Cas	e 2:12-cv-00428-DDP-MRW Docum	nent 268-1 #:5841	Filed 08/07/23	Page 1 of 21	Page ID
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	KATIE TOWNSEND (SBN 2543 ktownsend@rcfp.org REPORTERS COMMITTEE FO FREEDOM OF THE PRESS 1156 15 <sup>th</sup> Street NW, Suite 1020 Washington, D.C. 20005 Telephone: 202.795.9300 Facsimile: 202.795.9310 JEFF GLASSER (SBN 252596) jeff.glasser@latimes.com LOS ANGELES TIMES COMM 2300 E. Imperial Highway El Segundo, CA 90245 Telephone: 213-237-7077	R	ONS LLC		
11	Coursel for Non Danty Internation	14			
12	Counsel for Non-Party Intervenor LOS ANGELES TIMES COMM		ONS LLC		
13					
14			DISTRICT COU		
15	CENTRAL	DISTRIC	Γ OF CALIFOR	RNIA	
16	W	ESTERN	DIVISION		
17	ALEX ROSAS and JONATHA	N	Case No. 12 av		
18	GOODWIN, on behalf of thems		Case No. 12-cv	-00428 DDP	
19	and those similarly situated,		MEMORAND		= .
20	Plaintiffs,		AUTHORITII MOTION OF	NON-PART	
21	V		ANGELES TI COMMUNIC		СТО
22	V.		INTERVENE		
23	ROBERT LUNA, in his official		Data Cartani	11 2022	
24	capacity as Sheriff of Los Angel County,	les	Date: Septemb	ber 11, 2023	
25			Time: 10:00A	М	
26	Defendant.		Judge: Hon. D	ean D. Preger	son
27			C	0	
28					
	MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND A LOS ANGELES TIMES COMI				

Cas	e 2:12-cv-00428-DDP-MRW Document 268-1 Filed 08/07/23 Page 2 of 21 Page ID #:5842
1	TABLE OF CONTENTS
2	TABLE OF AUTHORITIESii
3	INTRODUCTION1
4	FACTUAL BACKGROUND
5 6	ARGUMENT
7	I. The motion to intervene should be granted
8	
9	II. The Use-of-Force Materials should be unsealed
10	A. The common law presumption of access attaches to the Use-of-Force Materials, which were filed with the Court in connection with a
11	motion "more than tangentially related to the merits" of the case7
12	B. The common law presumption of access to the Use-of-Force
13	Materials cannot be overcome by mere reliance on the parties' stipulated protective order
14	C. Even under a good-cause standard, the parties cannot show that
15	sealing is justified in light of the powerful public interest in access
16	CONCLUSION
17	
18	
19 20	
20	
22	
23	
24	
25	
26	
27	
28	i
	MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES IN SUPPORT OF MOTION OF NON-PARTY LOS ANGELES TIMES COMMUNICATIONS LLC TO INTERVENE AND UNSEAL

Cas	e 2:12-cv-00428-DDP-MRW Document 268-1 Filed 08/07/23 Page 3 of 21 Page ID #:5843
1	TABLE OF AUTHORITIES
2	Page(s)
3	Cases
4	
5	Allstar Mktg. Grp., LLC v. Your Store Online, LLC, No. CV-09-02094, 2010 WL 11523739 (C.D. Cal. July 14, 2010)7, 8
6 7	Beckman Indus., Inc. v. Int'l Ins. Co., 966 F.2d 470 (9th Cir. 1992)
8	Binh Hoa Le v. Exeter Fin. Corp.,
9	990 F.3d 410 (5th Cir. 2021)
10	BP Expl. & Prod., Inc. v. Claimant ID 100246928,
11	920 F.3d 209 (5th Cir. 2019)
12	<i>Bradley ex rel. AJW v. Ackal</i> , 954 F.3d 216 (5th Cir. 2020)10
13	
14	Citizens First Nat'l Bank of Princeton v. Cincinnati Ins. Co., 178 F.3d 943 (7th Cir. 1999)9
15	
16	City of Los Angeles v. Superior Court, 41 Cal. App. 4th 1083 (1996)14
17	Ctr. for Auto Safety v. Chrysler Grp., LLC,
18	809 F.3d 1092 (9th Cir. 2016)passim
19	Doe v. Marsalis,
20	202 F.R.D. 233 (N.D. Ill. 2001)
21	Foltz v. State Farm Mut. Auto. Ins. Co.,         331 F.3d 1122 (9th Cir. 2003)
22	
23	<i>Ford v. City of Huntsville</i> , 242 F.3d 235 (5th Cir. 2001)
24 25	Globe Newspaper Co. v. Superior Court,
25 26	457 U.S. 596 (1982)
20 27	
27	ii
20	11 MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES IN SUPPORT OF MOTION OF NON-PARTY LOS ANGELES TIMES COMMUNICATIONS LLC TO INTERVENE AND UNSEAL

# Case 2:12-cv-00428-DDP-MRW Document 268-1 Filed 08/07/23 Page 4 of 21 Page ID #:5844

,	<i>Gomes v. Fried</i> , 136 Cal. App. 3d 924 (1982)14
	<i>H.B. Fuller Co. v. Doe</i> , 151 Cal. App. 4th 879 (2007)9
	<i>Harper v. Nev. Prop. 1, LLC</i> , 552 F. Supp. 3d 1033 (D. Nev. 2021)2, 7
	<i>In re NBC, Inc.</i> , 635 F.2d 945 (2d Cir. 1980)10
	<i>In re L.A. Times Commc 'ns LLC</i> , 28 F.4th 292 (D.C. Cir. 2022)10
	In re Providian Credit Card Cases, 96 Cal. App. 4th 292 (2002)
	In re Roman Cath. Archbishop of Portland, 661 F.3d 417 (9th Cir. 2011)
	Kamakana v. City & Cnty. of Honolulu, 447 F.3d 1172 (9th Cir. 2006)passim
	<i>King v. Conde</i> , 121 F.R.D. 180 (E.D.N.Y. 1988)14
	<i>Melendres v. Arpaio</i> , 695 F.3d 990 (9th Cir. 2012)
	<i>Mendez v. City of Gardena</i> , 222 F. Supp. 3d 782 (C.D. Cal. 2015)11
	<i>Mills v. Alabama</i> , 384 U.S. 214 (1966)13
	Nixon v. Warner Commc 'ns, Inc., 435 U.S. 589 (1978)1, 12
	Phillips ex rel. Estates of Byrd v. Gen. Motors Corp., 307 F.3d 1206 (9th Cir. 2002)12
	iii MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES IN SUPPORT OF MOTION OF NON-PARTY
	LOS ANGELES TIMES COMMUNICATIONS LLC TO INTERVENE AND UNSEAL

Cas	e 2:12-cv-00428-DDP-MRW Document 268-1 Filed 08/07/23 Page 5 of 21 Page ID #:5845
1	Richmond Newspapers, Inc. v. Virginia, 448 U.S. 555 (1980)15
2 3	San Jose Mercury News, Inc. v. U.S. District Court, 187 F.3d 1096 (9th Cir. 1999)5, 6, 9, 12
4 5	Seelig v. Infinity Broad. Corp., 97 Cal. App. 4th 798 (2002)
6	United States v. Beckham,
7	789 F.2d 401 (6th Cir. 1986)
8 9	United States v. Criden, 648 F.2d 814 (3d Cir. 1981)10
10	Valley Broad. Co. v. U.S. District Court, 798 F.2d 1289 (9th Cir. 1986)10
11 12	Welsh v. City & Cnty. of San Francisco, 887 F. Supp. 1293 (N.D. Cal. 1995)
13	Other Authorities
14	
14 15 16	Cindy Chang & Joel Rubin, <i>After Years of Scandal, L.A. Jails Get Federal</i> <i>Oversight, Sweeping Reforms</i> , L.A. Times (Aug. 5, 2015), https://perma.cc/9XWP-MDRR15
15	Cindy Chang & Joel Rubin, After Years of Scandal, L.A. Jails Get Federal Oversight, Sweeping Reforms, L.A. Times (Aug. 5, 2015),
15 16 17	<ul> <li>Cindy Chang &amp; Joel Rubin, After Years of Scandal, L.A. Jails Get Federal Oversight, Sweeping Reforms, L.A. Times (Aug. 5, 2015), https://perma.cc/9XWP-MDRR</li></ul>
<ol> <li>15</li> <li>16</li> <li>17</li> <li>18</li> <li>19</li> <li>20</li> </ol>	<ul> <li>Cindy Chang &amp; Joel Rubin, After Years of Scandal, L.A. Jails Get Federal Oversight, Sweeping Reforms, L.A. Times (Aug. 5, 2015), https://perma.cc/9XWP-MDRR</li></ul>
<ol> <li>15</li> <li>16</li> <li>17</li> <li>18</li> <li>19</li> <li>20</li> <li>21</li> <li>22</li> </ol>	<ul> <li>Cindy Chang &amp; Joel Rubin, After Years of Scandal, L.A. Jails Get Federal Oversight, Sweeping Reforms, L.A. Times (Aug. 5, 2015), https://perma.cc/9XWP-MDRR</li></ul>
<ol> <li>15</li> <li>16</li> <li>17</li> <li>18</li> <li>19</li> <li>20</li> <li>21</li> </ol>	<ul> <li>Cindy Chang &amp; Joel Rubin, After Years of Scandal, L.A. Jails Get Federal Oversight, Sweeping Reforms, L.A. Times (Aug. 5, 2015), https://perma.cc/9XWP-MDRR</li></ul>
<ol> <li>15</li> <li>16</li> <li>17</li> <li>18</li> <li>19</li> <li>20</li> <li>21</li> <li>22</li> <li>23</li> <li>24</li> <li>25</li> </ol>	<ul> <li>Cindy Chang &amp; Joel Rubin, After Years of Scandal, L.A. Jails Get Federal Oversight, Sweeping Reforms, L.A. Times (Aug. 5, 2015), https://perma.cc/9XWP-MDRR</li></ul>
<ol> <li>15</li> <li>16</li> <li>17</li> <li>18</li> <li>19</li> <li>20</li> <li>21</li> <li>22</li> <li>23</li> <li>24</li> </ol>	<ul> <li>Cindy Chang &amp; Joel Rubin, <i>After Years of Scandal, L.A. Jails Get Federal</i> <i>Oversight, Sweeping Reforms</i>, L.A. Times (Aug. 5, 2015), https://perma.cc/9XWP-MDRR</li></ul>

Case	e 2:12-cv-00428-DDP-MRW Document 268-1 Filed 08/07/23 Page 6 of 21 Page ID #:5846
1 2	Keri Blakinger, Senators Fault Department of Justice for 'Appalling' Conditions in Los Angeles Jails, L.A. Times (Feb. 13, 2023), https://perma.cc/2A2K-84ER15
3 4 5	Keri Blakinger, Video Shows Deputy Slamming Handcuffed Inmate Into Concrete Wall at Men's Central Jail, L.A. Times (June 3, 2023), https://perma.cc/RE6X-EUMN
6 7	Order Granting Media Intervenors' Motion to Intervene and Unseal, <i>Greer v. Cnty. of San Diego</i> , No. 19-cv-378 (S.D. Cal. July 10, 2023), slip op., https://perma.cc/5DQQ-JFH211
8 9	Robert Faturechi & Jack Leonard, U.S. Widens Inquiry into Abuse at L.A. County Jails, L.A. Times (Oct. 15, 2011),
10	https://perma.cc/XT7C-Z4B4
11	
12	
13	
14	
15 16	
10	
18	
10	
20	
21	
22	
23	
24	
25	
26	
27	
28	V MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES IN SUPPORT OF MOTION OF NON-PARTY LOS ANGELES TIMES COMMUNICATIONS LLC TO INTERVENE AND UNSEAL

1

27

#### **INTRODUCTION**

2 Non-party Los Angeles Times Communications LLC (the "Los Angeles 3 *Times*") seeks to intervene in the above-captioned action for the limited purpose of 4 obtaining an order unsealing the use-of-force packets and videos filed with the Court 5 as exhibits in support of Plaintiffs' Motion to Modify Implementation Plan, as well as 6 7 the redacted portions of Plaintiffs' Memorandum of Points and Authorities 8 ("Memorandum") and supporting declarations that reference those exhibits (together, 9 10 the "Use-of-Force Materials"). Those judicial records, which document allegedly 11 unlawful conditions and official misconduct in Los Angeles County jails, go to the 12 heart of "the interest of citizens in 'keep[ing] a watchful eye on the workings of 13 14 public agencies," as well as the role of members of the press like the Los Angeles 15 *Times* in "publish[ing] information concerning the operation of government." 16 Kamakana v. City & Cnty. of Honolulu, 447 F.3d 1172, 1178 (9th Cir. 2006) (quoting 17 18 Nixon v. Warner Commc'ns, Inc., 435 U.S. 589, 598 (1978) (first alteration in 19 original)). The parties have not justified—and cannot justify—keeping those judicial 20 records under seal. 21 22 There is a "strong presumption of access" to judicial records under the 23 common law. Id. at 1178–79 (citation omitted). That presumption extends to any 24 motion-and any attachments to a motion-that is "more than tangentially related to 25 26 the merits of a case." Ctr. for Auto Safety v. Chrysler Grp., LLC, 809 F.3d 1092,

1 1101 (9th Cir. 2016). The Use-of-Force Materials, which were filed with the Court to
obtain effective relief for alleged violations of Plaintiffs' constitutional rights, fall
squarely within the scope of the common law right of access. *See Harper v. Nev. Prop. 1, LLC*, 552 F. Supp. 3d 1033, 1040 & n.6 (D. Nev. 2021) (collecting cases
finding a strong presumption of access to motions to enforce a settlement agreement).

7 The only justification in the record for sealing the Use-of-Force Materials is the 8 existence of a stipulated protective order, see ECF No. 193, which Ninth Circuit law 9 10 makes clear is inadequate to rebut the common law presumption, see Kamakana, 447 11 F.3d at 1180. But even under the good-cause standard applicable to the entry of a 12 protective order, see id., secrecy would be unjustified here. The extraordinary public 13 14 interest in the bleak conditions at Los Angeles County jails that are subject to federal 15 oversight—and recurring questions about the safety of those working and detained 16 there—overwhelmingly favors access, to enable the public to evaluate the 17 18 performance of the officials responsible. See, e.g., Keri Blakinger, Fights, Beatings 19 and a Birth: Videos Smuggled out of L.A. Jails Reveal Violence, Neglect, L.A. Times 20 (June 24, 2023), https://perma.cc/5ULL-73ZD; Jaclyn Cosgrove, After More than Six 21 22 Years of Federal Oversight, Dangerous Problems Persist in L.A. County Jails, L.A. 23 Times (Jan. 15, 2022), https://perma.cc/4GUU-NZ7P.<sup>1</sup> For the reasons set forth 24 25 Here and throughout this motion, this Court may "take judicial notice of news 26 articles" in evaluating the "significant interest to the public" of the policy issues at 27 stake here. Seelig v. Infinity Broad. Corp., 97 Cal. App. 4th 798, 807 & n.5 (2002). 28 2

herein, the Los Angeles Times respectfully urges this Court to enter an order granting its motion to intervene and ordering that the Use-of-Force Materials be unsealed. 2

3 4

12

1

#### FACTUAL BACKGROUND

The Los Angeles Times is one of the largest daily newspapers in the United 5 6 States, informing audiences throughout California and across the nation. In that role, 7 *Times* reporters regularly cover noteworthy judicial proceedings in the Central 8 District of California, and the Times has extensively covered allegations of abuse and 9 10 mismanagement in the Los Angeles County jail system. See Full Coverage: L.A. 11 County Jail System Under Scrutiny, L.A. Times (July 21, 2012),

https://perma.cc/DN37-A9VQ (collecting more than 150 stories on the topic). 13

14 In January 2012, Plaintiffs initiated the above-captioned class action, alleging a 15 "pattern of brutality" in L.A. County jails in violation of their Eighth and Fourteenth 16 Amendment rights. Complaint for Injunctive Relief at 74 (ECF No. 1). After several 17 18 years of litigation, the parties entered into a Court-approved settlement agreement 19 that provided for, among other relief, a binding implementation plan to be developed 20 by an expert panel "to ensure that members of the Plaintiff Class are not subjected to 21 22 excessive force." Order Approving Class Settlement at 3 (ECF No. 135). Under the 23 terms of the settlement agreement, the expert panel is also required to "monitor and 24 advise the Court on Defendant's compliance with the Implementation Plan." Id. 25 26

27 28

On May 31, 2023, Plaintiffs filed a motion to modify the implementation plan 1 2 that was approved by the Court. See Notice of Motion and Motion to Modify Court-3 Approved Implementation Plan at 1 (ECF No. 252). Citing reports filed by the expert 4 panel, Plaintiffs argued that "for years LASD has failed, among other things, to 5 6 address (1) the overuse of dangerous and unnecessary head strikes; (2) the excessive 7 and unnecessary uses of force due to consistent non-compliance with force 8 prevention policies; (3) dishonest reporting by line personnel about uses of force; and 9 10 (4) the overuse of the dangerous WRAP restraint device." Plaintiffs' Memorandum 11 of Points and Authorities at 1 (ECF No. 253). To substantiate those allegations, 12 Plaintiffs and their declarants relied on "Use of Force Reports and Videos" that 13 14 document possibly excessive force. Redacted Declaration of Erin David Bigler at 2 15 (ECF No. 253-2). 16

Those exhibits were submitted to the Court entirely under seal, and any 17 18 descriptions of their contents are redacted wherever they appear in Plaintiffs' 19 Memorandum and supporting declarations. As a result, the public has lacked any 20 meaningful opportunity to evaluate Plaintiffs' argument that "the need to protect 21 22 people incarcerated in the County jails from dangerous and unnecessary force[] 23 requires modifications [of the implementation plan] to finally bring the [Los Angeles 24 County Sheriff's] Department into compliance." Plaintiffs' Memorandum of Points 25 26 and Authorities at 2. That avenue for public oversight has been barred even as 27

28

similar evidence of force used in the jails has stoked an urgent public debate on the 1 2 need for reform. See Keri Blakinger, Video Shows Deputy Slamming Handcuffed 3 Inmate Into Concrete Wall at Men's Central Jail, L.A. Times (June 3, 2023), 4 https://perma.cc/RE6X-EUMN; Blakinger, Fights, Beatings and a Birth, supra. 5 6 As a result, on August 7, 2023, the Los Angeles Times moved to intervene for 7 the limited purpose of seeking an order unsealing the Use-of-Force Materials. 8 ARGUMENT 9 10 I. The motion to intervene should be granted. 11 The Ninth Circuit has made clear that "[n]onparties seeking access to a judicial 12 record in a civil case may do so by seeking permissive intervention under Rule 13 14 24(b)[.]" San Jose Mercury News, Inc. v. U.S. District Court, 187 F.3d 1096, 1100 15 (9th Cir. 1999); see also Beckman Indus., Inc. v. Int'l Ins. Co., 966 F.2d 470, 473 (9th 16 Cir. 1992) (intervention granted to seek modification of protective order). The 17 18 question of public access provides the "common question of law or fact" that Rule 19 24(b)(1) requires, see San Jose Mercury News, 187 F.3d at 1100, and this motion— 20 filed just two months after the documents were filed with the Court—is plainly 21 22 timely, see id. at 1101 ("[D]elays measured in years have been tolerated where an 23 intervenor is pressing the public's right of access to judicial records."). Accordingly, 24 the Los Angeles Times' motion to intervene should be granted under Rule 24(b)(1). 25 26 27 28 5 MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES IN SUPPORT OF MOTION OF NON-PARTY

LOS ANGELES TIMES COMMUNICATIONS LLC TO INTERVENE AND UNSEAL

The Los Angeles Times is also entitled to intervene as of right. "[A] news 1 agency has a legal interest in challenging a confidentiality order" that satisfies Rule 2 3 24(a)'s need for "an interest relating to the property or transaction that is the subject 4 of the underlying action." Ford v. City of Huntsville, 242 F.3d 235, 240 (5th Cir. 5 6 2001). That interest in transparency is not "adequately protected by the parties." San 7 Jose Mercury News, 187 F.3d at 1101; see also BP Expl. & Prod., Inc. v. Claimant 8 ID 100246928, 920 F.3d 209, 211 (5th Cir. 2019) ("Most litigants have no incentive 9 10 to protect the public's right of access."). And, as explained above, intervention is 11 timely. 12

Through either lens, because "representatives of the press and general public must be given an opportunity to be heard on the question of their exclusion" when access to records is at stake, *Globe Newspaper Co. v. Superior Court*, 457 U.S. 596, 609 n.25 (1982) (citation and internal quotation marks omitted), the motion of the *Los Angeles Times* to intervene should be granted.

19 20

28

### II. The Use-of-Force Materials should be unsealed.

The parties have not justified (and cannot justify) keeping the Use-of-Force Materials secret. When those judicial records were attached to and referenced in Plaintiffs' motion, the strong presumption of public access attached to them—a presumption that the parties cannot rebut merely by pointing to the stipulated protective order. *See Harper*, 552 F. Supp. 3d at 1040 & n.6. Indeed, even if the

Court were to apply a good-cause standard instead of the one required under the 1 2 common law, the public's powerful interest in understanding the allegations of 3 official misconduct presented by Plaintiffs would swamp any interest in secrecy here. 4 The common law presumption of access attaches to the Use-of-Force A. 5 Materials, which were filed with the Court in connection with a motion "more than tangentially related to the merits" of the case. 6 7 In the Ninth Circuit, the common law guarantees "a strong presumption in 8 favor of access to court records," Foltz v. State Farm Mut. Auto. Ins. Co., 331 F.3d 9 1122, 1135 (9th Cir. 2003), a presumption that attaches to—among other judicial 10 11 records—any motion that is "dispositive" in the sense that it seeks relief "more than 12 tangentially related to the merits of a case," Ctr. for Auto Safety, 809 F.3d at 1101. 13 That strong presumption in favor of public access also applies to attachments to such 14 15 motions, even if the material "w[as] previously filed under seal or [is subject to a] 16 protective order." Kamakana, 447 F.3d at 1179. Here, Plaintiffs' motion to modify 17 18 the implementation plan to ensure effective relief is plainly "more than tangentially 19 related to the merits" of the underlying action. Ctr. for Auto Safety, 809 F.3d at 1101. 20 District courts in this Circuit have routinely concluded as much where a party 21 22 seeks relief under the terms of a settlement agreement. See Harper, 552 F. Supp. 3d 23 at 1040 & n.6 (collecting cases); see also Allstar Mktg. Grp., LLC v. Your Store 24 Online, LLC, No. CV-09-02094, 2010 WL 11523739, at \*1 (C.D. Cal. July 14, 2010). 25 26 And for good reason. Such a motion "invoke[s] important Article III powers" by 27

7

asking the Court to bind the opposing party to a particular course of action. *Ctr. for* 1 Auto Safety, 809 F.3d at 1100 (citation and internal quotation marks omitted). And as 2 3 Plaintiffs' motion makes clear, their entitlement (or not) to that relief turns on its 4 relevance to redressing the same alleged violations of "constitutional rights" at issue 5 6 in their underlying action. Plaintiffs' Memorandum of Points and Authorities at 20 7 (ECF No. 253) (quoting Melendres v. Arpaio, 695 F.3d 990, 1002 (9th Cir. 2012)). A 8 strong presumption of public access therefore attaches to the Use-of-Force Materials, 9 10 which were filed with the Court so that it may adjudicate a controversy that squarely 11 implicates the public's interest in monitoring public officials and institutions. 12 **B**. The common law presumption of access to the Use-of-Force 13 Materials cannot be overcome by mere reliance on the parties' 14 stipulated protective order. 15 It appears from the public docket that no motion to seal was filed in connection 16 with the filing of the Use-of-Force Materials; instead, the parties' stipulated 17 18 protective order contemplates that such material will be filed under seal wherever it 19 appears without leave of court. See Stipulated Protective Order Regarding Class 20 Counsel's Access to Documents at 15–16 (ECF No. 193). But Ninth Circuit 21 22 precedent makes clear that such a protective order cannot, without more, justify 23 sealing records that are subject to the strong common law presumption of access.<sup>2</sup> 24 25 See, e.g., San Jose Mercury News, 187 F.3d at 1102–03 (stipulated protective 26 orders are "subject to challenge and modification"); Citizens First Nat'l Bank of 27 Princeton v. Cincinnati Ins. Co., 178 F.3d 943, 944 (7th Cir. 1999) (rejecting 28 8 MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES IN SUPPORT OF MOTION OF NON-PARTY LOS ANGELES TIMES COMMUNICATIONS LLC TO INTERVENE AND UNSEAL

And even if the parties were to attempt to meet their burden under the common law, they would fall well short given the vital public interests favoring transparency here. 2 3

"Those who seek to maintain the secrecy of documents attached"—as here— 4 "to dispositive motions must meet the high threshold of showing that 'compelling 5 6 reasons' support secrecy." Kamakana, 447 F.3d at 1180 (quoting Foltz, 331 F.3d at 7 1136). Crucially, a "good cause' showing alone will not suffice to fulfill the 8 'compelling reasons' standard," even if it justified entry of a protective order 9 10 governing unfiled material at some earlier point in the litigation. Id. Here, good 11 cause is all that the parties have even purported to show. See Stipulated Protective 12 Order, *supra*, at 4–5. And that showing is doubly insufficient because the protective 13 14 order was obtained "without making a particularized showing of good cause with 15 respect to any individual document," such that the parties "could not reasonably rely 16 on the order to hold these records under seal forever." Foltz, 331 F.3d at 1138. 17 18 Nor does any other adequate basis for sealing the Use-of-Force Materials

19 appear in the record before this Court. The common law standard is "stringent": The 20 party seeking secrecy "bears the burden" of showing "compelling reasons" for 21

22

1

23

stipulated protective order as a basis for restricting access, noting that "[t]he parties to 24 a lawsuit are not the only people who have a legitimate interest in the record 25 compiled in a legal proceeding"); H.B. Fuller Co. v. Doe, 151 Cal. App. 4th 879, 891–92 (2007) (unsealing records that had been sealed pursuant to a stipulated 26 protective order); In re Providian Credit Card Cases, 96 Cal. App. 4th 292, 309-10 27 (2002) (same).

28

nondisclosure, and the court "must then conscientiously balance the competing 1 2 interests of the public and the party who seeks to keep certain judicial records secret." 3 Ctr. for Auto Safety, 809 F.3d at 1096–97 (citations omitted) (internal quotation 4 marks and alterations omitted). After conducting that "document-by-document, line-5 by-line balancing," Binh Hoa Le v. Exeter Fin. Corp., 990 F.3d 410, 419 (5th Cir. 6 7 2021) (citations and internal quotation marks omitted), any order that ultimately seals 8 any portion of a record must "articulate the factual basis" for doing so "without 9 10 relying on hypothesis or conjecture," Valley Broad. Co. v. U.S. District Court, 798 11 F.2d 1289, 1295 (9th Cir. 1986). 12

Here, the balance of interests plainly favors transparency. It is nearly a truism 13 14 that the common law right of access is "especially strong" in cases that involve—as 15 this one does—allegations of potential wrongdoing by public officials. In re NBC, 16 Inc., 635 F.2d 945, 952 (2d Cir. 1980); accord, e.g., United States v. Criden, 648 F.2d 17 18 814, 822 (3d Cir. 1981); United States v. Beckham, 789 F.2d 401, 413 (6th Cir. 19 1986); Bradley ex rel. AJW v. Ackal, 954 F.3d 216, 232 (5th Cir. 2020); In re L.A. 20 Times Commc'ns LLC, 28 F.4th 292, 298 (D.C. Cir. 2022). And as another district 21 22 court in this Circuit recently found, "[i]nformation about the County's possible 23 mistreatment of its inmates is inherently a matter of significant public interest: 24 County residents not only support these operations with their taxpayer dollars but 25 26 may be subject to such treatment if detained." Order Granting Media Intervenors' 27 28 10

Motion to Intervene and Unseal, Greer v. Cntv. of San Diego, No. 19-cv-378 (S.D. 1 2 Cal. July 10, 2023), slip op. at 10, https://perma.cc/5DQQ-JFH2. The interest in 3 access is only sharpened by the context in which the Use-of-Force Materials come 4 before this Court—as evidence in support of a motion that asks the Court to exercise 5 6 "important Article III powers" to conform the conduct of a public agency to the law. 7 Ctr. for Auto Safety, 809 F.3d at 1100 (citation and internal quotation marks omitted). 8 Whatever countervailing interests the parties might attempt to assert, "[t]he 9 10 mere fact that the production of records may lead to a litigant's embarrassment, 11 incrimination, or exposure to further litigation will not, without more, compel the 12 court to seal its records." Kamakana, 447 F.3d at 1179. And the fact that the Use-of-13 14 Force Materials may document official misconduct undercuts any claim to secrecy, 15 because Defendant "cannot assert a valid compelling interest in sealing the videos to 16 cover up any wrongdoing on their part or to shield themselves from embarrassment." 17 18 Mendez v. City of Gardena, 222 F. Supp. 3d 782, 792 (C.D. Cal. 2015) (ordering 19 disclosure of videos documenting fatal—and allegedly unlawful—use of force). 20 The balance of interests skews dramatically in favor of access, and the public's 21 22 common law right "to keep a watchful eye on the workings of public agencies" 23 requires that the Use-of-Force Materials be unsealed. Nixon, 435 U.S. at 598. 24 C. Even under a good-cause standard, the parties cannot show that 25 sealing is justified in light of the powerful public interest in access. 26 27 28 11 MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES IN SUPPORT OF MOTION OF NON-PARTY

LOS ANGELES TIMES COMMUNICATIONS LLC TO INTERVENE AND UNSEAL

## Case 2:12-cv-00428-DDP-MRW Document 268-1 Filed 08/07/23 Page 18 of 21 Page ID #:5858

Even if a good-cause standard-rather than the compelling-reasons standard-1 2 applied to the Use-of-Force Materials, secrecy would be unjustified here in light of 3 the urgent public interests favoring disclosure. "For good cause to exist, the party 4 seeking protection bears the burden of showing specific prejudice or harm will result 5 6 if no protective order is granted," Phillips ex rel. Estates of Byrd v. Gen. Motors 7 Corp., 307 F.3d 1206, 1210–11 (9th Cir. 2002), a showing that must be 8 "particularized . . . with respect to any individual document" at issue, San Jose 9 10 Mercury News, 187 F.3d at 1103. Even where that threshold showing is made, the 11 court must then go on to "balance[] the public and private interests" at stake. 12 Phillips, 307 F.3d at 1211. 13

14 Here, the parties' stipulated protective order gestures at potential harms, but 15 none are particularized with reference to any specific document or exhibit that has 16 since been filed with the Court. Moreover, the public interest in understanding 17 18 allegations of official misconduct against officials responsible for conditions in 19 County jails would dwarf any private interest the parties might attempt to show. 20 The Ninth Circuit has "directed courts doing this balancing" to weigh: 21 22 1) whether disclosure will violate any privacy interests; (2) whether the information is being sought for a legitimate purpose or for an improper 23 purpose; (3) whether disclosure of the information will cause a party 24 embarrassment; (4) whether confidentiality is being sought over information important to public health and safety; (5) whether the sharing 25 of information among litigants will promote fairness and efficiency; (6) 26 whether a party benefitting from the order of confidentiality is a public 27 28 12 MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES IN SUPPORT OF MOTION OF NON-PARTY LOS ANGELES TIMES COMMUNICATIONS LLC TO INTERVENE AND UNSEAL

1

2

entity or official; and (7) whether the case involves issues important to the public.

In re Roman Cath. Archbishop of Portland, 661 F.3d 417, 424 & n.5 (9th Cir. 2011) 3 4 (citation omitted). The parties have so far made no particularized showing as to the 5 interests they believe counsel in favor of secrecy, and the remaining factors favor 6 access. For one, the Los Angeles Times seeks the Use-of-Force Materials for a 7 8 legitimate—and for that matter vital—purpose: to "publish information concerning" 9 the operation of government," Kamakana, 447 F.3d at 1178 (citation omitted), 10 thereby "keeping officials elected by the people responsible to all the people whom 11 12 they were selected to serve," Mills v. Alabama, 384 U.S. 214, 219 (1966).

13 There can likewise be no question that this case involves issues important to 14 the public. Law enforcement officers play a unique role—and exercise unique 15 16 powers—in our society: "It is indisputable that law enforcement is a primary 17 function of local government and that the public has a ... great[] interest in the 18 qualifications and conduct of law enforcement officers, even at, and perhaps 19 20 especially at, an 'on the street' level[.]" Gomes v. Fried, 136 Cal. App. 3d 924, 933 21 (1982) (emphasis omitted) (citation omitted). As a result, "[t]he public has a strong 22 interest in assessing the truthfulness of allegations of official misconduct [by law 23 24 enforcement personnel], and whether agencies that are responsible for investigating 25 and adjudicating complaints of misconduct have acted properly and wisely." Welsh 26 v. City & Cnty. of San Francisco, 887 F. Supp. 1293, 1302 (N.D. Cal. 1995); see also 27 28 13

*City of Los Angeles v. Superior Court*, 41 Cal. App. 4th 1083, 1091 (1996) (same
 with respect to "claims of excessive force" by the Los Angeles Police Department);
 *Doe v. Marsalis*, 202 F.R.D. 233, 235 (N.D. Ill. 2001) (same with respect to
 "allegations of official sexual misconduct" by Chicago police).

6 Given that bedrock need that officials with the power to use lethal force against 7 members of the public be accountable to the public, the parties face an exceptional 8 burden in justifying withholding from public view information about violence that 9 10 occurred while the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department and its deputies were in charge 11 of the jails. See, e.g., King v. Conde, 121 F.R.D. 180, 191 (E.D.N.Y. 1988) ("[E]ven 12 disclosures having some effect on individual liberty or privacy because of their 13 14 personal nature are permissible when disclosure serves important public concerns." 15 (citation and internal quotation marks omitted)); Marsalis, 202 F.R.D. at 235-36. 16 Although "[p]eople in an open society do not demand infallibility from their 17 18 institutions, ... it is difficult for them to accept what they are prohibited from 19 observing." Richmond Newspapers, Inc. v. Virginia, 448 U.S. 555, 572 (1980). 20 Those principles require openness here, where the sealed use-of-force reports and 21 22 videos will shed light on decades-long controversies involving excessive force 23 24 25 26 27 28 14 MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES IN SUPPORT OF MOTION OF NON-PARTY LOS ANGELES TIMES COMMUNICATIONS LLC TO INTERVENE AND UNSEAL

1	allegations and extreme violence in the Los Angeles County jails. <sup>3</sup> Even under a		
2	good-cause analysis, this Court should order the Use-of-Force Materials unsealed.		
3	CONCLUSION		
4			
5	For the reasons set forth above, the <i>Los Angeles Times</i> respectfully requests		
6	that the Court grant its motion to intervene and enter an order unsealing the Use-of-		
7	Force Materials.		
8			
9	Dated: August 7, 2023.		
10	s/ Katie Townsend		
11	Katie Townsend		
12	REPORTERS COMMITTEE FOR FREEDOM OF THE PRESS		
13	TREEDOWI OF THE FRESS		
	Counsel for Non-Party Intervenor		
14	LOS ANGELES TIMES COMMUNICATIONS LLC		
15	COMMUNICATIONS LLC		
16			
17			
18			
19			
20			
21			
22	3 Case a Kari Diabin can Cauntana Engli Damatana ( Luctica ( 1. 11))		
23	<sup>3</sup> See, e.g., Keri Blakinger, Senators Fault Department of Justice for 'Appalling' Conditions in Los Angeles Jails, L.A. Times (Feb. 13, 2023), <u>https://perma.cc/2A2K-</u>		
24	84ER; Eric Lichtblau, U.S. Justice Dept. Investigates Alleged Mistreatment of		
25	Mentally Ill in County Jails, L.A. Times (June 14, 1996), <u>https://perma.cc/AYY6-</u>		
26	CL2F; Cindy Chang & Joel Rubin, After Years of Scandal, L.A. Jails Get Federal Oversight, Sweeping Reforms, L.A. Times (Aug. 5, 2015), https://perma.cc/9XWP-		
20	MDRR; Robert Faturechi & Jack Leonard, U.S. Widens Inquiry into Abuse at L.A.		
	County Jails, L.A. Times (Oct. 15, 2011), https://perma.cc/XT7C-Z4B4.		
28	15 MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES IN SUPPORT OF MOTION OF NON-PARTY		
	LOS ANGELES TIMES COMMUNICATIONS LLC TO INTERVENE AND UNSEAL		