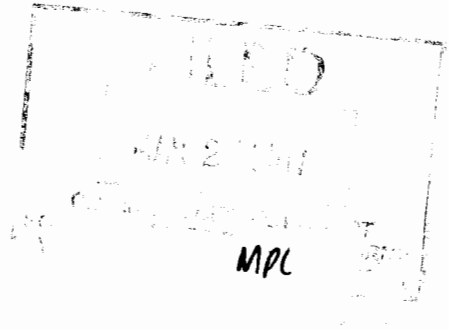


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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

FLOYD L. MORROW and MARLENE MORROW,  
  
Plaintiffs,  
  
v.  
  
CITY OF SAN DIEGO, et al.,  
  
Defendants.

Case No.: 11cv1497-BAS(KSC)

**ORDER GRANTING MOTION FOR DETERMINATION OF DISCOVERY DISPUTE RE SPECIAL INTERROGATORIES [Doc. No. 137]**

Before the Court is defendant’s Motion for Determination of Discovery Dispute: Special Interrogatories and Request for Sanctions. [Doc. No. 137.] In the Motion, defendant seeks an order compelling plaintiffs to provide substantive responses to fourteen (14) special interrogatories. Plaintiffs only objected to these special interrogatories and did not provide any substantive responses. Defendant represents that it was unable to obtain plaintiffs’ cooperation to file this discovery motion jointly as required by Chambers Rules. [Doc. No. 137, at p. 2.]

**Background**

After a lengthy procedural history, the only remaining claim is the second cause of action in the Fourth Amended Complaint. The second cause of action is filed pursuant to Section 1983 and alleges violations of plaintiffs’ constitutional rights to equal protection.

1 [Doc. No. 132, at p. 3; Doc. No. 136, at p. 2, 8-9; Doc. No. 47, at pp. 27-30.] Essentially,  
2 the second cause of action alleges that defendant's code enforcement practices  
3 unconstitutionally targeted and cited plaintiffs for having a manufactured home on their  
4 property. [Doc. No. 136, at p. 4.]

### 5 Discussion

6 Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26 provides as follows: "Parties may obtain  
7 discovery regarding any nonprivileged matter that is relevant to any party's claim or  
8 defense and proportional to the needs of the case, considering the importance of the  
9 issues at stake in the action, the amount in controversy, the parties' relative access to  
10 relevant information, the parties' resources, the importance of the discovery in resolving  
11 the issues, and whether the burden or expense of the proposed discovery outweighs its  
12 likely benefit. Information within this scope of discovery need not be admissible in  
13 evidence to be discoverable." Fed.R.Civ.P. 26(b)(1).

14 "[A] party may serve on any other party no more than 25 written interrogatories,  
15 including all discrete subparts. . . ." Fed.R.Civ.P. 33(a)(1). "An interrogatory may  
16 relate to any matter that may be inquired into under Rule 26(b). . . ." Fed.R.Civ.P.  
17 33(a)(2). "The grounds for objection to an interrogatory must be stated with specificity.  
18 Any ground not stated in a timely objection is waived unless the court for good cause,  
19 excuses the failure." Fed.R.Civ.P. 33(b)(4). "Boilerplate, generalized objections are  
20 inadequate and tantamount to not making any objection at all." *Walker v. Lakewood*  
21 *Condominium Owners Ass'n*, 186 F.R.D. 584, 587 (C.D. Cal. 1999). Responses such as  
22 "[o]verbroad, unduly burdensome, unduly redundant to other discovery, oppressive,  
23 calls for narrative" . . . are general or boilerplate objections, which are not proper  
24 objections." *U.S. ex rel. O'Connell v. Chapman University*, 245 F.R.D. 646, 649-650  
25 (C.D. Cal. 2007). "An objection must show specifically how an interrogatory is overly  
26 broad, burdensome or oppressive, by submitting affidavits or offering evidence which  
27 reveals the nature of the burden." *Chubb Integrated Systems Ltd. v. National Bank of*  
28 *Washington*, 103 F.R.D. 52, 59-60 (D.D.C. 1984).

1 Here, plaintiff provided only boilerplate objections to defendant's special  
2 interrogatories, such as unduly burdensome, vague, ambiguous, unreasonably  
3 duplicative, cumulative, and disproportional. [Doc. No. 137, at pp. 2-36.] Plaintiffs  
4 made no attempt to support their boilerplate objections with any explanation whatsoever.  
5 As a result, the Court finds that defendant is entitled to an order compelling plaintiffs to  
6 provide full and complete responses to defendant's special interrogatories without  
7 objections.

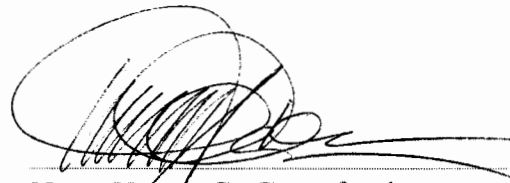
8 **Conclusion**

9 Based on the foregoing, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that defendant's request for  
10 an order compelling plaintiffs to provide full and complete responses to special  
11 interrogatories is GRANTED. Plaintiffs shall provide defendant with full and complete  
12 responses to defendant's Special Interrogatory Nos. 1 through 14 **within fifteen (15)**  
13 **days of the date this Order is filed.** Defendant's request for monetary sanctions is  
14 DENIED at this time.

15 **Plaintiffs are forewarned that sanctions may be imposed against them under**  
16 **Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 37 if they fail to comply with this Order. Sanctions**  
17 **under Rule 37 may include the dismissal of this action.**

18 IT IS SO ORDERED.

19 Dated: March 24, 2017



20  
21 Hon. Karen S. Crawford  
22 United States Magistrate Judge  
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