DENYING MOTION FOR
MORE DEFINITE STATEMENT
UNDER FEDERAL RULE OF CIVIL
PROCEDURE 12(e)

17 Currently before the Court is a Motion for More Definite Statement Under Federal Rule of
18 Civil Procedure 12(e) ("Motion") filed by Defendant in the above-captioned case. Plaintiff filed an
19 opposition, and Defendant filed a reply. The Court finds the Motion appropriate for determination on
20 the papers without oral argument, pursuant to Local Civil Rule 7.1.d. For the reasons set forth below,
21 the Motion is **DENIED**.

22 **DISCUSSION**

23 This action arises from Defendant's alleged failure to pay terminating access charges to
24 Plaintiff. The operative complaint is the First Amended Complaint filed on December 15, 2009.
25 (Docket No. 3.) On February 16, 2010, Defendant filed the Motion currently before this Court.
26 (Docket No. 13.) The Motion is limited to Count One of Plaintiff's First Amended Complaint. (Mot.
27 [Docket No. 13], pg. 1.)

28 Count One of the First Amended Complaint is titled "Breach of Contract and Breach of Implied

1 Covenant of Good Faith and Fair Dealing” and alleges that terminating access charges are owed to
2 Plaintiff pursuant to the parties’ “Service Agreement, in conjunction with [Plaintiff’s] state tariffs.”
3 (First Am. Compl., ¶ 27.) Plaintiff also alleges,

4 Under the Service Agreement, tariffs and Exhibit A, Defendant was
5 required to make certain performances including, but not limited to,
6 making payments to NCC for the use of NCC’s intrastate and
7 interstate interexchange access services.

8 (First Am. Compl., ¶ 30.)

9 In the Motion, Defendant argues it is unclear whether Count One is solely a contract claim,
10 solely a tariff claim, or some combination thereof. (P. & A. [Docket No. 13-1], pg.1 .) Defendant
11 also queries whether, under Count One, Plaintiff seeks to recover under a federal tariff. *Id.*
12 Plaintiff opposes the Motion on the grounds that Count One is sufficiently definite for Defendant
13 to understand the basis of the claim being asserted against it. The Court agrees.

14 Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 12(e) provides that “[a] party may move for a more
15 definite statement of a pleading to which a responsive pleading is allowed but which is so vague or
16 ambiguous that the party cannot reasonably prepare a response.” Fed. R. Civ. P. 12(e). However,
17 “the class of pleadings that are appropriate subjects for a motion under Rule 12(e) is quite small...
18 the pleading must be sufficiently intelligible for the court to be able to make out one or more
19 potentially viable legal theories on which the claimant might proceed; in other words, the pleading
20 must be sufficient to survive a Rule 12(b)(6) motion to dismiss.” 5C Charles Alan Wright &
21 Arthur R. Miller, Federal Practice and Procedure § 1376 (3d ed. 2010). A motion for more definite
22 statement is used to provide a remedy for an unintelligible pleading rather than a correction for
23 lack of detail. *See Comm. for Immigrant Rights of Sonoma County v. County of Sonoma*, 644 F.
24 Supp. 2d 1177, 1191 (N.D. Cal. 2009).

25 As currently pled, Count One clearly states a claim for relief based on the contract
26 identified therein and/or the tariffs. The claim is not so unintelligible that Defendant cannot make
27 out a response, and Plaintiff need not plead more specific facts to satisfy its Rule 8 pleading
28 obligation. Rule 12(e) was not intended as a substitute for discovery. *Id.* The Court, therefore,
finds that Count One is sufficiently pled.

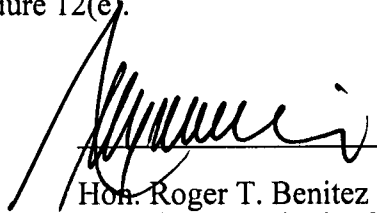
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CONCLUSION

For the reasons set forth above, the Court hereby **DENIES** Defendant's Motion for More Definite Statement under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 12(e).

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Date: April 8, 2010



Hon. Roger T. Benitez
United States District Court Judge