

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 RULING ON
EVIDENTIARY MATTERS
RELATED TO OPINION AND
ORDER

Several evidentiary matters are before the court and resolved by this order.

The parties to these proceedings, including intervenors, filed exhibits in support of their respective positions and tendered objections to exhibits offered by other parties. In addition, the parties, including intervenors, tendered objections to expert witness declarations proffered by other parties and to deposition excerpts designated by other parties. All objections to exhibits, portions of expert witness declarations, and deposition excerpts cited in the opinion and order filed concurrently with this order are overruled. We find no need to reach objections to exhibits, portions of expert witness declarations, and deposition excerpts not cited in the order as we have not relied on such evidentiary material in making our ruling.

On January 23, 2009, plaintiffs filed a request, pursuant to Federal Rule of Evidence 201, that the court take judicial notice of the following eleven documents:

1. Assembly Bill 8, commonly known as ABX1_8, passed by the California Legislature on December 18, 2008.
2. Governor Schwarzenegger's veto message for ABX1_8, dated January 6, 2009.
3. Assembly Bill 10, commonly known as ABX1_10, passed by the California Legislature on December 18, 2008.
4. Governor Schwarzenegger's veto message for ABX1_10, dated January 6, 2009.
5. 2009-2010 Governor's Budget General Fund Proposals.
6. The U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Prisoner Statistics Program report entitled Census of State and Federal Correctional Facilities, 2005, October 2008, NCJ 222182, by James J. Stephan, BJS Statistician (referred to herein as National Prisoner Statistics Program report).
7. The *Plata* Receiver's October 27, 2006 Newsletter, vol. 1, No. 4.
8. The Tenth Tri-Annual Report of the *Plata* Receiver's Turnaround Plan of Action, dated January 15, 2009 and filed in *Plata* and *Coleman* on January 20, 2009.
9. The November 7, 2008 order of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit in *Plata v. Schwarzenegger*, No. 08-17412, staying the district court's October 27, 2008 order.
10. The homepage of the website of the University of California at Irvine Center for Evidence-Based Corrections, setting forth the mission of the Center and its relationship with the California Department of Corrections.
11. The "About the Commission" page of the website of the Little Hoover Commission, setting forth the mission and make-up of the Little Hoover Commission.

See Jan. 23, 2009 Req. for Judicial Notice at 2-4. On February 2, 2009, defendants filed objections to the request for judicial notice, contending that (1) admission of the eleven documents after the close of evidence in these proceedings "is manifestly unfair" and would

1 be prejudicial to defendants¹; (2) some of the proposed evidence is barred by a provision of
2 this court's July 2, 2008 order preventing admission at trial of evidence of "changed prison
3 conditions after August 30, 2008"; and (3) the documents are not properly subject to judicial
4 notice. Defendants contend that plaintiffs have not satisfied their burden of identifying
5 which facts within the eleven documents can be judicially noticed. Defendants also contend
6 that it is improper to take judicial notice of the entire contents of the documents and that
7 judicial notice, if any, should be limited to the fact that the documents exist.

8 Rule 201 of the Federal Rules of Evidence provides in relevant part:

9 (a) Scope of rule.

10 This rule governs only judicial notice of adjudicative facts.

11 (b) Kinds of facts.

12 A judicially noticed fact must be one not subject to reasonable
13 dispute in that it is either (1) generally known within the
14 territorial jurisdiction of the trial court or (2) capable of accurate
and ready determination by resort to sources whose accuracy
cannot reasonably be questioned.

15 (c) When discretionary.

16 A court may take judicial notice, whether requested or not.

17 (d) When mandatory.

18 A court shall take judicial notice if requested by a party and
19 supplied with the necessary information.

20 (e) Opportunity to be heard.

21 A party is entitled upon timely request to an opportunity to be
22 heard as to the propriety of taking judicial notice and the tenor of
the matter noticed. In the absence of prior notification, the
request may be made after judicial notice has been taken.

23 (f) Time of taking notice.

24 Judicial notice may be taken at any stage of the proceeding.

27 ¹Defendants also assert that admission of the evidence would be prejudicial to the
28 defendant-intervenors, but none of the defendant-intervenors have filed objections to
plaintiffs' request, nor have any of them joined in defendants' objections.

1 Fed. R. Evid. 201(a)-(f). Rule 201 “permits a court to take judicial notice of adjudicative
2 facts ‘not subject to reasonable dispute.’” *United States v. Chapel*, 41 F.3d 1338, 1342 (9th
3 Cir. 1994). “Adjudicative facts are simply the facts of the particular case.” Advisory Notes
4 to Fed. R. Evid. 201.

5 The two assembly bills and the Governor’s vetoes thereof are relevant to the matters
6 at bar and properly subject to judicial notice. Plaintiffs’ request for judicial notice is granted
7 as to these four documents.²

8 On January 7, 2009, the court ordered the state to, “advise the Court and the parties
9 whether the Governor has submitted a budget proposal to the legislature containing any
10 provisions relating to the release of prisoners” and, if so, to “further advise the Court and the
11 parties whether such provisions include any statements regarding public safety as well as the
12 method by which any reductions in the prison system should be accomplished” and “what
13 effect, if any, the provisions in the Governor’s proposed budget have on the State’s position
14 in this lawsuit.” Jan. 7, 2009 Order at 1. The state was directed to “attach to its response . . .
15 a copy of all relevant portions of the Governor’s proposed budget.” *Id.* The state filed its
16 response on January 16, 2009, accompanied by a declaration to which is appended several
17 pages of the Governor’s 2009-10 Budget Proposal that is the subject of plaintiffs’ request for
18 judicial notice. Plaintiffs’ request for judicial notice is granted as to the budget proposal.

19 The Receiver’s Tenth Tri-Annual Report is dated January 15, 2009, and it was filed in
20 both of the underlying actions on January 20, 2009. On September 5, 2008, the court ordered
21 that the Receiver’s Ninth Tri-Annual Report would be admissible at trial as to fifteen items
22 contained therein and identified in a request filed by defendants on August 29, 2008. The
23 September 5, 2008 order specifically provided that, in making the order, the court was
24 permitting “a limited exception” to the August 30, 2008 cut-off for evidence of changed

25 ²On July 2, 2008, the court issued an order for pretrial preparation following a
26 June 27, 2008 status conference. In that order, the court held that “[a]dditional site
27 inspections of prison facilities may be conducted through and including August 30, 2008.
28 No evidence of changed prison conditions after August 30, 2008 shall be admitted at trial.
This prohibition does not include evidence of legislative changes that may occur after
August 30, 2008.” July 2, 2008 Order, at 3.

1 prison conditions. It appears that plaintiffs' request for judicial notice of the Receiver's
2 Tenth Tri-Annual Report seeks admission of the Report in part as evidence of the impact of
3 crowding on the delivery of medical care, in part as evidence to impeach defendants' reliance
4 on the Receivership and the work of the Receiver and his staff as a defense in these
5 proceedings, and in part as evidence of delays that have attended plans to construct new
6 facilities and the length of time that would be required to do so.³

7 The court has not considered as evidence in these proceedings any part of the
8 Receiver's Tenth Tri-Annual Report that addresses the impact of crowding on the delivery of
9 medical care or the impact of an alleged lack of state funding on the Receiver's schedule for
10 construction of new healthcare facilities. The court does take judicial notice of the ongoing
11 litigation in *Plata* concerning the state's refusal to comply with court orders in that case to
12 provide funds to the Receiver and the state's motion to terminate the Receivership, but it
13 does so with reference to documents filed by the state in *Plata* and relevant court orders
14 rather than through the Receiver's Tenth Tri-Annual Report. *See Chandler v. United States*,
15 378 F.2d 906, 909 (9th Cir. 1967) (it is "established rule" that "federal district court can take
16 judicial notice of its own records"). Plaintiffs' request for judicial notice of the Receiver's
17 Tenth Tri-Annual Report is denied.

18 The November 7, 2008 order of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth
19 Circuit in *Plata v. Schwarzenegger*, No. 08-17412, staying the district court's October 27,
20 2008 order is properly subject to judicial notice and relevant to issues at bar, specifically the
21 state's refusal to provide court-ordered funding to the Receiver. Plaintiffs' request for
22 judicial notice is granted as to this document.

23
24 ³Plaintiffs' request for judicial notice was filed on the same day that plaintiffs and the
25 other parties in this action filed, pursuant to court order, proposed findings of fact and
26 conclusions of law. Plaintiffs filed a corrected version of their proposed findings of fact and
27 conclusions of law on January 28, 2009. Plaintiffs' corrected proposed findings of fact and
28 conclusions of law contain citations to nine of the eleven documents for which judicial notice
is sought, including the Receiver's Tenth Tri-Annual Report. The court construes plaintiffs'
request for judicial notice as a request for judicial notice of the specific facts for which the
Receiver's Tenth Tri-Annual Report is cited in the corrected proposed findings of fact and
conclusions of law.

1 The court has already taken judicial notice of the *Plata* Receiver's October 27, 2006
2 Newsletter, vol.1, No. 4, in connection with its consideration of defendants' motion for
3 summary judgment and, as a consequence, the document is part of the record in these
4 proceedings. See Nov. 3, 2008 Order; Ex. B to Req. for Judicial Notice in Supp. of Pls.'
5 Opp'n to Defs.' Mot. to Dismiss and/or Mot. for Summ. Judgment/Adjudication.

6 The court has not considered as evidence in these proceedings the Bureau of Justice
7 Statistics report. Plaintiffs' request for judicial notice of this document is denied.

8 Plaintiffs' request for judicial notice of the two web pages is granted.

9 On February 25, 2009, defendants filed a request for judicial notice of Senate Bill 14,
10 signed into law by Governor Schwarzenegger on February 20, 2009. There are no objections
11 to this request. The request is granted.

12 On June 8, 2009, and July 29, 2009, plaintiffs filed two additional requests for judicial
13 notice, seeking judicial notice of various documents related to proposals by Governor
14 Schwarzenegger to reduce the prison population. Defendants have filed objections to both
15 requests. These requests were filed well after final argument in these proceedings and this
16 court's Feb. 9, 2009 tentative ruling, but the documents may be relevant in connection with
17 the court's consideration of any plan produced by defendants in response to the court's order.
18 Plaintiffs' request for judicial notice of these documents is denied without prejudice.

19 On December 1, 2008, defendants filed a motion to strike paragraphs 15 and 53 of the
20 expert report of Dr. James Austin, wherein Dr. Austin reports that he was asked to give an
21 opinion on whether overcrowding is the primary cause of the constitutional violations and
22 then gives that opinion. On December 4, 2008, plaintiffs filed a motion to strike similar
23 portions of the expert report of Dr. James Marquart. Both parties contend that these
24 witnesses were not proffered as witnesses during Phase I of the trial, which focused on the
25 causation question. Plaintiffs do not oppose defendants' motion. Defendants oppose
26 plaintiffs' motion to the extent that it might cover matters related to Phase II issues. The
27 court has not considered the opinions of either Dr. Austin or Dr. Marquart concerning
28


whether overcrowding is the primary cause of the constitutional violations in the underlying cases. Accordingly, both motions to strike are denied as moot.

IT IS SO ORDERED.


Dated: 08/04/09

/s/
STEPHEN REINHARDT
UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE
NINTH CIRCUIT COURT OF APPEALS

Dated: 08/04/09


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

Dated: 08/04/09


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