

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF  
CALIFORNIA

Andrew Vasquez v. Eilya Moghaddam, et al.

No. 2:19-cv-01283 TLN AC, United States District Court for the Eastern District of California (March 21, 2025)

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Eastern District of California partially granted and partially denied Plaintiff Andrew Vasquez’s motion concerning a settlement conference, discovery, and pretrial proceedings. The court ordered a settlement conference, denied the requests to reopen discovery and set a pretrial conference, vacated the existing pretrial deadlines, and maintained the July 28, 2025 jury trial date.

CASE DETAILS

|                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| COURT                 | United States District Court for the Eastern District of California                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| WRITING FOR THE COURT | Allison Claire                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| JURISDICTION          | United States District Court for the Eastern District of California                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| DECIDED               | March 21, 2025                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| DOCKET                | 2:19-cv-01283 TLN AC                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| DISPOSITION           | other                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| PROCEDURAL POSTURE    | Plaintiff, a state prisoner proceeding pro se in a 42 U.S.C. § 1983 action, moved for a settlement conference, to reopen and compel discovery, and for a pretrial conference. The magistrate judge granted the motion in part and denied it in part.                                                   |
| STANDARD OF REVIEW    | The court applied the Ninth Circuit's factors for amending a scheduling order to reopen discovery, including the imminence of trial, opposition, prejudice, diligence, foreseeability of the need for additional discovery, and the likelihood that further discovery would produce relevant evidence. |
| PRECEDENTIAL VALUE    | nonprecedential                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| PARTIES               | Andrew Vasquez v. Eilya Moghaddam, Mallot, Wheeler, Perez                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |

TOPICS

- discovery dispute
- mediation
- civil procedure
- summary judgment
- section 1983

## PRACTICE AREAS

civil procedure

civil rights

prisoner litigation

## QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the court should schedule a settlement conference.
2. Whether plaintiff established a basis to reopen and compel discovery after the discovery deadline had passed.
3. Whether the court should set or otherwise modify the pretrial conference and pretrial statement deadlines.

## HOLDINGS

1. The court granted plaintiff's request for a settlement conference because no prior settlement conference had been held and the renewed request made a settlement conference appropriate.
2. The court denied plaintiff's request to reopen and compel discovery because plaintiff provided no basis for reopening discovery at that stage of the litigation.
3. The court denied plaintiff's request to set a pretrial conference and vacated the existing pretrial conference date and pretrial statement deadlines, while directing that the conference and deadlines be reset on the papers if the case did not settle.

## KEY QUOTATIONS

*“To amend a scheduling order to reopen discovery, courts in the Ninth Circuit consider: “1) whether trial is imminent; 2) whether the request is opposed; 3) whether the non-moving party would be prejudiced; 4) whether the moving party was diligent in obtaining discovery within the guidelines established by the court; 5) the foreseeability of the need for additional discovery; and 6) the likelihood further discovery will lead to relevant evidence.”” (at 2)*

*“This case shall proceed to trial solely on the issue of whether Defendant Officer Wheeler was deliberately indifferent to Plaintiff’s safety and medical needs when he transported plaintiff improperly and drove recklessly in a manner that caused pain and injury.” (at 2)*

## FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Plaintiff is a state prisoner pursuing deliberate-indifference claims under 42 U.S.C. § 1983. Following partial summary judgment, the case remained set for trial solely on whether Officer Wheeler was deliberately indifferent to plaintiff's safety and medical needs during transportation. Discovery had closed, no settlement conference had previously occurred, and the trial and pretrial deadlines were approaching.

## PROCEDURAL HISTORY

After screening, the court permitted amendment and allowed claims concerning deliberate indifference to medical needs and safety to proceed against several defendants. The parties completed the applicable discovery period, defendants obtained partial summary judgment, and the case was limited to claims against Officer

Wheeler concerning deliberate indifference to plaintiff's safety and medical needs during transportation. Plaintiff then renewed his request for a settlement conference and sought to reopen discovery and schedule a pretrial conference. The court granted a settlement conference, denied reopening and compelling discovery, vacated the existing pretrial deadlines, and left the July 28, 2025 jury trial unchanged.

## DISPOSITION

other

## CASES CITED

- City of Pomona v. SQM N. Amer. Corp., 866 F.3d 1060, 1066 (9th Cir. 2017)

## OPINION

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT 9 FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF  
CALIFORNIA 10 11 ANDREW VASQUEZ, No. 2:19-cv-01283 TLN AC 12 Plaintiff, 13 v.  
FURTHER SCHEDULING ORDER 14 EILYA MOGHADDAM, et al., 15 Defendants. 16 17  
Plaintiff is a state prisoner proceeding without an attorney in this civil rights action 18 pursuant to  
42 U.S.C. § 1983.

On March 10, 2025, plaintiff filed a motion for a settlement 19 conference date, preliminary  
hearing conference, and pretrial conference. ECF No. 82. In his 20 motion, plaintiff seeks to have  
the court set a settlement conference, reopen and compel 21 discovery, and set a pretrial  
conference date. Id. at 2-4.

For the reasons discussed below, 22 plaintiff's motion is granted in part and denied in part. 23 I.  
Procedural History 24 Plaintiff filed the original complaint in this case on July 10, 2019. ECF No.  
1. Upon 25 screening the original complaint, the court determined plaintiff failed to state any  
claim for relief, 26 and granted plaintiff leave to amend the complaint.

ECF No. 8. Plaintiff filed the amended, and 27 operative, complaint. ECF No. 14. Upon screening  
the first amended complaint ("FAC"), the 28 court found that plaintiff adequately alleged a  
medical deliberate indifference claims against 1 defendants Moghaddam and Mallot, and safety  
and medical deliberate indifference claims against 2 defendants Wheeler and Perez.

ECF No. 15 at 5. Plaintiff chose to proceed on those claims and 3 voluntarily dismiss the other  
claims raised in the FAC. ECF No. 16. 4 Defendants were served and answered the FAC. See ECF  
Nos. 26, 27, 35. The case was 5 referred to post-screening Alternative Dispute Resolution  
("ADR"). ECF No. 36. Defendants, 6 however, filed a motion to opt-out of post-screening ADR  
because they did not believe it would 7 be productive at that time.

ECF No. 37. The court granted the motion and the case proceeded to 8 discovery. ECF No. 38. 9  
The court issued a discovery and scheduling order. ECF No. 39. The deadline to conduct 10

discovery and file any motions necessary to compel discovery was July 1, 2022. Id. at 6.

The 11 only modifications made to the scheduling order were multiple extensions to file dispositive 12 motions. ECF Nos. 53, 56. All other deadlines remained the same. Id. 13 Defendants filed a motion for partial summary judgment, ECF NO. 57, and plaintiff, filed 14 a cross-motion for summary judgment and an opposition to defendants' motion. ECF Nos. 57, 15 62.

While the motions were pending, plaintiff requested a settlement conference. ECF No. 64. 16 Defendants opposed plaintiff's requests because they did not believe it would be productive to 17 have a settlement conference while the motions for summary judgment were pending. ECF 18 No. 65. Defendants, however, stated "[o]nce that motion[s] ha[ve] been adjudicated, Defendants 19 believe that it may be appropriate for the Court to hold a settlement conference with any 20 remaining parties and thus request to revisit the issue at that time." Id. 21 On July 31, 2024, the magistrate judge issued findings and recommendations granting 22 defendants' motion for partial summary judgment and denied plaintiff's cross-motion as moot.

23 ECF No. 75. On September 17, 2024, the district judge adopted the findings and 24 recommendations and ordered that the defendants' motion be granted and plaintiff's motion be 25 denied. ECF No. 78. The court further ordered that "[t]his case shall proceed to trial solely on 26 the issue of whether Defendant Officer Wheeler was deliberately indifferent to Plaintiff's safety 27 and medical needs when he transported plaintiff improperly and drove recklessly in a manner that 28 caused pain and injury." Id. at 2.

1 The court then issued a further scheduling order. ECF No. 80. Discovery disclosures 2 were due December 30, 2024, and expert discovery closed January 29, 2025. See ECF No. 80 at 3 4. Plaintiff's pretrial statement and any motions necessary to obtain attendance of incarcerated 4 witnesses at trial are due on or before March 24, 2025. Id. at 5. Defendants' pretrial statement is 5 due on or before April 7, 2025.

Id. The matter is set for jury trial on July 28, 2025. Id. 6 II. Discussion 7 Given plaintiff's renewed motion and that no prior settlement conference has been held in 8 this case, the court deems it appropriate to send the case for a settlement conference. Plaintiff's 9 request for a settlement conference will therefore be granted. 10 To the extent plaintiff seeks to reopen and compel discovery, such requests will be denied.

11 Plaintiff provides no basis for reopening discovery at this stage in the litigation. See *City of Pomona v. SQM N. Amer. Corp.*, 866 F.3d 1060, 1066 (9th Cir. 2017) (To amend a scheduling 13 order to reopen discovery, courts in the Ninth Circuit consider: "1) whether trial is imminent; 2) 14 whether the request is opposed; 3) whether the non-moving party would be prejudiced; 4) 15 whether the moving party was diligent in obtaining discovery within the guidelines established by

16 the court; 5) the foreseeability of the need for additional discovery; and 6) the likelihood further  
17 discovery will lead to relevant evidence.”).

18 Lastly, plaintiff’s request to set a pretrial conference to sort out issues concerning 19 evidence  
and witnesses will be denied. Because a settlement conference date will be set by the 20 court and  
the pretrial conference deadlines are fast approaching, there is good cause for the court 21 to  
vacate the pretrial conference and pretrial statement deadlines.

However, if the case fails to 22 settle, the court will reset the pretrial conference on the papers. The  
pretrial conference and 23 consideration of motions in limine will provide plaintiff with adequate  
opportunity to address any 24 concerns he may have concerning witnesses and evidence for trial.  
25 Accordingly, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that: 26 1. Plaintiff’s motion (ECF No. 82) is granted  
in part and denied in part.

27 a. Plaintiff’s motion for a settlement conference is granted. A subsequent order 28 will set a  
settlement conference date. ] b. Plaintiff’s requests to reopen and compel discovery and set a  
pretrial 2 conference and hearing are denied. 3 2.

The pretrial conference date set for April 14, 2025, and the pretrial statement deadlines 4 are  
vacated. If the case does not settle, the court will reset a pretrial conference on the 5 papers and  
reset deadlines for filing pretrial statements. 6 3.

The jury trial set before Honorable Troy L. Nunley is unchanged and set for July 28, 7 2025, at  
9:00am in Courtroom #2. 8 | DATED: March 21, 2025 9 ~ 10 ththienr—Chnp—e\_ ALLISON  
CLAIRE 11 UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24  
25 26 27 28