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11 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURTS
 12 EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
 13 AND NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
 14 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT COMPOSED OF THREE JUDGES
 15 PURSUANT TO SECTION 2284, TITLE 28 UNITED STATES CODE

17 RALPH COLEMAN, et al.,
 Plaintiffs,
 18 v.
 19 EDMUND G. BROWN, JR., et al.,
 Defendants.
 20

Case No. Civ S 90-0520 KJM DAD PC
THREE JUDGE COURT

21 MARCIANO PLATA, et al.,
 Plaintiffs,
 22 v.
 23 EDMUND G. BROWN, JR., et al.,
 Defendants.
 24

Case No. C01-1351 TEH
THREE JUDGE COURT
**REPLY IN SUPPORT OF MOTION
 FOR FURTHER ENFORCEMENT
 ORDER**

1 **I. Defendants Admit That They Are Not Granting Credits to Minimum**
2 **Custody Inmates Who Are Ineligible For Fire Camps.**

3 Defendants admit that notwithstanding the Court's February 10, 2014 order they do
4 not grant two-for-one credits to minimum custody prisoners, even those who are ineligible
5 for fire camps.

6 Defendants claim that extending credits to prisoners ineligible for fire camps would
7 deplete participation in *other* jobs performed by minimum custody prisoners, such as work
8 assignments in the "garage" or "recycle and refuse collections" crews, or "city park crews"
9 Defendants' Opposition to Plaintiffs' Motion for Further Enforcement Order ("Opp. Br.")
10 at 4 & 4, n. 2. But the February 10 Order does not permit CDCR to withhold credits in
11 order to ensure they have prisoner-labor for garage work, garbage collection, or work in
12 city parks; it only permits CDCR to limit credits where doing so would deplete
13 participation in fire crews – a narrow exception which was specifically defined by
14 Defendants when they applied for their extension of time. Feb. 10, 2014 Order at 3; Defs'
15 [Proposed] Order granting Defs' App. for Extension at 2, Jan. 23, 2014.

16 Defendants baldly assert that if the labor pool for their garage, garbage, and city
17 park crews is reduced, then "CDCR would be forced to draw-down its fire camp
18 population to fill these vital MSF positions." Opp. Br. at 4. That is a red herring;
19 Defendants would not be "forced" to do anything. They could hire public employees to
20 perform tasks like garbage collection, garage work and recycling; if they deplete the fire
21 crews in order to staff their garage crews, that would be their own *choice* – a dubious
22 choice in light of their assertion that reducing fire camp participation would be "a
23 dangerous outcome while California is in the middle of a difficult fire season and a severe
24 drought." Opp. Br. at 4.¹ The Court should order Defendants to adhere to the plain terms

25 _____
26 ¹ Defendants also assert that granting additional credits to *all* inmates would reduce one
27 incentive for prisoners to sign up for fire camp. Opp Br. at 3-4. But that ignores
28 Plaintiffs' point – granting the credits to prisoners *ineligible* for participation in fire camps
(footnote continued)

1 of its order, which would require at the least that Defendants grant two-for-one credits to
2 minimum custody inmates ineligible to participate in fire camps.

3 **II. Defendants Admit They Are Not Granting Credits to all Non-Violent**
4 **Second Strikers.**

5 Defendants also admit that they are not granting credits to all non-violent second
6 strikers, notwithstanding this Court's order. Opp. Br. at 5. They make an even flimsier
7 defense of this violation, asserting that they are entitled to unilaterally change the credit-
8 earning criteria because the Court had "indicated its desire to create a flexible framework
9 within which Defendants may fashion reform measures designed to reduce the prison
10 population." *Id.* (citing the Court's June 20, 2013 Order at 2). That statement profoundly
11 misrepresents the Court's prior orders.

12 In the June 20, 2013 Order that Defendants rely upon, the Court ordered Defendants
13 to implement a specific population reduction plan, but gave Defendants the right to make
14 certain narrowly circumscribed changes to the plan:

15 This Court desires to continue to afford a reasonable measure of flexibility to
16 defendants, notwithstanding their continued failure to cooperate with this
17 Court. To this end, this Court offers defendants three ways in which they can
18 amend the Amended Plan. First, defendants may, if they prefer, revise the
19 expanded good time credit program, so long as defendants' revision results
20 in the release of at least the same number of prisoners as does the expanded
21 measure. This Court will not specify the changes defendants must make in
22 order to meet this requirement. Defendants must inform this Court in a
23 timely manner, however, of their decision to make such changes.

24 June 20, 2013 Order at 2-3. In that same Order, the Court noted Defendants' long history
25 of non-compliance with prior orders:

26 [Plaintiffs' motion for an order to show cause re contempt] has considerable
27 merit. We explained at length in our April 11, 2013 Opinion & Order how
28 defendants' conduct between June 2011 and March 2013 has included a
series of contumacious actions. Apr. 11, 2013 Op. & Order at 63-65 (ECF

can have no such effect. And Defendants admit that two thirds of minimum custody
inmates are ineligible for fire camps. Opp. Br. at 4.

1 No. 2590/4541). The most recent, and perhaps clearest, example of such an
2 action is defendants' failure to follow the clear terms of our April 11, 2013
3 order, requiring them to submit a Plan for compliance with our Order, not a
4 Plan for non-compliance. This Court would therefore be within its rights to
5 issue an order to show cause and institute contempt proceedings
6 immediately. Our first priority, however, is to eliminate the deprivation of
7 constitutional liberties in the California prison system. To do so, we must
8 first ensure a timely reduction in the prison population to 137.5% design
9 capacity by December 31, 2013. We will therefore **DEFER** ruling on
10 plaintiffs' motion, and defer instituting any contempt proceedings related to
11 defendants' prior acts until after we are able to determine whether defendants
12 will comply with this order

13 June 20, 2013 Order at 50-51 (emphasis in original).²

14 After having been granted the "flexibility" to design their own population reduction
15 plan, and warned about possible contempt sanctions, Defendants nonetheless informed the
16 Court that they will begin sending "thousands of additional inmates out of state" unless the
17 Court gives them additional time to comply with the population cap through more
18 "sustainable" measures. Defs' Application for Extension of Time, Sept. 16, 2013 at 2.

19 The Court then ordered the parties to meet and confer about "how this Court can
20 ensure a durable solution to the prison crowding problem." Order to Meet and Confer,
21 Sept. 24, 2013 at 2. Following an extended meet and confer process, Defendants filed an
22 "amended" application for an extension of the crowding cap deadline, this time proposing
23 that the Court grant them an extension of time and in exchange they would agree to a
24 Court order that requires them to implement specifically-defined population reduction
25 measures. Defs' Amended App. For Extension of Time and Proposed Order, Jan. 23,
26 2014. Defendants promised not to appeal from any such order. *Id.* at 3.

27 ² Defendants immediately sought a stay of the June 20, 2013 Order (Defs' Mot for
28 Stay, June 26, 2013), which the Court denied. Order Denying Mot to Stay, July 3, 2014 at
29 24 ("After this long history of defendants' noncompliance, this Court cannot in good
30 conscience grant a stay that would allow defendants to both not satisfy the Population
31 Reduction Order and relitigate the Supreme Court's emphatic decision in the very case
32 before us.") Defendants then appealed to the United States Supreme Court, which also
33 denied the stay and dismissed the appeal.

1 It is only in reliance upon this promise to adhere to the contours of the new plan,
2 and the promise not even to appeal from the order, that the Court granted the extension and
3 ordered Defendants to implement the precise measures set forth in their plan. Feb. 10,
4 2014 Order at 1-2.

5 In light of this extended history, it almost defies belief that Defendants now claim
6 that the Court must grant them “flexibility” in deciding whether or not to implement the
7 measures listed in their own proposed order and adopted by the Court. The Court’s
8 February 10, 2014, order is not flexible. It’s very specific and rigid nature was necessary
9 in light of Defendants long history of contumacious conduct. There is no wiggle room in
10 the order: Defendants must implement it in full. As such, Defendants must be required to
11 grant additional credits to *all* non-violent second strikers, not just the ones whom they now
12 wish to favor.

13 **III. Defendants Are Unduly Delaying the Court-Ordered Parole Reforms**

14 Defendants must also be required to strictly adhere to the Order requiring them to
15 implement parole reforms “immediately.” Defendants were ordered to “create and
16 implement a new parole determination process” for non-violent second strikers
17 “immediately.” Feb. 10, 2014 Order at 3. Defendants now claim that they will implement
18 such a program in July 2015 – seventeen months after the Court’s order. Meier Decl, ¶ 5.
19 This hardly qualifies as “immediate.” The Court should order Defendants to implement
20 the measures by the first of the year.

21 **IV. Conclusion**

22 Defendants persuaded this Court to give them two more years to comply with its
23 crowding reduction order in exchange for their promise to immediately undertake
24 specifically-defined population reduction measures that they claimed would present a
25 “durable” solution to the crowding problem. Defs’ Amended App for Extension of Time,
26 Jan. 23, 2014 at 2. Now that Plaintiffs have demonstrated that Defendants are not actually
27 doing what they promised and what the Court ordered, Defendants baldly assert that this
28

1 Court has no role “micromanag[ing]” their population reduction efforts. Opp. Br. At 2.
2 Nothing could be further from the truth. This Court has issued order after order that
3 Defendants have ignored or flat-out defied. This Court granted the most recent extension
4 of time only because Defendants had “belated[ly]” shown that they are “prepared to take
5 the necessary steps toward achieving a durable solution, without additional costly and
6 wasteful litigation and delay.” Opinion re: Order Granting in Part and Denying In Part
7 Defs’ Request For Extension of December 31, 2013 Deadline, Feb. 10, 2014 at 3.

8 Two weeks ago, in a case involving these same Defendants, the Ninth Circuit held:

9 Disabled inmates have been litigating to ensure that the State provides them
10 with needed accommodation for over two decades – and yet the State still
11 has a long, long way to go before it meets its obligations to these prisoners.
12 The ongoing, intractable nature of this litigation affords the district court
considerable discretion in fashioning relief.

13 *Armstrong v. Brown*, ___ F.3d ___, 12-17103, 2014 WL 4783091, at *9 (9th Cir. Sept.
14 26, 2014). The Ninth Circuit upheld an injunction that left “the State less discretion than
15 injunctions typically approved in the PLRA context” because “the level of intrusiveness is
16 acceptable based on the history and circumstances of the case.” *Id.* at *8.

17 The history and circumstances of the current dispute warrants a similar result. The
18 Court should enter a further enforcement order requiring Defendants to implement two-
19 for-one credits for minimum custody inmates ineligible for fire camps, requiring
20 Defendants to grant 33% credits to all non-violent second strikers, and setting a hard
21 deadline for Defendants to implement new parole procedures.

22 DATED: October 7, 2014

23 Respectfully submitted,

24 PRISON LAW OFFICE

25 By: */s/ Rebekah Evenson*
26 Rebekah Evenson

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28 Attorneys for *Plata* Plaintiffs