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IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURTS
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
AND THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT COMPOSED OF THREE JUDGES
PURSUANT TO SECTION 2284, TITLE 28 UNITED STATES CODE

RALPH COLEMAN, et al.,
Plaintiffs,
v.
ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER,
et al.,
Defendants.

NO. CIV S-90-0520 LKK JFM P
THREE-JUDGE COURT

MARCIANO PLATA, et al.,
Plaintiffs,
v.
ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER,
et al.,
Defendants.

NO. C01-1351 TEH
THREE-JUDGE COURT
ORDER REJECTING
DEFENDANTS' POPULATION
REDUCTION PLAN AND
DIRECTING THE SUBMISSION
OF A PLAN THAT COMPLIES
WITH THE AUGUST 4, 2009
OPINION AND ORDER

On August 4, 2009, this three-judge court issued an opinion and order finding that plaintiffs had met their burden under the Prisoner Litigation Reform Act, 18 U.S.C. § 3626, of establishing that crowding was the primary cause of the constitutionally inadequate medical and mental health care systems at issue in the underlying cases and that a prisoner release order was necessary to remedy those violations. Having determined that such an

1 order was narrowly tailored, extended no further than necessary, and was the least intrusive
2 means possible to correct the constitutional violations at issue, we ordered defendants to
3 present the court within 45 days with a plan “that will in no more than two years reduce the
4 population of the CDCR’s adult institutions to 137.5% of their combined design capacity.”
5 Aug. 4, 2009 Opinion & Order at 183.

6 On September 18, 2009, defendants provided this court with a “Population Reduction
7 Plan.” The plan defendants provided does not comply with our August 4, 2009 order.
8 Rather than reducing the population of the CDCR’s adult institutions to 137.5% of their
9 combined design capacity within two years, it provides for a reduction of the population of
10 those institutions to 166% of their combined design capacity in that period. Additionally,
11 defendants’ plan fails to set forth effective dates for the various actions proposed and fails to
12 provide estimates of the reduction in population they expect to achieve after six, twelve,
13 eighteen, and twenty-four months; instead, it provides estimates of the fiscal year in which
14 actions may take effect and estimated population reductions for each fiscal year through
15 2014/15. In light of these inadequacies, defendants’ September 18, 2009 Population
16 Reduction Plan is REJECTED.

17 Plaintiffs’ response urges this court to initiate contempt proceedings against
18 defendants on the basis of their failure to comply with our August 4, 2009 order. Action on
19 this request is STAYED pending further proceedings detailed below.

20 The Court VACATES the deadline in its August 4, 2009 Opinion and Order for
21 defendants to file a response to the objections of plaintiffs and intervenors to defendants’
22 proposed population reduction plan. Instead, defendants shall, within 21 days of this order,
23 submit a population reduction plan that complies with this court’s August 4, 2009 Opinion
24 and Order and that, most important, provides for a reduction of the prison population to
25 137.5% of design capacity within two years. Defendants are reminded that they “shall set
26 forth in their proposal the effective dates of the various actions they propose to undertake and
27 their estimate of the reduction in population they expect to achieve after six, twelve,
28 eighteen, and twenty-four months.” *Id.*

1 Additionally, defendants shall set forth the following in their response to this order:
2 First, defendants shall (1) explain the calculations through which they obtained the estimates
3 of the population reductions associated with each action that they propose; (2) identify the
4 assumptions underlying those calculations; and (3) explain why those assumptions are
5 reasonable.

6 Second, in accordance with the request of Intervenor California Correctional Peace
7 Officers' Association, this court takes judicial notice of a September 17, 2009 press release
8 issued by CDCR and publicly available on the CDCR website. The press release describes a
9 reduction of \$250 million in rehabilitation programs for adult offenders, and identifies that
10 reduction as eliminating over one-third of the budget for such programs.¹ Defendants'
11 September 18 Population Reduction Plan relies on that programming for some of its
12 reductions. To the extent that the population reduction plan that defendants submit within 21
13 days of this order relies on rehabilitation programs, whether for earning credit towards
14 release or otherwise, defendants shall explain how the September 17, 2009 budget reduction
15 and any planned additional reductions in funding for such programs affect their estimates of
16 population reductions associated with that plan. Additionally, defendants shall advise the
17 court on a continuing basis of all budget reductions announced or implemented in 2009 that
18 (1) affect the provision of medical or mental health services at CDCR's adult institutions, and
19 (2) otherwise affect the size of the population of CDCR's adult institutions.

20 Third, defendants shall advise the court of the specific measures that the state will take
21 to ensure public safety through reentry and diversionary programs, including programs
22 provided for incarcerated inmates, post-incarceration programming, and programs for
23 persons diverted from incarceration. The state shall catalogue and provide descriptions of
24 current programs, including the number of persons served by each program, and shall also
25 provide details of any programs planned for the future and the specific implementation dates

26
27 ¹See Press Release, California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, CDCR
28 Reduces Offender Rehabilitation Programs (September 17, 2009) available at
http://www.cdcr.ca.gov/News/2009_Press_Releases/Sept_17_Programs.html (last visited
October 8, 2009) (Ex. A to CCPOA Req. for Jud. Notice).

1 of such future programs. Moreover, our August 4, 2009 Opinion and Order recognized the
2 necessary role of community-level rehabilitation and reentry programs for ensuring the safe
3 and successful implementation of population reduction measures, and noted that the decision
4 lies with California's elected officials whether to allocate state funds to communities to
5 promote and support such programs and the crime reduction and gains to public safety that
6 accompany them. *See* Aug. 4, 2009 Opinion & Order at 164-66. Defendants shall advise the
7 court on a continuing basis of the measures that the state is taking to support and assist
8 counties and other community-level providers of rehabilitation and reentry programs in
9 providing such programs, and of any steps that it may have taken or will be taking to
10 increase, reduce, or eliminate such support or assistance since January 2009 and in each
11 succeeding six-month period.

12 Fourth, the court takes judicial notice that Defendant Schwarzenegger is reported to
13 have submitted a plan to the California State Legislature providing for a population reduction
14 of 37,000 over two years. That such a plan was submitted by the Governor was widely
15 reported in the press, including in an article written by Defendant Matthew Cate.²
16 Defendants shall advise the court of: (1) whether the plan submitted to the legislature by the
17 Governor provided for a prison population reduction of 37,000 prisoners, and, if not, the
18 correct estimate of the prison population reduction for which this plan provided; (2) the
19 estimated reduction for which this plan provided in the population of CDCR's adult
20 institutions expressed as a percentage of the combined design capacity of those institutions;
21 (3) the specifics of the plan submitted to the legislature, including the population reduction
22 actions proposed therein, the date that each such action would be implemented under that
23 plan, and defendants' estimate of the reduction in population that such a plan would achieve
24 after six, twelve, eighteen, and twenty-four months; (4) whether this plan was adopted by the
25 California State Senate, and, if modified, the estimated population reduction associated with

26 ²*See* Matthew Cate, *Prisons: it's time to reduce and reform the population*, Capitol
27 Weekly, August 13, 2009, available at
28 http://www.capitolweekly.net/article.php?_c=ybp9m22r8xx2n4&xid=y6x62x72akddqo&don e=.ybxkujml11kc1t (last visited October 8, 2009) (Ex. B to Evenson Decl. in Supp. of Pls.' Response).

1 the plan as it was adopted by the Senate; and (5) whether, if adopted by the Senate, the plan
2 was submitted to a vote of the California State Assembly in the form adopted by the Senate,
3 and, if so, whether it failed in the Assembly by a formal recorded vote and what such
4 recorded vote was. Additionally, defendants shall explain the calculations through which
5 they obtained the estimates of the population reductions associated with each action proposed
6 in the plan submitted to the California State Legislature; identify the assumptions underlying
7 those calculations; and explain why those assumptions are reasonable.

8 Defendants are reminded that our August 4 order provided that “should any of
9 defendants’ proposed population reduction measures require the waiver of any provisions of
10 state law, [defendants] shall so advise the court, and shall explain why the requested waiver
11 is permissible under 18 U.S.C. §3626(a)(1)(B).” Aug. 4, 2009 Opinion & Order at 183.
12 Should state law limit defendants’ ability to implement any measures that would, in their
13 view, aid in achieving the constitutionally required prison population reduction explained in
14 our August 4, 2009 Opinion and Order, defendants shall so notify this court, and in such
15 notification describe the specific provisions of state law at issue and explain how those
16 provisions limit their ability to implement such measures. Even if defendants contend that
17 state law waivers are not permissible in this instance, *see* Defs.’ Sept. 18, 2009 Population
18 Reduction Plan at 16 n.11, they must identify those waivers of state law that would be
19 required to implement their proposals to reduce the prison population in compliance with our
20 order.

21 Plaintiffs shall forthwith commence preparation of an alternative population reduction
22 plan. Should defendants fail to submit a timely population reduction plan that complies with
23 the August 4, 2009 Opinion and Order and with this order, this court shall, in addition to any
24 other action it may take, order plaintiffs to provide the court within 14 days with a population
25 reduction plan that will in no more than two years reduce the population of the CDCR’s adult
26 institutions to 137.5% of their design capacity. Should any of the population reduction
27 measures plaintiffs propose in such a plan require the waiver of any provisions of state law,
28 they shall so advise the court, and shall explain why the requested waiver is permissible

1 under 18 U.S.C. §3626(a)(1)(B). Intervenor California Correctional Peace Officers'
2 Association may also submit any proposals or suggestions it may have for compliance with
3 the August 4, 2009 Opinion and Order at such time as any population reduction plan by
4 plaintiffs is due to be submitted, or within seven days thereafter.


5 This court is unaware of any excuse for the state's failure to comply with our
6 August 4, 2009 Opinion and Order but, as noted earlier, will stay any sanctions, including
7 possible contempt proceedings, pending defendants' response to this order. We will view
8 with the utmost seriousness any further failure to comply with our orders. As has been made
9 clear, this court would prefer that the state develop its own plan to meet the constitutionally
10 required prison reduction goals explained in our August 4, 2009 Opinion and Order. We
11 have afforded the state every opportunity to do so, even at the cost of delaying the reduction
12 of the overcrowding of California's prisons – a reduction that is necessary to the elimination
13 of the unconstitutional medical and mental health conditions that lie at the heart of these
14 proceedings, and that will, in addition, significantly reduce the prison system's criminogenic
15 effects so detrimental to public safety and welfare. Should the state again fail to submit a
16 population reduction plan that complies with our August 4, 2009 Opinion and Order, the
17 court will be left with no alternative but to develop a plan independently and order it
18 implemented forthwith.

19

20 **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

21

22 Dated: 10/21/09



STEPHEN REINHARDT
UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE
NINTH CIRCUIT COURT OF APPEALS

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26 Dated: 10/21/09



LAWRENCE K. KARLTON
SENIOR UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE
EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

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Dated: 10/21/09



THELTON E. HENDERSON
SENIOR UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA