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8 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
9 SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
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11 ELLIOT SCOTT GRIZZLE,
12 Plaintiff,
13 v.
14 COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO et al.,
15 Defendants.

Case No.: 3:17-cv-0813-JLS-PCL

**REPORT AND
RECOMMENDATION OF U.S.
MAGISTRATE JUDGE RE:**

**DEFENDANTS' MOTION TO
DISMISS COMPLAINT**

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18 **I. INTRODUCTION**

19 Elliot Scott Grizzle ("Plaintiff") is currently a state prisoner proceeding *in forma*
20 *pauperis*, who has filed a civil rights complaint pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983 alleging
21 violations of his Eighth and Fourteenth Amendment rights during his incarceration as a
22 pretrial detainee at San Diego County Jail. (Doc. 1.) Presently before the Court is select
23 Defendants' motion to dismiss Plaintiff's complaint for failure to state a claim. (Doc. 55.)

24 The Honorable Janis L. Sammartino has referred the matter to the undersigned
25 Judge for Report and Recommendation pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1)(B) and Local
26 Civil Rule 72.1(c)(1)(d). After a thorough review of the pleadings and supporting
27 documents, this Court recommends the motion to dismiss be **GRANTED**.

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II. BACKGROUND¹

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2 At the time of filing his complaint, Plaintiff was a pretrial detainee at the San
3 Diego County Jail (“SDCJ”). (Doc. 1 at 10.) Upon his arrival at SDCJ on August 3, 2016,
4 Plaintiff was immediately and inexplicably placed into administrative segregation.² (Doc.
5 1 at 11.) While being escorted to administrative segregation, Plaintiff asked the escorting
6 officers why he was being placed into administrative segregation when during his
7 previous incarceration, he had been housed in the general population. (Id.) The escorting
8 officers did not know, and directed Plaintiff to file such an inquiry through an inmate
9 request directed to “classification.” (Id.) On August 4, 2016, Plaintiff filed the inmate
10 request as directed, giving the request to an SDCJ staff member during a mail pickup, but
11 Plaintiff’s request was never answered by “classification.” (Id.)

12 Plaintiff claims he has suffered multiple harms as a result of his placement in
13 administrative segregation. Plaintiff argues that due to the San Diego County Jail’s daily
14 schedule in the administrative segregation unit, Plaintiff has suffered from severe sleep
15 deprivation, which has led to a slew of other physical and psychological issues. (Id. at
16 13.) In administrative segregation, televisions are turned on at 7 a.m. and set to a high
17 volume. (Id. at 12.) Televisions remain on until 9:45 p.m. during the week and 10:45 p.m.
18 on the weekends. (Id. at 11) After the televisions are turned off for the night, however,
19 the lights still remain on a bright setting. (Id.) At 11:00 p.m., a count is done, requiring
20 Plaintiff to get out of bed and to the cell door to show the SDCJ floor deputy doing the
21 count an identifying wristband. (Id. at 12.) Following the 11:00 p.m. count, at 12:00 a.m.,
22 razors are passed out to inmates and picked up one hour later. (Id.) Plaintiff notes that the
23 distribution and collection of razors is disruptively loud because the razors are passed
24

25
26 ¹ The following facts are taken from Plaintiff’s complaint (Doc. 1) and are accepted as true for the
27 purpose of this motion. *See Vasquez v. L.A. Cnty.*, 487 F.3d 1246, 1249 (9th Cir. 2007) (In ruling on a
28 motion to dismiss, the court must “accept all material allegations of fact as true”).

² Plaintiff refers to administrative segregation as solitary confinement. For continuity with the relevant
authority, the Court refers to this type of incarceration as administrative segregation.

1 through the slots in the cell doors. (Id.) Both the sliding of the slots in the cell door and
2 the razor dropping from the slot to the floor on the other side of the door create
3 cacophonous noises which disrupt the night. (Id.) Finally, after razors are collected at about
4 1:00 a.m., the lights are turned from a bright to a dim setting. (Id.)

5 In the dim cell lights, those in administrative segregation are allowed their allotted
6 time in the yard, which is an indoor room with no access to the outdoors or sunlight. (Id.)
7 Those in administrative segregation may exercise or otherwise use the yard from 1:00
8 a.m. to about 3:30 a.m., forcing Plaintiff and other inmates and pretrial detainees in
9 administrative segregation to choose between going to the yard during this time or taking
10 advantage of the dimmed lights and sleeping. (Id.) At 3:30 a.m., after yard, another count
11 is performed, again requiring inmates to get out of bed and to the cell door to show the
12 deputy an identifying wristband. (Id.) This particular count requires potentially sleeping
13 administrative segregation occupants to wake up. (Id.) During this count, the lights are
14 turned to their bright setting once again. (Id.) Inmates are then served breakfast between
15 4:00 a.m. and 4:30 a.m. (Id.) After breakfast, the lights are dimmed until 7:00 a.m., at
16 which time the televisions are turned back on and set to the same loud volume. (Id.)

17 This daily schedule results in inmates and pretrial detainees, including Plaintiff,
18 only being given the opportunity to sleep twice with the lights dimmed for two and a half
19 hours each time. (Id.) However, one of those increments is during the yard time, so the
20 inmate must forego the yard time in order to take advantage of the full five hours of dim
21 lighting per night to sleep.

22 Plaintiff began experiencing sleep deprivation within one week of his arrival. (Id.
23 at 13.) This led to a multitude of other physical conditions, including headaches, muscle
24 aches, inability to focus and think clearly, eye pain, high blood pressure, a lowered
25 immune system, and severe lethargy and fatigue. (Id.) This sleep deprivation also had
26 psychological effects. Shortly after arriving, Plaintiff began experiencing high levels of
27 stress and anxiety due to the lack of sleep. (Id.)

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1 Almost immediately, Plaintiff began filing inmate grievance forms objecting to his
2 placement in administrative segregation. (Id.) Plaintiff filed four total grievances. (Id. at
3 13, 16.) The grievance form has a place for a floor deputy's signature.³ The first two of
4 these forms were not signed by a floor deputy, but were delivered on Plaintiff's behalf.
5 (Id. at 13.) The third grievance form was signed by Deputy Martinez on March 30, 2017,
6 before it was delivered on Plaintiff's behalf and the fourth grievance form was signed by
7 Deputy Garcia on April 14, 2017 before being similarly delivered. (Id. at 16.) During this
8 time, Plaintiff also wrote a letter to Sheriff William Gore regarding Plaintiff's complaints.
9 (Id. at 15.)

10 Plaintiff now brings three causes of action based on the above set of facts. First,
11 Plaintiff claims his Fourteenth Amendment right to due process was violated when
12 Plaintiff was placed in administrative segregation without any notice, and then was
13 denied an opportunity to be heard regarding this placement, despite his explicit request
14 for notice and such a hearing. (Id. at 17.) Second, Plaintiff claims his Eighth Amendment
15 protection against cruel and unusual punishment has been violated by the schedule
16 followed at SDCJ, causing Plaintiff's sleep deprivation. (Id.) Third and finally, Plaintiff
17 claims his Eighth Amendment protection has also been violated both by the yard time
18 being relegated to a sunless indoor room and the only time use of the room is allowed
19 requiring Plaintiff to choose exercise or sleep in the dimmed lights. (Id. at 18.) Plaintiff
20 requests damages and declarative relief. (Id. at 9.)

21 Plaintiff has named 51 defendants in his complaint, including San Diego County,
22 Sheriff William Gore, and various lieutenants, sergeants, corporals, and deputies who
23 work at SDCJ and Plaintiff personally spoke to. (Id. at 3.) To date, not all of the
24 defendants have been served. Those who have been served and have joined in the motion
25 to dismiss before this Court are: William Gore, Carl Brewer, Thomas Camillieri,
26

27
28 ³ Although this place for a signature is noted, Plaintiff does not explain the significance of a having a
grievance form signed versus not signed. (Doc. 1 at 13, 16.)

1 Benjamin Cole, Cristian Davila, Matthew Ellsworth, Gregory Epps, Eric Froistad, Jeremy
2 Hepler, Edgar Huerta, Jesse Johns, Lena Lovelace, Ryan Lovelace, Nathan McKemy,
3 Francis Mondragon, Jin Moon, Joseph Navarro, Patrick Newlander, Anthony Oliver,
4 Christopher Olsen, Christopher Simms, Karl Warren, Anthony White, Kevin Kamoss,
5 Jeffrey Wiliams, Harvey Seeley, Nicolai Ramos, Anthony Gallegos, Frank Bass, and
6 Steven Cerda. (Collectively “Moving Defendants.”) Additionally, San Diego County and
7 Deputies Agnew, Stratton, and Zepeda have been served, but have not joined in this
8 motion to dismiss.⁴

9 **III. DISCUSSION**

10 Moving Defendants move to dismiss Plaintiff’s complaint pursuant to Federal Rule
11 of Civil Procedure 12(b)(6) on the following grounds: (1) Plaintiff’s housing in
12 administrative segregation does not implicate due process protections, (2) Plaintiff’s
13 alleged inability to sleep and the timing of his recreation are insufficient to implicate the
14 Eighth Amendment, and (3) the complaint fails to state any factually plausible claim for
15 personal liability against the numerous defendants. (Doc. 55-1.)

16 **A. Legal Standard on Motion to Dismiss**

17 A motion to dismiss pursuant to Rule 12(b)(6) of the Federal Rules of Civil
18 Procedure tests the legal sufficiency of the claims asserted in the complaint. Fed. R. Civ.
19 P. 12(b)(6); Navarro v. Block, 250 F.3d 729, 732 (9th Cir. 2001). The court must accept
20 all allegations of material fact pleaded in the complaint as true. Cahill v. Liberty Mut. Ins.
21 Co., 80 F.3d 336, 337–38 (9th Cir. 1996). The Court must also construe the allegations in
22 favor of the nonmoving party and draw all reasonable inferences from them in favor of
23 the nonmoving party. Id. To avoid a Rule 12(b)(6) dismissal, a complaint need not
24 contain detailed factual allegations, rather, it must plead “enough facts to state a claim to
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27 ⁴ The following defendants were named in Plaintiff’s complaint, but have not yet been served:
28 Lieutenants Smith and Goings, Sergeant Fowler, Corporals De La Torre and Garner, and Deputies
Martinez, Bullock, Vargas, Gonzalez, De La Cruz, Mendoza, Barrios, Price, Bravo, Martinez, Leon, and
Rios. (Doc. 1 at 3.)

1 relief that is plausible on its face.” Bell Atl. Corp. v. Twombly, 550 U.S. 544, 570, 127
2 S.Ct. 1955, 167 L.Ed.2d 929 (2007). “A claim has facial plausibility when the plaintiff
3 pleads factual content that allows the court to draw the reasonable inference that the
4 defendant is liable for the misconduct alleged.” Ashcroft v. Iqbal, 556 U.S. 662, 678, 129
5 S.Ct. 1937, 173 L.Ed.2d 868 (2009) (citing Twombly, 550 U.S. at 556, 127 S.Ct. 1955).
6 “Where a complaint pleads facts that are merely consistent with a defendant’s liability, it
7 stops short of the line between possibility and plausibility of entitlement to relief.” Id. at
8 678, 129 S.Ct. 1937 (quoting Twombly, 550 U.S. at 557, 127 S.Ct. 1955) (internal
9 quotations omitted).

10 “[A] plaintiff’s obligation to provide the ‘grounds’ of his ‘entitle[ment] to relief’
11 requires more than labels and conclusions, and a formulaic recitation of the elements of a
12 cause of action will not do.” Twombly, 550 U.S. at 555, 127 S.Ct. 1955 (quoting Papasan
13 v. Allain, 478 U.S. 265, 286, 106 S.Ct. 2932, 92 L.Ed.2d 209 (1986) (alteration in
14 original)). A court need not accept “legal conclusions” as true. Iqbal, 556 U.S. at 678,
15 129 S.Ct. 1937. “[T]o be entitled to the presumption of truth, allegations in a complaint
16 or counterclaim may not simply recite the elements of a cause of action, but must contain
17 sufficient allegations of underlying facts to give fair notice and to enable the opposing
18 party to defend itself effectively.” Starr v. Baca, 652 F.3d 1202, 1216 (9th Cir. 2011).
19 Despite the deference the court must pay to the plaintiff’s allegations, it is not proper for
20 the court to assume that “the [plaintiff] can prove facts that [he or she] has not alleged or
21 that defendants have violated the . . . laws in ways that have not been alleged.”
22 Associated Gen. Contractors of Cal., Inc. v. Cal. State Council of Carpenters, 459 U.S.
23 519, 526, 103 S.Ct. 897, 74 L.Ed.2d 723 (1983).

24 As a general rule, a court freely grants leave to amend a complaint which has been
25 dismissed. Fed. R. Civ. P. 15(a); Schreiber Distrib. Co. v. Serv-Well Furniture Co., 806
26 F.2d 1393, 1401 (9th Cir. 1986). However, leave to amend may be denied when “the
27 court determines that the allegation of other facts consistent with the challenged pleading
28 could not possibly cure the deficiency.” Schreiber Distrib. Co., 806 F.2d at 1401 (citing

1 Bonanno v. Thomas, 309 F.2d 320, 322 (9th Cir. 1962)). When a court dismisses a *pro se*
2 litigant's complaint, the court must provide the plaintiff with a statement of the
3 deficiencies in the complaint. Karim-Panahi v. Los Angeles Police Dept., 839 F.2d 621,
4 623–624 (9th Cir. 1988).

5 **B. 1983 Claim**

6 To state a claim under 42 U.S.C. § 1983, a plaintiff must allege two essential
7 elements: (1) the violation of a right secured by the Constitution and laws of the United
8 States; and (2) that the alleged deprivation was committed by a person acting under color
9 of state law. West v. Atkins, 487 U.S. 42, 48 (1988). A plaintiff must show a specific
10 constitutional guarantee safeguarding the interests that have been invaded. See Paul v.
11 Davis, 424 U.S. 693 (1976). Plaintiff claims his Fourteenth Amendment right to
12 procedural due process as well as his Eighth Amendment right to be free of cruel and
13 unusual punishment have been invaded. (Doc. 1 at 17-18.)

14 **C. Placement in Administrative Segregation**

15 Plaintiff contends his placement in administrative segregation was a violation of
16 his procedural due process rights because he was not afforded notice of the reason for his
17 placement in administrative segregation, a hearing, nor an opportunity to respond to the
18 reasons for his placement. (*Id.* at 17.) Moving Defendants argue Plaintiff has no liberty
19 interest in being free from administrative segregation. Accordingly, Plaintiff has failed to
20 show a specific constitutional guarantee safeguarding interests that have been invaded,
21 and consequently has not stated a claim for which relief can be granted. (Doc. 55-1 at 4.)

22 Pretrial detainees are protected from punishment without due process under the
23 Due Process Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment. United States v. Salerno, 481 U.S.
24 739 (1987); Bell v. Wolfish, 441 U.S. 520, 535-36 (1979). Interests that are procedurally
25 protected by the Due Process Clause may arise from two sources: the Due Process Clause
26 itself and the laws of the states. Meachum v. Fano, 427 U.S. 215, 223-27 (1976). Plaintiff
27 contends he was not afforded due process when he was placed into administrative
28 segregation. Due process for initial placement in administrative segregation for security

1 purposes (compared to placement in administrative segregation for disciplinary reasons)
2 requires only an informal, nonadversary hearing within a reasonable time after the
3 prisoner is segregated, wherein the prisoner is notified of the reasons for the segregation
4 and allowed an opportunity to present his views. Toussaint v. McCarthy, 801 F.2d 1080,
5 1100 (9th Cir. 1986), overruled in part on other grounds, Sandin v. Conner, 515 U.S. 47
6 (1995). This is notably a less stringent standard than procedural due process generally
7 requires, *i.e.*, a detailed written notice of charges, representation by counsel or counsel-
8 substitute, and an opportunity to present witnesses or a written decision. Id. at 1100–01.

9 Here, Plaintiff was placed in administrative segregation immediately upon his
10 arrival at SDCJ on August 3, 2016. (Doc. 1 at 11.) According to Plaintiff, no reason was
11 given when he first inquired during his initial transport to administrative segregation; nor
12 was any reason provided after multiple formal inquiries made through inmate requests to
13 “classification” and verbally to floor deputies. (Id. at 1, 13-14.)

14 Moving Defendants argue Plaintiff was placed into administrative segregation in
15 accordance with the San Diego Sheriff’s authority to manage the jail. (Doc. 55-1 at 4-5.)
16 Furthermore, Moving Defendants argue Plaintiff was placed into administrative
17 segregation as part of a general effort to “maintain security and order within the jail.” (Id.
18 at 5.)

19 Despite Moving Defendants’ argument, Plaintiff was entitled to the above
20 procedural due process as a pretrial detainee initially entering SDCJ and being placed in
21 administrative segregation. See Toussaint, 801 F.2d at 1100-01. Accordingly, Plaintiff
22 should have received an informal nonadversary hearing within a reasonable time, a
23 notification of the reason for his placement in administrative segregation, and an
24 opportunity at the hearing to present his views. Plaintiff was not provided any of these
25 things. Thus, Plaintiff has shown a specific constitutional guarantee – the Due Process
26 Clause – safeguarding his liberty interest in remaining in the general population as
27 opposed to administrative segregation. It follows then that Plaintiff has stated a sufficient
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1 basis for his claim that his right to procedural due process under the Fourteenth
2 Amendment has been violated.

3 **D. Conditions of Incarceration**

4 Plaintiff states he was a pretrial detainee at the time of the alleged violations. (Doc.
5 1 at 11.) However, both Plaintiff and Moving Defendants analyze Plaintiff’s second and
6 third causes of action under the Eighth Amendment. (Id. at 17-18. Doc. 55-1 at 5-9.)
7 Under the applicable Rule 12(b)(6) standards, the Court accepts Plaintiff’s claim that he
8 was a pretrial detainee, and thus analyzes his claims as arising under the due process
9 guarantee of the Fourteenth Amendment which is applicable to the claims, instead of the
10 Eighth Amendment.

11 In Plaintiff’s second and third causes of action, Plaintiff contends his Eighth
12 Amendment right to protection from cruel and unusual punishment was violated. (Doc. 1
13 at 17-18). The bases of Plaintiff’s claims respectively are the conditions causing
14 Plaintiff’s sleep deprivation and SDCJ’s scheduling yard time in the early morning hours
15 in a sunless room, thus requiring Plaintiff to choose either yard time or sleep. Moving
16 Defendants argue that Plaintiff’s inability to sleep and timing of his recreation are
17 insufficient to implicate the Eighth Amendment. (Doc. 55-1 at 5-6.)

18 Because Plaintiff filed his complaint *pro se* (Doc. 1) and “courts must generally
19 construe *pro se* pleadings liberally,” these claims will be considered as brought under the
20 Fourteenth Amendment instead of the Eighth Amendment. Hall v. Bellmon, 935 F.2d
21 1106, 1110 (10th Cir. 1991) (“[T]his [liberal construction] rule means that if the court can
22 reasonably read the pleadings to state a valid claim on which the plaintiff could prevail, it
23 should do so despite the plaintiff’s failure to cite proper legal authority, [or] his confusion
24 of various legal theories . . .”).

25 Plaintiff was a pretrial detainee at the time of the alleged deprivation, instead of a
26 convicted inmate, so his constitutional claims “arise[] from the due process clause of the
27 [F]ourteenth [A]mendment and not from the [E]ighth [A]mendment prohibition against
28 cruel and unusual punishment.” Jones v. Johnson, 781 F.2d 769, 771 (9th Cir. 1986)

1 (citing Bell v. Wolfish, 441 U.S. 520, 573 n. 16 (1979)), overruled on other grounds by
2 Peralta v. Dillard, 744 F.3d 1076 (9th Cir. 2014). “[T]he more protective [F]ourteenth
3 [A]mendment standard applies to conditions of confinement when detainees . . . have not
4 been convicted” of a crime. Gary H. v. Hegstrom, 831 F.2d 1430, 1432 (9th Cir. 1987)
5 (citing Youngberg v. Romeo, 457 U.S. 307 (1982) (civilly committed individuals); Bell,
6 441 U.S. at 535 n.16 (pretrial detainees)). “[T]he Fourteenth Amendment prohibits all
7 punishment of pretrial detainees. . . .” Demery v. Arpaio, 378 F.3d 1020, 1029 (9th Cir.
8 2004) (comparing the Fourteenth Amendment to the Eighth Amendment). “This standard
9 differs significantly from the standard relevant to convicted prisoners, who may be
10 subject to punishment so long as it does not violate the Eighth Amendment’s bar against
11 cruel and unusual punishment.” Pierce v. Cnty. Of Orange, 526 F.3d 1190, 1205 (9th Cir.
12 2008) (citing Bell, 441 U.S. at 535 n.16).

13 Thus, because Plaintiff was a pretrial detainee at the time his causes of action
14 arose, his claims would be properly brought and analyzed under the Fourteenth
15 Amendment versus the Eighth Amendment. Under the Fourteenth Amendment, the
16 government is required to do more than provide the “minimal civilized measure of life’s
17 necessities,” Rhodes v. Chapman, 452 U.S. 337, 347 (1981), to non-convicted detainees.
18 To assess the constitutionality of pretrial detention conditions that implicate due process
19 rights protecting liberty interests, a district court must determine whether those conditions
20 amount to punishment of the detainee. Bell, 441 U.S. at 535; Pierce, 526 F.3d at 1205;
21 Demery, 378 F.3d at 1029.

22 While a convicted inmate may be punished within the restrictions of the Eighth
23 Amendment, a pretrial detainee has yet to be judged guilty of a crime and therefore may
24 not be “punished,” but rather only detained to ensure his presence at trial. Bell, 441 U.S.
25 at 535–36. During the detention period, a pretrial detainee may properly be subject to the
26 conditions of the jail so long as they do not amount to punishment. Id at 536–37. But
27 given that pretrial detainees’ substantive due process rights under the Fourteenth
28 Amendment and convicted prisoners’ rights under the Eighth Amendment are

1 “comparable,” the standard derived from Eighth Amendment jurisprudence is used for
2 both. Frost v. Agnos, 152 F.3d 1124, 1128 (9th Cir. 1998) (citing Redman v. County of
3 San Diego, 942 F.2d 1435, 1441 (9th Cir. 1991)).

4 *1. Sleep Deprivation*

5 Plaintiff presents in his complaint a situation where his cell is brightly illuminated,
6 consistently disrupted by counts, and filled with the various loud noises present in SDCJ.
7 (Doc. 1 at 11-13, 15.) Plaintiff alleges these conditions created an unusually harsh
8 environment that is adverse to sleep. Moving Defendants respond by contending these
9 conditions are incident to being incarcerated. (Doc. 55-1 at 7.) According to Moving
10 Defendants, these conditions are either necessary to preserve the safety of the facility, *i.e.*
11 counts done, or simply uncontrollable by the prison staff, *i.e.* mentally ill patients making
12 noise. (Id. at 7-8. Doc. 1 at 13, where Plaintiff alleges mentally ill inmates “who
13 screamed, yelled, [and] banged loudly” were also a cause of Plaintiff’s sleep deprivation.)
14 Either way, Moving Defendants argue the conditions leading to Plaintiff’s sleep
15 deprivation do not amount to valid punishments which violate Plaintiff’s constitutional
16 rights. (Doc. 55-1 at 6.)

17 “‘Adequate lighting is one of the fundamental attributes of “adequate shelter”
18 required by the Eighth Amendment.’ Moreover, ‘[t]here is no legitimate penological
19 justification for requiring [inmates] to suffer physical and psychological harm by living in
20 constant illumination.’” Keenan v. Hall, 83 F.3d 1083, 1090 (9th Cir. 1996) (citations and
21 internal quotations omitted; brackets in original) amended by 135 F.3d 1318 (9th Cir.
22 1998) (where the court held there was a triable issue of fact on a continuous lighting
23 claim where a prisoner was subjected to two large fluorescent lights that were kept on 24
24 hours a day for six months); see also Hoptowit v. Spellman, 753 F.2d 779, 783 (9th Cir.
25 1985); Hoptowit v. Ray, 682 F.2d 1237, 1257–58 (9th Cir. 1982). “[P]ublic conceptions
26 of decency inherent in the Eighth Amendment require that [inmates] be housed in an
27 environment that, if not quiet, is at least reasonably free of excess noise.” Keenan, 83
28 F.3d at 1090.

1 In LeMaire v. Maass, 745 F.Supp. 623, 636 (Ore. 1990), the court there found that
2 24 hour per day illumination of plaintiff's cell was a violation of plaintiff's rights. The
3 court recognized that in the abstract, the constant illumination was a legitimate
4 penological justification; but, in practice, there was no reason for the jail staff to see into
5 the cells 24 hours per day nor was the staff even near the cells 24 hours per day. Id. This
6 case is clearly distinguishable because Plaintiff was not subjected to 24 hours of bright
7 illumination. Instead, jail staff dimmed the lights during the evening hours, specifically to
8 facilitate sleep. (Doc. 1 at 12. Doc. 55-1 at 8.)

9 The lighting Plaintiff complains of simply cannot be considered punishment giving
10 rise to a Fourteenth Amendment violation. Here, there are clearly legitimate penological
11 purposes for the bright lights being turned on for 19 hours a day: the facility staff must be
12 able to see into the cells to conduct checks during the nighttime hours. Similarly, the
13 noise level at SDCJ is not so excessive to be considered a violation of Plaintiff's rights. It
14 is unfortunate that Plaintiff cannot sleep in these conditions, and has allegedly suffered
15 many afflictions as a result of his sleep deprivations, but these conditions cannot be
16 considered punishment because they are incidental to detention and not so excessive as to
17 violate Plaintiff's rights.

18 Because the SDCJ's conditions Plaintiff complains of either serve legitimate
19 penological purposes or are out of the facility staff's control, Plaintiff's claims regarding
20 the conditions causing his sleep deprivation are not a sufficient basis to allege a violation
21 of Plaintiff's rights.

22 2. Denial of Yard Time

23 Plaintiff further contends he has been effectively denied the right to go to the yard
24 and exercise because of the early morning hours designated for the activity. (Id.) Moving
25 Defendants classify Plaintiff's complaint as one based on an "inconvenience" rather than
26 an actual deprivation. (Doc. 55-1 at 8-9.) As such, Moving Defendants argue Plaintiff has
27 not stated a claim regarding his access to the yard.

28 //

1 “Deprivation of outdoor exercise violates the Eighth Amendment rights of inmates
2 confined to continuous and long-term segregation.” Keenan, 83 F.3d at 1089 (citing
3 Spain v. Procunier, 600 F.2d 189, 199 (9th Cir. 1979)), amended by 135 F.3d 1318 (9th
4 Cir. 1998); see also Hearn v. Terhune, 413 F.3d 1036, 1042 (9th Cir. 2005); Allen v.
5 Sakai, 48 F.3d 1082, 1087 (9th Cir. 1994); Allen v. City of Honolulu, 39 F.3d 936, 938–
6 39 (9th Cir. 1994); LeMaire v. Maass, 12 F.3d 1444, 1457–58 (9th Cir. 1993). However,
7 a “temporary denial of outdoor exercise with no medical effects is not a substantial
8 deprivation.” May v. Baldwin, 109 F.3d 557, 565 (9th Cir. 1997); see also Frost, 152
9 F.3d at 1130 (“[a] one-time, accidental denial of recreation cannot support a
10 constitutional claim”).

11 Prison officials may restrict outdoor exercise on the basis of weather, unusual
12 circumstances, or disciplinary needs. See Spain, 600 F.2d at 199. “The cost or
13 inconvenience of providing adequate [exercise] facilities[, however,] is not a defense to
14 the imposition of a cruel punishment.” Id. at 200. Determining what constitutes adequate
15 exercise requires consideration of “the physical characteristics of the cell and jail and the
16 average length of stay of the inmates.” Houseley v. Dodson, 41 F.3d 597, 599 (10th Cir.
17 1994). For example, in Pierce, 526 F.3d 1190, the pretrial detainees in administrative
18 segregation were typically allowed only 90 minutes weekly for exercise. Id. at 1212. The
19 court there found this allotment was clearly grounds for a violation of § 1983. Id.

20 Here, however, Plaintiff alleges not that he is wholly denied the opportunity to
21 exercise, but rather that the opportunity is at a time when Plaintiff must choose between
22 exercise and sleep. (Doc. 1 at 12.) Plaintiff, and other inmates and pretrial detainees in
23 administrative segregation, are given the opportunity to exercise between 1:00 a.m. and
24 3:30 a.m., a two and a half hour period of time. (Id.) However, Plaintiff objects to the fact
25 that this opportunity demands Plaintiff sacrifice half of the daily allotted time with the
26 lights dimmed in order to exercise.

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1 This perceived inconvenient timing of the opportunity to exercise, which Plaintiff
2 alleges is a violation of his rights, is not a “punishment.” Instead, the timing is merely
3 unappealing to Plaintiff. This is not enough to claim a violation of a constitutional right.

4 Because “the County has considerable discretion to curtail access to exercise based
5 on security concerns,” and Plaintiff is not denied the right to exercise entirely, Plaintiff
6 has not shown facts sufficient to state a claim. Pierce, 526 F.3d at 1212 (citing Bell, 441
7 U.S. at 539 n.23).

8 Conversely, Plaintiff’s claim that the “yard” area is an indoor room with no access
9 to sunlight or the outdoors is a valid claim. Outdoor exercise is extremely important to
10 the psychological and physical well-being of those incarcerated in either a jail or prison.
11 In Spain, the court found the denial of outdoor exercise, and the fresh air enjoyed during
12 outdoor exercise, was a constitutional violation. 600 F.2d 189 (citing Spain v. Proconier,
13 408 F.Supp 534, 547 (N.D. Cal. 1976)). Here, the lack of *outdoor* exercise provides
14 grounds for a claim that Plaintiff’s rights have been violated. Although Plaintiff has not
15 stated a valid claim in regard to the timing of his opportunity to go to the yard and
16 exercise, Plaintiff has stated a valid claim in regard to the lack of *outdoor* yard time.

17 **E. 1983 Affirmative Participation Requirement**

18 While Plaintiff has stated two legitimate claims under the Fourteenth Amendment,
19 the Court concludes that Moving Defendants lack the personal participation required to
20 be liable under § 1983. A person subjects another to a deprivation of a constitutional right
21 within the meaning of § 1983 if the person does an affirmative act, participates in
22 another’s affirmative act, or omits to perform an act which he is legally required to do
23 that causes the deprivation complained of. Johnson v. Duffy, 588 F.2d 740 (9th Cir.
24 1978).

25 Here, Plaintiff named 51 defendants in his complaint. (Doc. 1 at 3.) These
26 defendants are those jail staff members who Plaintiff “personally spoke to” about his
27 various complaints as well as San Diego County and Sheriff William Gore. (Id. at 3, 14.)
28 Whether Plaintiff’s “putting each [defendant] on notice of the specific” complaints is

1 sufficient to give each defendant an affirmative role in the deprivations is unclear. (Doc.
2 1 at 14.) However what is clear is that “negligent conduct cannot by definition establish
3 ‘affirmative abuse of power’ necessary to constitute a due process deprivation.” See
4 Daniels v. Williams, 474 U.S. 327, 330–32 (1986).

5 Plaintiff alleges that he verbally notified each named defendant, except San Diego
6 County and Sheriff Gore, of his perceived deprivations. (Doc. 1 at 14.) Plaintiff states no
7 facts indicating these defendants either affirmatively caused the deprivation, or that after
8 being notified, took any action which would make the defendant an affirmative
9 participant. Instead of alleging the required affirmative action by defendants, Plaintiff has
10 not alleged any further action beyond negligence, which is insufficient to state a claim
11 under § 1983. See Daniels, 474 U.S. at 330–32. Thus, Plaintiff’s claims seeming to be
12 valid – Plaintiff’s first and third causes of action – fail for this reason and must also be
13 denied.

14 **IV. CONCLUSION**

15 This Report and Recommendation is submitted to the Honorable Janis L.
16 Sammartino, United States District Judge, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1) and Local
17 Civil Rule 72.1(c)(1)(c) of the United States District Court for the Southern District of
18 California. For the reasons outlined above, **IT IS HEREBY RECOMMENDED** that the
19 Court issue an Order: (1) approving and adopting this Report and Recommendation, and
20 (2) directing that Judgment be entered **GRANTING** the Motion to Dismiss.

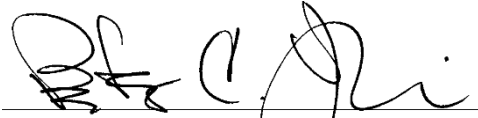
21 Any party may file written objections with the Court and serve a copy on all parties
22 on or before **November 27, 2017**. The document should be captioned “Objections to
23 Report and Recommendation.” Any reply to the Objections shall be served and filed on
24 or before **December 11, 2017**. The parties are advised that failure to file objections
25 within the specific time may waive the right to appeal the district court’s order. *Martinez*
26 *v. Ylst*, 951 F.2d 1153, 1157 (9th Cir. 1991).

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1 **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

2 Dated: November 8, 2017



Hon. Peter C. Lewis
United States Magistrate Judge

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