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14
15 IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
16 FOR THE DISTRICT OF ARIZONA
17

18 Jane Doe # 1; Jane Doe # 2; and Norlan
Flores, on behalf of themselves and all others
19 similarly situated,

20 Plaintiffs,

21 v.

22 Jeh Johnson, Secretary, United States
Department of Homeland Security, in his
official capacity; R. Gil Kerlikowske,
23 Commissioner, United States Customs &
Border Protection, in his official capacity;
24 Michael J. Fisher, Chief of the United States
Border Patrol, in his official capacity; Jeffrey
25 Self, Commander, Arizona Joint Field
Command, in his official capacity; and
26 Manuel Padilla, Jr., Chief Patrol Agent-
Tucson Sector, in his official capacity,

27 Defendants.
28

Case No. 4:15-cv-00250-TUC-DCB

**REPLY IN SUPPORT OF
PLAINTIFFS' MOTION FOR
EXPEDITED DISCOVERY**

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INTRODUCTION

1
2 Civil detainees remain confined in Defendants' Tucson Sector short-term holding
3 facilities, often over several nights, deprived of basic human needs, including sleep,
4 warmth, adequate food and water, and minimally necessary health and sanitary conditions.
5 According to the reports of dozens of prior detainees, including the Plaintiffs, Defendants
6 continue to fall short of constitutional standards and CBP guidelines. Plaintiffs seek
7 limited discovery narrowly-tailored to facilitate Plaintiffs' efforts to gather direct evidence
8 on the specific substandard conditions in which the putative class members are now being
9 held. Plaintiffs intend to offer this evidence in support of their imminent motion for a
10 preliminary injunction, which seeks to prevent further ongoing and irreparable harm to the
11 putative class members *while this litigation is pending*.

12 Defendants have consistently taken a "no compromise, no access" position with
13 respect to Plaintiffs' discovery requests, both during the meet-and-confer and in their
14 opposition (the "Opposition") to Plaintiffs' Motion for Expedited Discovery (the
15 "Motion"). Defendants attempt to resist any discovery at this critical juncture by
16 advancing several problematic arguments. First, Defendants argue that Plaintiffs offer no
17 "compelling need" for discovery. (*See, e.g.,* Opposition to Pls.' Mot. to Expedite
18 Discovery ("Opp'n") at 2, 4, 8, 15, ECF No. 39.) Yet the Defendants' Opposition does
19 not deny a single fact asserted in Plaintiffs' Motion, any of the dozens of publicly
20 available sources cited in the Motion, or any of the 50 declarations from former Tucson
21 Sector civil detainees in support of Plaintiffs' class certification motion. Each of these
22 sources gives detailed accounts of the ongoing deprivations of basic human needs endured
23 by civil detainees held in these facilities. Plaintiffs have made the requisite showing of
24 good cause, and Defendants' silence is telling.

25 Second, Defendants argue that any preliminary effort to halt the inhumane
26 treatment of putative class members would improperly infringe upon Defendants' right to
27 maintain the status quo. (*See, e.g.,* Opp'n at 2, 4-5, 15.) This argument fails for the
28 obvious reason that Defendants cannot justify ongoing violations of the U.S. Constitution

1 and other laws simply by claiming the violations have already been taking place. Perhaps
2 recognizing the weakness of this position, Defendants attempt to gird the purported right
3 by claiming, without basis, that Plaintiffs intend to circumvent a full trial on the merits by
4 expediting a request for permanent injunctive relief. This claim is simply false and should
5 be rejected.

6 Third, Defendants argue that there is no urgent need to preserve evidence of the
7 (inhumane) conditions in these facilities because those conditions have not changed in
8 many years. (Opp'n at 8.) Again, Defendants do not deny the conditions and further
9 acknowledge that these conditions will not change with the mere passage of time so that
10 the requested discovery will be equally available in the normal course of litigation. This
11 argument fails for the same reason as the status quo argument: past and present
12 misconduct do not justify ongoing and future misconduct.

13 Finally, Defendants mischaracterize Plaintiffs discovery requests as overly broad,
14 and then claim that granting the requests would cause undue burden and prejudice by, for
15 example, forcing Defendants to put entire facilities on lockdown for a full day. (Opp'n at
16 11.) Defendants cynically claim that providing access to these facilities would create the
17 very same inhumane conditions Plaintiffs seek to abate. Defendants undercut their own
18 argument, however, by claiming that discovery in the normal course of litigation would be
19 adequate for Plaintiffs' purposes. (*Id.* at 2, 8.) Presumably the burdens Defendants
20 conjure up today would still be burdens tomorrow, yet Defendants fail to explain why this
21 is not so. Regardless, Plaintiffs' requests are reasonable in light of the violations alleged,
22 and narrowly tailored to provide Plaintiffs with direct evidence of present conditions in
23 Defendants' Tucson Sector facilities.

24 For all the foregoing reasons, and because good cause exists, Plaintiffs reiterate
25 their request that the Court grant their motion for expedited discovery.

ARGUMENT**I. GOOD CAUSE EXISTS TO GRANT PLAINTIFFS' EXPEDITED DISCOVERY REQUESTS****A. Defendants Do Not Deny Any Asserted Facts Regarding Current Conditions in Tucson Sector Short-Term Detention Facilities**

Plaintiffs seek expedited discovery to prevent ongoing and irreparable harm to putative class members who continue to be subjected to the risk of physical and mental harm resulting from confinement under inhumane conditions in Defendants' Tucson Sector detention facilities. Plaintiffs' Motion cites more than a dozen public news stories, government reports and nongovernmental organization reports documenting some of the same conditions. (Pls.' Mot. to Expedite Discovery ("Mot."), ECF No. 25; *see also* Index to Exhibits, ECF No. 26-1.) Defendants' Opposition further acknowledges the more than 50 declarations filed in this case that provide firsthand accounts from former detainees of their experiences while detained by Defendants. (Opp'n at 6-7.) All these sources provide evidence that Defendants are violating the putative class members' constitutional rights and CBP's own guidelines.

Significantly, Defendants do not deny any facts asserted in Plaintiffs' Motion, the cited news sources, or the former detainee declarations. To the contrary, the Padilla Declaration in support of Defendants' Opposition confirms at least some of Plaintiffs' factual assertions. (*See, e.g.*, Padilla Declaration ¶ 8, ECF No. 39-1 (acknowledging lights remain on "round-the-clock"); *id.* ¶ 11 (acknowledging that "Border Patrol stations are not designed for long-term care and detention" and that aliens are often held in custody for longer than 12 hours); *id.* ¶ 15 (acknowledging detainees find air conditioned facilities "cooler than they are accustomed to" and are generally "not provided showers while in CBP custody"); *id.* ¶ 27 (acknowledging tours or visitors can be provided access to secure areas).

In light of this evidence, Plaintiffs have sufficiently shown good cause for expedited discovery to gain access to some of Defendants' facilities and collect direct

1 evidence as to the nature of the conditions in which putative class members are being held
2 and the full scope of Defendants' wrongful conduct.

3 **B. The Status Quo Rule Does Not Permit the Inhumane Treatment**
4 **of Putative Class Members**

5 Defendants falsely claim that Plaintiffs seek permission "to conduct discovery,
6 litigate the merits of the case, and obtain the ultimate relief they seek in this case, all
7 before Defendants have had a chance to raise their legal challenges to Plaintiffs'
8 Complaint or answer their allegations." (Opp'n at 2; *see also id.* at 15.) Defendants'
9 claim has no basis in fact. Plaintiffs readily acknowledge that the full nature and scope of
10 any permanent injunctive relief will properly be determined after dispositive motions or a
11 full trial on the merits. Plaintiffs here seek only to gather evidence in support of a motion
12 for *preliminary* injunction to abate ongoing and irreparable harm to the putative class
13 members while this litigation is pending. Defendants fail to identify any rule or reason for
14 prohibiting such requests for preliminary injunctive relief at this stage of litigation.

15 Nevertheless, in an attempt to bolster their untenable claim, Defendants repeatedly
16 suggest that Plaintiffs' motion for a preliminary injunction will improperly seek to alter
17 the status quo. (*See, e.g., id.* at 2, 4-5, 15.) That Defendants would advance such a
18 technical argument is remarkable considering the "status quo" they seek to preserve
19 involves the inhumane treatment and deprivation of putative class members' basic human
20 needs in violation of the U.S. Constitution, the Administrative Procedure Act ("APA")
21 and Defendants' own guidelines, inadequate as they are. Defendants should not be
22 permitted to avoid discovery about whether their conduct violates putative class members'
23 rights on the basis that such discovery might ultimately lead to the vindication of those
24 rights.

25 The cases Defendants cite in support of their defense of the status quo are entirely
26 distinguishable from the present case. For example, *Tanner Motor Livery, Ltd. v. Avis,*
27 *Inc.*, 316 F.2d 804 (9th Cir. 1963) involved a trademark license dispute between the owner
28 of a registered trademark and the exclusive licensee who sought to continue operations

1 under that trademark. The court had no difficulty recognizing that the status quo—which
2 involved a mutually profitable business relationship that had endured in twelve cities for
3 more than a decade—should be preserved pending final resolution on the merits. *Id.*
4 at 809. Here, on the other hand, no such beneficial relationship exists to justify invocation
5 of the status quo rule. Indeed, the *Avis* court warned against rigid application of the rule
6 in every case, regardless of the peculiar facts, and stated that “[t]he infinite variety of
7 situations in which a court of equity may be called upon for interlocutory injunctive relief
8 requires that the court have considerable discretion in fashioning such relief.” *Id.*
9 Certainly an exercise of such “considerable discretion” is warranted in the present case.

10 Defendants also rely on *University of Texas v. Camenisch*, 451 U.S. 390, 395
11 (1981) for the proposition that the purpose of a preliminary injunction is merely to
12 preserve the status quo. (Opp’n at 5.) In that case, the trial court granted a preliminary
13 injunction requiring the University to pay for plaintiff’s sign-language interpreter. The
14 ultimate issue was never fully decided on the merits, but was preserved by an injunction
15 bond. The Supreme Court recognized that any issue preserved by an injunction bond
16 generally cannot be resolved on appeal, and remanded to ensure that the issue would be
17 decided on the merits rather than on a mere showing of a “likelihood of success.” *Id.* at
18 399. Here, however, no preliminary injunction has issued, no issues are currently being
19 preserved by an injunction bond, and Defendants’ right to a full trial on the merits is not
20 being jeopardized by Plaintiffs’ limited discovery requests.

21 Defendants also cite *Disability Rights Council of Greater Washington v.*
22 *Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority*, 234 F.R.D. 4 (D.D.C. 2006), which
23 involved claims under the Americans with Disabilities Act seeking declaratory and
24 injunctive relief for failure to provide adequate paratransit services. In that case, the court
25 denied a broad request for expedited discovery, finding that the relief plaintiffs intended to
26 seek in a preliminary injunction was “dramatically greater and more demanding . . . than
27 the relief they sought” in the original complaint. *Id.* at 7. The complaint originally sought
28 only declaratory relief and injunctions to stop the discriminatory practices and to develop

1 and implement a remedial plan. The preliminary injunction motion, on the other hand,
2 sought much more, including designation of a special master to monitor operations and
3 designation of an expert to monitor how performance statistics were gathered. *Id.* at 6-7.
4 Here, in contrast, Plaintiffs' discovery requests are reasonable and discrete in light of their
5 original prayer for relief and their stated reasons for seeking a preliminary injunction.
6 Defendants fail to identify any basis for suspecting that Plaintiffs will unfairly widen the
7 scope of relief sought in a motion for preliminary injunction.

8 **C. Defendants' Opposition Articulates the Wrong Standard for**
9 **Showing Good Cause**

10 Defendants argue repeatedly that Plaintiffs have the burden to show a "compelling
11 need" for expedited discovery. (Opp'n at 4 (citing *Am. LegalNet, Inc. v. Davis*, 673 F.
12 Supp. 2d 1063 (C.D. Cal. 2009).) Defendants fail to articulate the correct standard. The
13 word "compelling" is found nowhere in the *Davis* opinion. Rather, there must be some
14 "prima facie showing of the need for the expedited discovery." *Am. LegalNet, Inc. v.*
15 *Davis*, 763 F. Supp. 2d 1063, 1066 (C.D. Cal. 2009) (emphasis in original) (quotations &
16 citations omitted). As already discussed, Plaintiffs have made the requisite showing of
17 good cause. *See, generally, Yokohama Tire Corp. v. Dealers Tire Supply, Inc.*, 202
18 F.R.D. 612, 614 (D. Ariz. 2001). Furthermore, *Davis*, which involves misappropriation
19 and unfair competition claims, is distinguishable from the present case because the court
20 expressly found that the plaintiff could not adequately show any irreparable harm. *Id.* at
21 1071. Additionally, the discovery requests in *Davis* are not comparable to those of
22 Plaintiffs in this case. There, plaintiff sought to depose the defendant, propound written
23 interrogatories, have an expert image and analyze the defendants' hard drives, collect
24 broad categories of emails, marketing and sales documents, business plans, and forecasts,
25 and even serve a third-party subpoena. *Id.* at 1067-68. Here, Plaintiffs have narrowly
26 tailored their discovery requests, which identify several discrete categories of records
27 compiled over the past six months, policies and procedures currently in effect, and
28

1 inspection of a select number of facilities for no more than one day each. (*See* Mot. at 6-
2 7.)

3 Defendants also argue that Plaintiffs have failed to show that expedited discovery
4 is necessary for the administration of justice. (Opp'n at 8.) Defendants argue that
5 expedited discovery in this case "does not serve to move the case forward in an efficient
6 manner." (*Id.* at 6.) For this proposition, Defendants rely on *Semitoool, Inc. v. Tokyo*
7 *Electron America, Inc.*, 208 F.R.D. 273 (N.D. Cal. 2002). However, Defendants entirely
8 miss the point of Plaintiffs' requests. In *Semitoool*, the plaintiff sought expedited discovery
9 to determine which patents were infringed, thereby expediting possible amendment to its
10 complaint, facilitating a more complete and informed Case Management Conference, and
11 avoiding necessary amendments to its initial disclosures at a later date. *Id.* at 276. Here,
12 Plaintiffs request expedited discovery not to expedite the litigation more generally, but to
13 halt the ongoing irreparable harm to putative class members. The *Semitoool* court
14 implicitly recognized that irreparable harm was a valid basis for granting expedited
15 discovery, noting that the plaintiff "has not argued that it will be irreparably harmed if it
16 does not receive expedited discovery." *Id.*

17 **D. The Need To Prevent Irreparable Harm to Putative Class**
18 **Members Is Urgent**

19 Defendants argue that "Plaintiffs do not explain why immediate discovery of these
20 conditions is necessary in light of their express allegations that the conditions at Border
21 Patrol facilities are long-term and ongoing." (Opp'n at 8.) Defendants further
22 acknowledge that "conditions at Border Patrol stations are not something that will change
23 or become impossible to document due to 'the passage of time alone . . .'" (*Id.* (quoting
24 *Monsanto Co. v. Woods*, 250 F.R.D. 411 (E.D. Mo. 2008).) With this admission,
25 Defendants articulate precisely why Plaintiffs' requested relief is so urgent. Without a
26 court order, Defendants will do nothing to provide the requested discovery or end the
27 everyday suffering of putative class members from being deprived of warmth, basic
28 hygiene and sanitation, adequate food, water, and medical care.

1 Furthermore, Plaintiffs have limited the temporal scope of their requests to include
2 logs, videos, and other records of confinement conditions over only the past six months.
3 (Mot. at 7.) While Plaintiffs will be entitled to seek earlier records during the ordinary
4 course of discovery, the present requests should provide valuable information on
5 conditions as they existed within a reasonable time before this lawsuit was filed, and
6 whether constitutionally-required or CBP's own detention standards were being violated.
7 The requests are reasonable considering Plaintiffs have no assurances that Defendants
8 have taken the appropriate steps to alter their document and video preservation practices
9 to avoid destruction of this evidence.¹

10 **E. Defendants Fail to Show Any Undue Burden**

11 Defendants have consistently taken a “no compromise, no access” position in this
12 case, both during the meet-and-confer with Plaintiffs' counsel² and throughout the
13 Opposition. Defendants have made clear to Plaintiffs that, without a court order,
14 Defendants will continue to resist and delay any expedited discovery in this case.

15 Defendants' Opposition argues that providing access to certain areas within the
16 CBP Tucson Sector detention facilities would “impose significant burden on the safe and
17 efficient running of [] operations” (Opp'n at 11.) Plaintiffs deliberately tailored their
18 requests to impose a minimal burden on the operation of the facilities—both by limiting
19 the number of facilities that would be inspected and by limiting the scope of the

21 ¹ Plaintiffs' counsel sent a preservation letter to Defendants' counsel by email and
22 FedEx on June 10, 2015. As of the filing of this Reply, Plaintiffs' counsel have received
23 no word from Defendants' counsel regarding the preservation requests, except for an
automated response acknowledging receipt of the email.

24 ² Defendants' Opposition asserts that Defendants' counsel “suggested the
25 possibility of a less invasive tour” to Plaintiffs' counsel, but received no response (Opp'n
26 at 13 n.3) and that Defendants' counsel sought specific requests “so that Defendants could
27 determine if any such information was readily available and could be provided” (*id.* at 14
28 n.4). However, Defendants' Opposition fails to acknowledge that, when asked by
Plaintiffs' counsel during the meet-and-confer to identify a single document that
Defendants would be willing to produce on an expedited basis, Defendants' counsel could
not do so.

1 inspection and information sought. Defendants incorrectly claim that Plaintiffs seek
2 access to inspect and photograph the “secure hold area” for a full day, then argue such
3 access would require a lengthy lockdown period to protect the health and safety of visitors
4 and detainees. (*Id.*) Defendants’ Opposition cynically claims that granting Plaintiffs
5 access to these secure areas would cause precisely the kinds of risks Plaintiffs seek to
6 abate, such as delays in cell maintenance and food services. (*See, e.g., id.* at 12 n.2.)

7 However, any short-term burden caused by Plaintiffs’ limited requests is greatly
8 outweighed by the potential for injunctive relief from these otherwise common conditions.
9 And, while Plaintiffs do seek permission to physically access some parts of these secure
10 hold areas, Plaintiffs do not seek to occupy those secure areas for an entire day. Plaintiffs’
11 Motion additionally seeks access to areas and documents that Defendants do not contend
12 will pose any significant burden, such as supply storage areas, food preparation and
13 delivery areas, waste facilities, and laundry facilities, and access to review and reproduce
14 records documenting conditions within the facilities. (*See Mot.* at 6-7.) Plaintiffs
15 anticipate these pursuits will absorb a significant portion of the time requested. As for the
16 secure hold areas, Defendants concede that processes are already in place to permit third-
17 party access to visitors and maintenance crews. (*Opp’n* at 11, 12 n.2.) Plaintiffs’ counsel
18 are willing to work with Defendants to ensure that the requested inspections create as few
19 disruptions as possible.

20 Defendants also raise privacy concerns. (*Id.* at 11-12.) Plaintiffs are, of course,
21 willing to stipulate to entry of an appropriate protective order in this case to protect the
22 rights and dignity of detainees and putative class members alike.

23 Finally, Defendants argue that expedited discovery should not be allowed before
24 Defendants have had an opportunity to challenge the legal sufficiency of Plaintiffs’
25 Complaint and answer its allegations. (*Id.* at 13.) Defendants fail to cite a single case or
26 specific rule in support of this contention. Defendants further argue that Plaintiffs seek
27 “significant departure from the Federal Rules” (*Id.* at 15.) Yet Defendants overlook
28 Rule 26(d), which permits early discovery by court order.

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CONCLUSION

Plaintiffs seek limited, expedited discovery to gather direct evidence of conditions in four Tucson Sector detention facilities. Plaintiffs intend to use this evidence in support of their imminent motion for a preliminary injunction to stop the ongoing deprivations of putative class members’ basic human needs, including adequate sleep, warmth, food and water, hygienic supplies, and healthy, sanitary conditions.

Defendants have consistently taken a “no compromise, no access” stance in response to Plaintiffs’ discovery requests. Rather than deny any of Plaintiffs’ factual assertions, Defendants attempt to cast Plaintiffs’ efforts as an attempt to “substantially alter the status quo” and “seeking preliminary relief for an improper purpose.” (Opp’n at 5.) It is clear that, without a court order, Defendants will continue to resist discovery while continuing to detain putative class members under inhumane conditions in violation of their constitutional rights and Defendants’ own meager guidelines.

For all of the foregoing reasons, and because good cause exists, Plaintiffs request that the Court grant Plaintiffs’ limited expedited discovery requests.

Dated: July 13, 2015

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on this 13th day of July, 2015, I caused a PDF version of the foregoing document to be electronically transmitted to the Clerk of the Court, using the CM/ECF System for filing and for transmittal of a Notice of Electronic Filing to all CM/ECF registrants.

Harold J. McElhinny
(typed)

/s/ Harold J. McElhinny
(signature)