Heggem v. \$mith et al Doc. 89 1 2 3 4 5 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT EASTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON 6 7 LARRY GENE HEGGEM, NO: 4:15-CV-5092-TOR 8 Plaintiff, SECOND ORDER DENYING 9 PLAINTIFF'S MISCELLANEOUS V. MOTIONS FOR RELIEF 10 DR. SMITH, JO ELLA PHILLIPS, and DONALD HOLBROOK. 11 Defendants. 12 13 BEFORE THE COURT are the following motions: (1) Plaintiff's Request for Oral Argument for Preliminary Injunction and Temporary Restraining Order 14 15 (ECF No. 52); (2) Plaintiff's Reply to Court's Order Denying His Motions/ Requesting Reconsideration (ECF No. 59); (3) Plaintiff's Request for One Million 16 17 Dollars in Compensatory and Punitive Damages (ECF No. 76); and (4) Plaintiff's 18 Request for a 30-Day Extension to Reply to Defendants' Motion for Summary 19 20 SECOND ORDER DENYING PLAINTIFF'S MISCELLANEOUS MOTIONS FOR RELIEF ~ 1

Judgment (78).¹ These matters were submitted for consideration without oral argument. This Court—having reviewed the briefing, the record, and files therein—is fully informed.

BACKGROUND

Plaintiff Larry Heggem, currently incarcerated at the Washington State

Penitentiary in Walla Walla, Washington, commenced this suit on September 10,

2015. ECF No. 1. After ordering Plaintiff to show cause why he should be

permitted to proceed *in forma pauperis* in light of his prior litigation history, which
includes four "strikes" under 28 U.S.C. § 1915(g), this Court allowed Plaintiff to
file an Amended Complaint, which was served upon Defendants in December

2015. ECF Nos. 16; 18. In his Amended Complaint, Plaintiff asserts, *inter alia*,
that he is being denied medical treatment in violation of his Eighth Amendment
rights. ECF No. 17.

¹ There are three other motions currently pending before this Court: Defendants' Motion for Summary Judgment (ECF No. 66); Plaintiff's Request for Oral Argument at Defendants' Motion for Summary Judgment Hearing on 5-9-2016 (ECF No. 73); and Plaintiff's Request that the Court Compel Discovery and Stay Defendant's Motion for Summary Judgment (ECF No. 80). The Court will address these motions in a separate order.

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In the instant motions, Plaintiff seeks the following: (1) oral argument on his request for a preliminary injunction and temporary restraining order; (2) reconsideration of this Court's denial of his previous motions; (3) one million dollars in damages; and (4) an extension of time to respond to Defendants' summary judgment motion. This Court will address each request in turn.

DISCUSSION

A. Request for Oral Argument

First, Plaintiff requests oral argument on his motion for a preliminary injunction and temporary restraining order. ECF No. 52. Plaintiff submitted this motion on March 4, 2016, one day after this Court issued its order denying several of Plaintiff's motions, including his multiple requests for an injunction. *See* ECF No. 51. Accordingly, Plaintiff's motion (ECF No. 52) is denied as moot.

B. Request for Reconsideration

Second, Plaintiff moves this Court to reconsider its denial of Plaintiff's previous motions, including its denial of Plaintiff's motion for a preliminary injunction and temporary restraining order. ECF No. 59. In support, Plaintiff merely states that the Court erred in denying his motions and that he continues to suffer violations of his Eighth and Fourteenth Amendment rights. *Id.*

An order that resolves fewer than all the claims among the parties—that is, a non-final order—"may be revised at any time before the entry of judgment

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adjudicating all the claims and all the parties' rights and liabilities." Fed. R. Civ. P. 54(b). Where reconsideration of a non-final order is sought, the court has "inherent jurisdiction to modify it, alter or revoke it." *United States v. Martin*, 226 F.3d 1042, 1049 (9th Cir. 2000); *see Am. Canoe Ass'n v. Murphy Farms, Inc.*, 326 F.3d 505, 514-15 (9th Cir. 2003) (noting that motions for reconsideration of non-final orders are not subject to the strict standards applicable to motions for reconsideration of final judgment).

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Plaintiff's request for reconsideration is denied. While this Court appreciates Plaintiff's continued concerns about his medical conditions, he has failed to provide any reason why this Court should amend its prior ruling. Primarily, Plaintiff appears to disagree with this Court's denial of Plaintiff's request for a preliminary injunction and temporary restraining order. However, as this Court previously found, Plaintiff continues to provide only his allegations to show that the medical care provided by Defendants constitutes deliberate indifference to his serious medical needs. Based on the evidence currently before this Court, Plaintiff has failed to establish the necessity of a preliminary injunction. Accordingly, Plaintiff's motion for reconsideration (ECF No. 59) is denied.

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C. Request for Damages

Third, Plaintiff requests one million dollars in compensatory and punitive damages for Defendants' alleged constitutional violations and the extreme pain and anguish Plaintiff has suffered. ECF No. 76.

This Court denies Plaintiff's motion for damages. Plaintiff has not established liability at this stage of the proceedings; accordingly, no damages are due at this time. Plaintiff's motion (ECF No. 76) is denied.

D. Request for an Extension

Finally, Plaintiff requests a 30-day extension of time to respond to Defendants' Motion for Summary Judgment. ECF No. 78. In support, Plaintiff asserts that he needs more time to review his medical records and other discovery and further explains that his medication makes him weaker and causes him even more pain. *Id.* Defendants do not oppose Plaintiff's extension request. ECF No. 79.

While this Court finds Plaintiff demonstrated good cause for an extension, Plaintiff's request is moot as he timely submitted his response briefing for filing. *See* ECF No. 83 (response brief dated April 18, 2016). Accordingly, Plaintiff's request is denied as moot.

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ACCORDINGLY, IT IS ORDERED:

- Plaintiff's Request for Oral Argument for Preliminary Injunction and 1. Temporary Restraining Order (ECF No. 52) is **DENIED**.
- 2. Plaintiff's Reply to Court's Order Denying His Motions/ Requesting Reconsideration (ECF No. 59) is **DENIED**.
- 3. Plaintiff's Request for One Million Dollars in Compensatory and Punitive Damages (ECF No. 76) is **DENIED**.
- 4. Plaintiff's Request for a 30-Day Extension to Reply to Defendants' Motion for Summary Judgment (78) is **DENIED**.
- 5. The District Court Executive is directed to enter this Order and provide copies to the parties.

DATED May 3, 2016.



Chief United States District Judge

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