

1 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
2 DISTRICT OF NEVADA
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4 RICHARD MATHIS, *et al.*,

5 Plaintiffs,

6 v.

7 COUNTY OF LYON, *et al.*,

8 Defendants.
9

Case No. 2:07-cv-00628-APG-GWF

**ORDER GRANTING IN PART
PLAINTIFFS' RENEWED MOTION
TO ALTER OR AMEND JUDGMENT
TO INCLUDE INTEREST**

(ECF No. 443)

10 After prevailing at trial, the plaintiffs¹ seek to recover pre- and post-judgment interest on
11 their awards of damages and attorneys' fees. ECF No. 443.²

12 **Prejudgment Interest on Property Damages**

13 I previously indicated I would allow prejudgment interest on the plaintiffs' awards of
14 property damages, depending on whether the plaintiffs accepted my suggested remittitur. ECF
15 No. 402 at 29-33. With the remittitur behind us, prejudgment interest on the awards of property
16 damages is appropriate.

17 The plaintiffs' expert has properly calculated interest on those awards, based upon the
18 considerations enunciated in *Schneider v. County of San Diego*, 285 F.3d 784, 793 (9th Cir.
19 2002). ECF Nos. 443-1, 443-2. The expert also properly calculated the period for interest to run
20 from June 1, 2006 (the day after the property was taken) to October 11, 2016 (the day before the
21 amended judgment was entered). *Id.* Thus, I award Richard Mathis prejudgment interest on his
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23 ¹ The renewed motion was filed by plaintiffs Richard Mathis, Anthony Mathis, and the
24 Mathis Trust. Plaintiff James Mathis did not join in the motion or file a similar motion.
Therefore, this Order does not apply to James Mathis.

25 ² Preliminarily, the defendants argue that I do not have jurisdiction to rule on the motion
26 because they have filed a notice of appeal. ECF No. 453 at 6-7. However, I have not yet awarded
27 pre- or post-judgment interest. *See* ECF No. 402 at 30 (holding that an award of interest was
premature). Thus, the defendants could not have appealed any decision regarding interest and the
28 pending appeal does not divest me of jurisdiction to award interest.

1 property damage awards in the amount of \$2,361.00, for a total award of property damages of
2 \$4,586.00. I award Anthony Mathis prejudgment interest on his property damage awards in the
3 amount of \$309.00, for a total award of property damages of \$600.00. I award the Mathis Trust
4 prejudgment interest on its property damage awards in the amount of \$233,990.00, for a total
5 award of property damages of \$448,084.00. ECF Nos. 443 at 13 and 443-1 at 4.

6 **Prejudgment Interest on Emotional Distress Damages**

7 I previously denied prejudgment interest on the plaintiffs' awards of emotional distress
8 damages. ECF No. 402 at 34. The plaintiffs point out that the Ninth Circuit has held that pre-
9 judgment interest may be awarded on non-economic damages. *Barnard v. Theobald*, 721 F.3d
10 1069, 1078 (9th Cir. 2013). But that does not mean that pre-judgment interest must be awarded
11 on such damages. I previously considered whether to do so, but concluded that "[t]he policies
12 supporting prejudgment interest do not support prejudgment interest on the plaintiffs' emotional
13 distress damages in this case." ECF No. 402 at 34. The plaintiffs' current arguments do not
14 convince me to reconsider my earlier decision. I deny the plaintiffs' request for prejudgment
15 interest on their awards of emotional distress damages.

16 **Prejudgment Interest on Attorneys' Fees**

17 The plaintiffs request prejudgment interest on their award of attorneys' fees. ECF No.
18 443 at 14. The plaintiffs' expert has calculated the interest amount based upon when the plaintiffs
19 paid those fees. ECF Nos. 443-3, 459-1, 459-2. The interest rate used was appropriately based on
20 the *Schneider* considerations. *Id.* However, after the expert prepared her report, I awarded the
21 plaintiffs an amount of attorneys' fees that differs from the amount used by the expert. *See* ECF
22 No. 468. Therefore, the expert's calculation is no longer valid. The plaintiffs may supplement
23 their request by providing a new calculation of interest on the fees I awarded them. That
24 supplement is due by May 3, 2017.

25 **Post-judgment interest**

26 The plaintiffs are awarded post-judgment interest on the entirety of their judgment under
27 28 U.S.C. § 1961. The interest rate is set forth in 28 U.S.C. § 1961(a).

1 IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that the plaintiffs' renewed motion for an award of
2 interest (ECF No. 443) is **GRANTED IN PART** as set forth above. The plaintiffs may
3 supplement their calculation of interest on their award of attorneys' fees by May 3, 2017.

4 DATED this 21st day of April, 2017.



5 ANDREW P. GORDON
6 UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE
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