1 2 3 4	PRISON LAW OFFICE DONALD SPECTER #83925 SARA NORMAN #189536 General Delivery San Quentin, CA 94964 (415) 457-9144	LATHAM & WATKINS LLP RICHARD B. ULMER JR. #124561 PHILIP J. WANG #218349 TRACI M. KEITH #235828 140 Scott Drive Menlo Park, CA 94025 (650) 328-4600
	BINGHAM MCCUTCHENENDORSED WARREN E. GEORGE #5588 County Superior Co	
5	MONTY AGARWAIsa#191968	BELINDA S. LEE #199635
6	VIBEKE NORGAARD #209499 1 9 2006 FARSCHAD FARZAN #215194 1 9 2006	JU Y. PARK #239936 .633 West Fifth Street, Suite 4000
7	RENEE DUPREE #221655 Three Embarcadero Centera DON PARK-LI, Can Francisco, CA 94	#98 Angeles CA 90071-2007
8	Three Embarcadero Center DON PARIS BAUTIS San Francisco, CA 94 TT-40 PRINA E. BAUTIS (415) 393-2000	y ••••
9	Attorneys for Platasemanagement Conference	MARK A. CHAVEZ #90858
10		KATHRYN C. PALAMOUNTAIN #183246
11	SEP 2 2 2006 0 9 10 AM	42 Miller Avenue
12	DEPARTMENT 212	Mill Valley, CA 94941 (415) 381-5599
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14	SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA	
15	COUNTY OF SA	N FRANCISCO
16	CANDACE WATERS,	
	CIRCE WILLEAM,	
17	Plaintiff	
17 18	Plaintiff,	Case Noc 30 06 - 145 1449
18	v.	Case Noc 30 06 - 145 1449
18 19	v. JEANNE WOODFORD, Chairperson,	Case Noc 30 06 - 145 1449
18	v. JEANNE WOODFORD, Chairperson, Corrections Standards Authority (CSA); JOE MCGRATH, Member, CSA; BERNARD WARNER, Member, CSA; DAVID	Case NocaC 06 - 7451449 COMPLAINT FOR INJUNCTIVE AND DECLARATORY RELIEF
18 19 20	v. JEANNE WOODFORD, Chairperson, Corrections Standards Authority (CSA); JOE MCGRATH, Member, CSA; BERNARD WARNER, Member, CSA; DAVID BACIGALUPO, Member, CSA; ROBERT	COMPLAINT FOR INJUNCTIVE
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Complaint for Injunctive and Declaratory Relief

Plaintiff CANDACE WATERS hereby brings this taxpayer action for injunctive and declaratory relief pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure sections 525, 526a and 1060, directed to Defendants JEANNE WOODFORD, JOE MCGRATH, BERNARD WARNER, DAVID BACIGALUPO, ROBERT HERNANDEZ, MICHAEL F. PRIZMICH, GARY PENROD, CAL C. REMINGTON, DEBORAH BOTTS, MIMI SILBERT, CAROL BIONDI, PAMALA M. GILYARD, and CLEOTHA ADAMS, and by this complaint alleges as follows:

INTRODUCTION

- 1. The Corrections Standards Authority (CSA) of the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) is charged with inspecting county juvenile halls and camps to ensure that they abide by state statutory requirements to provide safe, humane housing for the young people in their custody. In fact, many counties maintain overcrowded, unsafe facilities that violate the rights of the youth and fail utterly to meet mandated standards. The CSA has failed to perform its statutory duty to declare such facilities unsuitable for the confinement of minors.
- 2. This taxpayer action is brought by Candace Waters to compel Defendants, who are the members of the CSA, to stop using taxpayer funds to further illegal actions of the CSA. Plaintiff seeks a declaration that Defendants have expended taxpayer funds on illegal policies, practices, and procedures, and an injunction requiring Defendants to issue the requisite findings as to the counties that are in violation of the minimum standards for the operation of juvenile facilities.

JURISDICTION

3. This Court has jurisdiction to grant injunctive relief on behalf of Plaintiff pursuant to Code of Civil Procedure sections 525 and 526.

4. This Court has jurisdiction to grant declaratory relief on behalf of Plaintiff pursuant to Code of Civil Procedure section 1060.

PARTIES

A. Plaintiff

- 5. Plaintiff Candace Waters is a citizen of California and a resident of Sacramento in Sacramento County. She has paid taxes to the State of California within one year of the commencement of this action. As a taxpayer, Plaintiff Candace Waters has no administrative remedies to exhaust. She brings this action as a taxpayer, pursuant to Code of Civil Procedure section 526a, against the members of the CSA to enjoin the expenditure of funds to promulgate, administer, and enforce the CSA's illegal policies, practices, and procedures.
- 6. Plaintiff's son, Orlindo Myles, is currently housed at the Sacramento County Juvenile Hall.

B. Defendants

- 7. Jeanne Woodford is the Acting Secretary of the CDCR and Chairperson of the CSA and is sued herein in that capacity. As Chairperson of the CSA, Woodford is ultimately responsible for the operation of all CSA staff and facilities, including decisions concerning the budget, staff deployment, programming, and staff training that directly affect the expenditure of taxpayer funds.
 - 8. Joe McGrath is a member of the CSA and is sued herein in that capacity.
 - 9. Bernard Warner is a member of the CSA and is sued herein in that capacity.
- 10. David Bacigalupo is a member of the CSA and is sued herein in that capacity.
- 11. Robert Hernandez is a member of the CSA and is sued herein in that capacity.

- 12. Michael F. Prizmich is a member of the CSA and is sued herein in that capacity.
 - 13. Gary Penrod is a member of the CSA and is sued herein in that capacity.
- 14. Cal C. Remington is a member of the CSA and is sued herein in that capacity.
 - 15. Deborah Botts is a member of the CSA and is sued herein in that capacity.
 - 16. Mimi Silbert is a member of the CSA and is sued herein in that capacity.
 - 17. Carol Biondi is a member of the CSA and is sued herein in that capacity.
- 18. Pamala M. Gilyard is a member of the CSA and is sued herein in that capacity.
 - 19. Cleotha Adams is a member of the CSA and is sued herein in that capacity.
- 20. Defendants use tax revenues collected from Plaintiff Candace Waters and others by the State of California to administer, operate, and maintain CSA operations.

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

21. California counties house more than 10,800 youth in juvenile halls and camps. These youth range in age from 11 to 19 years old. California law requires the CSA¹ to inspect juvenile halls and camps biennially, using minimum standards for juvenile facilities set forth in Titles 15 and 24 of the California Code of Regulations. (Welf. & Inst. Code §§ 209(a), 210; Cal. Code of Regs., tit. 15, § 1310; Cal. Code of Regs., tit. 24, § 13-201(c)(6)(A).) The CSA must "promptly notify the operator... of any noncompliance" with the minimum standards. (Welf. & Inst. Code § 209(a).) The

¹The CSA was formerly knows as the Board of Corrections. On July 1, 2005, California's correctional system underwent a reorganization. The Secretary of the Youth and Adult Corrections Agency, which oversaw the Board of Corrections, became Secretary of the CDCR, which oversees the CSA. The CSA's statutory duties, and the Secretary's responsibility for them, have not changed, notwithstanding the name change.

juvenile facility then has 60 days to submit a Corrective Action Plan or be declared an "unsuitable place for the confinement of minors." (*Id.*)

- 22. A juvenile facility is "unsuitable for the confinement of minors" if it (a) is out of compliance with one or more minimum standards and (b) fails to file an approved Corrective Action Plan within 60 days of being notified of the noncompliance. (Welf. & Inst. Code § 209(d).) Corrective Action Plans must ensure that the noncompliance will be remedied within 90 days. (*Id.*) If the facility fails to meet its commitments set forth in the Corrective Action Plan, the CSA "shall make a determination of suitability at its next scheduled meeting." (*Id.*)
- 23. The CSA utterly fails to fulfill these statutory duties. Although the CSA regularly identifies conditions that violate the state minimum standards, it often fails to inform counties that they are in violation of those standards, fails to require a Corrective Action Plan to remedy the violations, and fails to issue findings that a county is "unsuitable for the confinement of minors," even after identifying repeated uncorrected violations. In sum, the CSA has abdicated its oversight duties and allowed counties to operate juvenile detention facilities that violate state law.
- 24. Overcrowding presents special problems and the regulations provide for additional processes to address it. The CSA is required to set the maximum capacity for each juvenile facility. (Cal. Code of Regs., tit. 15, § 1343.) When a facility is overcrowded for more than 15 days in a month, the county must provide "crowding reports" to the CSA. (*Id.*) The Executive Director of the CSA must then "review the juvenile facility's report and initiate a process to make a preliminary determination if the facility is suitable for the continued confinement of minors. If the Executive Director determines that the facility is unsuitable for the confinement of minors, the

recommendation shall be reviewed by the Board of Corrections at the next scheduled meeting." (Id.)

- 25. In reality, counties with illegally overcrowded juvenile facilities develop "Suitability Plans" which, when approved by the CSA, simply raise the facility's population capacity without any physical change to the juvenile facility. Under these "Suitability Plans," facilities operate at dangerously overcrowded levels (and out of compliance with minimum standards) for decades without any review by the Executive Director and without any findings of noncompliance or unsuitability. Even when counties violate the CSA-approved Suitability Plans, the CSA makes no findings of unsuitability.
- 26. Neither the CSA nor its predecessor, the Board of Corrections, has ever made a finding that a county's juvenile hall is unsuitable for the housing of minors.
- 27. The CSA has failed to comply with its statutory duties in numerous instances, including, but not limited to, the following:

Los Angeles County

28. Between February and June 2001, the U.S. Department of Justice conducted an investigation into conditions at the three Los Angeles County juvenile halls. The Department of Justice found conditions of confinement for minors at the halls so abysmal that they violated the minors' federal constitutional and statutory rights: youth "suffered harm or the risk of serious harm from deficiencies in the facilities' medical and mental health care, sanitation, use of chemical spray, and insufficient protection from harm." The Department of Justice further found that the County violated minors' federal rights through its "failure to provide proper rehabilitation, education, opportunities to use the telephone and participate in religious programming, insufficient provision of translation

services for Limited English Proficient. . . youth, and an ineffective grievance system." (See http://www.usdoj.gov/crt/split/documents/la county juvenile findlet.pdf.)

- 29. In October and November 2001, the Presiding Judge of the Los Angeles County Juvenile Court, Terry Friedman, inspected Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall. He found grave violations, many of them identical to those found in the federal investigation: for example, "substantial non-compliance with enunciated grievance policy"; "failure to provide timely psychological services to youth evidencing clear psychological disorders"; "failure to maintain necessary medical information regarding youth in the SHU [high security lock-up unit]"; "failure to assure daily education to youth confined in the SHU"; and "gaps in complying with federal and state special education laws." Based on these violations, the Presiding Juvenile Judge refused to certify that the Hall "meets the minimum standard set forth in WIC 209 as a suitable place for the confinement of minors." He also found serious violations of the special education needs of minors confined in the other two Los Angeles County juvenile halls.
- 30. In November 2001, the CSA inspected the same three Los Angeles County juvenile halls. In direct contradiction to the findings by the U.S. Department of Justice and the Los Angeles County Presiding Juvenile Judge, the CSA found that the County "is doing a good job of meeting the needs of the minors in its care" and that "the majority of compliance issues are easily remedied with editorial changes in the policy and procedure manual." The CSA found no violations of state minimum standards for medical and mental health care, sanitation, use of force, protection from harm, education, telephone and religious programming access, or grievance systems, despite the U.S. government's and the Presiding Juvenile Judge's findings of serious violations in these areas. The few areas of noncompliance identified by the CSA were quickly remedied, according to the

Complaint for Injunctive and Declaratory Relief

County's self-reporting, and the facilities were found suitable for the confinement of minors.

- 31. Los Angeles County subsequently entered into a settlement agreement with the U.S. government requiring sweeping changes to remedy the serious violations of federal law. (See http://www.usdoj.gov/crt/split/documents/split_setagree_lajuvhall_8-12-04.pdf.) The CSA, however, never made significant findings of noncompliance in the areas found deficient by the federal investigation, never required Corrective Action Plans in those areas, and never found the County's juvenile halls unsuitable for the confinement of minors. The CSA failed to perform its statutory duties.
- 32. The CSA did identify a single significant violation of the state minimum standards in its 2001 inspection: the three juvenile halls did not meet the required one-to-ten staff-to-minor ratio. (Cal. Code of Regs., tit. 15, § 1321(g)(1)(A).) As a result, according to the CSA, "there is not sufficient staff to carry out the program of each of the three juvenile halls."
- 33. Consistent with its statutory duty, the CSA required a Corrective Action Plan within 60 days of the inspection report (dated January 11, 2002). Los Angeles County failed to meet this deadline: the County did not supply a Corrective Action Plan until November 13, 2002. This Plan simply stated that additional staff would be supplied to reach the required ratio. The CSA's subsequent inspection in February 2003 found that the noncompliant staffing practices remained and that the promised remedy had been neither implemented nor included in Los Angeles County Juvenile Hall written policies. As a result, "the safety and security of the minors, outside program providers and staff are compromised" by the illegally low staffing levels. The CSA failed to declare the facility

unsuitable for the confinement of minors. Instead, the CSA again simply sought another Corrective Action Plan.

- 34. The CSA's next inspection, in February 2005, found the exact same violation and exact same failure to include the promised remedy in policies and procedures. Despite finding the same violation for more than three years, and despite Los Angeles County's failure to remedy it after two notifications of noncompliance, the CSA failed in its statutory duty to declare the facility unsuitable for the confinement of minors. Instead, the CSA yet again simply sought another Corrective Action Plan.

 Alameda County
- 35. Since 1998, the CSA has regularly found the Alameda County Juvenile Hall noncompliant with state minimum standards regarding sanitation, education, and recreation. Although the County has not corrected these violations, the CSA has failed to perform its statutory duty to find the Juvenile Hall unsuitable for the confinement of minors.
- 36. Sanitation and Public Health: On September 15, 2003, the Alameda County Public Health Department reported that the Juvenile Hall placed boys in its care at risk of contracting certain communicable diseases because it distributed underwear to them that had not been properly sanitized and had obvious permanent stains. The public health report stated that this practice placed the boys at risk for pinworm, pubic lice, scabies and genital herpes. This report was copied to the CSA, but despite these serious findings of noncompliance with state regulations see, e.g., Cal. Code of Regs., tit. 15, §§ 1480 ("undergarments" shall be "freshly laundered and substantially free of stains") and 1484 ("There shall be written policies developed by the facility administrator to control the contamination and/or spread of vermin in all minors' personal clothing") the CSA failed

to perform its statutory duty to find the Juvenile Hall out of compliance with state minimum standards and to require a Corrective Action Plan.

- Juvenile Hall's physical plant illegally limits minors' access to education. The CSA's 1998 inspection report found that the facility did not have enough classroom space to meet the educational needs of all minors detained, a violation of state minimum standards that had been identified during the previous inspection but not remedied. (Cal. Code of Regs., tit. 24, § 460A.1.12 ("[t]here shall be dedicated academic classroom space for every juvenile in every facility").) Access to education was again identified as an area of noncompliance following the March 2001 biennial inspection. The CSA found that, lacking sufficient classroom space, Alameda County would rotate minors out of the school program for specific class periods, returning them for the next class period when another minor was rotated out. The CSA found that this practice violates the minimum educational standards set forth in Title 15 of the California Code of Regulations. (Cal. Code of Regs., tit. 15, § 1370(b).) Consistent with its statutory duties, the CSA notified the County of the violation and requested a Corrective Action Plan by August 31, 2001.
- 38. The County submitted a Corrective Action Plan to the CSA on September 4, 2001. The Plan stated that an overflow class was created in the dayroom area of "A" unit for certain minors. However, an August 7, 2001, letter from the Chief Probation Officer to the Superintendent of the Alameda County Office of Education, copied to the CSA, pointed out that this remedy was inadequate, and that minors continued to miss school because of insufficient classroom space.
- 39. Despite the Chief Probation Officer's explicit statement that minors continued to miss school because classrooms were full, the CSA notified the Chief Probation Officer on January 17, 2002 that the County was in compliance with state

minimum standards, citing the very remedy (the overflow classroom in "A" unit) that the Chief Probation Officer had herself admitted was inadequate.

- 40. Not surprisingly, in its May 2004 inspection, the CSA found the facility non-compliant with state minimum standards because, among other reasons, the classrooms did not accommodate the juvenile population. The CSA again requested a Corrective Action Plan within 60 days. On July 15, 2004, the County submitted a letter documenting corrective actions taken for several areas of noncompliance, but not addressing the educational deficiencies.
- 41. The illegalities were not remedied. The CSA's June 2005 report of its inspection of May 2005 again raised education noncompliance issues. An employment contract between teachers and the school district limits class size to 16. The living units in the Alameda County Juvenile Hall have a capacity of 20. When the number of minors in a living unit exceeded 16, up to four minors were barred from attending class. As the CSA pointed out, "no plan is in place to provide schooling for the frequent occasions when more than 16 minors are present in the living unit." In its June 23, 2005, report of this inspection, the CSA yet again requested a Corrective Action Plan within 60 days.
- 42. In a letter of August 19, 2005, the County wrote that an additional teacher had been hired to ensure that students in Units 1, 2, 3, and 4 received the required number of minutes of education daily. It is not clear how the hiring of an extra teacher would remedy the violation, which was reported as inadequate classroom space, not staff. There is proof that this Corrective Action Plan has failed: in the County's Crowding Assessment Report of March 21, 2006, in response to the question, "Are the current classroom

program space/educational staff adequate to accommodate the increase in population?" the County responded "No."²

- 43. Alameda County has operated its Juvenile Hall for many years in violation of the state law requiring that minors receive 240 minutes of school each day. (Education Code § 46141.) It thus violates minimum state standards. (Cal. Code of Regs., tit. 15, § 1370(b) ("The facility school program shall comply with the State Education Code"). The County further violates the requirement in the minimum standards that any suspensions from school follow due process safeguards. (Cal. Code of Regs., tit. 15, § 1370(c)(3) ("Expulsion/suspension from school shall follow the appropriate due process safeguards as set forth in the Education Code")). The CSA has made numerous findings of noncompliance and has even required Corrective Action Plans to address the problem. However, when those Corrective Action Plans proved inadequate to repair the deficiencies, the CSA failed in its statutory duty to declare the Juvenile Hall unsuitable for the confinement of minors.
 - 44. <u>Recreation</u>: Following its December 1998 inspection, the CSA reported that the Juvenile Hall is old, and too small to accommodate the additional minors that have caused the present crowded conditions.... Minors in these units must compete for precious space, and rarely receive their mandated recreation time due to limited space.

In addition, the CSA found the facility lacked sufficient physical activity space – although the Juvenile Hall had a field area, minors were not permitted to use it because it was not secured. The County was thus in violation of the state minimum standards requiring "at least one hour of outdoor physical activity a day" or "large muscle exercise" and "a minimum of exercise for three hours a day during the week" and five hours on non-school

²The County's Crowding Assessment Reports regularly document their educational deficiencies; for many years, the same question regarding adequacy of education resources has been answered in the negative, with no action from the CSA.

days. (Cal. Code of Regs., tit. 15, § 1371(d),(e)); Cal. Code of Regs., tit. 24, § 460A.1.11.2. ("[a] portion of the dedicated space for physical activity and recreation shall be out of doors and be of sufficient size...").)

45. Consistent with its statutory duties, the CSA requested a Corrective Action Plan to address these compliance issues within 60 days. However, Alameda County never remedied these conditions. Instead of making the mandated findings of unsuitability for the confinement of minors, the CSA has simply continued to raise the same violations in subsequent reports with no further action. For example, in May 2004, the CSA found yet again that the Juvenile Hall had a "severe lack of activity and recreation space" and the recreation field continued to be unsecured.

Fresno County

- 46. Overcrowding: The CSA has failed in its statutory duty regarding severe overcrowding in Fresno County in violation of minimum state requirements. Fresno County's current Juvenile Hall has a rated capacity of 265, but the facility has consistently held over 300 minors, dating back at least to 2000. The Hall was overcrowded every day of 2001. A Fresno Juvenile Justice Commission report in November 2002 put the average daily population at 305 to 310. The overcrowding has resulted in predictable problems: as of January 2005, up to 45 girls were living in a dorm rated to house 24, with only four toilets. Conditions thus violate minimum standards, which require one toilet for every six minors. (Cal. Code of Regs., tit. 24, § 460A.2.1.)
- 47. Overcrowding has led to other unacceptable conditions at the facility. In late 2002, according to the CSA, the overcrowding caused "poor sanitation, limited supplies and resources as well as additional stress on the staff." In addition, girls housed in the Hall were not separated by crime or age, a violation of the classification requirements of the state minimum standards. (Cal. Code of Regs., tit. 15, § 1352.) The

juvenile court judge found in December 2004 that the walls and ceilings of some segregation cells "were covered with food and other unidentifiable substances," a violation of the minimum standards that prohibit deprivation of "clean and sanitary living conditions" in disciplinary segregation units. (Cal. Code of Regs., tit. 15, § 1390(h).) Conditions also violated minimum standards requiring facilities to "identify and correct unsanitary or unsafe conditions." (Cal. Code of Regs., tit. 15, § 1510.) Despite these violations, the CSA has failed in its statutory duty to promptly notify the operator of noncompliance and to require a Corrective Action Plan.

- 48. Instead, over its many years of illegal overcrowding, Fresno County has developed a series of Suitability Plans with new population caps that have been accepted by the CSA. Fresno has then immediately and consistently exceeded those caps with no response from the CSA.
- 49. In its November 2003 report of its October 2003 investigation, the CSA required Fresno to submit within 45 days "definitive plans for the immediate reduction of the number of minors" it houses. Otherwise, the CSA threatened to begin the process outlined in Welfare & Institutions Code § 209(e): finding the facility "unsuitable for the confinement of minors." After obtaining an extension, Fresno County refused to provide a Suitability Plan but stated it would "continue to work with our Court on an informal basis to resolve our issues until we open the new Juvenile Justice Campus in the spring of 2006." On April 12, 2004, the CSA Field Representative wrote to Fresno County's Chief Probation Officer that the refusal to develop a new plan was unacceptable but instead of finding the County's juvenile hall unsuitable for the confinement of minors, gave the County another 45 days to submit a Suitability Plan, with the same threat to begin the process outlined in Welfare & Institutions Code § 209(e) if it failed to comply.

- 50. A Suitability Plan was eventually provided and was accepted by the CSA on August 19, 2004. Fresno County immediately violated it: the CSA's report of its January 2005 inspection notes: "The Fresno County Juvenile Hall was not in compliance with the unit population limits specified" in that plan "everyday from August 2004 to January 2005." There were no consequences to Fresno County for its unlawful actions: the CSA simply requested yet another Suitability Plan.
- 51. A Fresno County Juvenile Court Judge stated that he was told, during his December 2004 inspection, that the facility has been consistently within its population capacity. This misrepresentation is clearly recorded in the CSA's own file, but the CSA has done nothing to correct it or to declare that the Fresno County facility has not met and cannot meet the state minimum standards.
- 52. Fresno County submitted a new Suitability Plan on July 22, 2005, that the CSA accepted on December 14, 2005. Crowding Assessment Reports submitted monthly demonstrate that Fresno County has consistently violated the population caps in this Suitability Plan in several housing units. There have been no consequences for the violations, as there have been no consequences for the many years during which Fresno County has operated its juvenile hall under illegally overcrowded conditions. Sacramento County
- overcrowding: Sacramento County has been operating its juvenile hall under dangerously overcrowded conditions for more than a decade in violation of state minimum standards. Pursuant to a Suitability Plan agreed to in 2000, the CSA has allowed Sacramento County to house up to 318 minors (instead of the rated capacity of 261) in the Juvenile Hall. No more than 40 minors are allowed on a single unit. Since that time, however, Sacramento County has consistently housed more minors than allowed in the Suitability Plan.

- 54. On August 28, 2003, Sacramento County submitted a new proposed Suitability Plan. The Plan consists of (a) a statement that the County might fund a 25-bed expansion to the ranch, which would not be available until October 15, 2003, but there was no guarantee the funding would be approved; (b) a "population control officer" will work to identify candidates for immediate release; (c) a new program will enhance community placements, with a "target implementation date" of October 2003; and (d) the county plans to build 90 new secure beds, anticipated to be open by September 2005.
- 55. On September 19, 2003, the CSA informed the Chief Probation Officer that its new Suitability Plan was acceptable. Since that time, Sacramento County has continued to operate a dangerously overcrowded juvenile hall with no oversight and no follow-through to determine whether the promises made and hopes expressed in the Suitability Plan bore fruit. The daily population reports in the CSA's files demonstrate that throughout 2004 and 2005, the population was consistently in the 350s and 360s often exceeding the Hall's rated capacity by 100 or more. On August 28, 2005, for example, the juvenile hall had a population of 378. On that date, F, G, and I Units, all with a rated capacities of 36 minors, housed 50, 56, and 60 minors, respectively. H Unit, rated at 24, housed 44 minors.
- 56. In its most recent monthly Crowding Assessment Report, dated January 3, 2006, five of the 11 living units in the Sacramento County Juvenile Hall were illegally overcrowded nearly every day of the prior month, and other living units were illegally overcrowded much of the time.
- 57. The CSA has failed to find the Sacramento County Juvenile Hall unsuitable for the confinement of minors, despite the Hall's continuous and chronic violation of its Suitability Plan and the state's minimum standards, which require one toilet and shower for every six minors. (Cal. Code of Regs., tit. 24, § 460A.2.1.)

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58. These illegally overcrowded facilities result in bleak living conditions for vouths in Sacramento County Juvenile Hall. Minors overwhelmingly report filthy conditions, including walls and floors smeared with feces and other bodily fluids and excessive dust and dirt that exacerbates many minors' asthma, violations of the minimum state standards regarding facility sanitation and safety. (Cal. Code of Regs., tit. 15, § 1510.) Some of this filth can be attributed to the difficulties many minors report with gaining access to toilets, particularly in the "dry rooms," which require staff to respond to a push-button and escort minors to a toilet. After waiting an hour or more, some youths are forced to urinate or defecate on the floor. Many also report inadequate and sometimes inedible food, another violation of minimum state standards. (Cal. Code of Regs., tit. 15, § 1461.) Finally, minors also report frequent and unwarranted staff assaults, including the practice of "dipping," in which staff flip a youth upside down and smash his or her head into the floor, in violation of state regulations that prohibit the use of force as punishment, discipline or treatment and ban the excessive use of force. (Cal. Code of Regs., tit. 15, § 1357(a); see also Cal. Code of Regs., tit. 15, § 1390 ("[d]iscipline shall not include corporal punishment, physical or psychological degradation").)

San Diego County

Overcrowding: Minors have lived in San Diego's Kerny Mesa Juvenile Hall 59. under severely overcrowded conditions since the 1990s. The overcrowding injures the youth: according to the CSA's 1999 investigation report, "many of the basic services" required by the state's minimum standards are "adversely affected due to the excessive population" in the Hall. The "basic services" that are "adversely affected" included recreation and physical safety. Three years later, the CSA's 2002 investigation report found that conditions had not improved: "Due to the routine crowding, there are not enough toilets, showers, bed space, dayroom space, and washbasins to accommodate this

present population on a long-term basis." The CSA's 2004 investigation report used identical language to describe minors' deplorable living conditions.

- 60. For years, the CSA has consistently found San Diego County's Kearny Mesa Juvenile Hall out of compliance with the state minimum standards due to the overcrowding lacking adequate toilets and showers and space for the youth to move around and exercise but has allowed the facility to operate under a Suitability Plan that increases the "allowed" population from 338 to 517. This Suitability Plan has been contingent for many years on a long-term solution: the construction of a new juvenile hall to remedy the overcrowded conditions. The new hall was finally completed in 2004, but the Kearny Mesa facility remains severely overcrowded. Nine of the fourteen housing units in Kearny Mesa have been overcrowded for most of 2006.
- 61. The overcrowding leads to living conditions that harm the minors. Youth report living under filthy conditions, with feces and bodily fluids on the walls, ceilings, and floors, a violation of minimum state standards on sanitation. (Cal. Code of Regs., tit. 15, § 1510.) The overcrowded conditions also lead to the excessive use of force such as "slamming," in which staff throw a youth into the wall or onto the floor, and excessive and unnecessary use of pepper spray. For example, one minor reported that he was pepper sprayed when he did not immediately enter the "cover" position because he was using the restroom. (Cal. Code of Regs., tit. 15, § 1357(a); see also Cal. Code of Regs., tit. 15, § 1390 ("[d]iscipline shall not include corporal punishment, physical or psychological degradation").) Faced with overcrowded conditions, San Diego County also resorts to the excessive and improper use of psychotropic medications.
- 62. The CSA has violated its statutory duty to promptly notify the operator of San Diego County's Kearny Mesa facility of the noncompliance with the above state minimum standards. It has failed to either ensure that the County corrects these serious

violations and the harmful overcrowding or declare the facility unsuitable for the confinement of minors.

- 63. Education, Recreation, and Programming for Status Offenders: In its
 February 2002 inspection of Kearny Mesa Juvenile Hall in San Diego County, the CSA
 found that the County houses "status offenders" at the facility under conditions that
 violate state minimum standards. A status offender is a minor who is adjudged a ward of
 the court because he or she has "persistently or habitually refuse[d] to obey the reasonable
 and proper orders or direction of his or her parents. . . or who is beyond the control of that
 person" or who has violated age-related curfews or is a habitual truant. (Welfare &
 Institutions Code § 601.) According to the CSA, the status offenders at San Diego's
 Kearny Mesa Juvenile Hall, typically no more than five at a time, "spend an
 overwhelming majority of the time locked in the 79 square foot room." The CSA noted
 that "[p]robation staff make every effort to accomplish programming goals but due to
 several contributing factors, the goals are not able to be accomplished."
- 64. Specifically, the status offenders had no school; instead, they were given school work and told to complete it alone. "The facility simply does not have the space or teaching resources to have a classroom for the five or less status offenders held during school days." The County was thus in violation of the state law requiring that minors receive 240 minutes of school each day (Education Code § 46141) and minimum state standards. (Cal. Code of Regs., tit. 15, § 1370(b) ("The facility school program shall comply with the State Education Code").
- 65. These violations were listed as "areas of concern" in the 2002 report but not "compliance issues," and the CSA did not require San Diego County to submit a Corrective Action Plan to remedy them.

- 66. In its April 2004 inspection of Kearny Mesa Juvenile Hall, the CSA found the exact same violations regarding status offenders. These minors continued to spend an "overwhelming majority of the time locked in the 79 square foot room" and did not receive the education, orientation, recreation, or exercise required by the state minimum standards. San Diego County was thus in violation of Education Code Section 46141 and Sections 1353, 1370(b), and 1371 of Title 15 of the California Code of Regulations. As before, however, these violations were listed as "areas of concern" but not "compliance issues," and the CSA did not require San Diego County to submit a Corrective Action Plan to remedy them. The CSA thus violated its statutory duty to promptly notify the operator of the facility (the County's Chief Probation Officer) of its noncompliance with state minimum standards, and to either ensure that the County corrected this serious violation or declare the facility unsuitable for the confinement of minors.
- 67. Over the years since the CSA first identified these violations, the population of status offenders has grown. In 2005, the facility frequently held more than its rated capacity of six status offenders. The overcrowded conditions aggravate the harm.

 San Joaquin County
- 68. Education: In its June 2001 inspection, as reported on February 22, 2002, the CSA reported San Joaquin County's failure to provide education to minors in administrative segregation and its cessation of educational services as a disciplinary measure:

Minors housed in Administrative Segregation are designated as security risks and as such do not attend regular school. . . . The practice is that these minors stay locked in their rooms during school time and receive "in-room" school. However, it is reported that these minors rarely receive any "real" schoolwork. The education services provided to these minors consists of "Books on Tape" placed over the audio system to the rooms.

There is further concern regarding minors not being allowed to attend school as a routine disciplinary action for behavior outside of the school

program. Title 15 CCR section 1390 states that discipline shall not include deprivation of education. This practice also violates Sections 48645.3 and 48200 of the Education Code, as all minors are required to attend school, and should be under the control of school staff.

- 69. San Joaquin County's education program, as described by the CSA, violates state law requiring that minors receive 240 minutes of school each day. (Education Code § 46141.) It thus violates the state's minimum standards. (Cal. Code of Regs., tit. 15, § 1370(b) ("The facility school program shall comply with the State Education Code").) The education program further violates the requirement that any suspensions from school follow due process safeguards. (Cal. Code of Regs., tit. 15, § 1370(c)(3) ("Expulsion/suspension from school shall follow the appropriate due process safeguards as set forth in the Education Code").)
- 70. The CSA performed its statutory duty to promptly notify the operator of the facility (the County's Chief Probation Officer) of its noncompliance with state minimum standards. However, the CSA failed to carry out its statutory duty to either ensure that the County corrected this serious violation or declare the facility unsuitable for the confinement of minors. On the contrary, the CSA gave its blessing to a "corrective" policy that does nothing to actually correct the violation. On March 20, 2002, one month after receiving the CSA's inspection report, the County produced a Revision to San Joaquin County Probation Department Juvenile Hall Procedure Manual, Procedure 700, that codified the practice criticized by the CSA and admitted that minors will not be provided the amount of school time required by state law.

Ad-Seg students will listen to a variety of books, historical events, and any other subject matter that is available on audiotapes over the existing audio system. . . . [S]tudents on Ad-Seg will not be attending a 240-minute day as required by the Education Code. . . .

One month later, the CSA wrote to the San Joaquin Chief Probation Officer stating that the county had corrected all areas of deficiency from the CSA inspection. The

subsequent CSA inspection in March 2004 does not mention this issue. Based on the information in the CSA files, the County continues to operate pursuant to the illegal revised policy.

Tulare County

- 71. Education: The CSA's August 2003 inspection report of the Tulare County Juvenile Detention Facility describes a situation in which it is impossible for minors to receive the statutory education requirement of 240 minutes per day. (Education Code § 46141.) According to the report, only two classrooms are used in each pod and only 15 students are allowed in each classroom. That means that only 30 students per pod can be in school simultaneously. The same report notes that the facility operates only two pods and on the date of inspection, the juvenile hall's population was 114. This means that only 60 minors can be in school at a time, leaving as many as 54 without schooling, in violation of state minimum standards. (Cal. Code of Regs., tit. 15, § 1370(b).)
- 72. CSA failed in its statutory duty to promptly notify the operator of the juvenile hall of noncompliance with state minimum standards, despite the fact that Tulare County was clearly in violation of Education Code requirements. Instead, the inspection report stated that the CSA "will continue to monitor the status of this situation: [CSA] staff has requested written assurance from the facility that every effort will be made to ensure that minors are not left out of classroom instruction, as well as periodic updates of the number of kids who are left behind."
- 73. The CSA's inspection of November 2005, as reported to the County in December 2005, found the same violations with access to education. Furthermore, the Juvenile Justice Commission report of May 6, 2005, reported the denial of educational programming for minors in administrative segregation, who are given schoolwork in their rooms and not allowed to attend classrooms. However, the CSA has never demanded or

received a Corrective Action plan regarding these illegalities, and from the evidence of the CSA's own file, the CSA has no knowledge whether the violations have been remedied or whether the County continues to operate in violation of state law.

- 74. <u>Safety</u>: In its 1998/2000 inspection cycle, the CSA found that the fire sprinklers in sleeping rooms of Tulare County's Juvenile Detention Facility were a suicide hazard. During its 2002 inspection, the CSA again found that "fire sprinklers are directly accessible to the minors in their rooms," which poses "a suicide hazard, as minors could use the sprinklers as an attachment for a ligature." The CSA also noted that "the size of, and accessibility to, ventilation grates in the housing units" pose "additional safety hazards" as suicide risks or for storing contraband. This situation violates the state's minimum standards. (Cal. Code of Regs., tit. 24, § 13-201(c)(6)(B)(2).
- 75. The CSA failed in its statutory duty to promptly notify the operator of the juvenile hall of noncompliance with state minimum standards. Instead, the inspection report merely states that the CSA "is aware that the probation department plans to remedy this situation; priority should be given to this project." The CSA's subsequent inspection report, dated August 11, 2003, notes that "only one fire sprinkler had been replaced... and the protrusion of the mechanism remains a potential suicide hazard that should be addressed as a priority." There has been no subsequent report of any action taken by the CSA or the County on this issue. The CSA never demanded or received a Corrective Action plan, and from the evidence of the CSA's own file, the CSA has no knowledge whether the problem has been remedied and whether the County continues to operate in violation of state law.

Santa Barbara County

76. <u>Education</u>: The CSA's July 2002 report of its February 2002 inspection of Santa Barbara's three juvenile halls documented serious noncompliance with state

statutory educational requirements. The report stated that in both Santa Barbara and

- 77. Santa Barbara County's education program, as described by the CSA, violates the state statutory requirement that minors receive 240 minutes of school each day. (Education Code Section 46141.) It thus violates the state's minimum standards. (Cal. Code of Regs., tit. 15, § 1370(b) ("The facility school program shall comply with the State Education Code").) The education program further violates the requirement in the minimum standards that any suspensions from school follow due process safeguards. (Cal. Code of Regs., tit. 15, § 1370(c)(3).)
- 78. The CSA failed to perform its statutory duty to promptly notify the operator of the juvenile hall of its noncompliance with minimum standards: the inspection checklist accompanying the July 2002 report found the school programs in compliance with Education Code policies.
- 79. The CSA's physical plant inspection checklist accompanying the 2002 report noted that the facility is out of compliance with the requirement that dedicated

classroom space be available for every juvenile in the facility. (Cal. Code of Regs., tit. 24, § 460A.1.12.) The CSA thus performed its statutory duty to promptly notify the operator of the juvenile hall of noncompliance with minimum standards. However, the operator must then be given 60 days to file a Corrective Action Plan, or have the facility declared unsuitable for the confinement of minors. The CSA failed to demand a Corrective Action Plan and Santa Barbara County never supplied one.

80. The CSA's subsequent inspection report of June 25, 2004 noted that at the Santa Barbara Juvenile Hall, "the school program has improved since the last inspection" and that "[e]ach classroom will instruct up to 20 minors." Again, no finding of noncompliance was made, but again, there was no indication whether a classroom size of 20 would suffice to ensure that students received the statutory education requirement. The record demonstrates clearly that Santa Barbara County was out of compliance with minimum standards, did not submit a Corrective Action Plan, and was never found unsuitable for the confinement of minors.

FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION:

FAILURE TO PERFORM STATUTORY DUTY TO IDENTIFY VIOLATIONS

- 81. Plaintiff realleges and incorporates by reference herein all of the allegations contained in paragraphs 1 through 80, inclusive, as though they were fully set forth herein.
- 82. Defendants use public funds in violation of Code of Civil Procedure section 526a to perform the following illegal actions:
- 83. Defendants investigate county juvenile facilities and fail to identify violations of state minimum standards, in violation of Welfare & Institutions Code § 209(a). For example, in Los Angeles County, the CSA failed to identify numerous violations of the state minimum standards that were apparent from the contemporaneous

investigations of the federal Department of Justice and the Los Angeles County Presiding Juvenile Judge. In Alameda County, the CSA failed to identify as noncompliant with state standards the findings of the Alameda County Public Health Department that the Juvenile Hall placed boys in its care at risk of contracting certain communicable diseases because it distributed underwear to them that had not been properly sanitized and had obvious permanent stains. In Sacramento County, the CSA failed to identify as noncompliant with state standards the filthy conditions, inadequate food, and frequent and excessive staff assaults. In San Diego County, the CSA failed to identify as noncompliant with state standards the filthy conditions, frequent and excessive staff assaults, and improper use of psychotropic medications.

SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION:

FAILURE TO PERFORM STATUTORY DUTY TO REPORT VIOLATIONS

- 84. Plaintiff realleges and incorporates by reference herein all of the allegations contained in paragraphs 1 through 80, inclusive, as though they were fully set forth herein.
- 85. Defendants use public funds in violation of Code of Civil Procedure section 526a to perform the following illegal actions:
- 86. Defendants investigate county juvenile facilities and discover violations of state law but fail to promptly notify the operators of the facilities of the areas of noncompliance with the state minimum standards, in violation of Welfare & Institutions Code § 209(a). For example, in San Diego County, the CSA identified deficiencies in the County's housing of status offenders, but failed to notify the County that these deficiencies constitute violations of the state minimum standards. In Tulare County, the CSA determined that minors do not receive the daily allotment of education required by state statute and that fire sprinklers in minors' rooms were a safety and suicide hazard in

violation of state minimum standards, but failed to notify the operator of the juvenile hall that the facility was noncompliant with state minimum standards. In Santa Barbara County, the CSA determined that minors do not receive the daily allotment of education required by state statute but failed to notify the operator of the juvenile hall that the facility was noncompliant with state minimum standards.

THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION: FAILURE TO PERFORM STATUTORY DUTY TO REQUIRE CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN

- 87. Plaintiff realleges and incorporates by reference herein all of the allegations contained in paragraphs 1 through 80, inclusive, as though they were fully set forth herein.
- 88. Defendants use public funds in violation of Code of Civil Procedure section 526a to perform the following illegal actions:
- 89. Defendants fail to require that county juvenile facilities' operators submit a Corrective Action Plan to remedy identified violations of state law within 60 days of notification of the violations or be declared an unsuitable place for the confinement of minors, in violation of Welfare & Institutions Code § 209(a). For example, in Santa Barbara County, the CSA determined that minors do not receive the daily allotment of education required by state statute and notified the operator of the facility, but failed to require a Corrective Action Report to remedy the violation.

FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION: FAILURE TO PERFORM STATUTORY DUTY TO DECLARE ILLEGALLY OPERATING FACILITIES UNSUITABLE FOR THE CONFINEMENT OF MINORS

90. Plaintiff realleges and incorporates by reference herein all of the allegations contained in paragraphs 1 through 80, inclusive, as though they were fully set forth herein.

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- 91. Defendants use public funds in violation of Code of Civil Procedure section 526a to perform the following illegal actions:
- 92. Defendants fail to find county juvenile facilities "unsuitable for the confinement of minors" even when the facilities are noncompliant with one or more of the state's minimum standards and fail to remedy the violation through compliance with any Corrective Action Plan within 60 days of being notified of the noncompliance, in violation of Welfare & Institutions Code § 209(d). For example, in Los Angeles County, Defendants failed to find the juvenile halls unsuitable for the confinement of minors after three years of demonstrated noncompliance with state minimum standards on staffing and the repeated failure of Corrective Action Plans to remedy the violation. In Alameda County, Defendants failed to find the juvenile hall unsuitable for the confinement of minors after many years of documented violations of the state minimum standards on education and recreation and the failure of Corrective Action Plans to remedy the violations. In San Joaquin County, Defendants failed to find the juvenile hall unsuitable for the confinement of minors after documented violations of the state minimum standards on education and the inadequacy of the County's Corrective Action Plan to remedy the violations.

FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION: FAILURE TO PERFORM STATUTORY DUTY TO DECLARE ILLEGALLY OVERCROWDED FACILITIES UNSUITABLE FOR THE CONFINEMENT OF MINORS

- 93. Plaintiff realleges and incorporates by reference herein all of the allegations contained in paragraphs 1 through 80, inclusive, as though they were fully set forth herein.
- 94. Defendants use public funds in violation of Code of Civil Procedure section 526a to perform the following illegal actions:

Defendants fail to find county juvenile facilities "unsuitable for the 95. confinement of minors" even when the facilities are illegally overcrowded and thus noncompliant with state minimum standards, in violation of Welfare & Institutions Code § 209(d). Defendants allow overcrowded county juvenile facilities to operate under "Suitability Plans" that allow overcrowding under set conditions that purport to render the facilities suitable for the confinement of minors. Even when the facilities violate their Suitability Plans, and thus operate under conditions not suitable for the confinement of minors, Defendants fail to make that statutorily required finding. For example, in Fresno and Sacramento Counties. Defendants failed to find the juvenile halls unsuitable for the confinement of minors after many years of illegally overcrowded conditions and numerous identified violations of state minimum standards. In San Diego County, Defendants failed to find the juvenile hall unsuitable for the confinement of minors after many years of illegally overcrowded conditions and numerous identified violations of state minimum standards, including continued overcrowding after the construction of a new juvenile hall intended to remedy the long-term violations.

GENERAL ALLEGATIONS

- 96. Plaintiff is without a plain, speedy and adequate remedy in the ordinary course of the law to compel Defendants to enforce and comply with the legal requirements described herein.
- 97. Plaintiff has suffered and will continue to suffer irreparable injury unless and until this Court enjoins the Defendants from continuing their illegal conduct.
- 98. Defendants' illegal conduct is ongoing and threatens to be continued in the future.

- 99. An actual controversy has arisen between Plaintiff and Defendants in that Plaintiff contends Defendants operate, establish, manage, conduct or maintain the CSA in violation of state law.
- 100. A judicial declaration is necessary so that the parties may ascertain their rights in this controversy.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, the Plaintiff requests that this Court grant the following relief:

- (a) Adjudge and declare that the acts, omissions, policies, and conditions described above are unconstitutional and/or unlawful;
- (b) Preliminarily and permanently enjoin Defendants, their agents, employees and all persons acting in concert with them, from expending taxpayer funds on the unconstitutional and/or unlawful acts, omissions, policies, and conditions described in the paragraphs above;
- (c) Order the CSA to promptly notify the operators of county juvenile halls of any noncompliance with the state minimum standards found on its inspections; require the operators to submit Corrective Action Plans within 60 days; and find that a juvenile facility is unsuitable for the confinement of minors if it is out of compliance with one or more minimum standards and either fails to file an approved Corrective Action Plan that will remedy the violation within 60 days of being notified of the noncompliance or fails to meet its commitments set forth in the Corrective Action Plan;
- (d) Award Plaintiff the costs of this suit, and reasonable attorneys' fees and litigation expenses;
- (e) Retain jurisdiction of this case until Defendants have fully complied with the orders of this Court, and there is a reasonable assurance that Defendants will continue to comply in the future absent continuing jurisdiction; and

1	(f) Award such other and further relief as the Court deems just and proper			
2	Dated: April 19, 2006			
3	PRISON LAW OFFICE			
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5	By Jana Marwar SARA NORMAN			
6	Attorney for Plaintiff			
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