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15 IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
16 FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

17 CARLOS PEREZ, et al.,
18

19 Plaintiffs,

20 v.

21 RODERICK HICKMAN, Secretary, California
Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation,
22 PETER FARBER-SZEKRENYI, Chief of
Correctional Health Care Services Division,
23 WILLIAM KUYKENDALL, Chief Dentist,
Adult Operations and Adult Programs,

24 Defendants.
25

CASE NO. CIV

**STIPULATION AND [PROPOSED]
ORDER**

26 **INTRODUCTION**

27 1. The parties enter into this stipulation to address dental care provided by the
28 California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR). The Plaintiffs are California

1 state prisoners who have serious dental care needs. The Defendants are the Secretary of the
2 California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, the Chief Dentist of the Adult
3 Operations and Adult Programs, and the Chief of the Correctional Health Care Services Division,
4 who are sued in their official capacities as state officials responsible for the operation of CDCR
5 and its dental care delivery system.

6 2. This action was filed by Plaintiffs on December 19, 2005. The action alleges that
7 Plaintiffs are not receiving constitutionally adequate dental care as required by the Eighth
8 Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

9 3. The parties have conducted informal negotiations since August 2004, in an effort
10 to resolve Plaintiffs' demand that dental care services be improved. Those negotiations have
11 been undertaken at arm's length and in good faith between Plaintiffs' counsel and high ranking
12 state officials and their counsel. The parties have reached agreement on procedures that the
13 parties will follow in this case for resolving disputes concerning the constitutional adequacy of
14 dental care services. The parties freely, voluntarily, and knowingly with the advice of counsel
15 enter into this Stipulation for that purpose.

16 WHEREAS, a dispute exists between the parties as to the extent to which CDCR's
17 provision of inmate dental care meets constitutionally mandated standards;

18 WHEREAS, this dispute arose over the course of the last four years, and culminated in
19 Plaintiffs filing this statewide dental class-action lawsuit; and

20 WHEREAS, this Stipulation is intended to be narrowly drawn to meet applicable
21 standards.

22 **A. PARTIES.**

23 4. Plaintiff Carlos Perez is a prisoner incarcerated at Salinas Valley State Prison at
24 Soledad, California.

25 5. Defendant Roderick Hickman is the Secretary of the California Department of
26 Corrections and Rehabilitation. The Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation oversees the
27 Adult Operations and Adult Programs Department (AOAP).

28 6. Defendant Peter Farber-Szekrenyi is the Chief of the Correctional Health Care

1 Services Division. As Chief, Dr. Farber-Szekrenyi is responsible for supervising the provision of
2 dental care for all prisoners in CDCR's custody.

3 7. Defendant William Kuykendall, D.D.S., is the Chief Dentist for the AOAP. As
4 Chief Dentist, Dr. Kuykendall is responsible for the provision of dental care for all prisoners in
5 CDCR's custody.

6 **B. JURISDICTION.**

7 8. The jurisdiction of this Court is invoked pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 and 1343.

8 **C. VENUE.**

9 9. Venue is proper under 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b), because a substantial part of the
10 events giving rise to Plaintiffs' claims occurred within the Northern District of California.

11 **D. CLASS CERTIFICATION.**

12 10. The parties agree that this action shall be maintained as a class action pursuant to
13 Rule 23(b)(2) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and that the class consists of all California
14 state prisoners in the custody of CDCR who have serious dental care needs.

15 **E. TERMS AND CONDITIONS.**

16 11. CDCR shall implement the Health Care Services Division Dental Policies and
17 Procedures (Policies and Procedures), which are attached to this Stipulation as Exhibit A,
18 according to the Implementation Plan, which is attached to this Stipulation as Exhibit B.
19 Defendants shall make all reasonable efforts to secure the funding necessary to implement the
20 Policies and Procedures. The Policies and Procedures are designed to meet at least the
21 minimum level of dental care necessary to fulfill Defendants' obligations under the Eighth
22 Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. The Implementation Plan is designed to implement the
23 Policies and Procedures in an efficient manner. It is the intent of this Stipulation to require
24 Defendants to provide only the minimum level of dental care required under the Eighth
25 Amendment. Nothing in this Stipulation shall be construed to require more of the Defendants
26 than is necessary under the Eighth Amendment. Disputes whether Defendants' Policies and
27 Procedures satisfy their obligations under the Eighth Amendment shall be resolved using the
28 dispute resolution procedures in ¶¶ 36-38.

1 12. CDCR shall develop policies and procedures, make all reasonable efforts to
2 secure necessary funding, complete necessary construction, hire and train necessary dental
3 personnel, and audit compliance with the Policies and Procedures according to the
4 Implementation Plan. The parties agree that the policies and procedures attached at Exhibit A
5 fulfill Defendants' obligation to develop policies and procedures. Implementation of the Policies
6 and Procedures at each Reception Center and Mainline shall be accomplished according to the
7 schedule in the Implementation Plan. For the purposes of this Stipulation and its exhibits,
8 "Mainline" refers to all prison programs except Reception Center programs. The Implementation
9 Plan may be modified according to ¶¶ 34-35. Following is the Implementation Plan's schedule:

10 7/1/06 - 12/31/08: Avenal State Prison, Calipatria State Prison, Centinela State
11 Prison, Chuckawalla Valley State Prison, California State
12 Prison - Corcoran, Folsom State Prison, Ironwood State
13 Prison, California State Prison - Los Angeles County, Mule
14 Creek State Prison, North Kern State Prison - II (Delano II),
Pleasant Valley State Prison, California State Prison -
Sacramento, Substance Abuse Treatment Facility, and Salinas
Valley State Prison.

15 7/1/07 - 12/31/09: California Correctional Center, California Men's Colony,
16 California Medical Facility, Correctional Training Facility,
Pelican Bay State Prison, Sierra Conservation Center, and
California State Prison - Solano.

17 7/1/08 - 12/31/10: The Mainline facilities of California Rehabilitation Center,
18 California Correctional Institution, Central California
19 Women's Facility, California Institution for Men, California
20 Institution for Women, Deuel Vocational Institution, High
21 Desert State Prison, North Kern State Prison, Richard J.
Donovan Correctional Facility, San Quentin State Prison,
Valley State Prison for Women, and California State Prison -
Wasco.

22 7/1/09 - 12/31/11: The RC facilities of California Rehabilitation Center,
23 California Correctional Institution, Central California
24 Women's Facility, California Institution for Men, California
25 Institution for Women, Deuel Vocational Institution, High
26 Desert State Prison, North Kern State Prison, Richard J.
Donovan Correctional Facility, San Quentin State Prison,
Valley State Prison for Women, and California State Prison -
Wasco.

27 13. By June 1, 2006, CDCR shall complete a state-wide study to determine staffing
28 needs related to the Implementation Plan and Policies and Procedures. The results of this study

1 shall be given to Plaintiffs within 10 days of completion of the study. Failure to complete a state-
2 wide staffing-needs study by June 1, 2006 shall not delay implementation of the Policies and
3 Procedures according to the schedule set out in the Implementation Plan.

4 14. Based on the staffing-needs study referred to in ¶ 13, CDCR shall hire sufficient
5 staff to fulfill its obligations under this Stipulation.

6 15. Defendants shall immediately implement the following practices or procedures at
7 each institution (Mainline and Reception Centers):

8 a. Dental emergency care shall be available 24 hours per day, seven days per
9 week. "Dental emergency care" is defined as care that is designed to
10 prevent death, alleviate severe pain, prevent permanent disability and
11 dysfunction, or prevent significant medical or dental complications.

12 b. It is anticipated that most dental emergencies will be handled by
13 physicians. A dental emergency shall be treated in the following manner:
14 Consistent with most medical emergencies, the physician may send the
15 inmate to a local hospital for treatment. Should the physician determine
16 that a dentist is required, the physician will call the chief dentist (or the
17 chief dentist's back-up) for advice. If the chief dentist determines that the
18 inmate needs treatment by a dentist, the chief dentist will go to the prison
19 to provide that treatment. These procedures are consistent with the dental
20 emergency procedures found in the Implementation Plan.

21 c. Inmates will have access to fluoridated toothpaste or toothpowder and
22 floss or interdental cleaners.

23 16. By December 31, 2006, Defendants shall complete implementation of the
24 following practices or procedures at every institution (Mainline and Reception Centers):

25 a. Tracking requests for dental treatment. Tracking will include dates
26 requests are made, dates inmates are scheduled to be examined by dental
27 personnel, dates inmates are actually examined by dental personnel, and

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1 documentation of cancellation or failure to appear for dental treatment or
2 examination.

3 b. Examinations, dental treatment plans, and dental treatment shall be
4 conducted according to the Implementation Plan and the Policies and
5 Procedures for inmates who have dental appointments. Before the “roll-
6 out” year (the year the prison at which the inmate is housed implements
7 the Policies and Procedures), inmates shall receive dental treatment that is
8 medically necessary as determined by the treating dentist.

9 c. Each mainline inmate shall receive an orientation handbook describing
10 dental self-care education set out in the Implementation Plan and Policies
11 and Procedures by March 31, 2006. After April 1, 2006, each inmate who
12 arrives at a CDCR institution shall receive this orientation handbook
13 within 14 working days of initial arrival on the mainline. A change from
14 one mainline yard to another yard, whether at the same or a different
15 prison, does not necessitate distribution of another handbook.

16 d. All inmates who are given a dental screening at the Reception Center or an
17 examination while on the mainline shall have their dental care needs
18 classified according to the priority classification system set out in the
19 Policies and Procedures.

20 17. The parties understand and agree that the inmate grievance procedure (CDCR
21 Form 602) is an important step in the provision of essential dental care. Accordingly, the parties
22 agree that all complaints regarding dental care provided to an individual inmate, except those
23 requiring emergency care or those classified as priority 1A¹, shall be submitted to Defendants
24 after using the inmate grievance procedure. Once the appeal has received the director’s level of
25 review and all administrative relief has been exhausted, should the individual inmate contend
26 that the grievance procedure failed to adequately address the dental problem, Plaintiffs’ counsel
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28 ¹ Priority 1A is defined in the Policies and Procedures as “Inmates requiring treatment for an acute oral or maxillo-
facial condition, which is likely to remain acute, worsen, or become life-threatening without immediate intervention.”

1 may bring the dental care concern to the attention of appropriate headquarters staff, who shall
2 respond in writing within 30 days.

3 18. For individual inmates who require emergency dental care or whose dental
4 condition is classified as priority 1A, Plaintiffs' counsel may bring the concern to the attention of
5 headquarters staff before the inmate has exhausted the grievance procedure.

6 **F. ACCESS TO INFORMATION.**

7 19. Subject to the limitations set forth in this Stipulation, Plaintiffs' counsel and the
8 Court's experts shall have reasonable access to the institutions, staff, inmates and documents
9 necessary to properly evaluate the adequacy of the dental care delivery system and the proposed
10 remedies, including the Implementation Plan, the Policies and Procedures, and the Audit
11 Instrument. The parties shall cooperate so that Plaintiffs' counsel and the Court's experts have
12 access to information reasonably necessary to perform their responsibilities required by this
13 Stipulation without unduly burdening Defendants.

14 20. Plaintiffs' counsel and Defendants shall negotiate a document production order by
15 February 28, 2006 that shall provide to Plaintiffs' counsel information from CDCR's
16 headquarters and from individual institutions about the dental services available to members of
17 the plaintiff class, the adequacy of Defendants' remedial measures, and Defendants' compliance
18 with this Stipulation. Defendants' and Plaintiffs' counsel shall meet monthly to discuss
19 implementation of remedial measures and access to information.

20 21. CDCR shall provide information including, but not limited to, the following
21 materials, subject to a protective order agreed to by the parties:

- 22 a. The dental care records in the medical files of members of the plaintiff
23 class as reasonably necessary;
- 24 b. Internal audits of the dental services provided to members of the plaintiff
25 class conducted according to this Stipulation;
- 26 c. Non-privileged documents relating to money budgeted for providing
27 dental care to prisoners. No documents reflecting the budget for any
28 particular upcoming budget year shall be provided until after the release of

1 the Governor's Budget. This is not intended to prohibit sharing policy and
2 planning documents, at the discretion of the Defendants.

3 d. Documents maintained at individual institutions pursuant to this
4 Stipulation. Those documents may include:

- 5 (1) Audits of dental care required by this Stipulation.
- 6 (2) Dental staff vacancy reports.
- 7 (3) Dental staff training statistics.
- 8 (4) Records reflecting scheduling and tracking of dental
9 appointments.
- 10 (5) Dental related inmate appeals (602's) and responses.

11 e. Plaintiffs' counsel shall not have access to any personnel files.

12 f. Plaintiffs' counsel shall not be given peer review documents.

13 g. Plaintiffs' counsel shall be given CDCR training documents related to
14 implementation of this Stipulation for the first year that any such training
15 is offered on any dental topic. The training documents will be given to
16 Plaintiffs' counsel once the documents are ready for use or training.

17 22. Plaintiffs may retain one dental consultant at a time, whose fees and expenses
18 shall be paid by Defendants. Plaintiffs' counsel and their dental consultant shall be able to tour
19 dental clinics and facilities during tours conducted pursuant to *Plata v. Schwarzenegger* (U.S.
20 District Court, Northern District of California, case number C-01-1351 TEH). Plaintiffs' counsel
21 shall advise Defendants when their dental consultant will accompany them on a prison tour,
22 before that tour begins. *Plata* tours shall be lengthened as necessary to accommodate Plaintiffs'
23 additional tour duties. In addition, Plaintiffs may schedule two tours per year at each prison that
24 Plaintiffs are not touring under *Plata*.

25 23. Tours by Plaintiffs' counsel shall include reasonable access to housing units and
26 all facilities where dental services are provided. Defendants shall make reasonable efforts to
27 make available for interview departmental, custodial, clinical, and program staff that have direct
28 or indirect responsibility for providing dental services to class members. Defendants shall direct

1 institution staff to reasonably cooperate with Plaintiffs' counsel. Plaintiffs' counsel shall be
2 permitted brief discussions with plaintiff-class inmates about their dental care needs during the
3 tours, and shall be able to give business cards with their name and address to plaintiff class
4 inmates. Defendants will continuously post notices informing all inmates at each institution that
5 complaints regarding the provision of dental care may be sent to counsel for the plaintiff class in
6 this case. Defendants shall provide Plaintiffs' counsel reasonable access to confidential
7 interviews with members of the plaintiff class before or after the tours, during regular business
8 hours, without regard to regular visiting hours and days. Upon a request by Plaintiffs' counsel at
9 least one week prior to the tour, Defendants shall make available for inspection and/or copying
10 the dental records contained in the medical files of specified plaintiff-class inmates.

11 24. If any party fails to make himself or herself, an employee, or an agent reasonably
12 available for interview and the parties agree, the other party may depose the party, employee, or
13 agent who has not been made available. If the parties are unable to agree, the Court may order
14 such deposition of the party, employee, or agent if the deposition is reasonably necessary to the
15 conduct of the litigation.

16 25. Plaintiffs' counsel and the Court's experts will cease tours at a particular
17 institution after that institution has been found to be in substantial compliance as set forth in ¶¶
18 29-33. Tours may resume at a particular institution if the parties agree that, or the Court finds
19 that, there has not been substantial compliance by Defendants, provided that such resumed tours
20 shall be limited to the issue or components found not to be in substantial compliance. Non-
21 compliance may be corrected by substantial compliance with the existing Policies and
22 Procedures, or by modifying the Policies and Procedures and Audit Instrument pursuant to ¶¶ 34-
23 35 and complying with the Policies and Procedures as modified. Any disputes about whether an
24 institution is in substantial compliance shall be resolved using the procedures in ¶¶ 36-38.

25 **G. INDEPENDENT COURT EXPERTS.**

26 26. The parties request that the Court appoint two experts under Rule 706 of the
27 Federal Rules of Evidence, to advise the Court on Defendants' compliance with the
28 Implementation Plan and Policies and Procedures. The parties propose that Exhibit C be adopted

1 as the experts' duties, according to Rule 706(a). The experts shall be entitled to reasonable
2 compensation in an amount approved by the Court and the costs for each expert shall be borne by
3 Defendants. The parties will meet and confer in an attempt to recommend two mutually
4 agreeable experts to the Court within 60 days after this Stipulation is signed by the Court. If the
5 parties cannot agree upon the experts, they shall so advise the Court and each party shall submit a
6 list of four candidates. The Court shall appoint the experts from the list of candidates.

7 27. In the event that either of the Court-appointed experts can no longer serve, the
8 parties shall attempt to agree on a replacement within 30 days. In the event the parties cannot
9 agree, they shall nominate experts in accordance with Rule 706 of the Federal Rules of Evidence.
10 The parties understand and agree that the Court may appoint a mutually agreeable third expert in
11 the future. In the event that the parties are unable to agree on a third expert, the Court may
12 appoint a third expert in accordance with Rule 706 of the Federal Rules of Evidence.

13 28. With reasonable notice and subject to the limitations in this Stipulation, the court
14 experts shall have reasonable access to all parts of any institution, all relevant documents, all
15 individuals (including interviews with staff or inmates), dental meetings, dental proceedings,
16 and dental programs to the extent that such access is reasonably needed to fulfill their
17 obligations. If both parties agree, the court experts may hire additional support staff, at
18 Defendants' expense, to assist them in performing their duties. If both parties cannot agree, the
19 Court may authorize hiring additional personnel upon a showing by the court experts that such
20 additional personnel are reasonably necessary to the performance of their duties.

21 **H. COMPLIANCE.**

22 29. Defendants shall conduct audits in accordance with the Implementation Plan.

23 30. Compliance with the Policies and Procedures shall be audited using an Audit
24 Instrument. This Audit Instrument will be developed by CDCR in consultation with Plaintiffs'
25 counsel and the court experts by June 30, 2006. No later than January 15, 2007, the parties and
26 the court experts shall meet and confer about whether the Audit Instrument needs to be modified.
27 If the parties agree, the instrument shall be modified. If the parties do not agree, the Court shall
28 decide whether the proposed modifications shall be adopted, after consulting with the parties and

1 the court experts. No later than June 30, 2007, the court experts, in cooperation with the parties,
2 shall determine the necessary passing score that Defendants must achieve in order to demonstrate
3 successful implementation of the Policies and Procedures. Any disputes about the need for
4 modification or the necessary passing score shall be resolved according to ¶¶ 36-38 of this
5 Stipulation.

6 31. The audits shall be conducted as follows:

- 7 a. The court experts shall agree on a statistically appropriate number of
8 inmate dental records that must be audited to assess compliance.
- 9 b. CDCR auditors will review that number of inmate dental records to
10 determine whether an institution is in substantial compliance with the
11 Policies and Procedures.
- 12 c. Once CDCR auditors determine that an institution is in substantial
13 compliance, the court experts will conduct another audit at the institution
14 within 30 days, using the same number of records.
- 15 d. Choice of Records:
 - 16 (1) Mainline Dental Care: The records shall be randomly selected
17 from a pool of inmates who have received a dental examination
18 and/or dental treatment during the previous six months at the
19 mainline dental clinic.
 - 20 (2) Reception Center Dental Screening and Care: The records shall be
21 randomly selected.
- 22 e. If, during audits conducted by the court experts, Defendants disagree with
23 the appropriateness of an expert's answer to any question in the audit
24 instrument relating to the quality of dental care, the question shall be
25 reviewed by both court experts and shall count against compliance only if
26 both experts agree.

27 32. Standards for Monitoring Compliance: In evaluating and reporting on
28 implementation and compliance with the Policies and Procedures, the Defendants and the court

1 experts shall use the Audit Instrument. The Audit Instrument shall set out the compliance
2 indicators for four practice areas for Reception Centers, and ten practice areas for Mainline, as
3 follows:

4 a. Reception Center:

- 5 (1) Dental screening of newly committed inmates within 60 days of
6 arrival at Reception Center;
- 7 (2) Consistency and completeness of screening form;
- 8 (3) Provision of emergency dental care within 24 hours of notification
9 of emergency;
- 10 (4) Adequate provision of emergency care.

11 b. Mainline:

- 12 (1) Provision of dental self-care handbook to newly arrived inmates
13 within 14 working days of arrival at mainline;
- 14 (2) Dental examinations within 90 calendar days of inmate's arrival at
15 mainline;
- 16 (3) Subsequent examinations or treatment as required by the dental
17 treatment plan;
- 18 (4) Consistency and completeness of examinations;
- 19 (5) Completion or update of dental treatment plan with each
20 examination;
- 21 (6) Consistency and completeness of dental treatment plan;
- 22 (7) Scheduling inmates within three working days of their filing a
23 Dental Request for Treatment;
- 24 (8) Visit with dentist within 35 calendar days of scheduling based on
25 DRT;
- 26 (9) Provision of treatment: within 24 hours (emergency or priority
27 1A); within 30 calendar days (priority 1B); within 60 calendar days
28 (priority 1C); within 120 calendar days (priority 2); within one

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calendar year (priority 3);

(10) Adequacy of examinations, treatment plans, and treatment.

33. A prison is in substantial compliance when all of the following conditions are satisfied:

- a. It receives a passing score on the audit of the implementation of the Policies and Procedures which shall be conducted by the court experts using the Audit Instrument.
- b. In determining substantial compliance, Defendants and court experts will ascertain whether screenings, examinations, treatment plans, and treatment provided to inmates comply with the Policies and Procedures. The dental screenings, examinations, treatment plans, and treatment provided to the inmates shall be in substantial compliance when one of the following conditions are met:
 - (1) The screening, examination, treatment plan, or treatment is consistent with guidelines in the Policies and Procedures; or
 - (2) The practitioner documents in the dental notes that he/she is deviating from adopted policies and procedures and that such deviation is consistent with the community standard; or
 - (3) Where no treatment guidelines are specifically adopted in the Policies and Procedures, the assessment or plan is consistent with the community standard.
 - (4) "Community standard" is defined as the standard of care required by the National Commission on Correctional Healthcare or the American Correctional Association.

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1 (5) In those instances in which a court expert finds that a screening,
2 examination, treatment plan, or treatment does not comply with
3 community standards, Defendants may request that the question be
4 reviewed by both court experts, and shall count against compliance
5 only if both experts agree.

6 c. The prison is conducting quality management proceedings in
7 conformance with the Health Care Services Division's Quality
8 Management Committee's standards.

9 d. The prison is conducting adequate dental peer review.

10 e. The prison has tracking, scheduling, and medication administration
11 systems in place.

12 f. The two court experts agree that no pattern or practice of dental care falls
13 below constitutionally mandated standards that is not being addressed by
14 CDCR.

15 **I. MODIFICATION.**

16 34. Defendants may modify the Policies and Procedures or the Audit Instrument at
17 any time, provided that as modified the Policies and Procedures and the Audit Instrument will
18 meet the minimum level of care necessary to fulfill Defendants' obligation to Plaintiffs under the
19 Eighth Amendment. Defendants will provide Plaintiffs' attorneys with a copy of the original
20 Policies and Procedures or the Audit Instrument, the modified version, and a strikeout version
21 with the changes 30 days before implementation. In an emergency or when such delay will
22 adversely affect the provision of dental care, copies will be provided as quickly as possible, but
23 no later than the date the new policy is implemented. Plaintiffs shall have 30 days from the time
24 they receive the changes to meet and confer with Defendants. Plaintiffs shall file objections, if
25 any, through a regularly noticed motion within 90 days from the end of the meet and confer
26 process.

27 35. Plaintiffs may also seek to modify the Policies and Procedures and the Audit
28 Instrument at any time to secure a constitutionally mandated level of dental care for Plaintiffs.

1 Plaintiffs will provide Defendants with a copy of the original Policies and Procedures or the
2 Audit Instrument, the modified version, and a strikeout version with proposed changes.
3 Defendants shall have 30 days from the time they receive the proposed changes to meet and
4 confer with Plaintiffs' counsel. Any disputes shall be resolved using the dispute resolution
5 provisions set forth in ¶¶ 36-38.

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7 **J. DISPUTE RESOLUTION.**

8 36. If Plaintiffs contend that the Implementation Plan, Policies and Procedures, and
9 Audit Instrument, as written or as modified, or any component thereof will not provide for the
10 minimum level of dental care necessary to fulfill Defendants' obligations to Plaintiffs under the
11 Eighth Amendment, Plaintiffs shall provide Defendants with a brief description of the perceived
12 deficiencies and a request that the parties enter into negotiations to resolve the question as to
13 whether Defendants' Policies and Procedures and Audit Instrument satisfy the minimum
14 requirements of the Eighth Amendment. Upon receipt of Plaintiffs' request for negotiations, any
15 party may inform the Court's experts of the area of disagreement and request that the experts
16 evaluate the issue and prepare a report. Defendants will respond to Plaintiffs' concerns no later
17 than 30 days after they receive Plaintiffs' concerns.

18 37. If the parties are unable to resolve the dispute informally, the parties shall conduct
19 negotiations on the issue in dispute. Such negotiations may include the Court's experts, and a
20 person satisfactory to the parties may at the election of either party, mediate any unresolved
21 issues. If the parties cannot agree on a mediator, the administrator of a private dispute resolution
22 service, such as JAMS, will choose a mediator. The substance of the mediation and any
23 statements made by a party, an employee of a party, or an agent of a party are confidential and
24 not admissible in any subsequent proceeding. The Experts' reports shall be admissible as
25 evidence at the request of any party in any judicial proceeding in this case.

26 38. If the process set forth in the preceding paragraph fails to resolve the issue of
27 whether Defendants' Policies and Procedures and Audit Instrument, either as written or as
28 modified, provide for a level of dental care sufficient to meet the minimum requirements of the

1 Eighth Amendment, either party shall have the option of seeking relief from the Court. If the
2 Court determines that Defendants' Policies and Procedures and the Audit Instrument, either as
3 written or as modified, do not provide a level of dental care sufficient to meet the minimum
4 requirements of the Eighth Amendment, the Court may grant relief as authorized under the
5 Prison Litigation Reform Act (PLRA), 18 U.S.C. § 3626(a).

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7 **K. ENFORCEMENT.**

8 39. The Court shall find that this Stipulation satisfies the requirements of 18 U.S.C. §
9 3626(a)(1)(A) and shall retain jurisdiction to enforce its terms. The Court shall have the power
10 to enforce the Stipulation through specific performance and all other remedies permitted by law.
11 Neither the fact of this Stipulation nor any statements contained in it may be used in any other
12 case or administrative proceeding, except that Defendants, CDCR, or their employees and agents
13 may use this Stipulation to assert issue preclusion and res judicata in other litigation seeking
14 class or systemic relief. When these legal defenses are raised, Defendants will send copies of the
15 complaints to Plaintiffs' counsel at the Prison Law Office.

16 40. If Plaintiffs believe that Defendants are not complying with this Stipulation, the
17 Implementation Plan, or the Policies and Procedures, the dispute resolution process in ¶¶ 36-38
18 shall apply.

19 **L. TERMINATION.**

20 41. Notwithstanding the PLRA or any other law, Defendants may move to vacate this
21 Stipulation and dismiss the case on the ground that each institution subject to this Stipulation has
22 been found to be in substantial compliance under ¶¶ 29-33. Non-compliance may be corrected
23 by compliance with the existing Implementation Plan and Policies and Procedures or by
24 modifying the Policies and Procedures pursuant to ¶¶ 34-35 and complying with the Policies and
25 Procedures as modified. The parties shall attempt to negotiate any disputes about Defendants'
26 compliance pursuant to ¶¶ 36-38. Either party may invoke the enforcement process set forth in
27 ¶¶ 39-40. The final determination of such a dispute shall rest with the Court.

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1 **M. ATTORNEYS FEES AND COSTS.**

2 42. Plaintiffs are the prevailing party and may apply for attorneys' fees. Defendants
3 shall pay Plaintiffs' counsel for the work performed in connection with this Stipulation at hourly
4 rates set forth under the PLRA, 42 USC § 1997e(d). Plaintiffs shall have 60 days from the entry
5 of this Stipulation to file their motion for attorneys' fees. The PLRA applies to all applications
6 for attorneys' fees in this case.

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8 **N. CONSTRUCTION OF STIPULATION.**

9 43. This Stipulation reflects the entire agreement of the parties and supersedes any
10 prior written or oral agreements between them. No extrinsic evidence whatsoever may be
11 introduced in any judicial proceeding to provide the meaning or construction of this Stipulation.
12 Any modification to the terms of this Stipulation must be in writing and signed by a
13 representative of the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation and attorneys for the
14 Plaintiffs to be effective or enforceable.

15 44. This Stipulation shall be governed and construed according to
16 California law. The parties waive any common law or statutory rule of construction that
17 ambiguity should be construed against the drafter of this Stipulation, and agree that the language
18 in all parts of this Stipulation shall in all cases be construed as a whole, according to its fair
19 meaning.

20 45. This Stipulation shall be valid and binding upon, and faithfully kept,
21 observed, performed and be enforceable by and against the parties, their successors and assigns
22 and the plaintiff class.

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1 46. The obligations governed by this Stipulation are severable. If for any
2 reason a part of this Stipulation is determined to be invalid or unenforceable, such a
3 determination shall not affect the remainder.

4 47. The waiver by one party of any provision or breach of this Stipulation shall not be
5 deemed a waiver of any other provision or breach of this Stipulation.

6 **IT IS SO STIPULATED.**

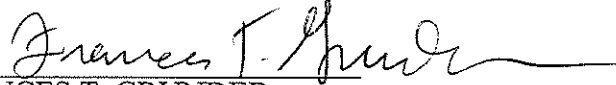
8 Dated: 12/15/05


DONALD SPECTER
Attorney for Plaintiff Class

11 Dated: 12/8/05


RODERICK HICKMAN
Secretary for the Department of Corrections and
Rehabilitation

15 Dated: 12/6/05


FRANCES T. GRUNDER
Senior Assistant Attorney General
Approved as to Form for Defendants Hickman,
Farber-Szekrenyi, and Kuykendall

19 **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

21 Dated: _____

U.S. District Judge