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7 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
8 WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON  
AT SEATTLE

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10 ARTURO MARTINEZ BAÑOS, et  
al.,

CASE NO. C16-1454JLR

11 Plaintiffs,

ORDER

12 v.

13 NATHALIE ASHER, et al.,

14 Defendants.

15  
16 **I. INTRODUCTION**

17 Before the court is United States Magistrate Judge Brian A. Tsuchida's report and  
18 recommendation regarding two motions to dismiss by Defendants Nathalie Asher, Field  
19 Office Director of the Seattle District of Immigration and Customs Enforcement ("ICE"),  
20 in her official capacity; Thomas D. Homan, Acting Director of ICE, in his official  
21 capacity; John F. Kelly, Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security ("DHS"), in  
22 his official capacity; James McHenry, Acting Director of the Executive Office for

1 Immigration Review (“EOIR”), in his official capacity; Jefferson B. Sessions, Attorney  
2 General of the United States, in his official capacity; and Lowell Clark, Warden of the  
3 Northwest Detention Center, in his official capacity (collectively, “Defendants”).<sup>1</sup> (*See*  
4 *R&R* (Dkt. # 49); 1st MTD (Dkt. # 16); 2d MTD (Dkt. # 44).) Defendants object to  
5 Magistrate Judge Tsuchida’s recommendations (Obj. (Dkt. # 50)), and Plaintiffs Arturo  
6 Martinez Baños (“Mr. Martinez”), Edwin Flores Tejada (“Mr. Flores”), and German  
7 Ventura Hernandez (“Mr. Ventura”) (collectively, “Plaintiffs”) responded to Defendants’  
8 objections (Resp. (Dkt. # 51)). Having considered those filings, the balance of the  
9 record, and the governing law,<sup>2</sup> the court ADOPTS in part and REJECTS in part the  
10 report and recommendation and refers the matter back to Magistrate Judge Tsuchida for  
11 further proceedings.

## 12 II. BACKGROUND

13 On September 14, 2016, Mr. Martinez filed this habeas action on behalf of a  
14 putative class. (Pet. (Dkt. # 1).) On January 31, 2017, Plaintiffs filed an amended habeas

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19 <sup>1</sup> The court directs the Clerk to substitute James McHenry for former EOIR Director Juan  
20 P. Osuna and Jefferson B. Sessions for former Acting Attorney General Dana J. Boente. *See*  
21 Fed. R. Civ. P. 25(d).

22 <sup>2</sup> Plaintiffs request oral argument. (Resp. at 1.) The court agrees with Magistrate Judge  
Tsuchida that the issues have been sufficiently briefed (*see R&R* at 2 n.1) and concludes that oral  
argument would not aid the court in its review of the report and recommendation. Accordingly,  
the court denies Plaintiffs’ request for oral argument. *See* Local Rules W.D. Wash. LCR 7(b)(4).

1 petition, adding Mr. Flores and Mr. Ventura, on behalf of a similar putative class.<sup>3</sup> (Am.  
2 Pet. (Dkt. # 38).) Plaintiffs were previously ordered removed from the United States, and  
3 they subsequently reentered the United States without inspection. (*See id.* ¶¶ 58-62,  
4 74-77, 81-84.) After Plaintiffs’ respective reentries, ICE apprehended them. (*Id.* ¶¶ 62,  
5 77, 84.) Upon apprehending each Plaintiff, ICE transported them to the Northwest  
6 Detention Center in Tacoma, Washington. (*Id.* ¶¶ 13-15, 62, 77, 84.)

7 Because Plaintiffs expressed fear of returning to their countries of removal (*id.*  
8 ¶¶ 62, 76-77, 81-84), the Asylum Office conducted reasonable fear interviews with each  
9 Plaintiff, *see* 8 C.F.R. § 208.31(a)-(b). The Asylum Office found that Mr. Martinez  
10 demonstrated a reasonable fear of torture by the Petatlán, Mexico, police; Mr. Flores  
11 demonstrated a reasonable fear of torture by the Mara Salvatrucha (“MS-13”) gang; and  
12 Mr. Ventura demonstrated a reasonable fear of torture by residents of a rival town. (Am.  
13 Pet. ¶¶ 60, 62, 74, 77, 81, 84; *see also id.* ¶ 84, Ex. C (Dkt. # 38-3) at 1.) Pursuant to 8  
14 C.F.R. § 208.31(e), the asylum officers reviewing Plaintiffs’ applications referred their  
15 requests to immigration judges (“IJs”) “for full consideration of the request for  
16 withholding of removal only.” 8 C.F.R. § 208.31(e). The merits proceedings before the  
17 IJ are referred to as “withholding only” proceedings. *See id.*; (Am. Pet. ¶ 1.)

18 Plaintiffs seek custody hearings in hopes of being released on bond pending their  
19 withholding only determination. (Am. Pet. ¶¶ 22-24.) Plaintiffs had different  
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21 <sup>3</sup> Plaintiffs seek to compel Defendants to institute custody hearings for Plaintiffs and the  
22 following class: “All individuals who are placed in withholding only proceedings under 8 C.F.R.  
§ 1208.31(e) in the Western District of Washington who are detained or subject to an order of  
detention.” (Am. Pet. (Dkt. # 38) ¶ 86; *see also id.* ¶ 1.)

1 experiences seeking custody hearings. Initially, after Mr. Martinez had been in custody  
2 for more than six months, the IJ held a custody hearing and set Mr. Martinez's bond at  
3 \$10,000.00. (Am. Pet. ¶¶ 63-64; *id.* ¶ 67, Ex. A ("BIA Decision") (Dkt. # 38-1) at 3.)  
4 DHS appealed that determination, however, and the Board of Immigration Appeals  
5 ("BIA") reversed and found that IJs lack jurisdiction to make custody determinations.<sup>4</sup>  
6 (BIA Decision at 3.) The BIA also indicated that Mr. Martinez "shall be detained  
7 without bond pending proceedings." (BIA Decision at 3.) Following the BIA's decision,  
8 however, ICE "exercised its discretion not to take action on the case to re-detain" Mr.  
9 Martinez. (Hernandez Decl. (Dkt. # 29-1) ¶ 21.)

10 On January 11, 2016, approximately six months after the BIA rendered the  
11 decision discussed above, Mr. Flores underwent his reasonable fear interview. (*See* Am.  
12 Pet. ¶¶ 67, 77; BIA Decision at 3.) On August 30, 2016, after approximately 250 days in  
13 detention, the immigration court held a custody redetermination hearing for Mr. Flores.  
14 (Am. Pet. ¶ 78.) The IJ denied Mr. Flores's bond request based on a lack of jurisdiction  
15 to set bond in withholding only proceedings. (*Id.* ¶ 78, Ex. B at 3); *see also supra* n.4.  
16 Mr. Flores appealed the IJ's denial, and as of the filing of the amended petition, Mr.  
17 Flores's appeal was pending before the BIA. (*Id.* ¶ 79.)

18 Mr. Ventura underwent his reasonable fear interview on November 3, 2016, and  
19 was referred to immigration court for withholding only proceedings. (*Id.* ¶¶ 84-85.) As  
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21 <sup>4</sup> Plaintiffs allege that after this BIA decision, the immigration court updated its template  
22 bond sheet to include a check-box for "No Jurisdiction" on account of "Withholding Only  
Proceedings." (Am. Pet. ¶ 72, Ex. B at 2-3.)

1 of the filing of the amended petition, the IJ had not yet ruled on the merits of Mr.  
2 Ventura's application. (*Id.* ¶ 85.) However, Mr. Ventura has been detained since  
3 October 18, 2016, and Defendants' interpretation of the governing law renders Mr.  
4 Ventura ineligible for a custody hearing based on the immigration court's lack of  
5 jurisdiction. (*Id.* ¶¶ 15, 85); *supra* n.4.

6 Plaintiffs contend that Defendants incorrectly interpret the law and unlawfully  
7 deprive Plaintiffs and the putative class of custody hearings. (*See* Am. Pet. ¶¶ 1-12.)  
8 Plaintiffs seek class certification and declaratory and injunctive relief. (*Id.* ¶¶ 11-12,  
9 86-102; PI Mot. (Dkt. # 23); Am. Class Cert. Mot. (Dkt. # 41).) Defendants move to  
10 dismiss both Mr. Martinez's initial petition (*see* 1st MTD; Pet.) and the amended petition  
11 that added Mr. Ventura's and Mr. Flores's claims (*see* 2d MTD; Am. Pet.). Magistrate  
12 Judge Tsuchida recommends denying the first motion to dismiss and striking the second  
13 motion to dismiss as filed in contravention of the Local Civil Rules. (R&R at 1-2,  
14 15-16.) The report and recommendation does not address the remaining motions pending  
15 before the court. (*See generally id.*) The court now turns to Magistrate Judge Tsuchida's  
16 report and recommendation and Defendants' objections thereto.

### 17 III. ANALYSIS

#### 18 A. Standard of Review

19 A district court has jurisdiction to review a Magistrate Judge's report and  
20 recommendation on dispositive matters. Fed. R. Civ. P. 72(b). "The district judge must  
21 determine de novo any part of the magistrate judge's disposition that has been properly  
22 objected to." *Id.* "A judge of the court may accept, reject, or modify, in whole or in part,

1 the findings or recommendations made by the magistrate judge.” 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1).

2 The court reviews de novo those portions of the report and recommendation to which  
3 specific written objection is made. *United States v. Reyna-Tapia*, 328 F.3d 1114, 1121  
4 (9th Cir. 2003) (en banc). “The statute makes it clear that the district judge must review  
5 the magistrate judge’s findings and recommendations de novo if objection is made, but  
6 not otherwise.” *Id.*

7 **B. Legal Standard for Rule 12(b)(1) Motion**

8 A motion to dismiss for lack of subject-matter jurisdiction is either facial or  
9 factual. *See Safe Air for Everyone v. Meyer*, 373 F.3d 1035, 1039 (9th Cir. 2004).

10 Where, as here, the moving party “convert[s] the motion to dismiss into a factual motion  
11 by presenting affidavits or other evidence properly brought before the court, the party  
12 opposing the motion must furnish affidavits or other evidence necessary to satisfy its  
13 burden of establishing subject[-]matter jurisdiction.” *Savage v. Glendale Union High*  
14 *Sch., Dist. No. 205, Maricopa Cty.*, 343 F.3d 1036, 1039 n.2 (9th Cir. 2003) (citing *St.*  
15 *Clair v. City of Chico*, 880 F.2d 199, 201 (9th Cir. 1989)). The party asserting its claims  
16 in federal court bears the burden of establishing subject-matter jurisdiction. *See*  
17 *Kokkonen v. Guardian Life Ins. Co. of Am.*, 511 U.S. 375, 377 (1994).

18 **C. Defendants’ First Motion to Dismiss**

19 Defendants object to several conclusions in Magistrate Judge Tsuchida’s report  
20 and recommendation. (*See generally* Obj.). The court first analyzes standing because it  
21 “is a necessary element of federal-court jurisdiction.” *City of S. Lake Tahoe v. Cal.*  
22 *Tahoe Reg’l Planning Agency*, 625 F.2d 231, 233 (9th Cir. 1980) (citing *Warth v. Seldin*,

1 422 U.S. 490, 498 (1975)). “To establish Article III standing, an injury must be  
2 ‘concrete, particularized, and actual or imminent; fairly traceable to the challenged  
3 action; and redressable by a favorable ruling.’” *Clapper v. Amnesty Int’l USA*, 568 U.S.  
4 398, 133 S. Ct. 1138, 1147 (2013) (quoting *Monsanto Co. v. Geertson Seed Farms*, 561  
5 U.S. 139, 149 (2010)). More concisely, these requirements are known as injury,  
6 causation, and redressability. *See Massachusetts v. E.P.A.*, 549 U.S. 497, 540 (2007)  
7 (Roberts, C.J., dissenting). Because Mr. Martinez seeks “declaratory and injunctive relief  
8 only,” “there is a further requirement that [he] show a very significant possibility of  
9 future harm; it is insufficient for [him] to demonstrate only a past injury.” *San Diego*  
10 *Cty. Gun Rights Comm. v. Reno*, 98 F.3d 1121, 1126 (9th Cir. 1996). As the party  
11 asserting his claims in federal court, Mr. Martinez bears the burden of establishing  
12 standing. *See Lujan v. Defs. of Wildlife*, 504 U.S. 555, 561 (1992).

13 When Mr. Martinez filed his habeas petitions,<sup>5</sup> Mr. Martinez had been released on  
14 \$10,000.00 bond, the BIA had vacated the IJ’s order granting a \$10,000.00 bond, and  
15 ICE had exercised its discretion not to re-detain Mr. Martinez. (*See* Pet. ¶ 20; Am. Pet.  
16 ¶ 22; BIA Decision; Hernandez Decl. ¶ 21.) The parties dispute whether that condition  
17 demonstrates injury-in-fact for purposes of seeking federal habeas relief. Mr. Martinez

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19 <sup>5</sup> When a plaintiff files an initial complaint and subsequently amends the complaint to  
20 add plaintiffs, courts take different approaches to determining which complaint governs subject  
21 matter jurisdiction over the initial plaintiff’s claims. *See Nw. Immigrant Rights Project v. U.S.*  
22 *Citizenship & Immigration Servs.*, --- F.R.D. ---, No. C15-0813JLR, 2016 WL 5817078, at \*8  
n.8 (W.D. Wash. Oct. 5, 2016) (collecting cases). Because the facts material to Mr. Martinez’s  
standing did not change between Mr. Martinez’s initial petition and Plaintiffs’ amended petition  
(*compare* Pet. ¶ 20, *with* Am. Pet. ¶ 13; *see also* R&R at 12), it is inconsequential which petition  
governs the court’s standing analysis.

1 contends that he “is subject to immediate detention, at Defendants’ discretion,” and  
2 therefore “remains in constructive custody.” (Am. Pet. ¶ 22; *see also* Resp. at 4.)  
3 Defendants respond that “a habeas petition challenging detention is mooted by the  
4 petitioner’s release from ICE custody.” (Obj. at 5 (citing *Abdala v. INS*, 488 F.3d 1061,  
5 1064-65 (9th Cir. 2007)).) Magistrate Judge Tsuchida concluded that Mr. Martinez has  
6 standing because when he filed this suit, he was “living under the shadow of the BIA’s  
7 order revoking [his] release.” (R&R at 9; *see also id.* (“The [c]ourt must assume that ICE  
8 will execute the BIA’s order, rather than speculate about ICE’s enforcement priorities.”).)  
9 Because there has been “no material change in the facts of Mr. Martinez’s case” since he  
10 filed the action, Magistrate Judge Tsuchida rejected the argument that Mr. Martinez’s  
11 claims are moot. (*Id.* at 12.)

12 A plaintiff seeking prospective injunctive relief must demonstrate (1) that he has  
13 suffered or is threatened with a concrete and particularized harm, and (2) a sufficient  
14 likelihood that he will again be wronged in a similar way. *Bates v. United Parcel Serv.,*  
15 *Inc.*, 511 F.3d 974, 985 (9th Cir. 2007) (citing *Lujan v. Defs. of Wildlife*, 504 U.S. 555,  
16 560 (1992); *City of L.A. v. Lyons*, 461 U.S. 95, 111 (1983)). ICE has detained Mr.  
17 Martinez before, and that past action constitutes some “evidence bearing on whether  
18 there is a real and immediate threat of repeated injury.” *O’Shea v. Littleton*, 414 U.S.  
19 488, 496 (1974). However, ICE has decided not to re-detain Mr. Martinez (Hernandez  
20 Decl. ¶ 21), and he is “currently released . . . and residing at his home” (Am. Pet. ¶ 22).  
21 Mr. Martinez correctly alleges that he is “subject to immediate detention, at Defendants’  
22 discretion.” (*Id.*) But besides his prior detention, which is minimally indicative of



1 Defendants' future intentions, there is no suggestion that Defendants will imminently  
2 exercise their discretion to detain Mr. Martinez.

3 In support of his standing, Mr. Martinez also points to the BIA's conclusion that  
4 he "shall be detained without bond pending proceedings." (BIA Decision at 3.)  
5 Notwithstanding this apparently mandatory language, ICE—not the BIA—has discretion  
6 to determine whether to detain Mr. Martinez pending his merits hearing.<sup>6</sup> *See*  
7 *Padilla-Ramirez v. Bible*, --- F.3d ---, No. 16-35385, 2017 WL 2871513, at \*4 (9th Cir.  
8 July 6, 2017) (holding that individuals in withholding only proceedings are detained—if  
9 at all—pursuant to Section 1231(a)); 8 C.F.R. § 241.4(a) (granting ICE discretion  
10 whether to detain individuals detained pursuant to Section 1231); *see also* 8 C.F.R.  
11 § 1003.1(b), (d) (circumscribing the BIA's jurisdiction and powers). Defendants have  
12 therefore provided evidence that Mr. Martinez is unlikely to be re-detained, and that  
13 evidence minimizes the relevance of the BIA's order because ICE retains discretion over  
14 whether to re-detain Mr. Martinez. (*Cf.* R&R at 9.) Furthermore, even if ICE exercised  
15 its discretion to detain Mr. Martinez, he would not suffer the constitutional harm he  
16 alleges until he has faced detention of six months or more. *See Diouf v. Napolitano*, 634  
17 F.3d 1081, 1084 (9th Cir. 2011) [hereinafter, *Diouf II*] ("We hold that individuals

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19 <sup>6</sup> Initially, Mr. Martinez resisted this conclusion because (a) it was an open legal question  
20 whether Plaintiffs are detained—if at all—under 8 U.S.C. § 1226 or 8 U.S.C. § 1231; and (b) 8  
21 C.F.R. § 241.4 applies only to noncitizens detained under 8 U.S.C. § 1231. (1/20/17 Plfs. Br.  
22 (Dkt. # 34) at 3 (citing 1/13/17 Defs. Br. (Dkt. # 29) at 4.) On July 6, 2017, the Ninth Circuit  
held that individuals detained in withholding only proceedings are detained pursuant to Section  
1231(a). *Padilla-Ramirez v. Bible*, --- F.3d ---, No. 16-35385, 2017 WL 2871513, at \*4 (9th Cir.  
July 6, 2017); (*see also* Not. of Supp. Auth. (Dkt. # 52) at 2 (acknowledging the *Padilla-Ramirez*  
decision and its impact on this case).) *Padilla-Ramirez* moots Mr. Martinez's argument.

1 detained under § 1231(a)(6) are entitled to the same procedural safeguards against  
2 prolonged detention as individuals detained under § 1226(a).”); *Rodriguez v. Robbins*,  
3 715 F.3d 1127, 1133 (9th Cir. 2013) (construing the government’s detention authority  
4 under Section 1226 to be “limited to a six-month period, subject to a finding of flight risk  
5 or dangerousness”); (Am. Pet. ¶ 50); *see also Padilla-Ramirez*, 2017 WL 2871513, at \*2,  
6 4 (reaffirming the holding of *Diouf II* and confirming that it applies to individuals, like  
7 Mr. Martinez, in withholding only proceedings). The court therefore concludes that Mr.  
8 Martinez’s potential for future detention is too speculative to support his standing to  
9 challenge Defendants’ bond procedures.<sup>7</sup> *See San Diego Cty.*, 98 F.3d at 1126; *Scott v.*  
10 *Pasadena Unified Sch. Dist.*, 306 F.3d 646, 656 (9th Cir. 2002).

11 The court’s analysis is consistent with *Jones v. Murphy*, 470 F. Supp. 2d 537, 551  
12 (D. Md. 2007), which Magistrate Judge Tsuchida cites in support of his injury-in-fact  
13 conclusion (R&R at 9). In *Jones*, a Maryland court issued a bench warrant for the  
14 plaintiff’s arrest, but the plaintiff resided in California. *Jones*, 470 F. Supp. 2d at 551.  
15 California’s Governor had “a statutory duty” to arrest and extradite to another state  
16 anyone charged with a crime and fleeing from justice. *Id.* (citing Cal. Penal Code

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18 <sup>7</sup> For similar reasons, the court rejects Magistrate Judge Tsuchida’s conclusion that Mr.  
19 Martinez is “in custody” for purposes of seeking federal habeas relief. (R&R at 7); 28 U.S.C.  
20 § 2241(c)(3); *see also Veltmann-Barragan v. Holder*, 717 F.3d 1086, 1088 (9th Cir. 2013)  
21 (quoting *Jones v. Cunningham*, 371 U.S. 236, 240 (1963)) (“The Supreme Court has defined the  
22 phrase ‘in custody’ to include both physical detention and ‘other restraints on a man’s liberty,  
restraints not shared by the public generally.’”). The BIA’s decision does not limit Mr.  
Martinez’s liberty. ICE could exercise its discretion to detain Mr. Martinez and thereby restrain  
his liberty, but that potentiality is too speculative to support standing and too speculative to  
constitute placing Mr. Martinez “in custody.” This conclusion constitutes an independent reason  
for the court’s conclusion that it lacks jurisdiction to hear Mr. Martinez’s claim. *See* 28 U.S.C.  
§ 2241(c)(3); *Veltmann-Barragan*, 717 F.3d at 1087.

1 § 1548.1 (2006)). The court found that the plaintiff had standing to challenge practices at  
2 the penal institution where he would be detained upon arrest because he was  
3 “substantially likely to have another experience” there. *Id.* Here, ICE has no “duty” to  
4 arrest Mr. Martinez, *see* 8 C.F.R. § 241.4; (Am. Pet. ¶ 22), and thus Mr. Martinez is not  
5 substantially likely to be denied a bond hearing in the future.

6 Finally, Mr. Martinez argues that certain exceptions to mootness apply to his case.  
7 (*See Resp.* at 5 (voluntary cessation), 6 n.3 (capable of repetition yet evading review).)

8 Mr. Martinez’s case is not moot; he lacks standing. *See U.S. Parole Comm’n v.*

9 *Geraghty*, 445 U.S. 388, 397 (1980) (quoting Monaghan, *Constitutional Adjudication:*

10 *The Who and When*, 82 *Yale L.J.* 1363, 1384 (1973)) (“One commentator has defined

11 mootness as ‘the doctrine of standing set in a time frame: The requisite personal interest

12 that must exist at the commencement of the litigation (standing) must continue

13 throughout its existence (mootness).’”); (R&R at 12 (“[T]here has been no material

14 change in the facts of Mr. Martinez’s case.”).) The exceptions to mootness that Mr.

15 Martinez identifies therefore do not apply. *See City of Mesquite v. Aladdin’s Castle,*

16 *Inc.*, 455 U.S. 283, 289 n.10 (1982) (explaining that voluntary cessation is an exception

17 to mootness); *Diouf II*, 634 F.3d at 1084 n.3 (same); *Fed. Elec. Comm’n v. Wis. Right to*

18 *Life*, 551 U.S. 449, 462 (2007) (explaining that otherwise moot actions that are capable of

19 repetition, yet evading review, are not treated as moot); *Protectmarriage.com-Yes on 8 v.*

20 *Bowen*, 752 F.3d 827, 836 (9th Cir. 2014) (same).

21 Having performed a *de novo* review of the challenged portions of Magistrate

22 Judge Tsuchida’s report and recommendation, the court concludes that Mr. Martinez

1 lacks standing and rejects Magistrate Judge Tsuchida's recommendation on that issue.  
2 The court accordingly dismisses Mr. Martinez's claims without prejudice. Because the  
3 deficiency in standing is factual, not facial, the court concludes that amendment would be  
4 futile and declines to grant leave to amend.<sup>8</sup> See *Temple v. Abercrombie*, 903 F. Supp. 2d  
5 1024, 1032 (D. Haw. 2012) (quoting *Chaset v. Fleer/Skybox Int'l, LP*, 300 F.3d 1083,  
6 1088 (9th Cir. 2002)) ("If Plaintiffs would lack standing to bring an amended complaint,  
7 the court need not 'prolong the litigation by permitting further amendment.'").

8 **D. Defendants' Second Motion to Dismiss**

9 Magistrate Judge Tsuchida recommends striking Defendants' second motion to  
10 dismiss (R&R at 15-16) pursuant to Plaintiffs' motion to strike (2d MTD Resp. (Dkt.  
11 # 47) at 1-2). Magistrate Judge Tsuchida bases his recommendation on Local Civil Rule  
12 7(e)(3), which requires leave of the court to file contemporaneous dispositive motions,  
13 and he notes that Defendants' reply brief was nonresponsive to Plaintiffs' motion to  
14 strike. (See R&R at 5, 15-16.) Defendants object to the recommendation but  
15 acknowledge that they inadvertently filed the wrong reply brief and that their intended  
16 reply brief was not before Magistrate Judge Tsuchida. (Obj. at 8-9 & n.4.) Defendants  
17 nonetheless ask the court to either consider their intended reply brief, which is now in the  
18 record, or refer the second motion to dismiss back to Magistrate Judge Tsuchida so that  
19 he can consider the motion with the proper reply in the record. (*Id.* at 8 n.4.)

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22 <sup>8</sup> This conclusion moots Defendants' other objections to the portion of the report and  
recommendation that addresses Defendants' first motion to dismiss, and the court declines to  
address those objections.

1 The court adopts Magistrate Judge Tsuchida’s recommendation and strikes the  
2 second motion to dismiss. (R&R at 15-16.) Defendants characterize Local Civil Rule  
3 7(e)(3) as prohibiting “the filing of multiple single-issue dispositive motions to  
4 circumvent the Court’s page limits.” (Obj. at 9.) They argue that because their second  
5 motion “was not made in bad faith to circumvent page limits,” it does not violate Rule  
6 7(e)(3). (*Id.* (explaining Defendants’ good faith misunderstanding of Magistrate Judge  
7 Tsuchida’s procedural rulings).) Local Civil Rule 7(e)(3) lacks a scienter requirement  
8 and straightforwardly precludes “contemporaneous dispositive motions, each one  
9 directed toward a discrete . . . claim.” Local Rules W.D. Wash. LCR 7(e)(3).  
10 Accordingly, the court finds Defendants’ avowed good faith irrelevant. Moreover,  
11 *Padilla-Ramirez*, 2017 WL 2871513, at \*4, moots many of the parties’ arguments (*see*,  
12 *e.g.*, 2d MTD at 5-8, 13-25; 2d MTD Resp. at 8-16), and the court lacks the benefit of the  
13 parties’ briefing and Magistrate Judge Tsuchida’s report and recommendation in light of  
14 that case. Accordingly, the court declines to take up the motion at this time and strikes  
15 the second motion to dismiss.<sup>9</sup>

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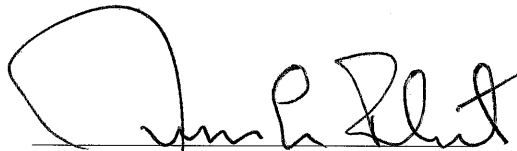
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19 <sup>9</sup> As Defendants note, their second motion to dismiss raises several jurisdictional  
20 questions. (*See* Obj. at 9-10; *see also* 2d MTD at 10-13.) Such issues must be resolved prior to  
21 addressing the merits of a case. *Steel Co. v. Citizens for a Better Env’t*, 523 U.S. 83, 94 (1998).  
22 Accordingly, the court strikes the motion without prejudice to re-raising those issues in a  
subsequent motion. The court leaves to Magistrate Judge Tsuchida’s discretion whether or not to  
provide further direction on how to present those issues and whether or not to raise the potential  
jurisdictional issues *sua sponte*.

1 **IV. CONCLUSION**

2 Based on the foregoing analysis, the court ADOPTS in part and REJECTS in part  
3 Magistrate Judge Tsuchida's report and recommendation, GRANTS Defendants' first  
4 motion to dismiss (Dkt. # 16), DISMISSES Mr. Martinez's claims without prejudice and  
5 without leave to amend, STRIKES Defendants' second motion to dismiss (Dkt. # 44)  
6 without prejudice to renewing the motion, and refers the case back to Magistrate Judge  
7 Tsuchida for further proceedings. Finally, the court DIRECTS the Clerk to update the  
8 docket to reflect substitution of government officials sued in their official capacities. *See*  
9 *supra* n.1.

10 Dated this <sup>th</sup> 11 day of July, 2017.

11   
12 JAMES L. ROBART  
13 United States District Judge  
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