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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

ALI ALEJANDRO MENDOZA, an  
individual,  
  
Plaintiff,  
  
v.  
  
CITY OF NATIONAL CITY;  
BENJAMIN PECK,  
  
Defendants.

Case No.: 18cv775-JAH-BGS

**ORDER GRANTING IN PART  
AND DENYING IN PART  
DEFENDANTS CITY OF  
NATIONAL CITY AND  
BENJAMIN PECK’S MOTION  
FOR SUMMARY JUDGMENT**

**INTRODUCTON**

Pending before the Court is Defendant National City’s (“National City”) and Benjamin Peck’s (“Defendant Peck” or “Peck”) (collectively “Defendants”) motion for summary judgment. After careful consideration of the record, including the pleadings and exhibits submitted by the parties, and for the reasons set forth below, Defendants’ motion is **GRANTED IN PART AND DENIED IN PART**, as set forth herein.

**BACKGROUND**

**1. Factual Background**

On July 12, 2014, Plaintiff Ali Alejandro Mendoza (“Plaintiff” or “Mendoza”), a 19-year-old male, was crossing a two-lane intersection within a marked crosswalk with a

1 friend. As they crossed the street, Plaintiff looked over and saw that the vehicle was going  
2 to collide with them. Plaintiff pushed his friend out of the way, was struck by the vehicle,  
3 and rolled into the windshield. The vehicle was driven by Thomas Malandris, a Special  
4 Agent of the Department of Homeland Security.

5 Plaintiff was then transferred to the hospital by ambulance, where he was  
6 administered 8 milligrams of morphine for his pain. Shortly thereafter, an officer with the  
7 National City Police arrived at the scene, called for an ambulance, and initiated a traffic  
8 collision investigation. National City Police Officer Benjamin Peck (“Defendant Peck” or  
9 “Peck”) completed the portion of the traffic collision report relating to Plaintiff. Peck next  
10 went to the hospital after the collision to interview Plaintiff.

11 Upon arrival Peck confiscated a pipe from Plaintiff and began questioning him about  
12 his use of illegal drugs, after which Plaintiff admitted to smoking marijuana earlier in the  
13 day. Peck claims that he obtained knowing and voluntary consent from Plaintiff for a blood  
14 draw, but Plaintiff does not recall giving any consent, and the blood was never tested for  
15 marijuana. Plaintiff also admitted during his deposition to inhaling five puffs from a water  
16 pipe (bong) earlier that day.

## 17 **2. Procedural Background**

18 On July 10, 2015, Plaintiff filed a suit for damages, asserting a claim for Negligence  
19 against the USA and Defendant National City. Defendant National City answered the  
20 Complaint on July 31, 2015. On February 24, 2016, Plaintiff moved this Court for leave to  
21 file a First Amended Complaint (“FAC”). Defendant’s motion was granted on April 19,  
22 2016, and Plaintiff timely filed his FAC on April 29, 2016. The FAC joined Defendants  
23 Malandris, Peck, and Nuttal, and asserted seven causes of action: (1) Negligence; (2)  
24 violations of Cal. Civ. Code §§ 51, 52, 52.1, the Bane Act; (3) violations of 42 U.S.C. §  
25 1983; (4) violations of 42 U.S.C. §§ 1985(2)-(3); (5) violations of § 42 U.S.C. § 1986; (6)  
26 Intentional Infliction of Emotional Distress (IIED); and (7) violations of federal civil rights,  
27 under *Bivens v. Six Unknown Named Agents of Federal Bureau of Narcotics*, 403 U.S. 388  
28 (1971).

1 On May 13, 2016, Defendant National City filed its motion for summary judgment  
2 and partial summary judgment. Neither motion was briefed. In lieu of responding to  
3 Defendants' motion for summary judgment, Plaintiff filed a Second Amended Complaint  
4 ("SAC") on May 31, 2016, asserting seven causes of action against Defendants USA,  
5 National City, Malandris, Peck, and Nuttal, for (1) Negligence; (2) violations of Cal. Civ.  
6 Code §§ 51, 52, 52.1, the Bane Act; (3) violations of 42 U.S.C. § 1983; (4) violations of  
7 42 U.S.C. §§ 1985(2)-(3); (5) violations of § 42 U.S.C. § 1986; (6) IIED; and (7) violations  
8 of federal civil rights, under *Bivens*.

9 On June 13, 2016, the National City Defendants filed a motion for summary  
10 judgment or partial summary judgment, as to the SAC. On March 31, 2017, the Court  
11 granted the defendants motion with respect to (1) the claim of dual liability against the  
12 United States and National City for the actions of Officer Malandris, (2) the fact that the  
13 United States was the sole employer of Officer Malandris, and therefore National City  
14 cannot be liable for Malandris's actions through respondeat superior, and (3) Mendoza's  
15 IIED claim. *See* Case No. 15-cv-1528, Dkt. 116. The Court further granted the defendants'  
16 motion, finding that (1) the National City defendants, including Defendant Peck, fell under  
17 Cal. Govt. Code § 821.6 and were immune from liability for the alleged negligent and  
18 reckless failure to investigate the collision, and (2) the United States Constitution does not  
19 provide a fundamental right to a corrected traffic report. *See id.* But denied the motion with  
20 regard to whether Plaintiff's civil rights were violated during the events leading up to and  
21 including Defendant Peck's hospital interview and Plaintiff's consent to the blood draw.  
22 *See id.*

23 On January 5, 2018, Defendants National City and Peck filed a Motion to Amend  
24 the Scheduling Order, in which they sought permission to file a successive motion for  
25 summary judgment. Specifically, Defendants argued they had not had a proper opportunity  
26 to fully brief their qualified immunity defense with regard to Plaintiff's Fourth and Fifth  
27 Amendment claims and Bane Act claims. *See* Case No. 15-cv-1528, Dkt. 141. Therefore,  
28 on April 20, 2018, the Court granted Defendants National City and Peck's motion

1 permitting them to file a successive motion for summary judgment specifically limited to  
2 their qualified immunity defense. *See* Case No. 15-cv-1528, Dkt. 155. That same day, the  
3 Court granted Defendants National City and Peck’s joint motion to sever Plaintiff’s claims  
4 against them from the remaining defendants in the original case. *See* Case No. 15-cv-1528,  
5 Dkt. 156. Thus under the instant case number, Defendants National City and Peck seek a  
6 summary judgment order finding that Defendant Peck is entitled to qualified immunity  
7 with regard to Plaintiff’s constitutional claims. The matter has been fully briefed. The Court  
8 took the matter under submission.

## 9 DISCUSSION

### 10 **1. Summary Judgment Standard**

11 Summary judgment is appropriate under Rule 56(c) of the Federal Rules of Civil  
12 Procedure where the moving party demonstrates the absence of a genuine issue of material  
13 fact and entitlement to judgment as a matter of law. Fed. R. Civ. P. 56(c); *Celotex Corp. v.*  
14 *Catrett*, 477 U.S. 317, 322 (1986). A fact is material when, under the governing substantive  
15 law, it could affect the outcome of the case. *See Anderson v. Liberty Lobby, Inc.*, 477 U.S.  
16 242, 248 (1986); *Freeman v. Arpaio*, 125 F.3d 732, 735 (9th Cir. 1997). A dispute about a  
17 material fact is genuine if “the evidence is such that a reasonable jury could return a verdict  
18 for the nonmoving party.” *Anderson*, 477 U.S. at 248.

19 A party seeking summary judgment always bears the initial burden of establishing  
20 the absence of a genuine issue of material fact. *See Celotex*, 477 U.S. at 323. The moving  
21 party may satisfy this burden in two ways: (1) by presenting evidence that negates an  
22 essential element of the nonmoving party’s case; or (2) by demonstrating that the  
23 nonmoving party failed to make a showing sufficient to establish an element essential to  
24 that party’s case on which that party will bear the burden of proof at trial. *Id.* at 322-23.  
25 Where the party moving for summary judgment does not bear the burden of proof at trial,  
26 it may show that no genuine issue of material fact exists by demonstrating that “there is an  
27 absence of evidence to support the non-moving party’s case.” *Id.* at 325. The moving party  
28 is not required to produce evidence showing the absence of a genuine issue of material fact,

1 nor is it required to offer evidence negating the moving party's claim. *Lujan v. National*  
2 *Wildlife Fed'n*, 497 U.S. 871, 885 (1990); *United Steelworkers v. Phelps Dodge Corp.*, 865  
3 F.2d 1539, 1542 (9th Cir. 1989). "Rather, the motion may, and should, be granted so long  
4 as whatever is before the District Court demonstrates that the standard for the entry of  
5 judgment, as set forth in Rule 56(c), is satisfied." *Lujan*, 497 U.S. at 885 (quoting *Celotex*,  
6 477 U.S. at 323). "Disputes over irrelevant or unnecessary facts will not preclude a grant  
7 of summary judgment." *T.W. Elec. Serv., Inc. v. Pacific Elec. Contractors Ass'n*, 809 F.2d  
8 626, 630 (9th Cir. 1987).

9 "The district court may limit its review to the documents submitted for purpose of  
10 summary judgment and those parts of the record specifically referenced therein." *Carmen*  
11 *v. San Francisco Unified Sch. Dist.*, 237 F.3d 1026, 1030 (9th Cir. 2001). Therefore, the  
12 court is not obligated "to scour the record in search of a genuine issue of triable fact."  
13 *Keenan v. Allen*, 91 F.3d 1275, 1279 (9th Cir. 1996) (citing *Richards v. Combined Ins. Co.*,  
14 55 F.3d 247, 251 (7th Cir. 1995)). If the moving party fails to discharge this initial burden,  
15 summary judgment must be denied and the court need not consider the nonmoving party's  
16 evidence. *See Adickes v. S.H. Kress & Co.*, 398 U.S. 144, 159-60 (1970).

17 If the moving party meets the initial burden, the nonmoving party cannot defeat  
18 summary judgment merely by demonstrating "that there is some metaphysical doubt as to  
19 the material facts." *Matsushita Elec. Indus. Co., Ltd. v. Zenith Radio Corp.*, 475 U.S. 574,  
20 586 (1986); *see also Anderson*, 477 U.S. at 252 ("The mere existence of a scintilla of  
21 evidence in support of the nonmoving party's position is not sufficient."). Rather, the  
22 nonmoving party must "go beyond the pleadings and by her own affidavits, or by the  
23 depositions, answers to interrogatories, and admissions on file, designate specific facts  
24 showing that there is a genuine issue for trial." *Celotex*, 477 U.S. at 324 (quoting  
25 Fed.R.Civ.P. 56(e)) (internal quotations omitted).

26 When making this determination, the court must view all inferences drawn from the  
27 underlying facts in the light most favorable to the nonmoving party. *See Matsushita*, 475  
28 U.S. at 587. "Credibility determinations, the weighing of evidence, and the drawing of

1 legitimate inferences from the facts are jury functions, not those of a judge, [when] he [or  
2 she] is ruling on a motion for summary judgment.” *Anderson*, 477 U.S. at 255.

3         The Ninth Circuit has previously acknowledged that declarations are often self-  
4 serving, and this is properly so because the party submitting it would use the declaration to  
5 support his or her position. *S.E.C. v. Phan*, 500 F.3d 895, 909 (9th Cir. 2007) (holding that  
6 the district court erred in disregarding declarations as “uncorroborated and self-serving”).  
7 Although the source of the evidence may have some bearing on its credibility and on the  
8 weight it may be given by a trier of fact, the district court may not disregard a piece of  
9 evidence at the summary judgment stage solely based on its self-serving nature. *See id.*  
10 However, a self-serving declaration that states only conclusions and uncorroborated facts  
11 would not generally be admissible evidence. *See id.*; *see also Villiarimo v. Aloha Island*  
12 *Air, Inc.*, 281 F.3d 1054, 1059 n. 5, 1061 (9th Cir. 2002) (holding that the district court  
13 properly disregarded the declaration that included facts beyond the declarant’s personal  
14 knowledge and did not indicate how she knew the facts to be true); *F.T.C. v. Publ’g*  
15 *Clearing House, Inc.*, 104 F.3d 1168, 1171 (9th Cir. 1997) (“A conclusory, self-serving  
16 affidavit, lacking detailed facts and any supporting evidence, is insufficient to create a  
17 genuine issue of material fact.”).

## 18         **2. Qualified Immunity**

19         Defendants argue they are entitled to Summary Judgment on Plaintiff’s Fourth and  
20 Fifth Amendment based § 1983 claims, because Defendant Peck is entitled to qualified  
21 immunity. Under established precedent, “[q]ualified immunity ‘gives government officials  
22 breathing room to make reasonable but mistaken judgments,’ and ‘protects all but the  
23 plainly incompetent or those who knowingly violate the law.’” *Messerschmidt v.*  
24 *Millender*, 565 U.S. 535, 547 (2012) (citing *Aschroft v. al-Kidd*, 563 U.S. 731, 743 (2011)).  
25 “[Q]ualified immunity is important to society as a whole and because, as an immunity from  
26 suit, qualified immunity is effectively lost if a case is erroneously permitted to go to trial.”  
27 *White v. Pauly*, 137 S. Ct. 548, 551 (2017) (per curiam) (quotation marks and citations  
28 omitted).

1 Under the doctrine of qualified immunity, officials are protected from civil liability  
2 “so long as their conduct ‘does not violate clearly established statutory or constitutional  
3 rights of which a reasonable person would have known.’” *Mullenix v. Luna*, 577 U.S. 7, 11  
4 (2015) (quoting *Pearson v. Callahan*, 555 U.S. 223, 231(2009). The qualified immunity  
5 analysis requires a two-prong test; the Court must determine 1) whether the plaintiff’s  
6 alleged facts establish a violation of a constitutional right, and 2) whether that right was  
7 clearly established at the time of the defendant’s alleged misconduct. *Frudden v. Pilling*,  
8 877 F.3d 821, 831 (9th Cir. 2017) (quoting *Pearson*, 555 U.S. at 232). Courts may engage  
9 the two prongs in any order, but under either prong courts may not resolve genuine disputes  
10 of fact in favor of the party seeking summary judgment, as an extension of general rules of  
11 summary judgment. *Tolan v. Cotton*, 572 U.S. 650, 656 (2014) (citations omitted). Both  
12 prongs must be satisfied to overcome a qualified immunity defense. *Shafer v. Cty. Of Santa*  
13 *Barbara*, 868 F.3d 1110, 1115 (9th Cir. 2017).

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## 16 ANALYSIS

### 17 **1. Fourth Amendment Search**

18 The Court looks first to the second prong of the qualified immunity analysis -  
19 whether that right Plaintiff asserts was violated was clearly established at the time of the  
20 defendant’s alleged misconduct. The Supreme Court has held that invasions of the body  
21 are searches and therefore entitled to protection under the Fourth Amendment. *Skinner v.*  
22 *Ry. Labor Executives’ Ass’n*, 489 U.S. 602, 616-17, 109 S. Ct. 1402, 103 L. Ed. 2d 639  
23 (1989) (breathalyzer and urine sample); *Cupp v. Murphy*, 412 U.S. 291, 295, 93 S. Ct.  
24 2000, 36 L. Ed. 2d 900 (1973) (fingernail scrapings); *Schmerber v. California*, 384 U.S.  
25 757, 767-71, 86 S. Ct. 1826, 16 L. Ed. 2d 908 (1966) (blood). In *Schmerber*, the Supreme  
26 Court plainly stated: “The interests in human dignity and privacy which the Fourth  
27 Amendment protects forbid any such intrusions on the mere chance that desired evidence  
28 might be obtained,” concluding “[t]he importance of informed, detached and deliberate

1 determinations of the issue whether or not to invade another’s body in search of evidence  
2 of guilt is indisputable and great.”

3 Defendants assert that the burden is on Plaintiff to prove that the right allegedly  
4 violated was clearly established at the time of the blood draw. *Shafer v. Cty. Of Santa*  
5 *Barbara*, 868 F.3d 1110, 1118 (9th Cir. 2017). However, while the law of the Ninth Circuit  
6 is conflicting on the burden issue<sup>1</sup>, the Court finds it may resolve this second prong inquiry  
7 without engaging in that analysis as “[t]he rule that a search violates the Fourth  
8 Amendment if it is not supported by either probable cause and a warrant or a recognized  
9 exception to the warrant requirement has long been clearly established.” *Friedman*, 580  
10 F.3d at 858. Furthermore, precedent from both the Supreme Court and the Ninth Circuit  
11 makes clear that such invasions of the body, absent a warrant or applicable exception, are  
12 unreasonable and therefore violate the Fourth Amendment. *Minnesota v. Dickerson*, 508  
13 U.S. 366, 372 (1993) (“[S]earches and seizures ‘conducted outside the judicial process,  
14 without prior approval by judge or magistrate, are *per se* unreasonable under the Fourth  
15 Amendment -- subject only to a few specifically established and well delineated  
16 exceptions”); *Friedman v. Boucher*, 580 F.3d 847, 858 (9th Cir. 2009) (“The warrantless,  
17 suspicionless, forcible extraction of a DNA sample from a private citizen violates the  
18 Fourth Amendment”). As a result, the Court finds that the right asserted by Plaintiff was  
19 clearly established at the time of the defendant’s alleged misconduct.

20 Next, the Court considers the first prong - whether the plaintiff’s alleged facts  
21 establish a violation of a constitutional right. Defendants cannot and do not argue that a  
22 warrantless blood draw from Mr. Mendoza, who was under suspicion of no crime, would  
23 not violate the Fourth Amendment. Rather, Defendants argue that Plaintiff consented to  
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26 <sup>1</sup> Established Ninth Circuit precedent places the burden squarely on the plaintiff to prove that the right  
27 allegedly violated was clearly established at the time of the alleged misconduct. *LSO, Ltd. v. Stroh*, 205  
28 F.3d 1146, 1157 (9th Cir. 2000); *Romero v. Kitsap County*, 931 F.2d 62, 627 (9th Cir. 1991). However,  
more recent precedent holds that “[q]ualified immunity is an affirmative defense that the government  
has the burden of pleading and proving.” *Frudden v. Pilling*, 877 F.3d 821, 831 (9th Cir. 2017).



1 the blood draw, and therefore the blood draw falls within an established exception to  
2 otherwise binding Fourth Amendment precedent. *Schneckloth v. Bustamonte*, 412 U.S.  
3 218, 219 (1973) (“It is [] equally well settled that one of the specifically established  
4 exceptions to the requirements of both a warrant and probable cause is a search that is  
5 conducted pursuant to consent (citations omitted)”).

6 It is well established that when the government “seeks to rely upon consent to justify  
7 the lawfulness of a search, it has the burden of proving that the consent was, in fact, freely  
8 and voluntarily given.” *Schneckloth*, 412 U.S. at 222 (quoting *Bumper v. North Carolina*,  
9 391 U.S. 543, 548); *United States v. Soriano*, 361 F.3d 494, 501 (9th Cir. 2004). Thus, with  
10 Fourth Amendment searches, “the real question in determining whether Defendants are  
11 entitled to qualified immunity is whether it was clearly established, at the time of the  
12 search, that such a search fell under any recognized exception.” *Id.* And whether consent  
13 was voluntarily given “is a question of fact to be determined from the totality of all the  
14 circumstances.” *Schenckloth* at 227. As evidence that Plaintiff did in fact consent to the  
15 blood draw, Defendants rely on the declaration of Defendant Peck and the portions of the  
16 Traffic Collision Report he prepared, in which he states Mr. Mendoza consented to the  
17 blood draw, and that he obtained and logged into evidence a medical release for the blood  
18 draw signed by Plaintiff.<sup>2</sup>

19 Plaintiff, on the other hand, argues that he has no memory of consenting to the blood  
20 draw. He recalls only that it occurred. Plaintiff further argues that he was not capable of  
21 consenting, because he had just sustained a traumatic head injury and had been sedated  
22 with morphine to address his pain. In deposition excerpts submitted with his Response and  
23 Opposition to the instant motion, Plaintiff testified that he did not consent to the blood draw  
24 or that he cannot remember consenting to the blood draw, both because of his injury and  
25 the morphine injection. Furthermore, post-collision medical records submitted by Plaintiff  
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28 <sup>2</sup> The release form was not attached to the motion.

1 reveal he was administered 8 milligrams of morphine in the ambulance as he was  
2 transferred to the hospital.

3 When ruling on a motion for summary judgment, the Supreme Court has made clear  
4 a court’s evidentiary function is limited:

5 “Credibility determinations, the weighing of the evidence, and the drawing of  
6 legitimate inferences from the facts are jury functions, not those of a judge,  
7 whether he is ruling on a motion for summary judgment or for a directed  
8 verdict. *The evidence of the nonmovant is to be believed, and all justifiable  
9 inferences are to be drawn in his favor.*”

10 *Anderson v. Liberty Lobby, Inc.*, 477 U.S. 242, 255 (1986) (emphasis added) (citations  
11 omitted).

12 Here, the Court has only the parties’ conflicting accounts and Plaintiff’s medical  
13 records to reference. Drawing all inferences in favor of Mr. Mendoza, Plaintiff has  
14 established a genuine issue of material fact for trial as to whether he ever consented to the  
15 blood draw or whether was even able to consent. A triable issue of fact therefore remains  
16 as to whether Defendants violated Plaintiff’s Fourth Amendment rights.

17 Accordingly, Defendants’ motion for summary judgment, with regard to qualified  
18 immunity on Plaintiff’s Fourth Amendment claims, is **DENIED**.

## 19 **2. Fifth Amendment**

20 Applying the two-prongs of the qualified immunity test to Plaintiff’s Fifth  
21 Amendment claims, the Court finds that Plaintiff has not alleged facts sufficient to establish  
22 a constitutional violation. The Fifth Amendment provides that “[n]o person shall be  
23 compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself.” Under *Chavez v. Martinez*,  
24 the Ninth Circuit has held that the Fifth Amendment right against compelled self-  
25 incrimination applies only when a compelled statement is used against a defendant in a  
26 criminal case. *See Chavez v. Martinez*, 538 U.S. 760, 766-67 (2003) (plurality opinion);  
27 *United States v. Hulen*, 879 F.3d 1015, 1018 (9th Cir. 2018); *Stoot v. City of Everett*, 582  
28 F.3d 910, 922-23 (9th Cir. 2009).

1 Defendants argue that, because Plaintiff has not alleged that any statements offered  
2 during Peck’s questioning were ever used against him in any subsequent criminal  
3 proceeding, he fails to show that his Fifth Amendment rights were violated. In *Stoot v. City*  
4 *of Everett*, the Ninth Circuit held:

5 “A coerced statement has been ‘used’ in a criminal case when it has been  
6 relied upon to file formal charges against the declarant, to determine judicially  
7 that the prosecution may proceed, and to determine pretrial custody status.  
8 Such uses impose precisely the burden precluded by the Fifth Amendment:  
9 namely, they make the declarant a witness against himself in a criminal  
10 proceeding.” *Stoot*, 582 F.3d at 925.

11 As a matter of law, Plaintiff cannot establish a Fifth Amendment violation if none  
12 of his statements were relied upon to file formal charges against him, to determine  
13 judicially that prosecution against him may proceed, or to determine his pretrial custody  
14 status. Viewing the facts and evidence in a light favorable to Plaintiff, the record shows  
15 that Plaintiff was never criminally investigated or prosecuted for a crime where his  
16 statements regarding marijuana use or any other statement allegedly made to Defendant  
17 Peck would have been used. As such, Plaintiff’s alleged facts do not establish a violation  
18 of constitutional law on his Fifth Amendment claim.<sup>3</sup> Accordingly, Defendants’ motion for  
19 summary judgment based upon qualified immunity on Plaintiff’s Fifth Amendment claims  
20 is **GRANTED**.

21 Alternatively, Plaintiff argues that even if Peck’s questioning did not constitute a  
22 Fifth Amendment violation, “it is well established that unlawful police interrogation  
23 techniques can ‘give rise to a substantive due process claim under the Fourteenth  
24 Amendment.’” *Stoot* at 923. Plaintiff contends that Peck conducted his questioning about  
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27 <sup>3</sup> The Court need not address the second prong of the qualified immunity analysis. *Shafer*, 868 F.3d at  
28 1115 (“These two prongs of the analysis need not be considered in any particular order, and *both* prongs  
must be satisfied for a plaintiff to overcome a qualified immunity defense.”).

1 Plaintiff's marijuana use in order to protect one of his own, in an attempt to insulate a law  
2 enforcement officer from the consequences and liability of colliding with Plaintiff while  
3 driving his official government law enforcement vehicle. Plaintiff's due process argument  
4 is presented despite failing to allege a substantive due process violation under the  
5 Fourteenth Amendment as a basis for his § 1983 claim in his Amended Complaint.

6 Plaintiff may not now seek to add a claim by raising it in opposition to a properly  
7 brought motion for summary judgment. *Wasco Prods., Inc. v. Southwall Techs., Inc.*, 435  
8 F.3d 989, 992 (9th Cir. 2006) ("Simply put, summary judgment is not a procedural second  
9 chance to flesh out inadequate pleadings.") (internal quotation marks omitted). The Court  
10 finds Plaintiff's substantive due process claim, having been raised for the first time in  
11 opposition to a motion for summary judgment, should not be entertained at this stage of  
12 the proceeding.

13 However, even assuming Plaintiff's substantive due process claim was properly  
14 before the Court, it would not survive summary judgment because it does not satisfy the  
15 qualified immunity analysis. Ninth Circuit precedent makes clear that unless there is an  
16 obvious case of constitutional misconduct, plaintiffs must identify controlling caselaw  
17 from the Ninth Circuit or United States Supreme Court which "articulates a constitutional  
18 rule specific enough to alert" Peck that his "particular conduct was unlawful." *Sharp v.*  
19 *Cty. of Orange*, 871 F.3d 901, 911 (9th Cir. 2017). While a case need not be directly on  
20 point, Plaintiff has not cited any specific case or controlling authority placing the statutory  
21 or constitutional question beyond debate, such that a reasonable officer would have known  
22 or understood that the conduct complained of would violate that right. *Reichle v. Howard*,  
23 566 U.S. 658 (2012); *Ashcroft v. al-Kidd*, 131 S. Ct. 2074, 2083 (2011). Even if Plaintiff  
24 arguably alleged a Fourteenth Amendment claim(s), the first prong of the qualified  
25 immunity test has not been met, and qualified immunity protects Officer Peck against  
26 Mendoza's Fourteenth Amendment claim(s) as a matter of law.

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1           **3. Bane Act Claims**

2           Defendants argue Plaintiff’s Bane Act claims are predicated on his Fourth and Fifth  
3 Amendment claims, and, therefore, they fail because Plaintiff’s Fourth and Fifth  
4 Amendment claims also fail. Defendants conclude with a footnote inviting the Court to  
5 reconsider its prior denial of summary judgment on Plaintiff’s Bane Act claim. However,  
6 none of Defendants’ arguments inform the Court of *the effect of its qualified immunity*  
7 *defense* on Plaintiff’s Bane Act claims, and therefore fall outside of the narrow scope  
8 proscribed by this Court’s prior Order. As Plaintiff argues in opposition, qualified  
9 immunity is a federal doctrine that does not extend to state claims. *Johnson v. Bay Area*  
10 *Rapid Transit Dist.*, 724 F.3d 1159, 1171 (9th Cir. 2013) (“[T]he doctrine of qualified  
11 immunity does not shield defendants from state law claims.”); *Cousins v. Lockyer*, 568  
12 F.3d 1063, 1072 (9th Cir. 2009) (holding that “California law is clear” that qualified  
13 immunity is a federal doctrine that does not apply to tort or civil rights claims under state  
14 law); *Venegas v. Cty. Of Los Angeles*, 153 Cal.App.4th 1230, 1246 (2007) (“[Q]ualified  
15 immunity of the kind applied to actions brought under 42 [U.S.C. § 1983] does not apply  
16 to actions brought under section 52.1”). Furthermore, California’s Bane Act protects  
17 against a person who “interferes by threat, intimidation, or coercion, or [who] attempts to  
18 interfere by threat, intimidation, or coercion, with the exercise or enjoyment by any  
19 individual or individuals *of rights secured by the Constitution or laws of the United*  
20 *States...*” Cal. Civ. Code § 52.1. As such, to the extent Plaintiff’s Bane Act claims are in  
21 fact predicated on the alleged Fourth Amendment violation, they will be permitted to  
22 proceed. The Court finds Defendants have not satisfied their initial burden on summary  
23 judgment with regard to the Bane Act claims, and Defendants’ motion on this issue is

24 **DENIED.**

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1 **CONCLUSION**

2 For the foregoing reasons, **IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:**

3 1. Defendants' motion for Summary Judgment is **GRANTED IN PART AND**  
4 **DENIED IN PART**, as follows:


5 a. The Court finds that Plaintiff established a genuine dispute of material fact  
6 as to whether he ever consented to Defendant Peck's blood draw.  
7 Defendants' motion for summary judgment as to Plaintiff's Fourth  
8 Amendment claim is **DENIED**;

9 b. Defendants' motion for summary judgment as to Plaintiff's Fifth  
10 Amendment claims is **GRANTED**;

11 c. Defendants' motion for summary judgment as to Plaintiff's Bane Act  
12 claims is **DENIED**.

13 **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

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15  
16 DATED: July 9, 2021

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20 JOHN A. HOUSTON  
21 UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE  
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