

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF
CALIFORNIA

Derrick Hill v. California Department of Correction, et al.

Hill v. California Department of Correction · No. No. 2:24-CV-1607-DC-DMC-P · Decided December 17, 2025

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Eastern District of California grants Defendants’ unopposed motion to stay this prisoner civil rights action under the Colorado River doctrine. The Court finds that a parallel Sacramento County Superior Court action, filed first and involving the same events, claims, and defendants, warrants a stay to avoid duplicative litigation and inconsistent results. Defendants must file status reports every 90 days until the state court action concludes.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Eastern District of California
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Dennis M. Cota
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Eastern District of California
DECIDED	December 17, 2025
DOCKET	No. 2:24-CV-1607-DC-DMC-P
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Plaintiff brought a prisoner civil-rights action under 42 U.S.C. § 1983. Defendants moved, without opposition, to stay the federal proceedings under the Colorado River abstention doctrine because a parallel state-court action involving the same events, claims, and defendants was filed first.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	The court applied the Colorado River doctrine and evaluated the eight factors governing whether a federal court should stay or dismiss a federal action in light of parallel state proceedings.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Unknown; district-court order
PARTIES	Derrick Hill v. California Department of Correction, et al.

TOPICS

- section 1983
- civil rights
- civil procedure
- federalism

PRACTICE AREAS

Civil rights litigation

Federal courts and abstention

Prisoner litigation

Civil procedure

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the federal action should be stayed under the Colorado River doctrine because a parallel state-court action involving the same facts, claims, and defendants was filed first.
2. Whether the Colorado River factors favored staying the federal action pending resolution of the state-court proceeding.

HOLDINGS

1. When a parallel state-court action alleges the same facts as a concurrent federal action, the federal district court may stay the federal action under the Colorado River doctrine.
2. The Colorado River factors warranted staying the federal action pending resolution of the parallel Sacramento County Superior Court action.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“When a parallel state court action has been filed alleging the same facts as in a concurrent federal court action, the district court may dismiss or stay the federal action.” (at 1)

“Defendants’ unopposed motion for a stay of federal proceedings pursuant to Colorado River is GRANTED.” (at 3)

“This action is stayed pending resolution of the parallel Sacramento County Superior Court action.” (at 3)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Plaintiff, a state prisoner proceeding pro se, alleged civil-rights violations arising from a cell extraction on June 4, 2022. He filed a state-court action alleging the same facts against the same defendants before filing this federal § 1983 action. Both proceedings were pending in courts located in the same geographic area, and the state court could adjudicate the federal claims.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Plaintiff filed an action in Sacramento County Superior Court on May 29, 2024, arising from a June 4, 2022 cell extraction and naming the same defendants. Plaintiff then filed this federal action on June 4, 2024. The federal court granted Defendants' unopposed motion to stay the federal case pending resolution of the state action.

DISPOSITION

other

CASES CITED

- Colorado River Water Conservation District v. United States, 424 U.S. 800 (1976)

- *Coopers & Lybrand v. Sun-Diamond Growers*, 912 F.2d 1135, 1138 (9th Cir. 1990)
- *R.R. Street & Co. v. Transportation Insurance Co.*, 656 F.3d 966, 978-79 (9th Cir. 2011)
- *United States v. 14.02 Acres of Land*, 530 F.3d 883, 894 (9th Cir. 2008)
- *Kasey v. Molybdenum Corp. of America*, 336 F.2d 560, 563 (9th Cir. 1964)
- *Chandler v. United States*, 378 F.2d 906, 909 (9th Cir. 1967)

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