

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF
CALIFORNIA

Brave and Free Santa Cruz v. Aragon

Brave and Free Santa Cruz · No. 2:24-cv-02312-DAD-JDP · Decided August 12, 2025

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Eastern District of California granted defendants’ motions to dismiss claims concerning vaccination requirements and access to educational services for students with individualized education programs. The court held that the organizational plaintiffs had not adequately alleged associational standing and that it lacked authority to enforce permanent injunctions issued by the Northern District of California. The first claim was dismissed without leave to amend, while the remaining claims were dismissed with leave to amend.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Eastern District of California
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Dale A. Drozd
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Eastern District of California
DECIDED	August 12, 2025
DOCKET	2:24-cv-02312-DAD-JDP
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Defendants moved under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 12(b)(6) to dismiss plaintiffs' first amended complaint, which asserted claims concerning IDEA compliance, enforcement of permanent injunctions issued by another federal district court, and denial of a free appropriate public education.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	On a Rule 12(b)(6) motion, the court tests the legal sufficiency of the complaint, accepts well-pleaded factual allegations as true, construes them in the plaintiff's favor, and determines whether the complaint alleges enough facts to state a facially plausible claim. Article III standing and subject-matter jurisdiction must be established before the court reaches the merits.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	unpublished, nonprecedential district-court order
PARTIES	Brave and Free Santa Cruz, Free Now Foundation, D.C., B.P. v. Tomas J. Aragon, Tony Thurmond, Gavin Newsom, Gilroy Unified School

TOPICS

motions to dismiss standing subject matter jurisdiction pleadings civil procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

civil procedure constitutional law disability law education law health law

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the organizational plaintiffs adequately alleged associational standing under Article III.
2. Whether the Eastern District of California had authority to enforce permanent injunctions issued by the Northern District of California.
3. Whether plaintiffs' claims should be dismissed with or without leave to amend.
4. Whether the claims of D.C. and B.P. and the claims against Gilroy Unified School District and Anisha Munshi should be dismissed without prejudice.

HOLDINGS

1. The organizational plaintiffs failed to allege that their members suffered an injury in fact because they did not identify any member whose child was subject to a policy excluding an unvaccinated student with an IEP from school or mainstream classes. Accordingly, the organizations lacked associational standing.
2. The Eastern District of California lacked authority to adjudicate plaintiffs' claim seeking enforcement of permanent injunctions issued by the Northern District of California.
3. Because plaintiffs lacked Article III standing and the court lacked authority over the injunction-enforcement claim, the court could not reach defendants' remaining arguments on the merits.
4. Plaintiffs were granted leave to amend their remaining claims because the identified standing deficiencies might be cured by alleging the relevant school districts and their policies, but the injunction-enforcement claim was dismissed without leave to amend because amendment could not cure the court's lack of authority.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“standing requires that (1) the plaintiff suffered an injury in fact, i.e., one that is sufficiently ‘concrete and particularized’ and ‘actual or imminent, not conjectural or hypothetical,’ (2) the injury is ‘fairly traceable’ to the challenged conduct, and (3) the injury is ‘likely’ to be ‘redressed by a favorable decision.’” (at 5)

“The court finds that it lacks authority to adjudicate plaintiffs’ first claim.” (at 9)

“Because plaintiffs lack Article III standing and this court lacks authority to enforce the permanent injunctions at issue, the court lacks jurisdiction over plaintiffs’ claims.” (at 10)

“The court will grant leave to amend as to plaintiffs’ remaining claims” (at 12)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Plaintiff organizations alleged that their members included parents and grandparents of unvaccinated children with individualized education programs who attended California schools. They alleged that school districts had been advised that unvaccinated students with disabilities could be excluded from mainstream classes, but they did not identify the members' school districts or allege that any member's child was subject to a policy excluding such students. The complaint also sought enforcement in the Eastern District of California of permanent injunctions issued by the Northern District of California concerning IDEA compliance.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Plaintiffs filed the action on August 26, 2024, and filed their first amended complaint on October 31, 2024. The court previously denied plaintiffs' motion for a preliminary injunction. Defendants moved to dismiss; plaintiffs did not oppose dismissal of Gilroy Unified School District and Anisha Munshi. The court granted the motions, dismissed some claims without leave to amend, dismissed the remaining claims with leave to amend, and set a deadline for a second amended complaint or notice of intent not to amend.

DISPOSITION

other

CASES CITED

- Doe v. Maher, 793 F.2d 1470, 1501-02 (9th Cir. 1986), aff'd as modified sub nom. Honig v. Doe, 484 U.S. 305 (1988)
- Honig v. Doe, 484 U.S. 305 (1988)
- N. Star Int'l v. Ariz. Corp. Comm'n, 720 F.2d 578, 581 (9th Cir. 1983)
- Balistreri v. Pacifica Police Dep't, 901 F.2d 696, 699 (9th Cir. 1990)
- Bell Atl. Corp. v. Twombly, 550 U.S. 544, 555, 570 (2007)
- Ashcroft v. Iqbal, 556 U.S. 662, 676, 678 (2009)
- Hishon v. King & Spalding, 467 U.S. 69, 73 (1984)
- U.S. ex rel. Chunie v. Ringrose, 788 F.2d 638, 643 n.2 (9th Cir. 1986)
- Associated Gen. Contractors of Cal., Inc. v. Cal. State Council of Carpenters, 459 U.S. 519, 526 (1983)
- Lee v. City of Los Angeles, 250 F.3d 668, 688-89 (9th Cir. 2001)
- City of Los Angeles v. Lyons, 461 U.S. 95, 101 (1983)
- Matter of East Coast Foods, Inc., 66 F.4th 1214, 1218 (9th Cir. 2023)
- City of Oakland v. Lynch, 798 F.3d 1159, 1163 (9th Cir. 2015)
- Lujan v. Defs. of Wildlife, 504 U.S. 555, 560-61 (1992)
- Bates v. United Parcel Serv., Inc., 511 F.3d 974, 985 (9th Cir. 2007) (en banc)
- Chapman v. Pier 1 Imports (U.S.) Inc., 631 F.3d 939, 946 (9th Cir. 2011)
- E. Bay Sanctuary Covenant v. Biden, 993 F.3d 640, 662 (9th Cir. 2021)
- Friends of the Earth, Inc. v. Laidlaw Env'tl. Servs. (TOC), Inc., 528 U.S. 167, 169 (2000)

- Stavrianoudakis v. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Serv., 108 F.4th 1128, 1143 (9th Cir. 2024)
- Associated Gen. Contractors of Am., San Diego Chapter, Inc. v. Cal. Dep't of Transp., 713 F.3d 1187, 1194 (9th Cir. 2013)
- J.N. v. Or. Dep't of Educ., No. 6:19-cv-00096-AA, 2020 WL 5209846, at *6 (D. Or. Sept. 1, 2020)
- Capistrano Unified Sch. Dist. v. S.W., 21 F.4th 1125, 1129 (9th Cir. 2021)
- Fry v. Napoleon Cmty. Sch., 580 U.S. 154, 158 (2017)
- Parents Involved v. Seattle Sch. Dist. No. 1, 551 U.S. 701, 702 (2007)
- Doe ex rel. Doe v. Horne, No. 23-cv-03188, 2024 WL 4119371, at *2 (9th Cir. Sept. 9, 2024)
- Klett v. Pim, 965 F.2d 587, 590 (8th Cir. 1992)
- MOAC Mall Holdings LLC v. Transform Holdco LLC, 598 U.S. 288, 298 (2023)
- Sinochem Int'l Co. v. Malaysia Int'l Shipping Corp., 549 U.S. 422, 430-31 (2007)
- Xcentric Ventures, LLC v. Arden, No. 10-cv-80058-SI, 2011 WL 806629, at *3 (N.D. Cal. Mar. 2, 2011)
- Wright v. Runnels, No. 2:05-cv-02530-MCE-EFB, 2007 WL 9807471, at *3 (E.D. Cal. June 28, 2007)
- Jerry's Famous Deli, Inc. v. Papanicolaou, 383 F.3d 998, 1001 (9th Cir. 2004)
- Righthaven LLC v. Hoehn, 716 F.3d 1166, 1172 (9th Cir. 2013)
- Rosenberg Bros. & Co. v. Arnold, 283 F.2d 406, 406 (9th Cir. 1960)
- Foman v. Davis, 371 U.S. 178, 182 (1962)
- Cook, Perkiss and Liehe, Inc. v. N. Cal. Collection Servs., 911 F.2d 242, 247 (9th Cir. 1990)
- Broam v. Bogan, 320 F.3d 1023, 1026 n.2 (9th Cir. 2003)
- Ruiz v. City of Santa Maria, 160 F.3d 543, 548 n.13 (9th Cir. 1998)
- Reyn's Pasta Bella, LLC v. Visa USA, Inc., 442 F.3d 741, 746 n.1 (9th Cir. 2006)
- Myers v. Calandrino, No. 16-cv-02239-JGB-JEM, 2017 WL 11632256, at *6 (C.D. Cal. Mar. 1, 2017)

OPINION

Brave and Free Santa Cruz v. Aragon

PER CURIAM.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

8 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

9 FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

10 11 BRAVE AND FREE SANTA CRUZ, et No. 2:24-cv-02312-DAD-JDP al., 12 Plaintiffs,

13 ORDER GRANTING DEFENDANTS'

v. MOTIONS TO DISMISS WITH LEAVE TO

14 AMEND

TOMAS J. ARAGON, in his official 15 capacity as Director of the California (Doc. Nos. 19, 27, 28, 29) Department of Public Health, et al., 16 Defendants. 17 18 19 This matter is before the court on defendants' motions to dismiss plaintiffs' first amended 20 complaint ("FAC"). (Doc. Nos. 19, 27, 28, 29.) The pending motions were taken under 21 submission to be decided on the papers pursuant to Local Rule 230(g). (Doc. Nos. 24, 44, 47.) 22 For the reasons explained below,

the court will grant defendants' motions to dismiss.

23 BACKGROUND

24 A. Legal Background 25 The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act ("IDEA") provides federal funding to 26 states and requires that children with disabilities are provided, inter alia, a free appropriate public 27 education, individualized education programs ("IEP"), and the least restrictive environment 28 // 1 such that children with disabilities are educated with children who are not disabled where 2 possible. 20 U.S.C. § 1412(a).

3 In 1983 the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California issued a permanent 4 injunction requiring that the California Department of Education ("CDE")'s State Superintendent 5 of Public Instruction and all successors take certain steps to ensure compliance with the IDEA. 6 *Doe v. Maher*, 793 F.2d 1470, 1501–02 (9th Cir. 1986), *aff'd as modified sub. nom. Honig v. 7 Doe*, 484 U.S. 305 (1988). The 1983 permanent injunction issued in *Doe* was designed to address 8 expulsions and other disciplinary actions taken against students with disabilities where the 9 disciplinary action was based on behavior or misconduct which was a manifestation of or arose 10 out of the student's disability. *Id.* at 1501. That permanent injunction did not address vaccination 11 requirements. *Id.* at 1501–02.

12 In 2015, California eliminated the religious and personal belief exemptions to the 13 mandatory immunizations required for California school children. Cal. Health & Safety Code 14 § 120335(b). The Act eliminating the religious and personal belief exemptions to immunization 15 requirements also included a subsection relating to IEP students. *Id.* at § 120335(h) ("This 16 section does not prohibit a pupil who qualifies for an individualized education program, pursuant 17 to federal law and § 56026 of the Education Code, from accessing any special education and 18 related services required by his or her individualized education program."). 19 B. Procedural and Factual Background 20 On August 26, 2024, plaintiffs Brave and Free Santa Cruz, Free Now Foundation, D.C., 21 and B.P. filed this action against the following defendants: Tomas J. Aragon, in his official 22 capacity as Director of the California Department of Public Health ("defendant CDPH"); Tony 23 Thurmond, in his official capacity as California State Superintendent of Public Instruction for the 24 CDE; Gavin Newsom, in his official capacity as Governor of the State of California; Gilroy 25 Unified School District; and Anisha Munshi, Superintendent of Gilroy Unified School District. 26 (Doc. No. 1.) On October 31, 2024, plaintiffs filed their FAC, alleging as follows. (Doc. No. 27 14.) 28 // 1 The membership of both plaintiff Brave and Free Santa Cruz and plaintiff Free Now 2 Foundation includes "significant numbers of parents and grandparents of unvaccinated children 3 with IEP[s] who attend California schools under the benefits of the IDEA and who wish their 4 children and grandchildren to have the right to attend those schools, preschools, and daycare 5 centers without regard to their immunization status." (*Id.* at ¶¶ 36, 46.) Further, "those parents 6 and grandparents of un-immunized children with IEPs are at risk of bearing the personal and 7 financial costs of: (a) caring for any of those children who become injured as a result of any 8 immunizations mandated for those children under California

law, and/or (b) bearing the personal 9 and financial burdens of home schooling the children excluded from public and private schools 10 under Health and Safety Code 120335.” (Id. at ¶¶ 37, 47.) “[M]any” school districts have been 11 advised by defendant CDPH to exclude unvaccinated students with disabilities from mainstream 12 classes. (Id. at ¶ 111.) 13 Based on the foregoing allegations, plaintiffs bring the following three claims in their 14 FAC: (1) failure to comply with the 1983 and 1990¹ permanent injunctions issued by the U.S. 15 District Court for the Northern District of California in *Gonzales ex rel. Doe v. Maher*, No. 80-cv- 16 04270, asserted against defendant Tony Thurmond, in his official capacity as California State 17 Superintendent of Public Instruction for the CDE; (2) failure to assure compliance of all schools 18 receiving funds under the IDEA with the requirements of Part B of the IDEA, asserted against 19 defendants Gavin Newsom, in his official capacity as Governor of the State of California, and 20 Tony Thurmond, in his official capacity as California State Superintendent of Public Instruction 21 for the CDE; and (3) threatened denial of a free appropriate public education without prior written 22 23 24 25 1 At the January 21, 2025 hearing on plaintiffs’ motion for preliminary injunction, plaintiffs explained that the docket in *Gonzales ex rel. Doe v. Maher*, No. 80-cv-04270 (N.D. Cal.) lists 26 permanent injunctions issued by the district court in that case in 1983 and 1990, but the records of 27 any 1990 permanent injunction have since been destroyed. Because the 1983 permanent injunction was appealed and affirmed in part, however, the contents of the 1983 permanent 28 injunction are still available. See *Doe*, 793 F.2d at 1501–02. 1 notice, asserted against defendants Gilroy Unified School District and CDPH. (Id. at ¶¶ 226– 2 59.)² 3 On December 3, 2024, plaintiffs filed a motion for preliminary injunction, which came 4 before the court for hearing on January 21, 2025. (Doc. Nos. 25, 45.) The court denied plaintiffs’ 5 motion on January 27, 2025. (Doc. No. 46.) 6 On November 12, 2024, defendant Thurmond filed his pending motions to dismiss 7 plaintiffs’ FAC. (Doc. No. 19.) On November 26, 2024, plaintiffs filed an opposition to that 8 motion to dismiss with an accompanying request for judicial notice, and on December 4, 2024, 9 defendant Thurmond filed a reply thereto. (Doc. Nos. 23, 26.) On January 3, 2025, defendant 10 Thurmond filed a second request for judicial notice in connection with his motion to dismiss. 11 (Doc. No. 40.) 12 On December 12, 2024, defendants Aragon and Newsom each filed separate motions to 13 dismiss plaintiffs’ FAC. (Doc. Nos. 27, 28.) Plaintiffs opposed both motions, (Doc. Nos. 33, 35), 14 and on January 8, 2025, defendants Aragon and Newsom each filed reply briefs in support of 15 their pending motions, (Doc. Nos. 42, 43). 16 On December 13, 2024, defendants Gilroy Unified School District and Anisha Munshi 17 filed their pending motion to dismiss plaintiffs’ FAC, and on December 17, 2024, plaintiffs filed 18 a statement of non-opposition to that motion.³ (Doc. Nos. 29, 31.) 19 20 2 In the action pending before this court, plaintiffs do not challenge the statute requiring 21 immunizations. 22 3 In light of this statement of non-opposition, wherein plaintiffs request dismissal without 23 prejudice of defendants Gilroy Unified School District and Anisha Munshi, the court will dismiss those defendants. *Myers v. Calandrino*, No. 16-cv-02239-JGB-JEM, 2017 WL 11632256, at *6 24 (C.D. Cal. Mar. 1, 2017)

(“The Court construes Plaintiff’s non-opposition as a voluntary dismissal of Parra as a defendant pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 41(a)(1)(A)(i). Thus, Parra is 25 dismissed from this action.”). Plaintiffs further concede that dismissal of defendants Gilroy Unified School District and Anisha Munshi renders moot the question of whether plaintiffs D.C. 26 and B.P. have standing to sue. (Doc. No. 23 at 11.) Therefore, the court will dismiss all claims 27 brought by plaintiffs D.C. and B.P. without leave to amend and will direct the Clerk of the Court to terminate plaintiffs D.C. and B.P. and defendants Gilroy Unified School District and Anisha 28 Munshi from this action.

1 LEGAL STANDARD

2 The purpose of a motion to dismiss pursuant to Rule 12(b)(6) is to test the legal 3 sufficiency of the complaint. *N. Star Int’l v. Ariz. Corp. Comm’n*, 720 F.2d 578, 581 (9th Cir. 4 1983). “Dismissal can be based on the lack of a cognizable legal theory or the absence of 5 sufficient facts alleged under a cognizable legal theory.” *Balistreri v. Pacifica Police Dep’t*, 901 F.2d 696, 699 (9th Cir. 1990). A plaintiff is required to allege “enough facts to state a claim to 7 relief that is plausible on its face.” *Bell Atl. Corp. v. Twombly*, 550 U.S. 544, 570 (2007). “A 8 claim has facial plausibility when the plaintiff pleads factual content that allows the court to draw 9 the reasonable inference that the defendant is liable for the misconduct alleged.” *Ashcroft v. 10 Iqbal*, 556 U.S. 662, 678 (2009). 11 In determining whether a complaint states a claim on which relief may be granted, the 12 court accepts as true the allegations in the complaint and construes the allegations in the light 13 most favorable to the plaintiff. *Hishon v. King & Spalding*, 467 U.S. 69, 73 (1984). However, 14 the court need not assume the truth of legal conclusions cast in the form of factual allegations. 15 *U.S. ex rel. Chunie v. Ringrose*, 788 F.2d 638, 643 n.2 (9th Cir. 1986). While Rule 8(a) does not 16 require detailed factual allegations, “it demands more than an unadorned, the-defendant- 17 unlawfully-harmed-me accusation.” *Iqbal*, 556 U.S. at 678. A pleading is insufficient if it offers 18 mere “labels and conclusions” or “a formulaic recitation of the elements of a cause of action.” 19 *Twombly*, 550 U.S. at 555; see also *Iqbal*, 556 U.S. at 676 (“Threadbare recitals of the elements 20 of a cause of action, supported by mere conclusory statements, do not suffice.”). It is 21 inappropriate to assume that the plaintiff “can prove facts that it has not alleged or that the 22 defendants have violated the . . . laws in ways that have not been alleged.” *Associated Gen. 23 Contractors of Cal., Inc. v. Cal. State Council of Carpenters*, 459 U.S. 519, 526 (1983). 24 In ruling on a motion to dismiss under Rule 12(b)(6), the court is permitted to consider 25 material that is properly submitted as part of the complaint, documents that are not physically 26 attached to the complaint if their authenticity is not contested and the plaintiff’s complaint 27 necessarily relies on them, and matters of public record. *Lee v. City of Los Angeles*, 250 F.3d. 28 668, 688–89 (9th Cir. 2001).

1 ANALYSIS

2 A. Standing 3 1. Applicable Legal Standard 4 “[T]hose who seek to invoke the jurisdiction of the federal courts must satisfy the 5 threshold requirement imposed by Article III of the Constitution by alleging an actual case or 6 controversy.” *City of Los Angeles v. Lyons*, 461 U.S. 95, 101

(1983); see also *Matter of East 7 Coast Foods, Inc.*, 66 F.4th 1214, 1218 (9th Cir. 2023) (Because “standing is an ‘essential and 8 unchanging’ requirement . . . a party must establish an Article III case or controversy before we 9 exert subject matter jurisdiction.”) (citations omitted); *City of Oakland v. Lynch*, 798 F.3d 1159, 10 1163 (9th Cir. 2015) (“A suit brought by a plaintiff without Article III standing is not a ‘case or 11 controversy,’ and Article III federal courts lack subject matter jurisdiction over such suits.”) 12 (quoting *Cetacean Cmty. v. Bush*, 386 F.3d 1169, 1174 (9th Cir. 2004)). An actual case or 13 controversy will be held to exist when a plaintiff establishes standing. *Lujan v. Defs. of Wildlife*, 14 504 U.S. 555, 560 (1992). 15 “[S]tanding requires that (1) the plaintiff suffered an injury in fact, i.e., one that is 16 sufficiently ‘concrete and particularized’ and ‘actual or imminent, not conjectural or 17 hypothetical,’ (2) the injury is ‘fairly traceable’ to the challenged conduct, and (3) the injury is 18 ‘likely’ to be ‘redressed by a favorable decision.’” *Bates v. United Parcel Serv., Inc.*, 511 F.3d 19 974, 985 (9th Cir. 2007) (en banc) (citing *Lujan*, 504 U.S. at 560–61). “Standing must be shown 20 with respect to each form of relief sought, whether it be injunctive relief, damages or civil 21 penalties.” *Id.* “[T]o establish standing to pursue injunctive relief . . . [plaintiff] must 22 demonstrate a real and immediate threat of repeated injury in the future.” *Chapman v. Pier 1 23 Imports (U.S.) Inc.*, 631 F.3d 939, 946 (9th Cir. 2011) (internal quotation omitted). “To 24 determine whether organizational standing requirements have been satisfied, [courts] ‘conduct the 25 same inquiry as in the case of an individual: Has the plaintiff alleged such a personal stake in the 26 outcome of the controversy as to warrant his invocation of federal-court jurisdiction?’” *E. Bay 27 Sanctuary Covenant v. Biden*, 993 F.3d 640, 662 (9th Cir. 2021) (quoting *Havens Realty Corp. v. 28 Coleman*, 455 U.S. 363, 378–79 (1982)). “Organizations can assert standing on behalf of their 1 own members, or in their own right.” *E. Bay Sanctuary Covenant*, 993 F.3d at 662 (internal 2 citations omitted) 3 An organization has associational “standing to bring suit on behalf of its members when 4 its members would have standing to sue in their own right, the interests at stake are germane to 5 the organization’s purpose, and neither the claim asserted nor the relief requested requires 6 individual members’ participation in the lawsuit.” *Friends of the Earth, Inc. v. Laidlaw Envtl. 7 Servs. (TOC), Inc.*, 528 U.S. 167, 169 (2000); see also *Stavrianoudakis v. U.S. Fish and Wildlife 8 Serv.*, 108 F.4th 1128, 1143 (9th Cir. 2024); *Associated Gen. Contractors of Am., San Diego 9 Chapter, Inc. v. Cal. Dep’t. of Transp.*, 713 F.3d 1187, 1194 (9th Cir. 2013). 10 2. Plaintiffs Brave and Free Santa Cruz, Free Now Foundation 11 The first element of associational standing requires that the organizations’ members have 12 standing to sue in their own right. *Friends of the Earth*, 528 U.S. at 169. When suing pursuant to 13 the IDEA, the denial of a free appropriate public education is an injury “to a student sufficient to 14 satisfy the first prong of the standing inquiry.” *J.N. v. Or. Dep’t of Educ.*, No. 6:19-cv-00096- 15 AA, 2020 WL 5209846, at *6 (D. Or. Sept. 1, 2020) (collecting cases); see also *Capistrano 16 Unified Sch. Dist. v. S.W.*, 21 F.4th 1125, 1129 (9th Cir. 2021) (“‘An eligible child’ has ‘a 17 substantive right’ to a [free appropriate public education].”) (quoting *Fry v. Napoleon Cmty. Sch.*, 18 580 U.S. 154, 158 (2017)). 19 In his pending motion, defendant

Thurmond argues that plaintiffs’ members do not have 20 standing to sue in their own right because they have not suffered an injury in fact—namely, 21 plaintiffs do not allege the existence of any member who has been excluded from school based on 22 vaccination status. (Doc. No. 19-1 at 18.) In their opposition, plaintiffs argue that their members 23 have suffered an injury in fact because members’ unvaccinated children with IEPs may be subject 24 to a policy that excludes them based on vaccination status. (Doc. No. 23 at 12–15.) 25 Plaintiffs Brave and Free Santa Cruz and Free Now Foundation each allege that their 26 members include “significant numbers of parents and grandparents of unvaccinated children with 27 IEP[s] who attend California schools under the benefits of the IDEA and who wish their children 28 and grandchildren to have the right to attend those schools, preschools, and daycare centers 1 without regard to their immunization status.” (Doc. No. 14 at ¶¶ 36, 46.) These organizations 2 further allege that “those parents and grandparents of un-immunized children with IEPs are at risk 3 of bearing the personal and financial costs of: (a) caring for any of those children who become 4 injured as a result of any immunizations mandated for those children under California law, and/or 5 (b) bearing the personal and financial burdens of home schooling the children excluded from 6 public and private schools under Health and Safety Code 120335.” (Id. at ¶¶ 37, 47.) Plaintiffs 7 allege that “many” school districts have been advised by defendant CDPH to exclude 8 unvaccinated students with disabilities from mainstream classes. (Id. at ¶ 111.) 9 Plaintiffs argue that the foregoing is sufficient to allege standing because an organization 10 composed of parents whose children’s right to attend school may be affected by a school district’s 11 policies have standing to challenge those policies. (Doc. No. 23 at 11–12) (citing *Parents Involved v. Seattle Sch. Dist. No. 1*, 551 U.S. 701, 702 (2007)). Defendant Thurmond responds 13 that *Parents Involved* is distinguishable because in that case, unlike this one, the policy actually 14 resulted in, or was substantially likely to result in, students being denied their school of choice 15 because of their race. (Doc. No. 26 at 5–6.) 16 The court finds defendant Thurmond’s argument in this regard to be persuasive. As the 17 Ninth Circuit has recognized, the standing analysis undertaken by the Supreme Court in *Parents Involved* is limited to circumstances where parents face “the very real prospect of being impacted 19 by the facially challenged . . . policy.” *Doe ex rel. Doe v. Horne*, No. 23-cv-03188, 2024 WL 20 4119371, at *2 (9th Cir. Sept. 9, 2024).⁴ Plaintiffs do not specify in which school districts their 21 members attend school and whether those school districts have policies excluding unvaccinated 22 children with IEPs. In fact, plaintiffs have failed to allege that any of their members are subject 23 to a policy excluding unvaccinated students with IEPs from mainstream classes. The 24 organizational plaintiffs have therefore failed to allege that their members face a “very real 25 prospect of being impacted by the facially challenged . . . policy.” Id. 26 // 27 4 Citation to this unpublished Ninth Circuit opinion is appropriate pursuant to Ninth Circuit Rule 28 36–3(b). 1 The court concludes that the organizational plaintiffs have failed to sufficiently allege that 2 any of their members have suffered an injury in fact. Accordingly, their members lack Article III 3 standing, and plaintiffs Brave and Free Santa Cruz and Free Now Foundation lack associational 4

standing. 5 B. Gonzales ex rel. Doe v. Maher Permanent Injunctions 6 Plaintiffs' first claim seeks enforcement of 1983 and 1990 permanent injunctions issued 7 by the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California in Gonzales ex rel. Doe v. 8 Maher, No. 80-cv-04270. (Doc. No. 14 at ¶¶ 226–33.) Though no party raises this issue, this 9 court must first address its authority to enforce permanent injunctions issued in the U.S. District 10 Court for the Northern District of California.⁵ Klett v. Pim, 965 F.2d 587, 590 (8th Cir. 1992) 11 (finding that where the plaintiff brings a claim for contempt of another court's injunction, the 12 court lacks subject matter jurisdiction over that claim); see also MOAC Mall Holdings LLC v. 13 Transform Holdco LLC, 598 U.S. 288, 298 (2023) ("We have clarified that jurisdictional rules 14 pertain to the power of the court rather than to the rights or obligations of the parties.") (citation 15 omitted); Sinochem Int'l Co. v. Malaysia Int'l Shipping Corp., 549 U.S. 422, 431 (2007) 16 ("[T]here is no mandatory sequencing of jurisdictional issues.") (citation omitted). 17 It appears clear that the undersigned, a district judge in the U.S. District Court for the 18 Eastern District of California, lacks the authority to 'enforce' an injunction issued in the U.S. 19 District Court for the Northern District of California. Xcentric Ventures, LLC v. Arden, No. 10- 20 cv-80058-SI, 2011 WL 806629, at *3 (N.D. Cal. Mar. 2, 2011) ("Plaintiff's motion [to enforce a 21 permanent injunction] does not cite a single court case or statute to explain why it has chosen to 22 come to the Northern District of California for this purpose, or to explain why it is legal or 23 appropriate for this Court to enforce an injunction issued elsewhere. It appears to the Court that 24 plaintiff's motion is really a motion to find that defendants are in contempt of the Arizona court's 25 5 As a preliminary matter, the court notes that the appropriate vehicle for seeking enforcement of 26 a permanent injunction is a motion for contempt. See, e.g., Jerry's Famous Deli, Inc. v. 27 Papanicolaou, 383 F.3d 998, 1001 (9th Cir. 2004) ("The district court's contempt order found [the defendant] in violation of three provisions of the stipulated permanent injunction."). No such 28 motion has been made in this case. 1 order, and an effort to effectuate one of the Arizona court's threatened contempt sanctions."); 2 Wright v. Runnels, No. 2:05-cv-02530-MCE-EFB, 2007 WL 9807471, at *3 (E.D. Cal. June 28, 3 2007) (finding that a court in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of California does not 4 have authority to find a plaintiff in contempt of an order issued in the U.S. District Court for the 5 Northern District of California). 6 When given an opportunity to address this issue at the January 21, 2025 hearing on 7 plaintiffs' motion for preliminary injunction, plaintiffs' counsel conceded that they had no 8 authority in support of the proposition that this court may 'enforce' a permanent injunction issued 9 by the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California. The court finds that it lacks 10 authority to adjudicate plaintiffs' first claim. 11 Because plaintiffs lack Article III standing and this court lacks authority to enforce the 12 permanent injunctions at issue, the court lacks jurisdiction over plaintiffs' claims. As such, the 13 court may not reach defendants' remaining arguments regarding the merits of plaintiffs' claims. 14 Sinochem Int'l Co., 549 U.S. at 430–31 (2007) ("[A] federal court generally may not rule on the 15 merits of a case without first determining that it has jurisdiction over the category of claim in

suit 16 (subject-matter jurisdiction) and the parties (personal jurisdiction).”); *Righthaven LLC v. Hoehn*, 17 F.3d 1166, 1172 (9th Cir. 2013) (finding that when a district court determines that the plaintiff lacks Article III standing, it may not reach the merits).⁶ 3 C. Leave to Amend 4 Leave to amend should be granted “freely” when justice so requires. Fed. R. Civ. 5 P. 15(a). The Ninth Circuit maintains a policy of “extreme liberality generally in favoring 6 amendments to pleadings.” *Rosenberg Bros. & Co. v. Arnold*, 283 F.2d 406, 406 (9th Cir. 1960). 7 Reasons “such as undue delay, bad faith or dilatory motive . . . repeated failure to cure 8 deficiencies . . . undue prejudice to the opposing party . . . [or] futility” may support denial of 9 leave to amend. *Foman v. Davis*, 371 U.S. 178, 182 (1962). A district court “should grant leave 10 to amend even if no request to amend the pleading was made, unless it determines that the 11 pleading could not possibly be cured by the allegation of other facts.” *Cook, Perkiss and Liehe, Inc. v. N. Cal. Collection Servs.*, 911 F.2d 242, 247 (9th Cir. 1990). “Facts raised for the first 13 time in [a] plaintiff’s opposition papers should be considered by the court in determining whether 14 to grant leave to amend or to dismiss with or without prejudice.” *Broam v. Bogan*, 320 F.3d 15 1023, 1026 n.2 (9th Cir. 2003). 16 6 Defendant Thurmond requests that the court take judicial notice of three court orders 17 concerning California’s compliance with the IDEA and with a consent decree. (Doc. No. 19-2, 40.) The court declines to do so because these documents as they are not relevant to the court’s 18 jurisdictional inquiries. *Ruiz v. City of Santa Maria*, 160 F.3d 543, 548 n.13 (9th Cir. 1998) 19 (finding judicial notice inappropriate where the facts to be noticed were not relevant to the disposition of the issues before the court). They pertain instead to the merits of this action, which 20 the court may not reach. *Righthaven LLC*, 716 F.3d at 1172. In addition, plaintiffs request that the court take judicial notice of 18 documents. (Doc. No. 23-1.) Plaintiffs’ request is denied as to 21 exhibits 1–17 because these documents are not relevant to the jurisdictional issues before the court. *Ruiz*, 160 F.3d at 548 n.13. Plaintiffs’ exhibits 1–17 purport to show that certain students 22 have successfully challenged exclusion of their children from school and that CDPH has advised 23 certain school districts that they can exclude IEP students who do not meet immunization requirements, but these exhibits do not purport to show that any of plaintiffs’ members have 24 unvaccinated children with IEPs in school districts with policies that exclude such children, as required to overcome the deficiencies of plaintiffs’ pleading as to standing. Regarding exhibit 18, 25 a declaration filed in another case, the court takes judicial notice of the existence of this court filing. *Reyn’s Pasta Bella, LLC v. Visa USA, Inc.*, 442 F.3d 741, 746 n.1 (9th Cir. 2006) (“We 26 may take judicial notice of court filings and other matters of public record.”). Finally, in moving 27 to dismiss, defendant Aragon requests judicial notice of five documents containing legislative materials. (Doc. No. 27-1.) His request is also denied as not relevant to the jurisdictional issues 28 before the court. *Ruiz*, 160 F.3d at 548 n.13. 1 Here, plaintiffs have requested leave to amend in the event that defendants’ motions to 2 dismiss are granted. (Doc. No. 23 at 20–21.) Further, plaintiffs have only amended their 3 complaint once and

did so without the benefit of a decision from the court addressing the 4 sufficiency of their original complaint. (Doc. No. 14.) 5 Additionally, it may be possible for plaintiffs to cure the identified pleading deficiencies 6 as to standing by alleging, for instance, the school districts of members' children and those school 7 districts' policies regarding unvaccinated students with IEPs. 8 However, plaintiffs' first claim asks this court to "enforce" permanent injunctions issued 9 elsewhere, by the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California. This court is without 10 authority to do so, and the allegation of additional facts could not cure this deficiency. Therefore, 11 the court concludes that further amendment of plaintiffs' first claim would be futile. As such, 12 plaintiffs' first claim will be dismissed without leave to amend and "without prejudice to it being 13 renewed in" the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California. Xcentric Ventures, 14 LLC, 2011 WL 806629, at *3. 15 The court will grant leave to amend as to plaintiffs' remaining claims, though plaintiffs 16 are cautioned that failure to cure the defects identified in this order or in the court's January 27, 17 2025 order denying plaintiffs' motion for preliminary injunction (Doc. No. 46) will likely result 18 in dismissal of plaintiffs' second amended complaint without further leave to amend. Foman, 19 371 U.S. at 182.

20 CONCLUSION

21 For the reasons explained above, 22 1. Defendants' motions to dismiss (Doc. Nos. 19, 27, 28, 29) are GRANTED as 23 follows: 24 a. Plaintiffs' claims as brought by plaintiffs D.C. and B.P. are DISMISSED 25 without leave to amend and without prejudice; 26 b. Defendants Gilroy Unified School District and Anisha Munshi are hereby 27 DISMISSED from this action without prejudice; 28 //// 1 c. As to all remaining parties, plaintiffs' first claim is DISMISSED without leave 2 to amend and without prejudice to it being renewed in the U.S. District Court 3 for the Northern District of California; 4 d. As to all remaining parties, plaintiffs' second and third claims are DISMISSED 5 with leave to amend; 6 2. Plaintiffs shall file their second amended complaint, or alternatively, a notice of 7 their intent to not file a second amended complaint, within twenty-one (21) days 8 from the date of entry of this order; 9 3. The Clerk of the Court is directed to update the docket to reflect the termination of 10 defendants Gilroy Unified School District and Anisha Munshi and plaintiffs D.C. 11 and B.P. from this action; and 12 4. The court hereby RESETS the Initial Scheduling Conference in this matter for

13 November 24, 2025 at 1:30 p.m. before District Judge Dale A. Drozd by Zoom.

14 IT IS SO ORDERED. | pated: _ August 11, 2025 Da A. 2, ye

16 DALE A. DROZD

UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

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