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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

RICHARD DUNMORE,

Civil No. 10-CV-717 DMS (BGS)

Plaintiff,

**ORDER GRANTING IN PART AND
DENYING IN PART DEFENDANTS'
MOTION TO DISMISS PLAINTIFF'S FIRST
AMENDED COMPLAINT**

[Doc. No. 34.]

v.

G.J. JANDA, et al.,

Defendants.

I.

PROCEDURAL BACKGROUND

Plaintiff, Richard Dunmore ("Plaintiff"), a state prisoner proceeding *pro se*, filed this action under 42 U.S.C. § 1983. Plaintiff filed a First Amended Complaint ("FAC") on October 12, 2010. (Doc. No. 25.). Plaintiff alleges that Defendants deprived him of his Eighth Amendment right to be free from cruel and unusual punishments. Specifically, Plaintiff alleges Defendants were deliberately

1 indifferent to his medical needs, used excessive force, subjected him to tight restraints, and that the
2 conditions of confinement constituted cruel and unusual punishment. On November 29, 2010,
3 Defendants T. Barajaz, Sgt. Ellis, J. Partida, Fregoso, T. Molina, A. Luck, and G.J. Janda (collectively
4 “Defendants”) filed a motion to dismiss the FAC for failure to state a claim pursuant to Fed.R.Civ.P.
5 12(b)(6). (Doc. No. 34). Defendants also moved to dismiss on the basis of qualified immunity. (*Id.*)
6 On February 18, 2011, Plaintiff filed an opposition to Defendants’ motion to dismiss the FAC
7 (“Plaintiff’s Opposition”). (Doc. No. 38.). Pending before the Court is Defendant’s 12(b)(6) motion to
8 dismiss for failure to state a claim.
9

10 II.

11 PLAINTIFF’S FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

12 At all relevant times, Plaintiff was incarcerated at Calipatria State Prison. (FAC at 1.). In his
13 FAC, the Plaintiff alleges the following supporting facts:
14

15 On or about April 13, 2008 at 10:00 a.m., a correctional officer sprayed Plaintiff’s unclothed
16 body with pepper spray after Plaintiff refused to open his mouth during a full-body search. (*Id.* at 3.)
17 Plaintiff acknowledges that this initial use of force was justified. (*Id.* at 19.)
18

19 Three to five minutes later, Defendant Partida (“Partida”) escorted Plaintiff to a holding cell in
20 the prisons’ Facility-A satellite clinic. (*Id.* at 3-4.) The holding cell was equipped with a sink. (*Id.*)
21 While in the holding cell Plaintiff exclaimed that he was “burning up from head to toe” and requested
22 that Partida provide him with a decontamination shower. (*Id.* at 5.) Partida told Plaintiff he would look
23 for some clean underwear and suggested that, in the interim, Plaintiff use the sink to wash his face and
24 eyes. (*Id.*) Partida also said that after a nurse examined Plaintiff, Partida would “see about getting [him]
25 into a shower to get cleaned-up.” (*Id.*) Plaintiff contends the sink’s water pressure was inadequate to
26 remove the pepper spray from his face, eyes, and body. (*Id.*) Approximately fifteen minutes after
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1 placing Plaintiff in the holding cell, Partida provided him with clean underwear. (*Id.*)

2 Plaintiff states that during the initial 45 to 60 minutes in the holding cell his “eyes were burning
3 and began swelling” and “his entire body was red and felt like it was on fire— including his private
4 parts.” (*Id.*) He also “had difficulty breathing and was constantly coughing.” (*Id.*) Plaintiff informed
5 Partida numerous times that he was in extreme pain. (*Id.*)
6

7 Approximately 90 minutes after arriving at the clinic Plaintiff was seen by Defendant Molina
8 (“Molina”), a registered nurse. (*Id.* at 6) Plaintiff informed Molina that he was experiencing significant
9 pain and requested decontamination. (*Id.*) Molina suggested he utilize a small vent at the top of the
10 holding cell “to try and see if [he] could get some air.” (*Id.*) Plaintiff informed Molina that the vent did
11 not provide any relief, that he had been in pain for over an hour, and that “Partida promised me a shower
12 after I saw the nurse.” (*Id.* at 7.) Aside from a brief conversation with Partida in Spanish, Molina left
13 without further interaction. (*Id.*) Plaintiff claims that although he disclosed the extent of pain he was in,
14 Molina falsified the CDCR 7219 Medical Report by writing “no comment” in the space reserved for
15 comments made by the injured individual. (*Id.*) Molina also falsified the medical report by indicating
16 Plaintiff was decontaminated, that there were no visual after-effects stemming from exposure to pepper
17 spray, and that Plaintiff’s body was free of pepper spray residue. (*Id.*) In total, Plaintiff’s interaction
18 with Molina lasted a five minutes. (*Id.*)
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21 Partida continued to witness Plaintiff’s obvious pain over the next 90 minutes but repeatedly
22 ignored requests for decontamination. (*Id.*) Approximately three hours after Plaintiff arrived at the
23 clinic, Defendant Fregoso (“Fregoso”) arrived and performed a full body search of Plaintiff. (*Id.*) After
24 the search Plaintiff told Fregoso that he was in extreme pain because he had been pepper-sprayed and
25 not yet decontaminated. Fregoso replied, “stop talking, that’s not my problem.” (*Id.* at 7-8.) Fregoso
26 placed Plaintiff in restraints, used duct tape to seal Plaintiff’s underwear to his body, and transported
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1 him to a cell in the Administrative Segregation Unit (“ASU”). (*Id.* at 8.) Plaintiff was placed in
2 “Contraband Watch room CW-002.” (*Id.*) The holding cell’s only amenity was a wooden bench. (*Id.*)
3 Notably, the cell lacked a sink, toilet, or ventilation duct.
4

5 Once Plaintiff was in CW-002, Fregoso removed the duct tape, underwear, and restraints. (*Id.* at
6 8.). He gave Plaintiff two t-shirts and two jumpsuits, and directed Plaintiff to dress himself, first in the t-
7 shirts and followed by the jumpsuits so that he was essentially in a straight-jacket. (*Id.*) Duct-tape was
8 wrapped around Plaintiff’s waist and ankles—effectively sealing the bottom of the jumpsuit. (*Id.*)
9 Plaintiff was also placed in wrist, ankle, and waist restraints. (*Id.*) The restraints were augmented with
10 padlocks that shortened the distance between Plaintiff’s ankles to “no more than three inches” and the
11 distance between his wrists and sides to “mere millimeters.” (*Id.*) Plaintiff was ordered to complete
12 three bowel movements in order for him to be eligible for release from contraband watch. (*Id.* at 9.)
13

14 In addition, several unnamed “Doe” defendants were posted outside Plaintiff’s cell from the
15 evening of April 13, 2008, until the morning of April 15, 2008. (*Id.* at 10-12.) Plaintiff had difficulty
16 sleeping, was denied adequate water, and was bothered by the tight restraints. (*Id.*) Despite continually
17 complaining of pain, Plaintiff was not given a decontamination shower during this entire time period.
18 (*Id.*)
19

20 On the morning of April 15, Defendant Barajaz (“Barajaz”) was stationed outside of Plaintiff’s
21 cell at 6:00 a.m. (*Id.* at 12.) Barajaz asked whether Plaintiff wanted breakfast, but after receiving no
22 response he took Plaintiff to a nurse for examination. (*Id.* at 12-13.) The nurse took Plaintiff’s blood
23 pressure and looked at his eyes. (*Id.*) After the examination Plaintiff was returned to his cell. (*Id.* at
24 13.) About two hours later, Barajaz escorted Plaintiff to the prison’s Central Infirmary. (*Id.*) This time
25 Plaintiff was examined by nurse Auger (“Auger”). (*Id.*) Auger asked why Plaintiff’s eyes were “so
26 red.” (*Id.*) Plaintiff explained that he “had been pepper sprayed and never decontaminated.” (*Id.*)
27 Plaintiff also told her that he did not sleep because of the pain. (*Id.*) Auger asked Barajaz if she could
28

1 decontaminate Plaintiff. (*Id.*) Barajaz told Auger that “it would be better to just let [the pepper spray]
2 take its course and wear off on its own.” (*Id.*) Barajaz did, however, permit Auger to rinse Plaintiff’s
3 eyes with some optical solution. (*Id.*)
4

5 Hours later, during dinner, Barajaz provided Plaintiff with enough water to “quench his thirst.”
6 (*Id.* at 14.) This was only the second time Plaintiff received water since being placed in ASU. (*Id.*)
7 Later, Plaintiff asked Barajaz to loosen the restraints. (*Id.*) Barajaz refused, telling Plaintiff “ that’s not
8 going to happen until you finish your three bowel movements.” (*Id.*) After completing his first bowel
9 movement, Plaintiff asked to wash his hands. (*Id.*) Barajaz refused the request and mocked Plaintiff,
10 saying: “if you want me to spit on your hands.” (*Id.*)
11

12 At 10:00 p.m. Barajaz was relieved of his post. (*Id.*) Several unnamed defendants were
13 stationed outside Plaintiff’s cell from April 16, 2008 at 10:00 p.m. until April 18 at 2:00 p.m. All
14 unnamed defendants refused to loosen Plaintiff’s restraints. (*Id.*)
15

16 On April 18, 2008 at about 2:00 p.m. Defendant Luck (“Luck”) began his shift. (*Id.* at 16.)
17 Plaintiff immediately told Luck that he was prepared to provide his third and final bowel movement.
18 (*Id.*) Luck walked away without comment. (*Id.*) When Luck returned 45 minutes later Plaintiff
19 reminded him that he was ready to deliver his final bowel movement. (*Id.*) Luck replied, “hold it for a
20 while—I just came on—I need this overtime.” (*Id.*) Luck finally provided Plaintiff with a receptacle at
21 8:30 p.m. (*Id.* at 17.) At this time Luck informed Defendant Sergeant Ellis (“Ellis”) that Plaintiff
22 completed his final bowel movement. (*Id.*) Luck and Ellis told Plaintiff that they could not release him
23 from contraband watch because a statewide lock-down was beginning. (*Id.*) Plaintiff requested that,
24 since he successfully completed contraband watch, at a minimum Luck and Ellis should remove the
25 restraints. (*Id.*) Both Luck and Ellis stated they could not comply with his request. (*Id.*) Although
26 Plaintiff completed the three required bowel movements he was not released from the restraints for
27 another 24 hours.
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1 Finally, on April 19, 2008 at 8:30 p.m., Plaintiff was released from contraband watch. (*Id.*)

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4 **III.**

5 **DEFENDANT’S MOTION TO DISMISS**

6 Defendants argue that this Court should dismiss the FAC in its entirety for failing to state a claim
7 pursuant to Rule 12(b)(6). In the alternative, Defendants argue that as prison officials they are entitled
8 to qualified immunity.

9 **A. Fed.R.Civ.P. 12(b)(6) Standard of Review**

10 A motion to dismiss under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 12(b)(6) “tests the legal sufficiency of
11 a claim” *Navarro v. Block*, 250 F.3d 729, 732 (9th Cir. 2001). A Rule 12(b)(6) dismissal may be based on
12 either a “ ‘lack of a cognizable legal theory’ or ‘the absence of sufficient facts alleged under a cognizable
13 legal theory.’ ” *Johnson v. Riverside Healthcare Sys., LP*, 534 F.3d 1116, 1121-22 (9th Cir. 2008) (quoting
14 *Balistreri v. Pacifica Police Dep’t*, 901 F.2d 696, 699 (9th Cir. 1990)). A motion to dismiss should be
15 granted if plaintiff fails to proffer “enough facts to state a claim to relief that is plausible on its face.” *Bell*
16 *Atl. Corp. v. Twombly*, 550 U.S. 544, 570 (2007). “A claim has facial plausibility when the plaintiff pleads
17 factual content that allows the court to draw the reasonable inference that the defendant is liable for the
18 misconduct alleged.” *Ashcroft v. Iqbal*, 556 U.S. ----, 129 S.Ct. 1937, 1949 (2009)(quoting *Twombly*, 550
19 U.S. at 556, 570).

20 While allegations of material fact are accepted as true and construed in the light most favorable to
21 the nonmoving party, *Cahill v. Liberty Mutual Ins. Co.*, 80 F.3d 336, 337-38 (9th Cir. 1996), the court need
22 not accept as true generic legal conclusions, unwarranted deductions of fact or unreasonable inferences. *See*
23 *Sprewell v. Golden State Warriors*, 266 F.3d 979, 988 (9th Cir. 2001); *Iqbal*, 129 S.Ct. at 1949 (“Threadbare
24 recitals of the elements of a cause of action, supported by mere conclusory statements, do not suffice.”);
25 *Twombly*, 550 U.S. at 555 (on motion to dismiss court is “not bound to accept as true a legal conclusion
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1 couched as a factual allegation.”). “The pleading standard Rule 8 announces does not require ‘detailed
2 factual allegations,’ but it demands more than an unadorned, the defendant-unlawfully-harmed-me
3 accusation.” *Iqbal*, 129 S.Ct. at 1949 (quoting *Twombly*, 550 U.S. at 555).

4
5 Thus, “[w]hile legal conclusions can provide the framework of a complaint, they must be supported
6 by factual allegations. When there are well-pleaded factual allegations, a court should assume their veracity
7 and then decide whether they plausibly give rise to an entitlement to relief.” *Iqbal*, 129 S.Ct. at 1950. “The
8 plausibility standard is not akin to a ‘probability requirement,’ but it asks for more than a sheer possibility
9 that defendant has acted unlawfully.” *Id.* at 1949. Where a complaint pleads facts that are “merely consistent
10 with” a defendant’s liability, it “stops short of the line between possibility and plausibility of ‘entitlement
11 to relief.’” *Id.*; *Twombly*, 550 U.S. at 570 (when a plaintiff has not “nudged [his] claims across the line from
12 conceivable to plausible, [his] complaint must be dismissed.”).

13
14 “In sum, for a complaint to survive a motion to dismiss, the non-conclusory ‘factual content,’ and
15 reasonable inferences [drawn] from that content, must be plausibly suggestive of a claim entitling the
16 plaintiff to relief.” *Moss v. United States Secret Service*, 572 F.3d 962, 969 (9th Cir. 2009) (quoting *Iqbal*,
17 129 S. Ct. at 1949).

18
19 In addition, factual allegations asserted by pro se petitioners, “however inartfully pleaded,” are held
20 “to less stringent standards than formal pleadings drafted by lawyers.” *Haines v. Kerner*, 404 U.S. 519, 520
21 (1972). Thus, where a plaintiff appears pro se in a civil rights case, the Court must construe the pleadings
22 liberally and afford plaintiff any benefit of the doubt. *See Karim-Panahi v. Los Angeles Police Dept.*, 839
23 F.2d 621, 623 (9th Cir. 1988). “A complaint should not be dismissed unless it appears beyond doubt that
24 the plaintiff can prove no set of facts in support of the claim that would entitle the plaintiff to relief.”
25 *Sprewell v. Golden State Warriors*, 266 F.3d 979, 988 (9th Cir. 2001).

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1 **B. 42 U.S.C § 1983 Standard**

2 To state a claim under § 1983, a plaintiff must allege the violation of a right secured by the
3 Constitution and laws of the United States, and must show that the alleged deprivation was committed by
4 a person acting under color of state law. *Parratt v. Taylor*, 451 U.S. 527, 535 (1981) (overruled in part on
5 other grounds, *Daniels v. Williams*, 474 U.S. 327, 330-331 (1986)); *Flagg Bros., Inc. v. Brooks*, 436 U.S.
6 149 (1978).

7
8 Plaintiff alleges that Defendants violated his Eighth Amendment right to be free from cruel and
9 unusual punishments. (FAC at 17.) Specifically, Plaintiff claims that Defendants violated his Eighth
10 Amendment right by: (1) failing to provide him with adequate medical care, (2) using excessive force, (3)
11 keeping him in tight restraints, and (4) subjecting him to conditions of confinement constituting cruel and
12 unusual punishment.

13
14 **C. Eighth Amendment Deliberate Indifference to Medical Need**

15 Defendants seek dismissal on grounds that Plaintiff failed to plead facts to show the deliberate
16 indifference required to support an Eighth Amendment violation. (*See* Def’s P&As, Doc. No. 34-1 at 10.)

17
18 **1. Standard of Review**

19 Prison officials violate the Eighth Amendment if they act with deliberate indifference to a prisoner’s
20 serious medical needs. *Estelle v. Gamble*, 429 U.S. 97, 106 (1976). A plaintiff alleging such a violation
21 must satisfy a two-part test containing both an objective and a subjective component. *Hallett v. Morgan*,
22 296 F.3d 732, 744 (9th Cir. 2002) (citation omitted). The plaintiff must prove that prison officials (1)
23 deprived him of the “minimal civilized measure of life’s necessities;” and (2) acted with deliberate
24 indifference by denying, delaying or intentionally interfering with medical treatment. *Id.*; *see also McGuckin*
25 *v. Smith*, 974 F.2d 1050, 1059 (9th Cir. 1992), *overruled on other grounds, WMX Techs., Inc. v. Miller*, 104
26 F.3d 1133, 1136 (9th Cir. 1997) (en banc). “An Eighth Amendment claimant need not show that a prison
27 official acted or failed to act believing that harm actually would befall an inmate; it is enough that the
28

1 official acted or failed to act despite his knowledge of a substantial risk of serious harm.” *Id.* at 842.

2 “A serious medical need exists if the failure to treat a prisoner’s condition could result in further
3 significant injury or the ‘unnecessary and wanton infliction of pain.’” *McGuckin*, 974 F.2d at 1060 (citing
4 *Estelle*, 429 U.S. at 104); *see also Clement v. Gomez*, 298 F.3d 898, 904 (2002). To demonstrate that the
5 defendant’s response to an established medical need was deliberately indifferent requires: (1) a purposeful
6 act or failure to respond to an inmate’s pain or possible medical need and (2) harm caused by the
7 indifference.” *Jett*, 439 F.3d at 1096. Where a prisoner alleges delay in receiving medical treatment, he
8 must show that the delay led to further harm. *McGuckin*, 974 F.2d at 1060 (citing *Shapely v. Nevada Bd.*
9 *of State Prison Comm’rs*, 766 F.2d 404, 407 (9th Cir. 1985)). Plaintiff, however, need not demonstrate that
10 the harm incurred was substantial. *Jett*, 439 F.3d at 1096.

13 **2. Application to Plaintiff’s Complaint**

14 Defendants Partida, Molina, Fregoso, and Barajaz

15 Plaintiff generally alleges that the combination of the pepper spray and Defendants Partida, Molina,
16 Fregoso and Barajaz’s failure to provide him with a decontamination shower caused “the existence of
17 chronic and substantial pain that lasted from 4-13-08 until 4-16-08. . . .” (FAC at 18.). Plaintiff further
18 states that the severity of his pain interfered with his ability to eat, sleep, and otherwise function in a normal
19 manner. (*Id.* at 10-12.). Plaintiff experienced continuous pain as a result of the pepper spray and made his
20 extreme discomfort clear throughout his time on contraband watch. This pain could have been alleviated
21 by decontaminating Plaintiff. Accordingly, the failure to decontaminate Plaintiff resulted in the
22 unnecessary and wanton infliction of pain. Assuming the veracity of the allegations, this Court finds that
23 Plaintiff asserts facts sufficient to establish a “serious medical need.” *See Clement*, 298 F.3d at 904.

26 Next, the Court must determine whether Plaintiff alleges facts sufficient to support the inference that
27 each defendant deliberately failed to respond to his “pain or possible medical need.” *Jett*, 439 F.3d at 1096.
28 Plaintiff contends that Defendants Partida, Molina, Fregoso, and Barajaz denied him adequate medical care

1 because after learning that Plaintiff was in extreme pain, they failed to ensure that he received treatment.
2 (FAC at 18.). Defendants argue that Plaintiff’s allegations do not show any deliberate indifference.

3
4 With respect to Partida, Plaintiff alleges that he repeatedly informed Partida of the extreme pain he
5 was experiencing. (FAC at 5.). Despite knowing Plaintiff was in pain and needed decontamination, Partida
6 refused to ensure that he received a shower or any other form of relief that would lessen the pain. Partida
7 was with Plaintiff for approximately three hours and did not provide him with the appropriate medical
8 treatment. Plaintiff claims that because Partida did not decontaminate him or ask Molina to decontaminate
9 him, he experience continuing and unnecessary pain. The facts as alleged plausibly suggest an inference
10 of deliberate indifference on Partida’s part.
11

12 Not only did Molina not provide Plaintiff with a decontamination shower, she falsified the CDCR
13 7219 Medical Report. (FAC at 7.) Although Plaintiff complained to her about the pain, his difficulty
14 breathing, and burning in his throat, Molina did not memorialize his complaints on the medical report. (*Id.*
15 at 6.) Molina also falsified the report by indicating that Plaintiff received a decontamination shower and
16 was not suffering any negative effects as a result of the pepper spray. (*Id.* at 7.) Taken as true, these facts
17 are sufficient to suggest that Molina either failed to respond to Plaintiff’s pain and medical needs or
18 deliberately interfered with Plaintiff’s medical care by falsifying the Medical Report. As a result of
19 Molina’s actions and inactions, Plaintiff experienced continuing pain. Thus, the facts suggest an inference
20 that Molina acted with deliberate indifference.
21

22
23 Similarly, Fregoso was informed that Plaintiff was in “extreme pain.” (*Id.* at 8.) Given that Fregoso
24 callously directed Plaintiff to “stop talking,” he did not respond to Plaintiff’s needs. (*Id.*) His failure to
25 respond was purposeful. It appears that Fregoso’s decision to dress Plaintiff in a straight-jacket fashioned
26 from prison jumpsuits and to seal the jumpsuits with duct tape before ensuring that Plaintiff was
27 decontaminated exacerbated the pain. Because Plaintiff continued to experience pain throughout the night,
28 Fregoso’s denial of treatment caused harm. Thus, because at this stage in the proceedings the facts as

1 alleged are taken as true, the Court finds Plaintiff's allegations sufficient to state a claim that Fregoso was
2 deliberately indifferent to Plaintiff's medical need.

3
4 Lastly, Plaintiff alleges Barajaz intentionally interfered with his medical treatment by telling Auger
5 that it was not necessary to fully decontaminate Plaintiff. (*Id.* at 13.) Instead, Barajaz suggested that the
6 nurse let the pepper spray take its course. At this point, however, Plaintiff does not state that he continued
7 to complain to Barajaz or Auger about pain or request a decontamination shower. In fact, Barajaz initiated
8 Plaintiff's visit to the nurse. Ensuring that Plaintiff visited the nurse does not support a determination that
9 Barajaz failed to respond to Plaintiff's pain and possible medical need. Based on Plaintiff's statement of
10 facts, it appears that the nurse was primarily concerned about Plaintiff's red eyes. Barajaz allowed the nurse
11 to rinse Plaintiff's eyes with optical solution which likely alleviated any remaining eye pain. In addition,
12 Plaintiff does not claim that after his visit to the infirmary he asked Barajaz to decontaminate him.
13 Consequently, the facts as alleged do not indicate that Barajaz acted with deliberate indifference to
14 Plaintiff's medical need.
15

16
17 Accordingly, the motion to dismiss Plaintiff's claims that Defendants acted with deliberate
18 indifference to a serious medical need be **DENIED** as it relates to Defendants **PARTIDA, MOLINA, and**
19 **FREGOSO**. Plaintiff, however, fails to state a plausible claim for relief against **BARAJAZ**, thus the Court
20 **GRANTS** his motion to dismiss with leave to amend. *Noll v. Carlson*, 809 F.2d 1446, 1448 (9th Cir. 1987)
21 (“A pro se litigant must be given leave to amend his or her complaint unless it is absolutely clear that the
22 deficiencies of the complaint could not be cured by amendment.”).
23

24 Defendant Janda

25 Under §1983, liability may not be imposed on supervisory personnel for the actions of their
26 employees under a theory of respondeat superior. *Ybarra v. Reno Thunderbird Mobile Home Village*, 723
27 F.2d 675, 680-81 (9th Cir.1984). Nonetheless, a supervisor may be liable under § 1983 upon a showing of
28 personal involvement in the constitutional deprivation or a sufficient causal connection between the

1 supervisor's wrongful conduct and the constitutional violation. *Redman v. County of San Diego*, 942 F.2d
2 1435, 1446 (9th Cir.1991) (en banc) (citation omitted).

3
4 Generally, a supervisor "is only liable for constitutional violations of his subordinates if the
5 supervisor participated in or directed the violations, or knew of the violations and failed to act to prevent
6 them." *Taylor v. List*, 880 F.2d 1040, 1045 (9th Cir. 1989); *see also Starr v. Baca*, 633 F.3d 1191, 1196 (9th
7 Cir. 2011) (holding that *Iqbal* did not change case law on deliberate indifference claims against supervisors
8 in conditions of confinement cases and therefore, "a plaintiff may state a claim for supervisory liability
9 based upon the supervisor's knowledge of and acquiescence in unconstitutional conduct by others"). This
10 includes evidence that a supervisor implemented "a policy so deficient that the policy itself is a repudiation
11 of constitutional rights and is the moving force of the constitutional violation." *Redman*, 942 F.2d at 1446;
12 *see also Jeffers v. Gomez*, 267 F.3d 895, 917 (9th Cir. 2001).

13
14 Plaintiff does not allege facts specifically inculcating Warden Janda ("Janda"). Rather, Plaintiff
15 argues that the facts demonstrate a custom and practice created under Janda's supervision such that the other
16 defendants acted pursuant to Janda's policy. (Pl.'s Opp'n , Doc. No. 38 at 15.) Plaintiff's claim contends
17 that Janda did not institute a written decontamination policy and that the lack of a concrete policy led to the
18 constitutional violation. Put another way, Plaintiff argues that the lack of a protocol requiring inmate
19 decontamination after pepper spray exposure caused Plaintiff to experience unnecessary pain and
20 discomfort. But Plaintiff's facts as alleged in the FAC do not support a determination that Janda's policy
21 was "so deficient that the policy itself is a repudiation of constitutional rights. . . ." *Redman*, 942 F.2d at
22 1446.
23
24

25 Plaintiff's FAC states that he "has personally seen officers take pepper sprayed inmates to either the
26 shower stall located on the Facility-A yard or the hose located next to the gymnasium." (FAC at 6.)
27 Plaintiff's own complaint suggests that the prison does not have a decontamination policy where a shower
28 is always refused. Similarly, the facts alleged do not suggest that the lack of a formal decontamination

1 policy is so deficient such that prisoners are repeatedly refused decontamination showers so as to indicate
2 that the lack of a written policy is responsible for Plaintiff's harm

3
4 The Court finds that Plaintiff has not alleged facts to support a supervisory liability claim against
5 Janda for the alleged constitutional violations of his subordinates. Even construing the pleadings liberally,
6 Plaintiff's FAC is devoid of any factual allegations against Janda. Nor has Plaintiff alleged facts supporting
7 that Janda implemented a policy so deficient that the policy itself is a repudiation of constitutional rights
8 and was the moving force of the violations alleged in the FAC.

9
10 Accordingly, the Court finds that Plaintiff fails to state a plausible claim for relief against **JANDA**
11 and **GRANTS** the motion to dismiss with leave to amend. *Noll*, 809 F.2d at 1448.

12 **D. Eighth Amendment Excessive Force**

13 Defendants seek dismissal on grounds that Plaintiff failed to plead facts to show the Defendants used
14 excessive force when they did not immediately contaminate him. (*See* Def's P&As, Doc. No. 34-1 at 10.)

15 **1. Standard of Review**

16
17 When an inmate claims that officials used excessive force, in order to make out an Eighth
18 Amendment claim, the prisoner must demonstrate that officials applied force "maliciously and
19 sadistically for the very purpose of causing harm." *Whitley v. Albers*, 475 U.S. 312, 320 (1986). A
20 prisoner, like Plaintiff, asserting malicious and sadistic use of force need not show that such force
21 caused an "extreme deprivation" or "serious" or "significant" pain or injury to establish a cause of
22 action. *Hudson v. McMillian*, 503 U.S. 1, 8-9 (1992). All that is necessary is proof of more than *de*
23 *minimis* pain or injury. *Id.* at 9.

24
25 Thus, the objective component of an excessive force claim is less demanding than that necessary
26 for conditions-of-confinement or inadequate medical care claims. The Supreme Court directs courts to
27 balance several factors in determining whether prison officials acted maliciously and sadistically. The
28 factors originally set out in *Whitley*, include: (1) the need for application of force, (2) the relationship

1 between that need and the amount of force used, (3) the threat “reasonably perceived by the responsible
2 officials,” and (4) “any efforts made to temper the severity of a forceful response.” *Hudson*, 503 U.S. at
3 7. (citations omitted). The absence of serious injury is a relevant, but not dispositive, additional factor to
4 be considered in the subjective analysis. *Id.*

6 **2. Application to Plaintiff’s Complaint**

7 Plaintiff concedes that the initial use of pepper spray was justified given the threat his conduct
8 posed to officer safety. (*Id.* 19.). Plaintiff, however, argues that once he was subdued, Defendants’
9 collective failure to decontaminate him over the course of several days amounts to an unconstitutional
10 “continuation and aggravation of the initial force after the need for further force had ended.” (FAC at
11 19.) Specifically, Plaintiff alleges that Defendants, Partida, Molina, Fregoso, and Barajaz were aware
12 of the pain which results from the lasting effects of pepper spray, and acted maliciously and sadistically
13 for the very purpose of causing harm by not ensuring that he was decontaminated.
14

15 This is a creative means to assert an excessive force claim, however, the facts do not show that
16 Defendants Partida, Molina, Fregoso, and Barajaz applied any physical force after the pepper spray was
17 administered. Because Plaintiff’s complaints against these prison officials are based on their refusal to
18 lessen or eliminate the effects of the already applied force, his claims against these defendants fall under
19 the Eighth Amendment’s protection against the denial of medical care. *See Clement*, 298 F.3d 898 at
20 904.
21

22 Accordingly, Plaintiff has not offered facts that demonstrate Defendants **PARTIDA, MOLINA,**
23 **FREGOSO** and **BARAJAZ** applied force maliciously and sadistically for the very purpose of causing
24 harm. The Court **GRANTS** the motion to dismiss the claim for excessive force without leave to amend
25 because the deficiencies could not be cured by the allegation of other facts.
26

27 ///
28

1 Accordingly, the motion to dismiss based on Defendants **BARAJAZ, LUCK** and **ELLIS'S**
2 failure to loosen or remove Plaintiff's restraints is **GRANTED** with leave to amend.

3
4 **F. Eighth Amendment Conditions of Confinement**

5 Defendants seek dismissal on grounds that Plaintiff failed to plead facts to show Warden Janda
6 "personally acted to deprive him of drinking water or other of life's necessities." (*See* Def's. P&As,
7 Doc. No. 34-1 at 16.)

8 **1. Standard of Review**

9
10 An Eighth Amendment claim challenging the conditions of confinement must sufficiently allege
11 a denial of the "minimal civilized measure of life's necessities," *Rhodes*, 452 U.S. at 347, occurring
12 through "deliberate indifference" by prison personnel or officers. *Wilson v. Seiter*, 501 U.S. 294,
13 302-03 (1991) (citations omitted). Put differently, the prisoner must establish that the deprivation was
14 sufficiently serious to be cruel and unusual, and that prison officials acted in a manner indicating that the
15 condition of confinement was implemented with an intent to punish. *Clouthier v. County of Contra*
16 *Costa*, 591 F.3d 1232, 1242; *see also Wilson*, 501 U.S. at 298. "[C]onditions of confinement may
17 establish an Eighth Amendment violation in combination when each would not do so alone, but only
18 when they have a mutually enforcing effect that produces the deprivation of a single identifiable human
19 need such as food, warmth, or exercise. . . ." *Wilson*, 501 U.S. at 305. "Conditions must not involve the
20 wanton and unnecessary infliction of pain. . . ." but ". . .to the extent that such conditions are restrictive
21 and even harsh, they are part of the penalty that criminal offenders pay for their offenses against
22 society." *Rhodes*, 452 U.S. at 347.

23
24
25 **2. Application to Plaintiff's Complaint**

26 Plaintiff alleges his rights under the Eight Amendment were violated because he was confined to
27 a cell lacking running water and adequate ventilation, as well as was refused soap. (FAC at 21.) But
28 "[i]nadequate ventilation and air flow violates the Eighth Amendment [only] if it undermines the health

1 of inmates and the sanitation of the penitentiary.” *Keenan v. Hall*, 83 F.3d 1083, 1091 (9th Cir.1996).
2 Plaintiff’s facts do not allege that the inadequate ventilation in the holding cell undermined his health or
3 affected the sanitation of the prison. The fact that Plaintiff was denied the ability to wash his hands after
4 going to the restroom may be insensitive, but Plaintiff has not alleged facts that prison officials denied
5 him soap despite being aware of and disregarding an excessive risk to inmate health. *See Farmer v.*
6 *Brennan*, 511 U.S. 825, 837 (1970).
7

8 Plaintiff alleges that because Janda is the warden, he is responsible for the custody, care, and
9 treatment of all inmates under his control. (FAC at 20.) Plaintiff claims that Janda effectively denied
10 him the basic necessities of life by permitting Plaintiff to be confined to a cell lacking running water to
11 drink, soap to wash his hands, and adequate ventilation. (FAC at 21.) The facts, however, do not
12 indicate that Plaintiff was denied the “minimal civilized measure of life’s necessities.” *Rhodes*, 452
13 U.S. at 347.
14

15 As stated above, Plaintiff’s facts do not allege that the inadequate ventilation in the holding cell
16 undermined his health or affected the sanitation of the prison. The facts also do not support an inference
17 that the being denied access to soap or disinfectant over the course of three bowel movements violates
18 the fundamental requisites of sound personal hygiene. *See Toussaint v. McCarthy*, 597 F. Supp. 1388,
19 1411 (N.D. Cal. 1984), overruled on other grounds, 801 F.2d 1080 (9th Cir. 1986). Plaintiff does not
20 state that his health was endangered because he was denied soap. Finally, the fact that Plaintiff did not
21 have access to running water so that he could drink at his pleasure also does not indicate that the
22 conditions in the contraband watch cell violates the Eighth Amendment. Plaintiff did receive water, and
23 though he may has desired more drinking water, the facts do not indicate that Janda was aware of this
24 need.
25

26
27 In sum, the facts as alleged do not support a finding that Janda knowingly and unreasonably
28 disregarded an objectively intolerable risk of harm stemming from the conditions in the cell. Nor do the

1 facts alleged support an inference that Janda implemented a policy so deficient that the policy itself is a
2 repudiation of constitutional rights.

3 Accordingly, the motion to dismiss Plaintiff's claims that Janda acted with deliberate
4 indifference to the conditions of his confinement is **GRANTED** with leave to amend. *Noll*, F.2d 1446
5 at 1448.
6

7 **G. Qualified Immunity**

8 Defendants further assert they are entitled to dismissal based on qualified immunity. (Defs.'
9 P&As, Doc. No. 34-1 at 16.)
10

11 **1. Standard of Review**

12 Government officials enjoy qualified immunity from civil damages unless their conduct violates
13 'clearly established statutory or constitutional rights of which a reasonable person would have known.'"
14 *Jeffers v. Gomez*, 267 F.3d 895, 910 (9th Cir. 2001) (quoting *Harlow v. Fitzgerald*, 457 U.S. 800, 818
15 (1982)). When presented with a qualified immunity defense, the central questions for the court are:
16 (1) whether the facts alleged, taken in the light most favorable to Plaintiff, demonstrate that the
17 Defendant's conduct violated a statutory or constitutional right; and (2) whether the right at issue was
18 "clearly established" at the time it is alleged to have been violated. *Saucier v. Katz*, 533 U.S. 194, 201
19 (2001). Although *Saucier* originally required the Court to answer these questions in order, the U.S.
20 Supreme Court recently held that "while the sequence set forth there is often appropriate, it should no
21 longer be regarded as mandatory." *Pearson v. Callahan*, 555 U.S. 223, 232 (2009).
22
23

24 **2. Application to Plaintiff's Complaint**

25 Because the Court has found Plaintiff's Amended Complaint alleges facts sufficient to
26 state an Eighth Amendment claim against Defendants Partida, Fregoso, and Molina, it next considers
27 whether Plaintiff's claims must nevertheless be dismissed as to Defendants Partida, Fregoso and Molina
28 on the basis of qualified immunity.

1 As discussed above, the Court finds that Plaintiff has set forth allegations of deliberate
2 indifference to his serious medical needs sufficient to state an Eighth Amendment claim against
3 Defendants Partida, Fregoso and Molina. *See Jeffers*, 267 F.3d at 907; *Saucier*, 533 U.S. at 201;
4 *Estelle*, 429 U.S. at 104-05. Based on the same facts, the Court also finds that Plaintiff has set forth
5 allegations that Defendants Partida and Fregoso acted with deliberate indifference to Plaintiff's
6 conditions of confinement. Accordingly, the Court next asks whether these Defendants are nevertheless
7 immune to suit, i.e., whether the contours of Plaintiff's rights under the Eighth Amendment were
8 sufficiently clear such that a reasonable prison official in Defendants position would have understood
9 that refusing Plaintiff a decontamination shower under the circumstances alleged violated that right. *See*
10 *Saucier*, 533 U.S. at 202.

13 "The relevant, dispositive inquiry in determining whether a right is clearly established is whether
14 it would be clear to a reasonable officer that his conduct was unlawful in the situation he confronted,"
15 *id.*
16 at 202, or "whether the state of the law [at the time of the challenged action] gave 'fair warning' to the
17 officials that their conduct was unconstitutional." *Clement v. Gomez*, 298 F.3d 898, 906 (9th Cir. 2002)
18 (*quoting Hope v. Pelzer*, 536 U.S. 730, 740 (2002)).

20 *Estelle* clearly establishes the general rule that prison officials cannot intentionally deny or delay
21 access to medical care without violating the Eighth Amendment's ban on cruel and unusual
22 punishments. *Estelle*, 429 U.S. at 104-05. And in *Clement*, the court held that summary judgment was
23 properly denied where it was possible that prison officials were aware of the harmful effects of pepper
24 spray and the inadequacy of measures to reduce those effects and "yet purposefully refused to provide
25 showers, medical care, or combative instructions, or to develop an adequate policy to address obvious
26 risks. *Clement*, 298 F.3d at 904.

28 Moreover, "[p]recedent directly on point is not necessary to demonstrate that a right is clearly

1 established.” *Giebel v. Sylvester*, 244 F.3d 1182, 1189 (9th Cir. 2001). Rather, if “the unlawfulness [is]
2 apparent in light of preexisting law,” then the standard is met. *Id.* at 254. In addition, even if there is no
3 closely analogous case law, a right can be clearly established on the basis of “common sense.” *DeBoer*
4 *v. Pennington*, 206 F.3d 857, 865 (9th Cir.2000), petition for cert. filed, (U.S. Aug. 7, 2000) (No.
5 00-222).

7 Thus, while the Court notes “a resolution of the factual issues may well relieve the prison
8 officials of any liability in this case,” *Clement*, 298 F.3d at 906, *Saucier* instructs the Court at
9 this stage of the proceedings to presume the Plaintiff’s version of events as true. *Saucier*, 533
10 U.S. at 201. Here, Plaintiff claims Defendants Partida, Fregoso and Molina all knew about, but
11 deliberately ignored Plaintiff’s numerous complaints of significant pain following being pepper sprayed.
12 Assuming this is true, the Court finds both that Plaintiff has sufficiently alleged a violation of the
13 Eighth Amendment and that it would be clear to any reasonable prison official in Defendants’ position
14 that to deny Plaintiff a decontamination shower under the circumstances would violate clearly
15 established law. *Saucier*, 533 U.S. at 202; *Estelle*, 429 U.S. at 104-05;
16
17

18 For these reasons, Defendant Partida, Fregoso and Molina’s Motion to Dismiss Plaintiff’s Eighth
19 Amendment claims on qualified immunity grounds is **DENIED**.

20 IV.

21 CONCLUSION

22 For all of the reasons stated above, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

- 23 1. Defendants’ motion to dismiss Plaintiff’s claim for deliberate indifference to his medical
24 needs is **GRANTED IN PART**. Plaintiff’s claims against Barajaz and Janda are
25 **DISMISSED** with leave to amend;
- 26 2. Defendants’ motion to dismiss the excessive force claim is **GRANTED without leave to**
27 **amend**;
- 28

