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14 15	ALEX ROSAS and JONATHAN GOOD on behalf of themselves and of those simi	WIN, larly situated
16	UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT	
17	CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA	
 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 	ALEX ROSAS and JONATHAN GOODWIN on behalf of themselves and of those similarly situated, Plaintiffs, vs. ROBERT LUNA, Sheriff of Los Angeles County, in his official capacity, Defendant.	CASE NO. CV 12-00428 DDP (MRW) REPLY TO DEFENDANT'S OPENING BRIEF ADDRESSING DEFENDANT'S PROPOSED COMPLIANCE PLAN REDACTED Honorable Dean D. Pregerson Hearing: July 26, 2023
	1 REPLY TO DEFENDANT'S OPENING BRIEF ADDRESSING DEFENDANT'S PROPOSED COMPLIANCE PLAN	

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I. INTRODUCION

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2 Plaintiffs request the Court modify the court-approved Implementation Plan (Dkt. 133-2, "the Plan") that is the cornerstone of the class action settlement 3 agreement between the parties, to address issues upon which the parties reached 4 impasse during court-ordered negotiations. Plaintiffs' proposed modifications are 5 6 narrowly tailored to address Defendants' unbroken pattern of noncompliance with 7 the Plan's provisions designed to protect Plaintiffs from dangerous and illegal head 8 strikes and unnecessary force, and their perilous overuse of a relatively new restraint device (the "WRAP"), that was not in use when the monitors wrote the Plan. 9 10 Specifically, Plaintiffs request the Court modify the Plan in four ways to address 11 areas where the parties were unable to agree.

- Require LASD's Limitations on Force policy to permit head strikes only when deadly force is permissible;
- 2) Require LASD's Limitations on Force Policy to include more robust force prevention policies for people in restraints;
- 3) Require modifications of LASD's WRAP policy to eliminate its overuse and curb the significant danger it poses to life and health;
- 4) Require mandatory discipline for line personnel who violate the head
 strike, force prevention, honest reporting, and WRAP policies, and for
 supervisors who sign off on clear violations of those policies with
 discipline in the ranges called for in LASD's Disciplinary Guidelines.

These changes are justified under governing legal standards, and the Courtappointed Monitors' repeated findings of noncompliance with the head strike and force prevention policies, the severe dangers posed by head strikes and overuse of the WRAP, and LASD's failure – also repeatedly identified by the Monitors -- to implement a culture of accountability for use of force violations and dishonesty. Indeed, the Monitors repeatedly have warned of LASD's failure to identify clear violations of head strikes, force prevention, and honest reporting policies, or to

1	impose discipline when violations are identified, and command staff's failure to		
2	address failures by lower level supervisors to impose accountability.		
3	Defendants' filing opposing these essential changes is more notable for what		
4	it does not say than what it does. Defendants do not dispute – nor can they – that:		
5	• the Monitors have found LASD noncompliant with the Plan's head		
6	strike provisions in every report filed with the Court;		
7	• the Monitors have found LASD noncompliant with the two principal force prevention provisions in every report filed with the Court;		
8	• the Monitors have warned repeatedly that a principal reason for		
9	LASD's failure to reach compliance with head strike and force prevention provisions is that line personnel rarely if ever are held		
10	accountable for violations of these provisions, or for dishonest		
11	reporting, and supervisors are not held accountable for rubber stamping violations and dishonest reporting;		
12	 head strikes are extremely dangerous and create a substantial risk of 		
13	serious injury or even death including, but not limited to, traumatic		
14	brain injury (TBI), broken facial bones, or eye injuries causing permanent vision impairment or blindness;		
15	• blows to the head exacerbate mental illness and PTSD, or that a		
16 17	person with mental illness or PTSD who is punched in the head is more likely to suffer TBI than someone without mental illness or		
17 18	PTSD.		
19	Nor do Defendants address their overuse of WRAP, or that they fell out of		
20	compliance with Provision 17.5 ("Minimize Medical Distress") because of their		
21	misuse of it. ¹		
22	Defendants' principal argument against Plaintiffs' proposed modifications is		
23	that things are marginally better. This is meritless. Recent decline in uses of force		
24	and head strikes, and increased use of force prevention techniques, are welcome. But		
25	they do not change that in every Monitors' report, including the most recent one,		
26	Defendants are woefully out of compliance. "It is the duty of the courts to beware of		
27			
28	¹ Plaintiffs did not receive the revised WRAP policy until June 1, 2023, and the parties agreed not to discuss it until this brief. Dkt 257.		
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efforts to defeat injunctive relief by protestations of repentance and reform,
 especially when abandonment seems timed to anticipate suit, and there is probability
 of resumption." *United States v. Ore. State Med. Soc.*, 343 U.S. 326, 333 (1952).²

Therefore, the Court should modify the Plan as proposed by Plaintiffs and
their experts.³

II. FACTS

Plaintiffs set forth in their opening brief the Monitors' findings on LASD's
head strike and force prevention policies, as well as their repeated warnings that this
noncompliance would not be remedied unless LASD addressed its failure to impose
accountability for these violations and dishonest reporting. *See* Dkt. 255 at 5, 9-13.
Plaintiffs incorporate those arguments herein, and only briefly reiterate the
Monitors' conclusions here.

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A. LASD's Pattern of Non-Compliance With Key Rosas Provisions

1. <u>Head Strikes</u>

LASD has not complied with the head strike provision, *Rosas* 2.6, in any report from the Fourth through the Eleventh -- *a period of 4.5 years*. Dkt. 195 at 7-8, Dkt. 198 at 10; Dkt. 199 at 11; Dkt. 201 at 12, 26; Dkt. 202 at 9, 25; Dkt. 203 at 9, 10, 25; Dkt. 205 at 1, 12, 13, 27; Dkt. 238 at 17, 47. The Panel established a compliance threshold of 90% for head strike use of force incidents. In its most recent report, it found "[o]f the applicable cases reviewed, 65.1% (56 out of 86) were . . . in compliance. Dkt. 238 at 17.

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 ² And as noted *infra* Part III.D., Defendants' contention that the Court cannot change the Plan to require mandatory discipline for a specific set of violations misstates the case they rely on and ignores Supremacy Clause precedent holding a federal court may override a state or local law that interferes with a remedial scheme necessary to effect federal rights.

 ³ Defendants note negotiations over whether Defendants have to keep reporting on certain measures. Dkt. 251 at 25. Plaintiffs have agreed that Defendants can cease
 reporting under the self-reporting requirements for five provisions. They did not

 ²⁸ reporting under the sen-reporting requirements for five provisions. They did not agree that Defendants will no longer be subject to continued monitoring for those provisions.

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2. <u>Force Prevention</u>

2 The Monitors have found LASD out of compliance with the two Rosas 3 provisions designed to minimize or prevent uses of force, Rosas 2.2 and 2.7, ever 4 since the Fourth Report when the Monitors began reviewing a selection of force 5 packages against their compliance thresholds. Dkt. 195 at 8-9, 17; Dkt. 198 at 10, 24; Dkt. 199 at 10-11, 22; Dkt. 201 at 11-12, 26; Dkt. 202 at 9, 11, 25; Dkt. 203 at 6 7 9-10, 25; Dkt. 205 at 12, 13, 27; Dkt. 238 at 16-17, 47. LASD was well out of 8 compliance in the Panel's most recent report. The Monitors found that "[0]f the 91 9 use of force packages reviewed, 30 cases were found non-compliant [with 2.2] ... 10 which amounts to a 67.0% compliance." Dkt. 238 at 16. The compliance figure for 11 Provision 2.7 was 81.3%. Id. at 17.

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3. <u>WRAP</u>

13 LASD did not use the WRAP when the *Rosas* provisions were written and 14 agreed upon. In their last two reports, however, the Monitors found LASD 15 noncompliant with Provision 2.5, which governs use of force against people who are 16 restrained, "[b]ased largely on this WRAP issue." Dkt. 205 at 15; see also Dkt. 238 at 17. In the Eleventh Report, the Monitors found LASD was out of compliance with 17 18 Rosas 17.5, the policy that personnel must limit medical distress, due to dangers of 19 asphyxiation during WRAP application. Dkt 238 at 19; see also Dkt. 205 at 11 20 (noting "WRAP procedures risking compressional asphyxia"). The most recent 21 compliance figure for 17.5 was a scant 55.7% (44 out of 79 cases). Dkt. 238 at 19.

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B. Head Strikes and Use of WRAP Create Significant Risk of Injury

1. <u>Head Strikes</u>

Plaintiffs submitted expert declarations from an emergency physician who
 worked in Twin Towers for three years,⁴ a neurologist who has written more than
 200 peer-reviewed publications about traumatic brain injury,⁵ and a facial
 ⁴ Declaration of Shamsher Samra, M.D., Dkt 255-5.

⁵ Declaration of Erin David Bigler, Ph.D., Dkt 255-2.

1	reconstruction surgeon ⁶ who described the numerous severe risks posed by punches		
2	to the head. Those risks include intracranial hemorrhages, concussions and other		
3	traumatic brain injury ("TBI"), broken orbital bones and jaws, a variety of eyes		
4	injuries that can cause permanent vision impairment or blindness, PTSD, and mental		
5	illness. ⁷ See Dkt. 255-2, ¶¶ 5, 9, 12, 13, 17, 18, 21, 23; Dkt. 255-3, ¶¶ 4, 6-9; Dkt.		
6	255-5, ¶¶ 10, 11, 18 -24.		
7	As previously detailed by Plaintiffs' experts, head strikes are particularly		
8	dangerous in jail for three reasons.		
9	• <i>First</i> , a substantial percentage of people in jails have serious mental		
10	illness and high levels of PTSD. People with mental illness and PTSD are more vulnerable to TBI than people who do not suffer		
11	with these conditions, and, blows to the head pose a substantial risk		
12	of exacerbating mental illness or PTSD.		
13	• <i>Second</i> , people in jails have high levels of chronic disease like diabetes and hypertension, and those conditions make people more		
14	vulnerable to suffering TBI as a result of being punched in the head. ⁸		
15	• <i>Third</i> , the jails are full of hard surfaces including metal bars,		
16	concrete walls and floors and few soft surfaces. People punched in the head and who fall down risk a second TBI from hitting their head		
17	against a hard surface		
18	See Dkt. 255-2 at ¶¶ 12, 24, 25, 27 -31; Dkt. 255-3 at ¶ 8; Dkt. 255-5 at ¶¶ 9, 24, 25,		
19	27. Dr. Samra, an ER physician who worked at Twin Towers for three years, testified		
20	that:		
21	In all the videos I viewed from the force packages Plaintiffs' counsel		
22	provided me, it is my medical opinion that the head strike or strikes		
23	had a reasonable probability of causing significant medical injury		
24	⁶ Declaration of Raymond Dunn, M.D., Dkt. 255-3.		
25	⁷ The Monitors have also noted this risk. "Medical science informs us that head blows are the 'hidden injuries' that create or exacerbate mental illness." (Eighth		
26	Report) Dkt. 202 at 10. ⁸ Defendants did not submit evidence to support any claim that blows to the head		
27	pose no serious risk of significant physical or mental injury and acknowledged that		
28	"the Department fully recognizes that head strikes are potentially dangerous" Dkt. 251 at 20		
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1 2 3	including serious damage to an eye or eyes and subsequent vision impairment, a concussion, broken facial bone, or for a person with a mental illness or PTSD, exacerbation of that mental illness or PTSD. If serious injury did not occur, it was fortuitous.		
4	Dkt. 255-5 at ¶ 27.		
5	$2. \underline{WRAP}$		
6	According to Matthew Thomas, an emergency medicine physician with more		
7	than 20 years of experience, including a term as medical director for the California		
8	State Parks Law Enforcement and Emergency Services division, LASD is "simply		
9	lucky" that no one has died yet due to the overuse of the WRAP in the jails. Dkt.		
10	255-6 at ¶¶ 3, 9; Supplemental Declaration of Matthew Thomas, M.D., filed herein,		
11	¶ 28. He reviewed seven WRAP application use of force packages, and did not find		
12	a single instance where the pressure on the back and neal used with the WDAD was		
13	"reasonable." Supp. Thomas Decl. at \P 21. Dr. Thomas found the videos		
14	"uncomfortable to watch" and		
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16			
17	People have died at the hands of law enforcement due to WRAP, a tragic and		
18	unnecessary human loss that also costs cities and counties millions of dollars in		
10			
19	wrongful death settlements. Dkt. 255 at 20-21. Alameda County stopped using the		
19 20	WRAP entirely, as a provision of the consent decree in a detainee mental health		
	WRAP entirely, as a provision of the consent decree in a detainee mental health treatment case. ⁹ Dr. Thomas found in reviewing LASD's use of force videos that		
20 21 22	WRAP entirely, as a provision of the consent decree in a detainee mental health treatment case. ⁹ Dr. Thomas found in reviewing LASD's use of force videos that there were "potential significant risk to the inmate's ability to breathe," likely "acute		
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The risk is amplified by LASD's overuse of the WRAP as a mode of transportation after use of force incidents, rather than treating it as an exceptional tool to be used sparingly in rare circumstances. *See* Supplemental Declaration of Stephen Sinclair ¶¶ 24, 27; *see also* Dkt. 255-1 at ¶ 44 (WRAP is a "tool reserved for those extreme cases where restrained inmates, who continued to thrash and act violently while in traditional restraints were further secured for transport").

7

III. ARGUMENT

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A. The Requested Changes Satisfy the Legal Standard for Modification

As Plaintiffs explained in their opening brief,¹⁰ the multi-year pattern of non-9 10 compliance with the head strike, force prevention provisions, or the Monitors' repeated concerns of failing to hold line personnel or supervisors accountable by 11 12 ignoring violations and failing to impose discipline when they do identify violations, 13 are changed circumstances justifying modification of the Plan. Dkt. 255 at 22 (citing 14 Labor/Cmty. Strategy Ctr. v. L.A. Cnty. Metro. Transit Auth., 564 F.3d 1115, 1120-15 21 (9th Cir. 2009); Kelly v. Wengler, 822 F.3d 1085, 1098 (9th Cir 2016). Defendants 16 do not argue otherwise in their filing. And the introduction of the WRAP years *after* the Monitors wrote the Plan is also a changed circumstance that can justify 17 18 modifying it, Dkt. 255 at 23, and again, Defendants do not suggest otherwise.

Neither Defendants' multi-year pattern of noncompliance or the 2017
introduction of the WRAP, which was not governed by any of the Monitors multiple
provisions to address different types of restraints "anticipated" by the parties. Dkt.
255 at 23-24.

The changes Plaintiffs seek are carefully tailored to address the changed

circumstances of noncompliance and the WRAP's recent introduction and misuse.

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¹⁰ As Plaintiffs explained in their opening brief (Dkt. 255 at n.17), because they are seeking to modify only the Implementation Plan, not the consent decree itself, they may not need to meet the standard set forth in *Rufo v. Inmates of Suffolk County Jail*, 502 U.S. 367 (1992). But in an abundance of caution they are briefing the *Rufo* standard, which they clearly satisfy.

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1 Plaintiffs' expert Stephen Sinclair reviewed all of the Monitors' reports detailing 2 years of noncompliance and numerous use of force videos depicting head strikes that he found "unprofessional, unnecessary, and excessive," including many against 3 4 people who were restrained, and the revised head strike policy that Defendants have provided as part of the parties' negotiations. Dkt. 255-1 ¶¶ 29-74. He concluded that 5 the policy LASD was proposing was inadequate and they needed to "elevate use of 6 heads strikes to deadly force." Id. ¶74; see also Sinclair Supp. Decl. ¶ 3. But, 7 8 according to Mr. Sinclair, policy change alone is not enough. Until LASD provides 9 accountability for its multi-year failure to comply with the head strike, force 10 prevention and accountability provisions in Rosas through imposition of mandatory discipline, it will not come into compliance. Dkt. 255-1 ¶ 60 ("Given LASD's long 11 12 history of noncompliance and the materials I have reviewed, those penalties should be mandatory for the issues I have discussed above, i.e., overuse of head strikes."). 13

14 The WRAP did not exist when the parties agreed to the Plan. Provisions for 15 Safety Chairs and Multi-point Restraints are built into the plan at Rosas 17.3 and 16 17.6-17.9, but those provisions do not apply to the WRAP. The Monitors explained that a WRAP policy was finally developed before the Tenth Report but immediately 17 expressed frustration that the policy was "regularly violated." Dkt. 205 at 17. 18 19 Plaintiffs' proposed changes to the WRAP policy are designed to address LASD's 20 overuse of this dangerous and potentially deadly device and to require more robust 21 protections from positional asphyxia.

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B. Defendants' Arguments Do Not Undermine the Need for and Appropriateness of the Modifications Plaintiffs Seek

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i. <u>Policy Modifications for Head Strikes and Force Prevention</u>

Defendants largely ignore their long pattern of noncompliance, asserting there is now a recent change in culture in the jails, and a decline in the numbers of force incidents, including head strikes, that demonstrate the revised head strike policy they proposed is sufficient. This is not the case.

First, Defendants assert the culture in the jails has somehow and recently 1 2 dramatically improved. Dkt. 251 at 4; Dkt. 251-3 (Dugdale Dec.) ¶¶ 3-4. They base this assertion on Mr. Dugdale's recounting of what the Monitors reportedly said in 3 4 an April 2023 meeting about what incarcerated people told the Monitors in March 5 2023. Dkt. 251-3 ¶¶ 3-4. This third-hand recounting is at least hearsay, or double or triple hearsay under Federal Rule of Evidence 801(c). It is not admissible evidence 6 7 of anything, much less a basis for the Court to decide if there is a fundamental culture shift at the jails.¹¹ 8

9 But even if the Court were to consider counsel for Defendants' inadmissible 10 hearsay as evidence about culture change, it would still not be a basis to conclude 11 there is a major culture change. And it certainly would not establish that limiting 12 head strikes to deadly force situations is an inappropriate response to the Monitors' 13 findings of non-compliance. Nor would it call into question Mr. Sinclair's 14 conclusion that "the use of head strikes by LASD deputies against inmates in their 15 care and control is primarily unnecessary and is excessive" and his recommendation that "LASD. . . elevate the use of head strikes to deadly force." Dkt. 255-1 ¶¶ 38, 16 74. His conclusion that LASD's new head strike policy is insufficient to address 17 18 longstanding patterns of violations is buttressed by his review of an egregious incident 19 20 21

There is also ample evidence to undermine LASD's sunny conclusion about a culture change with respect to use of force. Among other things, in the Panel's last report they stated that custody staff expressed the following in focus groups:

¹¹ Plaintiffs' counsel have great respect for Mr. Dugdale. But his saying now what the Monitors said in April that an incarcerated person in the jails said months early is clearly inadmissible hearsay of multiple degrees, and nothing more than an argument of counsel. "[T]he argument of [] counsel [...] does not constitute evidence." *Carrillo-Gonzalez v. I.N.S.*, 353 F.3d 1077, 1079 (9th. Cir. 2003).

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1 2	• Employing time and distance principles is seen as "giving up ground" with inmates, and		
3	• Staff would like to be able to go "hands on" more often with recalcitrant inmates.		
4	Dkt. 238 at 3. ¹²		
5	Finally, a review of a set of grievances from incarcerated people that LASD		
6	provided to Plaintiffs' counsel on May 30, 2023, as their Rosas 6.11 self-assessment,		
7	casts serious doubt on any culture change touted in their filing. Dkt. 251 at 9;		
8	Camacho Dec. ¶¶ 4-5. A review of those 609 grievances reveals that 20% of them		
9	complain of retaliation and threats of retaliation by LASD personnel. Declaration of		
10	Marisol Dominguez-Ruiz ¶¶ 4-6. They undermine Defendants' assertion of culture		
11	change. They also suggest that people incarcerated in jails may very well not feel		
12	comfortable being forthcoming about their fears of violence from LASD deputies.		
13	Defendants' evidence of declining numbers of use of force incidents and		
14	incidents involving head strikes is welcome. Dkt 251 9-10. But these declines do not		
15	undermine the need for the changes to the head strike, force prevention, and		
16	discipline provisions in the Implementation Plan that Plaintiffs seek.		
17	<i>First</i> , in the face of a an almost five-year pattern ¹³ of non-compliance with the		
18	head strike and force prevention provisions of <i>Rosas</i> , a recent decline in use of force		
19	numbers is inadequate under the law. See Gwaltney of Smithfield, Ltd. v. Chesapeake		
20	Bay Found., Inc., 484 U.S. 49, 69 (1987) (Scalia, J., concurring in part and in the		
21	judgment) ("A good or lucky day is not a state of compliance. Nor is the dubious		
22	state in which a past problem is not recurring at the moment but the cause of that		
23	$\frac{1}{12}$ These statements reflect among at least some LASD there remains a "culture"		
24	depressingly similar to the "mindset and 'force first' approach" the Citizens		
25	Commission on Jail Violence identified as part of "a troubling culture in Custody that resulted in the excessive use of force in the jails." Report of Citizens		
26	Commission on Jail Violence at pages 95, 97 (Sept. 2012), available at		
27			
28	But the Monitors did not begin to assess whether LASD's uses of force were compliant with the compliance thresholds the Monitors established until April 2019.		
	REPLY TO DEFENDANT'S OPENING BRIEF ADDRESSING DEFENDANT'S PROPOSED COMPLIANCE PLAN		

problem has not been completely and clearly eradicated."); see also Sierra Club v. 1 2 Union Oil Co. of Cal., 853 F.2d 667, 671 (9th Cir. 1988) ("Intermittent or sporadic violations do not cease to be ongoing until the date when there is no real likelihood 3 4 of repetition.") (citation and quotation marks omitted).

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The limited significance of this improvement is particularly true given the 6 significant level of noncompliance in the Panel's most recent Eleventh Report. 7 Indeed, the Panel acknowledged the declining use of force numbers and still found 8 LASD non-compliant with Provisions 2.2, 2.6, and 2.7. Dkt. 238 at 3, 47. Moreover, 9 the Panel also stated that if this improvement were to continue, LASD supervisors 10 needed to "model appropriate behavior with inmates and to hold staff accountable 11 for inappropriate behavior." Id. at 3.

12 Second, as Plaintiffs' expert Stephen Sinclair states in his Supplemental 13 Declaration, there were two notable aspects of the numbers Defendants cited to. The 14 rate of head strikes for the first four months of 2023 (16, which extrapolates to 48 in 15 12 months) was on track to be similar to the 51 in 2022. Sinclair Supp. Dec. ¶ 4. In other words, any decline from 2021 to 2022 appears to be leveling out. More 16 important, the number remains much too high. Id. ¶¶ 4, 8. Reviewing these numbers, 17 the Panels' reports, and 9 different head strikes incidents, including one in which 18 19 LASD approved multiple head strikes against someone in handcuffs under its "new" 20 policy, Mr. Sinclair opined in both his declarations that LASD needs to both limit 21 head strikes in its Limitations on Force policy to situations when deadly force is 22 permissible and impose mandatory discipline for violations of that more restrictive 23 policy. Id. ¶¶ 9-12, 32-33; Dkt. 255-1 ¶¶ 31, 40, 74.

24

Policy Modifications to Effectuate Force Prevention ii.

25 Defendants produced a new Limitations on Force policy on June 1, 2023. 26 Camacho Dec. ¶ 8, Ex. E. The policy, however, fails to address one of the more 27 egregious failures in force prevention: punching assaultive people in restraints 28 instead of creating distance or using the minimal amount of force necessary to

 overcome resistance. Provision 2.2 requires the Department to use only "the minimal amount of force necessary and objectively reasonable to overcome the resistance."
 Yet LASD personnel will punch restrained people when distance or lesser types of force would suffice. Mr. Sinclair described two particularly egregious incidents

8 The new Limitations on Force policy requires LASD personnel to first use 9 force prevention principles when dealing with a restrained person, but only if that 10 person is restrained to a fixed object:

If an assaultive aggressive inmate restrained to a fixed object presents an immediate threat of injury to personnel engaged with the inmate, force de-escalation principles require personnel to distance themselves from assaultive conduct and request the presence of a sergeant rather than utilize the force options listed above [personal weapons, tasers, chemical spray], unless immediate intervention is required.

16 Camacho Dec. \P 10, Ex. E at 2.

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Defendants' non-compliance with Provision 2.2 necessitates applying time 17 and distance or less dangerous force (e.g., control holds) instead of punching, 18 tasering, or using chemical spray on any person in restraints. Mr. Sinclair agrees 19 with expanding protections on people restrained to fixed objects to all people in 20 restraints. "[G]iven LASD's longstanding non-compliance with the Rosas force 21 prevention provisions, and the numerous uses of force I saw where unnecessary or 22 excessive force was used against inmates who were restrained, including in the 23 WRAP or in handcuffs, but not restrained to a fixed object, I recommend that 24 language that currently applies only to inmates restrained to a fixed object should 25 also be applied to all restrained inmates." Sinclair Supp. Dec. ¶ 17. Removing the 26 words "to a fixed object" and applying force prevention principles to all people in 27 restraints is a necessary step for LASD to achieve compliance with Provision 2.2. 28

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iii. Policy Modifications for WRAP Use

Defendants and Plaintiffs agreed to some provisions related to the WRAP. See
Dkt. 251-1, Ex. A at 30-31. As part of the negotiation process, the Monitors and
Plaintiffs' counsel sent proposed changes to the policy. See Thomas Supp. Dec. ¶ 7,
Attach. 2. Defendants sent the new WRAP policy, CDM 7-0.03/050.00 v. 33, to
Plaintiffs' counsel on June 1, 2023, which integrated joint commitments but rejected
many of the Monitors' and plaintiffs' proposed revisions. Camacho Decl. ¶ 6.

8 The new policy will not sufficiently limit WRAP use, nor provide necessary 9 safety measures to limit the risk of death and injury. It must contain additional 10 provisions that: (1) limit WRAP use to all but the most exceptional circumstances 11 by requiring a cooling-off period before the on-duty watch commander decides 12 whether the WRAP is necessary; (2) clarify that WRAP use is a reportable use of force; (3) provide appropriate safeguards against asphyxiation; and (4) limit the 13 14 length of time a person spends in the WRAP. These changes are necessary to protect 15 class members and bring Defendants into compliance with Rosas 2.5 and 17.5.

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a. <u>A decision to employ the WRAP must be made after a</u> cooling off period

18 Mr. Sinclair is familiar with the WRAP, which was used in the Washington 19 State Department of Corrections. Dkt. 255-1 ¶¶ 3, 44. In his experience, it is a "tool 20 reserved for those extreme cases where restrained inmates, who continued to thrash 21 and react violently while in traditional restraints, were further secured for transport." *Id.* at ¶ 44. He was "surprise[ed] . . . how routinely the WRAP was used, even when 22 23 traditional approaches absent the WRAP would have been faster, and reduced inmate contact." *Id.* at ¶ 45. "In almost all of the videos [I] reviewed . . . the appearance was 24 25 the staff were on auto-pilot and went directly to applying the WRAP restraint 26 without conducting any type of assessment after the inmate was restrained." Sinclair 27 Supp. Dec. ¶ 26.

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The new WRAP policy will not limit its application after uses of force

because, as written, the on-duty watch commander can decide to apply it, before 1 2 giving a person the chance to stop resisting. The new policy states that WRAP may only be "used on inmates who pose an immediate threat to themselves and others." 3 4 Camacho Dec. ¶ 7, Ex. B at 2. The policy also states that "[t]he WRAP restraint shall 5 only be used when other less restrictive methods have failed, or it is apparent less 6 restrictive alternatives will be ineffective at controlling the inmate." *Id.* at ¶ 7, Ex. B at 1. But nothing prevents a supervising officer from making this decision in the 7 8 midst of the use of force rather than waiting to see if traditional restraints can be 9 used for transportation after the use of force incident ends. Instead, the policy 10 explicitly states that "an inmate shall be placed in a recovery position while waiting for the WRAP restraint to come to the scene" but only "if circumstances permit." Id. 11 12 at ¶ 7, Ex. B at 2. Mr. Sinclair notes that this provision "implies WRAP will always 13 be used after a use of force incident." Sinclair Supp. Dec. ¶ 26. He recommends (1) 14 a cooling-off period before the on-scene supervisor can decide whether WRAP is 15 necessary and (2) a requirement that the person "remains violent or is physically resisting while in traditional restraints." Id. ¶ 24, 26. He also recommends stating 16 explicitly in policy that the "WRAP is an exceptional device, used only in 17 exceptional circumstances." Id. ¶ 27. 18

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Using the WRAP must constitute a reportable use of force b. 20 A requirement that the person "remains violent or is physically resisting while 21 in traditional restraints" would necessitate another policy change, which the 22 Monitors have recommended. If the WRAP can only be applied to someone who 23 "remains violent or is physically resisting," then use of the WRAP must constitute a reportable use of force. The Monitors recommended changing the WRAP policy to 24 read: "The placement of an inmate in the WRAP restraint device constitutes a 25 26 reportable use of force and must be reported pursuant to CDM section 7-06/000.0, "Use of Force Reporting Procedures." Camacho Dec. ¶ 8, Ex. C at 6. 27

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As Dr. Thomas noted, "Who is being placed in a WRAP restraint when they

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are not resisting? If there is no resistance, due to the risks of respiratory distress and
 even death inherent in WRAP application, the WRAP must not be used for
 convenience sake, but rather other methods of restraint such as handcuffs and hobble
 strap must be used." Thomas Supp. Dec. ¶ 27.

- 5 The new WRAP policy must limit the risk of asphyxiation c. Dr. Thomas opined that in the new WRAP policy: "I do not see sufficient 6 protections in the current WRAP policy and remain concerned someone could die in 7 8 connection with use of the WRAP." Thomas Supp. Dec. ¶ 28. The policy states that 9 "personnel shall not use unreasonable pressure on the inmate's back and shoulders to fasten the cinching straps." Camacho Dec. ¶ 7, Ex. B at 2. Dr. Thomas explains 10 that this policy "does not sufficiently address risks of asphyxiation from pressure on 11 12 an inmate's back and shoulders." Thomas Supp. Dec. ¶ 19. He notes that none of the WRAP applications that he viewed showed deputies using a "reasonable" amount of 13 14 pressure. Id. ¶ 21. Instead, he recommends "[a]t all times during WRAP application, personnel shall not use force on an inmate's back and shoulders that would cause 15 respiratory discomfort or risk respiratory function. No pressure should be placed on 16 the inmate's neck or head to fasten the cinching straps." Id. ¶ 19. 17
- Both the Monitors and Dr. Thomas recommend adding a provision designed
 to limit the use of spit masks with the WRAP to limit dangers from asphyxia and
 respiratory distress. The monitors recommend:
- Finally, spit masks should not ordinarily be used in conjunction with the WRAP restraint. Spit masks can only be authorized by the on-duty watch commander and staff must specifically articulate the inmate's actions that warrant use of the spit mask. If a spit mask is utilized, medical staff must conduct a medical assessment within fifteen minutes from the time of placement of the spit mask and every fifteen minutes thereafter.
- Camacho Dec. ¶ 8, Ex. C at 3. Dr. Thomas additionally recommends that spit masks
 should only be used if a person is actively spitting and recommends that medical

checks include "assessment of the inmate's oxygenation status with portable pulse
 oximetry." Thomas Supp. Dec. ¶¶ 16-17.

Dr. Thomas also recommends: (1) direct visual observation from the moment
WRAP placement begins until it is removed (*Id.* ¶ 18); (2) medical staff can demand
removal of the WRAP if a medical emergency exists (*Id.* ¶¶ 23-24); and that all
medical exams of a person in the WRAP include "documentation of temperature,
pulse, and pulse oximetry." *Id.* at ¶ 26. Dr. Thomas and the Monitors recommend
the on-duty watch commander consult with medical and mental health staff before
using the WRAP. *Id.* at ¶ 11; Camacho Dec. ¶ 8, Ex. C at 3.

10 d. People must be removed from WRAP if resistance ceases 11 The new WRAP policy contains certain deadlines for its use and a directive 12 that "every effort will be made to minimize the amount of time that the inmate is 13 restrained." Camacho Dec. ¶ 7, Ex. B at 2. Yet, a separate provision implies that a 14 person could be taken to the bathroom or allowed to "exercise extremities" but then put back into the WRAP. Id. ¶ 7, Ex. B at 3. If a person can be taken out of the 15 WRAP temporarily with no danger, then they should not be put back in it. The 16 17 Monitors recommend adding to this provision that if a person is released from a portion of the WRAP restraint "without continuing disruptive aggressive behavior" 18 19 then the person should not be put back into the WRAP. Id. ¶ 8, Ex. C at 5.

Plaintiffs synthesized recommended changes to the WRAP policy suggested
by the Monitors, Mr. Sinclair, and Dr. Thomas. Camacho Dec. ¶ 9, Ex. D. They ask
the Court to direct the Monitors to write a provision to modify the Plan to require
LASD to include the following in a modified WRAP policy:

- 24 25
- The decision to employ WRAP must be made after a cooling-off period;
- WRAP is only permissible if the person continues resisting or being violent while in traditional restraints;
- 26 27

28

- The use of WRAP constitutes a reportable use of force;
- Restrictions on use of spit mask during WRAP, including a requirement

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1	that the person be actively spitting;		
2	• A Prohibition on placing pressure on the back, neck, and head;		
3	• Medical checks that include temperature, pulse, and pulse oximetry;		
4	• A temporary release without resistance must lead to complete WRAP removal. ¹⁴		
5	C. Mandatory Discipline is Necessary to Ensure that the Appropriate		
6	Policy Changes are Actually Implemented and Sustained		
7	Defendants' arguments are meritless in contending that the Plan should not		
8	provide for mandatory punishment consistent with current ranges set forth in		
9	LASD's Guidelines for Discipline and Education-Based Alternatives (the		
10	Guidelines) for a violation of a narrow range of offenses – head strike violations,		
11	force prevention violations, WRAP violations, dishonest reporting and failure of		
12	supervisors to identify or discipline line personnel for these four violations are		
13	unpersuasive. (The Guidelines are Exhibit E to the Declaration of Peter Eliasberg,		
14	Dkt. 253-4). Defendants suggest that <i>requiring</i> discipline for these offenses would		
15	be a radical and unwarranted shift. But they do not acknowledge that current		
16	Guidelines already provide "[d]iscipline is <i>expected</i> to remain within the standard		
17	range in <i>most instances</i> " and that "[s]ections which indicate a penalty of 'Discharge'		
18	(only) may not be adjusted." Dkt. 253-4, Ex. E.		
19	Their protestations that requiring discipline in the ranges called for in their		
20	Guidelines would be "unfair" ring hollow, when the need for this modification is of		
21	their own making. The Monitors repeatedly warned that LASD fails to impose		
22	discipline for clear violations of the head strike, force prevention, and honest		
23	reporting policies. The Eighth Report stated:		
24	The Panel has expressed concern for several reporting periods that <i>the</i>		
25	Department relies too heavily on remedial training rather than		
26 27	discipline in situations where the Department agrees that use of force		
27 28	¹⁴ These proposed changes are incorporated in the [Proposed] Revised Order filed concurrently.		
	21 REPLY TO DEFENDANT'S OPENING BRIEF ADDRESSING DEFENDANT'S PROPOSED COMPLIANCE PLAN		

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1	involving violations of policy, such as head punches for inmate control, that result in outcomes that do not reflect the seriousness of the offense.				
2	Dkt. 202 at 5 (emphasis added); Dkt. 203 at 3 (9th Report) (noting a failure "to mete				
3	out discipline in cases where force policies are violated, or Department personnel				
	4 inaccurately describe force incidents in their written reports."). ¹⁵				
	5 The Monitors' Tenth Report described reviewers' failure to hold line s				
 accountable, <i>and</i> managers' failure to hold supervisors accountable fo identifying violations nor imposing discipline: 					
				8	Use of force reviews by supervisors and managers in the serious cases
9	selected by the Monitors, almost always fail to note out-of-policy head				
10	shots or – less frequently – attempts to justify them. Then the supervisors and managers are not held accountable for those failures				
11	and the Deputies using the improper for[m] are "counseled" or sent to				
12	remedial training and actual discipline is seldom imposed. While the				
13	Department has openly acknowledged this continuing issue , there has been little real change or progress in more than two years.				
14	Dkt. 205 at 1-2; see also id. at 12-13; Dkt. 238 (Eleventh Report) at 5 ("The Panel				
15 has yet to review a case where the supervisor concludes the use of head s					
16	inappropriate. In order for the Department to achieve compliance with Provision 2.6				
17 (head strikes), staff must be held accountable [for] head strikes.") (emphasi					
18	Yet even though discipline is "expected to remain within the standard range				
19 20	in most instances" Mr. Sinclair found that LASD's practices were very different				
20	when supervisors identified excessive force or dishonest reporting:				
21	Verbal counseling and retraining are considered non-disciplinary, yet				
22 22	almost exclusively, in the use of force documents provided with the				
23 24	incidents I reviewed, they were used to address incidents of obvious excessive force and dishonesty. In the LASD <i>Guidelines for Discipline</i>				
24 25	and Education-Based Alternatives, dishonesty is specifically cited as				
25 26	an example of a situation that would warrant non-progressive discipline. In my opinion, LASD has the ability and authority to				
26 27					
27 28	¹⁵ Nor does LASD's argument recognize the unfairness of having incarcerated people, many of whom were in restraints, suffer multiple punches to the head from deputies who receive nothing more than a referral for additional training.				
	REPLY TO DEFENDANT'S OPENING BRIEF ADDRESSING DEFENDANT'S PROPOSED COMPLIANCE PLAN				

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discipline for these actions but routinely fails to do so. The penalty ranges provided in the Guidelines are adequate; the problem is that LASD routinely fails to impose the discipline within the range. Given LASD's long history of noncompliance and the materials I have reviewed, those penalties should be mandatory for the issues I have discussed above, i.e., overuse of head strikes.

5 Dkt. 255-1 ¶ 60.

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6 Requiring discipline for line personnel and supervisors for a narrow range of serious offenses, such as dishonest reporting is not "unfair." It is a necessary remedy 7 to LASD's multi-year failure to impose of regime of accountability for excessive 8 9 force and dishonest reporting. Moreover, for almost all these offenses, the 10 Guidelines provide for a range of punishment. So the change does not rob the Department of the ability to adjust the level of punishment to account for factors 11 12 such as prior disciplinary history. Contra Dkt. 251 at 16. It simply prohibits LASD from continuing to "rel[y] too heavily on remedial training rather than discipline in 13 14 situations where the Department agrees that use of force policies have been violated." Dkt. 202 at 5. 15

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D. Defendants' Contention That a Municipal Labor Ordinance

Precludes Modification to the Implementation Plan is a Red Herring.

Defendants contend they cannot agree to Plaintiffs' proposed compliance plan
modification because they are hamstrung by a municipal labor ordinance, which they
incorrectly assert precludes LASD from changing the disciplinary structure without
first bargaining with the deputies' union over that change. Defendants singularly rely
on a September 2021 Los Angeles Superior Court decision, (the "ERCOM
Decision"), which is inapplicable. This argument fails on multiple grounds.

24

1.

The ERCOM Decision Does Not Tie the Court's Hands.

Defendants incorrectly assert they cannot agree to the modification "in light of a court ruling requiring the Department to negotiate such changes with the Deputies' union." Dkt. 251 at 3. The state superior court's ERCOM Decision does *not* prevent this Court from imposing Plaintiff's proposed plan.

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As a matter of basic federalism principles, a local law or superior court 1 2 opinion cannot supplant a federal court-ordered settlement agreement or 3 implementation plan. Put differently, this Court has the power to modify or 4 supersede state or local laws that create an untenable barrier for Defendants to 5 comply with their obligations under the federal constitution. N.C. Bd. of Educ. v. 6 Swann, 402 U.S. 43, 45 (1971) (holding that "state policy must give way when it 7 operates to hinder vindications of federal constitutional guarantees"); Hook v. Ariz. Dep't of Corrs., 107 F.3d 1397, 1402-03 (9th Cir. 1997) (precluding a state law 8 9 prohibiting the payment of a Special Master appointed by the federal court under the 10 Supremacy Clause, when the Special Master's appointment was necessary to 11 vindicate constitutional rights of people incarcerated in Arizona prisons); Coleman 12 v. Brown, 952 F.Supp.2d 901, 931-32 (E.D. Cal. 2013); Palila v. Haw. Dep't of Land 13 & Natural Resources, No. CIV 78-0030 JMS, 2013 WL 1442485, *3-4 (D. Haw. 14 Apr. 8, 2013); cf. PLRA, 18 U.S.C. § 3626(a)(1)(B), (permitting courts to "order 15 prospective relief that requires or permits a government official to exceed his or her 16 authority under State or local law")

17

Defendants Misinterpret the Holding of the ERCOM Decision

18 Defendants incorrectly argue that the ERCOM Decision stands for a legal 19 proposition "th[at] the County and the Sheriff have an obligation under" the 20 Employee Relations Ordinance ("ERO") "to bargain with ALADS [the deputies' 21 union] regarding any changes to the disciplinary guidelines imposed as a result of the Settlement Agreement." Dkt. 251 at 23. The sole issue in the ERCOM Decision 22 23 was the Department's prior unilateral changes to disciplinary guidelines in 2013 and 24 2016. At no point did LASD raise the Rosas Agreement as a defense for not 25 bargaining with ALADS. See Dkt. 251-6 at 34-42. The ERCOM Decision assessed 26 the LASD's liability only in the context of the ERO and did not examine whether 27 LASD's actions were permissible under the *Rosas* Agreement.

28

Indeed, Rosas was only discussed in dicta after Judge Chalfant had already

ruled against LASD on the merits. The court examined if the remedy at issue, 1 2 (reverting to the 2012 disciplinary guidelines), would result in LASD violating the 3 *Rosas* Agreement. Judge Chalfant found it would not, because the *Rosas* Agreement 4 did not require specific disciplinary changes but only suggested certain revisions: 5 [T]he *Rosas* agreement does not require any specific changes to the Guidelines and only specifies that "[t]he Department should have a 6 policy of zero tolerance for acts of dishonesty or failure to report uses 7 of force" and specifies procedures the Department "should" take if it 8 opts not to terminate an officer for either offense. AR 349-50. Similarly, the DOJ settlement agreement merely calls for the implementation of 9 the *Rosas* settlement and does not impose any additional requirements 10 on the Department. AR 412. Because neither settlement requires the Department to make revisions to the 2012 Guidelines, ERCOM's 11 remedy does not violate either agreement. 12 Dkt. 251-6 at 48-49 (parentheticals omitted). 13 But this finding does not — as Defendants claim — mean it imposes an 14 "obligation" to bargain with the union over "any changes" to discipline stemming 15 from the Rosas Agreement. Dkt. 251 at 22. Indeed, it supports Plaintiff's position. 16 The superior court correctly observed that if the Rosas Agreement did mandate 17 disciplinary changes (which is Plaintiffs' goal here with the proposed modification 18 to the compliance plan), then Defendants could make these "legally required 19 change[s]" to employees' "terms and conditions of employment" and only need to 20 bargain with ALADS "over the effects" of such revisions. Dkt. 251-6 at 49 21 (emphasis in original). In other words, LASD would not need to negotiate with 22 ALADS over the "decision" to change disciplinary guidelines, since this would be 23 "legally required" (id.), but would simply need to satisfy its effects bargaining 24 obligation in connection to those changes.¹⁶ 25 ¹⁶ Under California public sector labor law, *effects* bargaining consists of providing 26 a union with "notice and an opportunity to meet and confer over any reasonably foreseeable effects the decision may have" on those represented employees. Oxnard 27 Fed'n of Teachers & School Emps., Local 1273 v. Oxnard Union High Sch. Dist., Case No. LA-CE-6627-E, State of Cal. Decision of the Public Employment

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Plaintiff's proposed modification to impose mandatory discipline for specific
 violations is completely consistent with the ERCOM decision, and Defendants'
 claims to the contrary are unsupported.

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3. <u>A Court-Ordered Amended to the Implementation Plan Does</u> Not Impermissibly Interfere with the Union's Legal Rights.

Defendants try to use the status of ALADS as the deputies' bargaining 6 7 representative as a reason to not have disciplinary changes to promote accountability 8 and actual compliance with the Settlement Agreement after years of woeful 9 noncompliance. See Dkt. 251 at 22-23. They fail to provide a scintilla of evidence or legal support to support their blanket assertion that Plaintiffs' proposed 10 modification would somehow violate the collective bargaining agreement with 11 12 ALADS. *Id.* Still, any claim by the union that its rights are somehow violated by 13 Defendants complying with a federal court's valid remedial order would fail under 14 Supreme Court precedent.

In Local No. 93, Int'l Ass'n of Firefighters v. City of Cleveland, 478 U.S. 501
(1986), an intervening union sought to void a consent decree entered into between
plaintiffs and a city to settle a racial discrimination lawsuit. The Supreme Court held
that the district court was not precluded from approving the consent decree because
the settlement did not bind the union or impose obligations on them in any way. *Id.*at 528-30. Here, a further implementation plan or remedial order would not

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Relations Board, PERB Decision No. 2803, at 49 (Jan. 26, 2022), at 22 https://perb.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/decisionbank/decision-2803e.pdf; see Am. Fed'n of State, County & Muni. Emps. Local 3299, et al. v. Regents of the Univ. of 23 Cal., Case No. SF-CE-1300-H, Case No. SF-CE-1302-H, State of Cal. Decision of 24 the Public Employment Relations Board, PERB Decision No. 2783-H at 28 (July https://perb.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/decisionbank/decision-26. 2021) at 25 2783h.pdf ("Once a firm non-negotiable decision is made, the employer must provide notice and a meaningful opportunity to bargain over the reasonably 26 foreseeable effects of its decision before implementation") (internal quotations 27 omitted). Here, the Court can require Plaintiffs' proposed modification to the compliance plan requiring discipline while LASD still complies with its *effects* 28 bargaining duty. 26

1	adversely affect ALADS' rights. As in Local No. 93, such an order here would "not		
2	bind [ALADS] to do or not to do anything" and "[i]t imposes no legal duties or		
3	obligations on the [ALADS] at all." <i>Id.</i> at 529-530. Additionally, "only the parties		
4	to the decree [, i.e., the LASD and Plaintiffs,] can be held in contempt of court for		
5	failure to comply with its terms." <i>Id.</i> at 530. "Moreover, the consent decree does not		
6	purport to resolve any claims the [ALADS] might have under the Fourteenth		
7	Amendment." Id. See also Johnson v. Lodge No. 93 of the Fraternal Order of the		
8	Police, 393 F.3d 1096, 1107 (10th Ci	ir. 2004).	
9	IV. CONCLUSION		
10	For the foregoing reasons, Plai	intiffs respectfully request that the Court grant	
11	its motion to modify the Implementat	tion Plan.	
12			
13		Respectfully Submitted	
14			
15	June 12, 2023	/s/ Peter J. Eliasberg	
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	REPLY TO DEFENDANT'S OPENING F	27 BRIEF ADDRESSING DEFENDANT'S PROPOSED	
	COMPLIANCE PLAN		