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4 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**  
5 **EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**  
6

7 **JEFF SILVESTER, et al.,**

8 **Plaintiffs**

9 **v.**

10 **KAMALA HARRIS, Attorney General of**  
11 **California, and DOES 1 to 20,**

12 **Defendants**

**CASE NO. 1:11-CV-2137 AWI SAB**

**FINDINGS OF FACT AND**  
**CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

13  
14 This case deals with the constitutionality of various firearms related statutes. Plaintiffs  
15 challenge the 10-day waiting period imposed by California Penal Code § 26815(a)<sup>1</sup> and §  
16 27540(a),<sup>2</sup> and approximately 18 categories of exemptions to the waiting period found in Penal  
17 Code § 26000 *et seq.* and § 27000 *et seq.* Plaintiffs contend that the 18 exemptions violate the  
18 Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment. Plaintiffs contend that the 10-day waiting  
19 periods violate the Second Amendment. Specifically, Plaintiffs contend that the 10-day waiting  
20 periods violate the Second Amendment as applied to those who already lawfully possess a firearm  
21 as confirmed in the Automated Firearms System (“AFS”), to those who possess a valid Carry  
22 Concealed Weapon (“CCW”) license, and to those who possess a valid Certificate of Eligibility  
23 (“COE”). See Doc. No. 91 at 29:23-30:8. Plaintiffs do not challenge the 10-day waiting period on  
24

25 <sup>1</sup> Penal Code § 26815(a) reads in pertinent part: “A dealer . . . shall not deliver a firearm to a person, as follows: (a)  
26 Within 10 days of the application to purchase, or, after notice by the department pursuant to Section 28220, within 10  
27 days of the submission to the department of any correction to the application, or within 10 days of the submission of  
28 any fee required pursuant to Section 28225, whichever is later.”

<sup>2</sup> Penal Code § 27540(a) reads: “No firearm shall be delivered: (a) Within 10 days of the application to purchase, or,  
after notice by the department pursuant to Section 28220, within 10 days of the submission to the department of any  
correction to the application, or within 10 days of the submission of any fee required pursuant to Section 28225.”

1 a facial basis, do not challenge the waiting period laws as applied to first time firearms purchasers,  
2 and do not challenge the requirement that firearm purchasers pass a background check. See Doc.  
3 Nos. 91 at 17:13-15; 93 at 3:1-3; 98 at 16:10-15; and 105 at 7:6-8, 13:17-20.

4 In March 2014, the Court conducted a bench trial in this matter. The Court has now taken  
5 live testimony, deposition testimony, and numerous exhibits. The parties have completed all  
6 briefing and made their final arguments. Given the nature of the challenges made, the Court  
7 emphasizes that it is expressing no opinion on the constitutionality of the 10-day waiting period in  
8 general or as applied to first time California firearms purchasers.

9 After considering the evidence and the arguments, the Court concludes that Penal Code §  
10 26815(a) and § 27540(a)'s 10-day waiting periods impermissibly violate the Second Amendment  
11 as applied to those persons who already lawfully possess a firearm as confirmed by the AFS, to  
12 those who possess a valid CCW license, and to those who possess both a valid COE and a firearm  
13 as confirmed by the AFS system, if the background check on these individuals is completed and  
14 approved prior to the expiration of 10 days. Because of the Court's resolution of the Second  
15 Amendment issue, the Court need not reach the Fourteenth Amendment challenges.

16  
17 **I. REQUEST FOR JUDICIAL NOTICE**

18 *Parties' Positions*

19 Defendant requested that the Court take judicial notice of various exhibits. Defendant  
20 argued that each of the exhibits could be judicially noticed as legislative facts because such facts  
21 are relevant to the justification for the statutes at issue, the court's legal reasoning, and to the  
22 decision making process.

23 Plaintiffs objected and argued that it was unclear how Defendant intended to use the  
24 information in the exhibits. Plaintiffs recognized the distinction between adjudicative facts and  
25 legislative facts, but contended that they could not determine the admissibility of the exhibits  
26 without further clarification. However, relevancy, hearsay, and contestability issues in general  
27 with Defendant's exhibits make judicial notice under Rule 201 improper. Further, as part of  
28 supplemental briefing, Plaintiffs stated that once specific portions of exhibits were identified by

1 Defendant in her proposed findings of fact and conclusions of law, Plaintiffs would then make  
2 arguments in their June 30, 2014 responsive briefing as to those specific exhibits.

3 Discussion

4 At the end of the last day of trial testimony, and upon the parties' agreement, the Court  
5 ordered the parties to include and to cite to specific proposed exhibits and portions of proposed  
6 exhibits as part of their proposed findings of fact and conclusions of law. See Trial Tr. at 526:9-  
7 533:13. The parties were permitted to file responsive briefing and objections to the proposed  
8 findings, including evidentiary objections to any evidence that was included in the proposed  
9 findings and the subject of Defendant's motion for judicial notice. See id. The Court would then  
10 make evidentiary rulings based on the briefing and the proposed findings of fact and conclusions  
11 of law. See id. This framework was primarily meant to address the exhibits in Defendant's  
12 request for judicial notice. The framework was designed to provide the Court and the parties with  
13 a method of determining how and for what purpose an exhibit was being used. Defendant's  
14 proposed findings of fact and conclusions of law comply with the Court's order. In fact,  
15 Defendant helpfully submitted binders with the exhibits and the specific excerpts that were cited in  
16 her proposed findings. Nevertheless, as part of Defendant's June 30, 2014 responsive briefing,  
17 Defendant defended and addressed exhibits that were part of the request for judicial notice, but  
18 were not included in her proposed findings.

19 If Defendant did not cite an exhibit or portion of an exhibit in her proposed findings and  
20 conclusions, then Defendant did not sufficiently rely upon such evidence. There was an  
21 inadequate demonstration of how such evidence was intended to be used and/or how the evidence  
22 is relevant. The Court will not comb through the hundreds of pages of proposed exhibits and  
23 make rulings if an exhibit is not actually cited and specifically relied upon by a party. Cf. Hargis  
24 v. Access Capital Funding, LLC, 674 F.3d 783, 792-93 (8th Cir. 2012) (courts need not take  
25 judicial notice of irrelevant evidence); Southern Cal. Gas Co. v. City of Santa Ana, 336 F.3d 885,  
26 889 (9th Cir. 2003) (in summary judgment context court is not required to examine the entire file  
27 when specific evidence was not adequately identified); Charles v. Daley, 749 F.2d 452, 463 (7th  
28 Cir. 1984) (courts need not take judicial notice of irrelevant evidence); Rodriguez v. Bear Stearns

1 Cos., 2009 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 31525, \*34 (D. Conn. Apr. 14, 2009) (courts need not take judicial  
2 notice of cumulative evidence).

3 Accordingly, the Court will limit its discussion and consideration to the exhibits and  
4 excerpts that were actually cited by Defendant in her proposed findings. Those exhibits are  
5 Defendant's Exhibits CD through CI, DG, DH, DM, DQ, DS, DT, DV, DW, DX, EC, EJ, EK, and  
6 GN. All other exhibits that were included in Defendant's March 24, 2014 request for judicial  
7 notice (Doc. No. 78), but that were not cited in Defendant's proposed findings of fact and  
8 conclusions of law, will not be considered by the Court.

9 The Defense exhibits at issue fall into one of four general categories – legislative history,  
10 history books, professional journal articles, and a newspaper article. The Court will examine each  
11 category of exhibits separately.

12 1. Legislative Histories

13 The Ninth Circuit has approved of taking judicial notice of legislative history. Association  
14 des Eleveurs de Canards et D'oies du Quebec v. Harris, 729 F.3d 937, 945 n.2 (9th Cir. 2013);  
15 Chaker v. Crogan, 428 F.3d 1215, 1223 n.8 (9th Cir. 2005); see also Korematsu v. United States,  
16 584 F.Supp. 1406, 1414 (N.D. Cal. 1984). Defendant has limited the portions of legislative  
17 history that she wishes the Court to consider. In their June 30 responsive briefing, Plaintiffs did  
18 not address these specific portions of legislative history. The Court finds that the identified  
19 portions of legislative history are relevant and probative. Therefore, the Court will grant  
20 Defendant's motion with respect to the identified excerpts of legislative history.

21 Therefore, the Court takes judicial notice of the following portions of Exhibit CD: Cover  
22 & p. 701. The Court takes judicial notice of the following portions of Exhibit CE: Cover & p.  
23 657. The Court takes judicial notice of the following portions of Exhibit CF: Cover & pp. 2799,  
24 2800. Exhibit CG: Bates Numbers AG000008, AG000026, AG000052 through AG000055, and  
25 AG000059 through AG000061. The Court takes judicial notice of the following portions of  
26 Exhibit CH: Bates Numbers AG000231 through AG000233, AG000297 through AG000298,  
27 AG000343 through AG000344. The Court takes judicial notice of the following portions of  
28 Exhibit CI: Bates Numbers AG000399 through AG000402, and AG000468.

1           2.       Category 2 – History Books

2           In their June 30, 2014 responsive briefing, Plaintiffs did not make any evidentiary  
3 arguments regarding the specific excerpts from Defendant’s history books. Regardless, the Court  
4 has conducted an independent evaluation of the excerpts submitted.

5           Exhibit EC consists of excerpts from a book by Jack Larkin, *The Reshaping of Everyday*  
6 *Life: 1790-1840* (Harper Perennial 1988). The excerpts from this book deal with the nature of life  
7 in America from 1790 to 1840. Defendant seeks to admit these excerpts in order to demonstrate  
8 that, given the nature of the way of life between 1790 and 1840, most people would have been  
9 unable to readily obtain firearms. Because the geographic and economic conditions did not lend  
10 themselves to a person being able to immediately purchase and possess a firearm, Defendant  
11 contends that the citizens of 1790 and 1840 would have no quarrel with a government imposed  
12 waiting period before obtaining firearms. See Doc. No. 88 at ¶¶ 29-34, G.

13           Although it appears that Exhibit EC is the type of historical work that has been consulted  
14 in cases such as *McDonald*, *Heller*, and *Peruta*, the information contained in Exhibit EC is not  
15 particularly relevant to this case. Exhibit EC appears to be a generalized historical text that  
16 touches on many aspects of the American life as it existed between 1790 and 1840. What Exhibit  
17 EC excerpts do not contain is any information regarding firearm waiting period laws that may  
18 have existed between 1790 and 1840, or information regarding the understanding of the Second  
19 Amendment during this timeframe. It is that type of information, not American life in general or  
20 the economic and geographic conditions of the time, that are relevant. “The Constitution  
21 structures the National Government, confines its actions, and, in regard to certain individual  
22 liberties and other specified matters, confines the actions of the States.” Edmonson v. Leesville  
23 Concrete Co., 500 U.S. 614, 619 (1991). “[T]he constitutional right to bear arms restricts the  
24 actions of only the federal or state governments or their political subdivisions, not private actors.”  
25 Florida Retail Fed’n, Inc. v. Attorney Gen. of Fla., 576 F.Supp.2d 1281 (N.D. Fla. 2008). That  
26 naturally-occurring non-governmental forces may have limited the ability of some individuals in  
27 some parts of the country to readily obtain firearms does not show that it was understood around  
28 1791 (the year the Second Amendment was adopted) or 1868 (the year the Fourteenth Amendment

1 was adopted) that the government could impose a waiting period between the time of purchase and  
2 the time of possession of a firearm.<sup>3</sup> The Court does not find the excerpts in Exhibit EC to be  
3 relevant, and declines to consider them.<sup>4</sup> See Hargis, 674 F.3d at 792-93; Charles, 749 F.2d at  
4 463; Rodriguez, 2009 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 31525 at \*34.

5 Exhibit EK consists of excerpts from a book by Adam Winkler, *Gunfight: The Battle over*  
6 *the Right to Bear Arms in America* (W.W. Norton 2013). Exhibit EK discusses some of the laws  
7 in existence around the founding era. However, there is nothing in Exhibit EK that discusses  
8 waiting period laws between 1791 and 1868. The first mention of a waiting period law was a  
9 1923 model law that imposed a 1-day waiting period on the delivery of handguns. According to  
10 Winkler, this law was proposed by a private organization, the U.S. Revolver Association. Winkler  
11 states that this law was adopted by nine states, including California. However, like Exhibit EC,  
12 Exhibit EK does not discuss waiting period laws during 1791 or 1868.<sup>5</sup> Because there is no  
13 discussion of waiting periods during the relevant time periods, the Court does not find the excerpts  
14 from Exhibit EK to be relevant, and declines to consider them.<sup>6</sup> See Hargis, 674 F.3d at 792-93;  
15 Charles, 749 F.2d at 463; Rodriguez, 2009 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 31525 at \*34.

### 16 3. Professional Articles

17 In their June 30, 2014 responsive briefing, Plaintiffs did not make any evidentiary  
18 arguments regarding the specific excerpts from the professional journal articles cited by  
19 Defendant. Depending on their use in a case, see Toth v. Grand Trunk R.R., 306 F.3d 335, 349  
20 (6th Cir. 2002), social science studies can be reviewed by courts as “legislative facts.”<sup>7</sup> See Snell

21 \_\_\_\_\_  
22 <sup>3</sup> If anything, given the absence of any such laws, and accepting Defendant’s assertions about American life at the  
23 time, it seems more likely that the citizenry of 1791 and 1868 would not have been accepting of such laws because  
24 those laws would have created additional difficulties and barriers to obtaining a firearm.

25 <sup>4</sup> Even if the Court considered the excerpts of Exhibit EC, they would not change the Court’s findings or conclusions.

26 <sup>5</sup> If anything, the cited excerpts indicate that waiting period laws did not exist around 1791 or 1868, that waiting  
27 periods are a relatively recent phenomena, and that most states have not had waiting periods. Exhibit EK does not  
28 show that waiting periods were outside the Second Amendment’s scope.

<sup>6</sup> Even if the Court considered the excerpts of Exhibit EK, they would not change the Court’s findings or conclusions.

<sup>7</sup> Legislative facts generally arise when a court is faced with a constitutional challenge to a statute. See Korematsu,  
584 F.Supp. at 1414; State v. Erickson, 574 P.2d 1, 5 (Alaska 1978). Legislative facts are facts that help a tribunal or  
court to determine the content of law and policy and to exercise its judgment or discretion in determining what course

1 v. Suffolk County, 782 F.2d 1094, 1105-06 (2d Cir. 1986); Dunagin v. Oxford, 719 F.2d 738, 748  
2 n.8 (5th Cir. 1985); cf. United States v. Carter, 669 F.3d 411, 418 (4th Cir. 2011) (government  
3 may establish the “reasonable fit” of legislation through a wide range of sources including  
4 empirical evidence). Legislative facts can be considered more liberally and are outside the  
5 structures of Federal Rule of Evidence 201. See Castillo-Villagra v. INS, 972 F.2d 1017, 1026  
6 (9th Cir. 1992); United States v. Gould, 536 F.2d 216, 219 (8th Cir. 1976); see also Qualley v.  
7 Clo-Tex Int’l, Inc., 212 F.3d 1123, 1128 (8th Cir. 2000) (holding that trial court erroneously took  
8 judicial notice of legislative facts under Rule 201).

9 The Court finds that the excerpts from Defendant’s Exhibits DG (pp. 27-29), DH (pp. 585,  
10 588, 590), DS (pp. 228-231), DT (pp. 59-61, 69-72), DV (pp. 1583-1585), DW (pp. 225, 226, 229,  
11 232, 234-236), and DX (pp. 40, 51-52) are relevant. Given the absence of additional argument  
12 from Plaintiffs on these exhibits, the Court will consider these exhibits as legislative facts.  
13 However, the Court will not take judicial notice of these exhibits under Rule 201. See Qualley,  
14 212 F.3d at 1128.

15 With respect to Exhibits DM and DQ, these are portions of articles that relate to suicide  
16 studies in Australia. Exhibit DM is a 1994 study of 33 survivors of attempted firearm suicides,  
17 who were all treated at Westmead Hospital (a teaching hospital of the University of Sydney).  
18 Exhibit DQ is a 1999 study of suicide statistics from Tasmania, Australia. The Court does not find  
19 these articles to be probative. There are cultural, societal, and geographic differences between  
20 Australia and the United States. These types of differences can manifest themselves not only  
21 when comparing suicide statistics between the two countries, but also when comparing the suicide  
22 rates of the states and territories of Australia with the states of the United States. The Tasmania  
23 study, for example, highlights the fact that Tasmania had one of the highest suicide rates of all of  
24 Australia, yet made up only 2.6% of Australia’s total population. In other words, there was  
25 something unique that was occurring in Tasmania. Suicide is a complex psychological  
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27 of action to take; they are facts that are ordinarily general and do not concern the immediate parties. See United States  
28 v. Gould, 536 F.2d 216, 219 (8th Cir. 1976); Erickson, 574 P.2d at 4-5 & n.14. Legislative facts “have relevance to  
legal reasoning and the lawmaking process, whether in the formation of a legal principle or ruling by a judge or court  
or in the enactment of a legislative body.” Advisory Comm. Note to Fed. R. Evid. 201(a).

1 occurrence. Without further expert guidance, the Court is not inclined to consider two studies that  
2 focus on two small portions of a separate country. The Court declines to consider Exhibits DM  
3 and DQ.<sup>8</sup> See Hargis, 674 F.3d at 792-93; Charles, 749 F.2d at 463; Rodriguez, 2009 U.S. Dist.  
4 LEXIS 31525 at \*34.

5 With respect to Exhibit EJ, this exhibit is several pages from a book entitled “Reducing  
6 Gun Violence in America.” Only one page of the excerpts has potential relevance (the other  
7 excerpts are the cover and publishing pages). The one page discusses a study that found a  
8 reduction in the firearm suicide rate for people over the age of 55, and the reduction may have  
9 been due to the Brady Act waiting period. See Defendant’s Ex. EJ. The book page appears to  
10 have been written by the study’s authors, Messrs. Cook and Ludwig. The Court will consider  
11 portions of the underlying study. See Defendant’s Ex. DH. Because the Court will consider  
12 portions of the underlying study, additional information from the study’s authors is relevant. The  
13 Court will consider Exhibit EJ, but will not take judicial notice of Exhibit EJ under Rule 201. See  
14 Qualley, 212 F.3d at 1128.

15 4. Newspaper Article

16 Exhibit GN is a 2014 newspaper article from the Washington Post, whose headline reads,  
17 “Study: Repealing Missouri’s background check law associated with a murder spike.” Plaintiffs  
18 did not address this exhibit as part their June 30 responsive briefing. Nevertheless, Plaintiffs are  
19 not challenging California’s background check. Plaintiffs do not argue that they should be exempt  
20 from a background check nor do they argue that the background check is unconstitutional, rather  
21 they argue that they should not be subject to the full 10-day waiting period between the time of  
22 purchase and the time of possession. See Doc. No. 105 at 7:6-8, 13:17-20. The Washington Post  
23 article purports to describe the results of a study on an issue that is not before the Court. Thus, the  
24 article is not relevant, and the Court will not consider Exhibit GN.<sup>9</sup> See Hargis, 674 F.3d at 792-  
25 93; Charles, 749 F.2d at 463; Rodriguez, 2009 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 31525 at \*34.

26 \_\_\_\_\_  
27 <sup>8</sup> Even if the Court did consider the excerpts from Exhibits DM and DQ, those exhibits would not change the Court’s  
findings of fact or conclusions of law

28 <sup>9</sup> Even if the Court did consider the excerpts from Exhibit GN, the Court would not change its findings of fact or  
conclusions of law.



1 **II. STANDING**

2 Defendant contends that the two entity plaintiffs, California Guns Federation (“CGF”) and  
3 the Second Amendment Foundation (“SAF”) do not have standing to maintain this lawsuit.

4 Defendant argues that there is insufficient evidence that the entities have been personally injured  
5 by the Penal Code provisions at issue, and that there is insufficient evidence that any of the  
6 entities’ members have been injured. CGF and SAF contend that the evidence is sufficient to  
7 show both direct personal injuries to themselves, as well as injuries to their members.

8 *Legal Standard*

9 It is the plaintiff’s burden to establish standing to bring a lawsuit in federal court. See  
10 Washington Env’tl. Council v. Bellon, 732 F.3d 1131, 1139 (9th Cir. 2013). An organization may  
11 have representational standing, where it acts as a representative of its members, or direct standing,  
12 where it seeks to redress an injury it has suffered in its own right. See Smith v. Pacific Props. &  
13 Dev. Corp., 358 F.3d 1097, 1101 (9th Cir. 2004). “An organization has direct standing to sue  
14 when it shows a drain on its resources from both a diversion of its resources and frustration of its  
15 mission.” Valle Del Sol Inc. v. Whiting, 732 F.3d 1006, 1018 (9th Cir. 2013); Fair Hous. Council  
16 of San Fernando Valley v. Roommate.com, LLC, 666 F.3d 1216, 1219 (9th Cir. 2012). The  
17 organization’s “standing must be established independent of the lawsuit filed by the plaintiff.”  
18 Fair Hous., 666 F.3d at 1219. “An organization cannot manufacture the injury by incurring  
19 litigation costs or simply choosing to spend money fixing a problem that otherwise would not  
20 affect the organization at all.” Valle Del Sol, 732 F.3d at 1018. An organization may assert  
21 standing on behalf of its member if the “members would otherwise have standing to sue in their  
22 own right, the interests at stake are germane to the organization’s purpose, and neither the claim  
23 asserted nor the relief requested requires the participation of individual members in the lawsuit.”  
24 Friends of the Earth, Inc. v. Laidlaw Env’tl. Servs., Inc., 528 U.S. 167, 181 (2000); Washington  
25 Env’tl. Council v. Bellon, 732 F.3d 1131, 1139 (9th Cir. 2013).

26 *Findings of Fact*

27 SAF has between 30,000 and 40,000 members, supporters, and donors in California.  
28

1 Gottlieb Dep. 18:11-13.<sup>10</sup> One-third to one-half of the total 30,000 to 40,000 California members,  
2 supporters, and donors are dues-paying members. See id. at 18:16-19:4.

3 SAF conducts research on state and federal firearms laws, including California's firearms  
4 laws. See id. at 22:3-11. Approximately 20% of SAF's research deals with California's firearms  
5 laws. See id. at 22:12-19.

6 SAF also expends funds in the defense of the civil rights of its members, including the  
7 prosecution of this lawsuit. See id. at 35:10-23.

8 SAF seeks input from its members about which litigation to pursue, and SAF members  
9 contacted SAF about challenging the California 10-day waiting period. See id. at 28:1-3, 29:2-11.  
10 Over the years, a number of SAF members have contacted SAF to complain about the 10-day  
11 waiting period. See id. at 30:1-15.

12 SAF has California members who are subjected to the 10-day waiting period, and has  
13 California members who wish to purchase a firearm and also have a CCW, a COE, and/or another  
14 firearm. See id. at Depo. Ex. 13, Responses to Interrogatories 5, 8-15.

15 SAF has publicly commented on the 10-day waiting period, and done research into the  
16 California 10-day waiting period laws for a number of years (possibly for more than a decade).  
17 See id. at 23:25-24:23.

18 SAF receives between 50 and 100 calls per year from California members regarding the  
19 10-day waiting period. See id. at 43:4-9.

20 Aside from this lawsuit, SAF has expended resources researching the 10-day waiting  
21 period, and expended staff time and money and resources in connection with other people's calls,  
22 letters, e-mails, and discussions about the 10-day waiting period. See id. at 35:17-36:1.

23 SAF has never attempted to purchase a firearm in California, nor has it incurred any  
24 expenses in acquiring firearms in California. See id. at 33:17-20, 62:19-23.

25 CGF is a public interest group that was created by gun owners. See id. at 117:7-8.  
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28 <sup>10</sup> Alan Gottlieb is the Executive Vice President of SAF. The parties stipulated to use Mr. Gottlieb's deposition testimony in lieu of live testimony. See Doc. No. 75.

1 CGF’s purposes are to defend people whom CGF believes to be unjustly charged with  
2 violating California firearms laws, and to challenge laws that CGF believes are unconstitutional  
3 under the Second and Fourteenth Amendments. See id. at 117:8-12. CGF will file amicus briefs  
4 in various cases, including before the United States Supreme Court, but such briefs tend to be on  
5 issues that CGF believes would be useful in California. See id. at 120:2-5. CGF routinely  
6 publishes white papers, FAQ’s, and WikiQ’s that explain California’s gun laws, including  
7 explaining legislative history. See id. at 120:23-121:4. CGF defends people who have been  
8 improperly charged for violation of various California firearms, and also engages in litigation to  
9 ensure that California’s firearms laws are constitutional. See id. at 117:21-118:3.

10 CGF has approximately 30,000 members, most of whom are in California. See Trial Tr.  
11 121:11-14. Almost all of CGF’s members are subject to the 10-day waiting period. See id. at  
12 121:18-19. “Quite a few” of CGF’s members have written about the 10-day waiting period on  
13 CGF’s blog. See id. at 143:11-19.

14 CGF brought this lawsuit so that its members who already have firearms in the AFS  
15 system, possess a CCW, or possess a COE, would not have to wait 10 days to obtain a firearm.  
16 See id. at 121:23-25. Although not an individual plaintiff, Gene Hoffman, the CGF’s chairman,  
17 currently owns a firearm, plans to obtain a firearm in the future, and has a CCW license. See id. at  
18 113:13-114:1, 136:1-7.

19 CGF has never attempted to purchase a firearm on its own behalf for self-defense. See id.  
20 at 145:19-146:2.

## 21 Conclusions of Law

### 22 1. Direct Standing

23 To show an injury that is sufficient for direct standing, an organization must show: (1)  
24 frustration of purpose, and (2) diversion of funds. See Valle Del Sol, 732 F.3d at 1018.

#### 25 a. CGF

26 CGF has met the first requirement. It is within CGF’s purposes to defend and advocate for  
27 Second Amendment rights, including bringing lawsuits that challenge laws that may infringe upon  
28 the Second Amendment. The 10-day waiting period is a law that CGF believes unconstitutionally

1 infringes upon the rights of those who have at least one gun registered in the AFS system, a CCW  
2 license, and/or a COE. CGF brought this lawsuit to remedy this perceived unconstitutional  
3 infringement. Therefore, CGF has demonstrated that the 10-day waiting period frustrates its  
4 purposes.

5 CGF has not met the second requirement. The testimony of CGF's chairman establishes  
6 that CGF is active in litigation in general, and has expended resources in connection with this  
7 lawsuit. However, expenditure of resources in the current lawsuit alone does not meet the  
8 requirements for direct standing. See Fair Hous., 666 F.3d at 1219. There is no evidence that  
9 deals with CGF researching, expending funds, educating or engaging in advocacy activities, or  
10 spending time addressing members' concerns about the 10-day waiting period separate and apart  
11 from this lawsuit. Cf. Valle Del Sol, 732 F.3d at 1018; Fair Hous., 666 F.3d at 1219.

12 Because there is no evidence that the 10-day waiting period laws have caused a diversion  
13 of CGF's resources, separate and apart from this lawsuit, CGF has not met its burden of  
14 establishing direct standing. See id.

15 **b. SAF**

16 SAF has met the first requirement. SAF is engaged in educational, research, and litigation  
17 efforts regarding the Second Amendment. SAF believes that the 10-day waiting period  
18 unconstitutionally infringes upon the Second Amendment rights of its members and of non-  
19 members in California, and has brought this lawsuit to remedy that perceived infringement.  
20 Therefore, SAF has demonstrated that the 10-day waiting period frustrates its purposes.

21 SAF has met the second requirement. SAF has been researching the 10-day waiting period  
22 for likely more than a decade. SAF yearly receives numerous complaints and questions from its  
23 members about the 10-day waiting period. SAF has had to divert time, resources, and money as  
24 part of its efforts to research the 10-day waiting period and to educate and address the concerns of  
25 its California members. Therefore, SAF has demonstrated a diversion of resources from the 10-  
26 day waiting period. Cf. Valle Del Sol, 732 F.3d at 1018; Fair Hous., 666 F.3d at 1219.

27 Because SAF has met both requirements, it has established its direct standing to challenge  
28 the 10-day waiting period laws. See id.

1           2.     Representative Standing

2           An organization has standing to bring suit on behalf of its members if the organization  
3 shows: (1) its members would have standing to bring suit; (2) the lawsuit is germane to the  
4 organization’s purpose; and (3) neither the claims asserted nor the relief requested require  
5 participation of a member. See Friends of the Earth, 528 U.S. at 181; Bellon, 732 F.3d at 1139.

6           CGF and SAF have met the requirements for representative standing by an organization.  
7 Both CGF and SAF have members in California who either already possess a firearm, a COE, or a  
8 CCW license, and plan on obtaining a firearm in the future. These California members’ Second  
9 Amendment right to keep and bear firearms is burdened by the 10-day waiting period, see infra.,  
10 and those members could have filed suit on their own behalf. The burden imposed by the 10-day  
11 waiting period is germane to the purposes of both CGF and SAF. These organizations actively  
12 research, publicly address/educate, and litigate on Second Amendment issues. No specific  
13 members are necessary to either determine the constitutional validity of the challenged laws or to  
14 fashion a remedy. Therefore, CGF and SAF have representative standing to sue on behalf of their  
15 members. Friends of the Earth, 528 U.S. at 181; Bellon, 732 F.3d at 1139.

16  
17 **III.     SECOND AMENDMENT CHALLENGE**

18           **A.     Contentions**

19           Plaintiffs’ Contentions

20           Plaintiffs argue that the 10-day waiting period interferes with the right to keep and bear  
21 arms, interferes with property rights, and causes additional expenses that may prevent a person  
22 from obtaining a firearm. Plaintiffs argue that there were no waiting period laws in existence in  
23 either 1791 or 1868, that waiting period laws are not prevalent today, and are not longstanding and  
24 presumptively lawful regulations.

25           Plaintiffs argue that it is unnecessary to determine whether intermediate or strict scrutiny  
26 applies because the waiting period laws will not pass intermediate scrutiny. Under intermediate  
27 scrutiny, the 10-day waiting period laws are justified as being necessary to do a background check  
28 and to provide a cooling off period. However, Plaintiffs argue that they do not contend that they

1 should be exempt from a background check, rather their challenge deals with timing. As for  
2 background checks, 10-days is an arbitrary figure. For 20% of all applicants, the background  
3 check is approved and completed in about one hour. For those who already own a firearm and are  
4 known to be trustworthy due to the licenses that they hold and a history of responsible gun  
5 ownership, there is no justification for imposing the full 10-day waiting period. With respect to  
6 cooling off periods, Plaintiffs aver that for those individuals who already possess a firearm, the  
7 waiting period will not prevent impulsive acts of violence because the individual already has a  
8 firearm. As to concerns about whether a person may become prohibited from possessing a firearm  
9 after the firearm has been delivered, California has implemented two “safety net” systems, APPS  
10 and rap back. These programs undercut the need to impose a full 10-day waiting period.

11 Plaintiffs propose that the Court should order modification of the background check  
12 system and waiting period laws as follows: Any person for whom Defendant can determine (a)  
13 has a valid and current CCW license, that person should be subject to the same background check  
14 as the 18 statutory exceptions to the 10-day waiting period and should not be subject to the 10-day  
15 waiting period; (b) has a valid and current COE and for whom the AFS system shows a firearm  
16 purchase since 1996, that person is subject to the same background check as the 18 statutory  
17 exceptions to the 10-day waiting period and should not be subject to the 10-day waiting period;  
18 and (c) has purchased a firearm that is documented in the AFS system since 1996, that person may  
19 take delivery of the firearm upon approval of the background check. See Doc. No. 91 at pp.29-30.

20 Defendant’s Contentions

21 Defendant argues that the 10-day waiting period does not burden the Second Amendment.  
22 None of the organizational plaintiffs have attempted to purchase a firearm, and both Plaintiffs Jeff  
23 Silvester and Brandon Combs have possessed a firearm at all relevant times. The increased cost or  
24 minor inconvenience of having to make return trips to a gun store are *de minimis*.

25 Defendant also argues that the 10-day waiting period falls under one of the longstanding  
26 regulatory measures identified by the Supreme Court. The 10-day waiting period is a condition or  
27 qualification on the commercial sale of a firearm. As a longstanding and presumptively lawful  
28 regulation, the 10-day waiting period does not burden the Second Amendment.

1 Defendant also argues that in 1791 and 1868, the nature of production of firearms, where  
2 firearms were sold in relation to where people lived, and the relative expense of firearms made  
3 obtaining a firearm within 10 days of deciding to purchase one nearly impossible. As a result, the  
4 people of 1791 and 1868 would have accepted a 10-day waiting period before obtaining a firearm.

5 Defendant argues that if the Second Amendment is burdened, the 10-day waiting period's  
6 burden is not so severe as to justify strict scrutiny. Under intermediate scrutiny, the 10-day  
7 waiting period laws are constitutional. The waiting period laws serve the important interests of  
8 public safety and keeping prohibited persons from obtaining firearms.

9 The 10-day waiting period reasonably fits these interests in three ways. First, it provides  
10 sufficient time for the Department of Justice to perform a background check. The nature of the  
11 databases utilized often require analysts to seek out information and dispositions from other  
12 agencies, entities, and states, which can be extremely time consuming. Further, sometimes  
13 prohibiting information is entered into the system after the initial check. Without the 10-day  
14 waiting period, there could be an incomplete check and prohibited individuals could obtain  
15 firearms. Relying on a CCW license or a COE is not a substitute for the background check  
16 because new prohibiting events may have arisen after a person obtains the CCW license or COE.  
17 Second, it provides a cooling off period so that individuals will have time to re-think committing  
18 impulsive acts of violence. Suicide is often based on transient thoughts. Studies show that  
19 waiting periods limit a person's access to firearms, and allows time for the transient suicidal  
20 thoughts to pass. Even if a person has a firearm in the AFS system, there is no guarantee that the  
21 person still has the firearm. Further, a firearm may be in an inoperable condition, or a person may  
22 not have ammunition for the weapon. For those individuals, a cooling off period could be  
23 beneficial. Further, some guns are not suitable for some purposes, and a cooling off period for a  
24 newly purchased firearm is beneficial. Finally, the waiting period laws provide Department of  
25 Justice agents with additional time in which to investigate straw purchases. It is better to intercept  
26 a weapon before it is delivered to a purchaser. If the waiting period laws did not exist, law  
27 enforcement would have to perform more retrievals of firearms from straw purchasers. Therefore,  
28 the 10-day waiting period is a "reasonable fit" and constitutional.

1           **B. Findings of Fact**

2                   1.     Impact of the 10-day Waiting Period

3           Unless a statutory exception applies, every person who wishes to purchase a firearm in  
4 California must wait at least 10-days from the date of purchase before taking possession of a  
5 firearm. See Cal. Pen. Code §§ 26815(a), 27540(a).

6           The 10-day waiting period affects a person’s ability to defend themselves through the use  
7 of a newly purchased firearm. See Trial Tr. at 74:2-75:1. The 10-day waiting period interferes  
8 with the exercise of dominion over property with respect to a newly purchased firearm. See Trial  
9 Tr. 29:10-13, 74:21-75:1.

10           Generally, the 10-day waiting period requires a firearm purchaser to make at least two trips  
11 to a firearms dealer in order to complete a firearms transaction. The multiple trips required to  
12 complete a transaction can cause disruptions in work and personal schedules, extra fuel expense,  
13 and wear and tear on a car depending upon where a firearm or a firearms dealer is located in  
14 relation to the purchaser. See id. at 26:9-14, 33:16-34:12, 35:13-36:8. This can be a financial  
15 burden on a purchaser. See id. at 26:15-18, 84:15-85:3.

16           The 10-day waiting period may also necessitate additional fees for the transfer of firearms  
17 between dealers, so that a person can purchase a firearm from a more distant dealer, but can  
18 retrieve the firearm from a closer dealer. See 28:2-29:1.

19           Schedule conflicts and dealer location may cause a person to miss the window to retrieve a  
20 firearm after the 10-day waiting period has expired. See 65:12-66:10.

21           The additional transfer expenses, the impact on a purchaser’s schedule, and/or the location  
22 of a firearm may combine with the 10-day waiting period to cause a person to forego purchasing a  
23 firearm. See 111:2-6.

24           Plaintiffs Brandon Combs (“Combs”) and Jeff Silvester (“Silvester”) each currently  
25 possess a firearm and both intend to purchase a firearm in the future. See 20:24-21:9, 49:12-19.  
26 Neither Combs nor Silvester is prohibited from owning or possessing a firearm in California. See  
27 id. at 21:10-11, 63:4-64:21. Both Combs and Silvester have foregone opportunities to purchase a  
28 firearm, or have been unable to complete the purchase of a firearm, due to operation of the 10-day



1 waiting period. See id. at 27:18-28:6, 29:2-9, 35:9-36:8, 74:21-75:1, 79:11-14, 82:6-84:1.

2 2. Waiting Period Laws

3 Defendant has identified no laws in existence at or near 1791 or 1868 that imposed a  
4 waiting period of any duration between the time of purchase and the time of possession of a  
5 firearm.

6 Defendant has identified no historical materials at or near 1791 or 1868 that address  
7 government imposed waiting periods or the perception of government imposed waiting periods in  
8 relation to the Second Amendment.

9 To the Court's knowledge, ten states and the District of Columbia impose a waiting period  
10 between the time of purchase and the time of delivery of a firearm. Three states and the District of  
11 Columbia have waiting period laws for the purchase of all firearms: California (10 days), District  
12 of Columbia (10 days),<sup>11</sup> Illinois (3 days for pistols, 1 day for long guns),<sup>12</sup> and Rhode Island (7  
13 days).<sup>13</sup> Four states have waiting periods for hand guns: Florida (3 days),<sup>14</sup> Hawaii (14 days),<sup>15</sup>  
14 Washington (up to 5 days from the time of purchase for the sheriff to complete a background  
15 check),<sup>16</sup> and Wisconsin (2 days).<sup>17</sup> Connecticut has a waiting period for long guns that is tied to  
16 an authorization to purchase from the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection.<sup>18</sup>  
17 Minnesota and Maryland have a waiting period for the purchase of handguns and assault rifles (7  
18 days).<sup>19</sup> There is no federal waiting period law. See 18 U.S.C. § 922(s) (Brady Act's 5-day  
19 waiting period expired in 1998).

20 \_\_\_\_\_  
21 <sup>11</sup> D.C. Code Ann. § 22-4508.

22 <sup>12</sup> 720 Ill. Comp. Stat. 5/24-3(A)(g).

23 <sup>13</sup> R.I. Gen. Laws §§ 11-47-35(a)(1), 11-47-35.2(a).

24 <sup>14</sup> Fla. Stat. § 790.0655(1)(a).

25 <sup>15</sup> Haw. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 134-2(e).

26 <sup>16</sup> Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 9.41.090(1)(c).

27 <sup>17</sup> Wis. Stat. Ann. § 175.35(2)(d).

28 <sup>18</sup> Conn. Gen. Stat. Ann. §§ 29-37(d), (e).

<sup>19</sup> Md. Code Ann., Pub. Safety §§ 5-101(r), 5-123 to 5-125; Minn. Stat. § 624.7132(Subd. 4).

1 In 1923, the California Legislature created a waiting period for handguns, whereby no  
2 handgun, pistol, or other concealable firearm could be delivered to its purchaser on the day of  
3 purchase. See Def. Ex. CD (1923 Cal. Stat. ch. 339 §§ 10, 11).

4 In 1953, the 1923 handgun waiting-period law was codified into the California Penal Code  
5 with no substantive changes. See Def. Ex. CE (1953 Cal. Stat. ch. 36 §§ 12071, 12072). One  
6 California court has cited legislative hearing testimony from 1964 in which witnesses testified that  
7 this 1953 law was “originally enacted to cool people off,” but that this law was “not enforced with  
8 regard to individual transfers through magazine sales nor at swap meets.”<sup>20</sup> People v. Bickston, 91  
9 Cal.App.3d Supp. 29, 32 & n.4 (1979).

10 In 1955, the California Legislature extended the handgun waiting period from 1 day to 3  
11 days. See Def. Ex. CF (1955 Cal. Stat. ch. 1521 §§ 12071, 12072). No legislative history has  
12 been cited that addresses why the waiting period was extended from 1 to 3 days.

13 In 1965, the California Legislature extended the handgun waiting period from 3 days to 5  
14 days. See Def. Ex. CI at AG000401-402 (1965 Cal. Stat. ch. 1007 §§ 12071, 12072).

15 The legislative history indicates that the Legislature extended the waiting period from 3  
16 days to 5 days in 1965 because the 3-day waiting period did not provide Cal. DOJ sufficient time  
17 to conduct proper background checks on prospective concealable firearms purchasers, before  
18 delivery of the firearms to the purchasers. See Bickston, 91 Cal.App.3d Supp. at 32; Def. Ex. CI  
19 at AG000468 (June 30, 1965 letter from Cal. Assemblymember Beilenson letter to the Governor);  
20 Def. Ex. CI at AG000470 (June 24, 1965 letter from Assistant Attorney General Barrett to the  
21 Governor). Additionally, a report from the 1975-1976 session of the Senate Judiciary Committee  
22 indicates that the “purpose of the 5-day provision is to permit the law enforcement authorities to  
23 investigate the purchaser’s record, before he actually acquires the firearm, to determine whether he  
24 falls within the class of persons prohibited from possessing concealed firearms.” Def. Ex. CH at  
25 AG000298 (Cal. S. Comm. on the Judiciary, 1975-76 Regular Sess., Rep. on A.B. 1441, at 1-2  
26 (1975)). No legislative history relating to the 1965 law has been cited that relates to a “cooling  
27 off” period.

28 \_\_\_\_\_  
<sup>20</sup> The parties have not referred or cited to any hearing testimony from 1964.

1 In 1975, the California Legislature extended the handgun waiting period from 5 days to 15  
2 days. See Def. Ex. CH (1975 Cal. Stat. ch. 997 §§ 12071, 12072).

3 The legislative history indicates that the California Legislature extended the waiting period  
4 from 5 days to 15 days in order to “[g]ive law enforcement authorities sufficient time to  
5 investigate the records of purchasers of handguns prior to delivery of the handguns.” Def. Ex. CH  
6 at AG000297 (Cal. S. Comm. on the Judiciary, 1975-76 Regular Sess., Rep. on A.B. 1441, at 1-2  
7 (1975)). A waiting period of 5 days was thought to be “inadequate for the [California] Bureau [of  
8 Firearms] to thoroughly check all records of the purchasers . . .” Id. at AG000344 ( September 15,  
9 1975 letter from Cal. Assemblymember Murphy letter to the Governor). No legislative history  
10 relating to the 1975 law has been cited that addresses a “cooling off” period.

11 In 1991, the California Legislature expanded the waiting period to cover all firearms. See  
12 Cal. Pen. Code §§ 12071, 12072 (1991 ed.) & Historical & Statutory Notes for 1990 Legislation.

13 In 1996, the California Legislature reduced the waiting period from 15 days to 10 days.  
14 See Def. Ex. CG (Cal. S.B. 671, 1995-96 Regular Sess., ch. 128 sections 12071(b)(3)(A),  
15 12072(c)(1)); Trial Tr. 169:2-5.

16 The California Legislature reduced the waiting period from 15 days to 10 days because the  
17 California Department of Justice (“Cal. DOJ”)’s Bureau of Firearms (“BOF”) switched to an  
18 electronic database system, which allowed for faster processing of background checks. See Def.  
19 Ex. CG at AG000061, AG000212 (Cal. S.B. 671, 1995-96 Regular Sess., S. Third Reading, as  
20 amended Jun. 4, 1996); see also Def. Ex. CG at AG000057 (“This bill will assist the Department  
21 and gun dealers in expediting the background check process.”). BOF is the agency within Cal.  
22 DOJ that conducts background checks on prospective firearm purchasers. See Trial Tr. 167:11-13.

23 A report from the Senate Committee on Criminal Procedure and a report from the  
24 Assembly Committee on Public Safety indicate that the waiting period is used to provide time to  
25 complete a background check and to provide a “cooling off” period. See Def. Ex. CG at 2099-  
26 0051 and AG000075. However, no legislative history related to the 1996 law has been cited that  
27 deals with specific findings or evidence related to the “cooling off” period.

28 One California court has opined: “[I]t appears that an original intent to provide at least an

1 overnight cooling-off period from ‘application for the purchase’ was supplemented over the years  
2 with additional time to allow the Department of Justice to investigate the prospective purchaser of  
3 the weapon.” Bickston, 91 Cal.App.3d Supp. at 32.

4 3. The California Background Check

5 The California background check begins with the completion and submission of a Dealer  
6 Record of Sales (“DROS”). See Trial Tr. 170:21-24. The DROS is an application form that a gun  
7 dealer electronically submits to Cal. DOJ, which contains information about the prospective  
8 purchaser, the firearm, and the dealership. See id. at 171:3-19.

9 After Cal. DOJ receives a DROS application, BOF begins the background check process  
10 on the prospective purchaser. See id. at 171:18-172:3.

11 The DROS application is sent to Cal. DOJ’s Consolidated Firearms Information System  
12 (“CFIS”), which is a computerized system. See id. at 292:7-16. CFIS coordinates the electronic  
13 portion of the background check process, called the Basic Firearms Eligibility Check (“BFEC”),  
14 by sending inquiries to other electronic databases and compiling the responses.<sup>21</sup> See id. at  
15 292:17-294:1.

16 The first database queried as part of the BFEC is California’s Department of Motor  
17 Vehicles (“DMV”) database.<sup>22</sup> See id. at 294:2-3.

18 The identification information on the DROS application is verified with DMV for several  
19 reasons: to ensure that the background check is run on the correct person, to prevent the  
20 occurrence of “straw purchases,”<sup>23</sup> and to prevent people from using fake identification to  
21 purchase firearms. See id. at 236:23-237:9.

22 Cal. DOJ sends a DROS applicant’s California driver’s license or California identification  
23 number to the DMV database. See id. at 294:4-9. The DMV database then returns the person’s  
24

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25 <sup>21</sup> Defendant’s Exhibit CB is a chart that depicts the databases reviewed during the automated review portion of the  
26 background check process.

27 <sup>22</sup> Firearms purchasers are required to have a valid California driver license or identification card issued by DMV.  
See Trial Tr. 236:15-22.

28 <sup>23</sup> “Straw purchases” occur when a purchaser obtains a firearm for a separate, undisclosed, prohibited person. See  
Trial Tr. 343:4-14.

1 name, date of birth, and license status to Cal. DOJ. See id.

2 The name and date of birth returned by the DMV database are checked against the name  
3 and date of birth on the DROS application to see whether the information matches. See id. at  
4 294:10-18. If the information matches and the driver license status is valid, the system continues  
5 to the next check within the BFEC process. See id. at 294:19-21. If the information does not  
6 match, a “DMV mismatch” is recorded, the background check process stops, and the DROS  
7 application is sent to a DMV mismatch queue for Cal. DOJ analysts, who are known as Criminal  
8 Identification Specialist IIs (“CIS Analysts”), to review. See id. at 200:12-17, 294:22-295:6.

9 CIS Analysts must verify the information before making a final determination as to  
10 whether there is a mismatch. See id. at 238:13-239:2. A DMV mismatch does not necessarily  
11 indicate that the person is prohibited from owning or possessing a firearm. See id. at 237:10-  
12 238:12. A DMV mismatch can occur for an innocent reason, such as if a dealer incorrectly enters  
13 information on the DROS application, or if the applicant has changed his/her name and is using  
14 the new name to purchase the firearm, but has not yet updated that information with the DMV.  
15 See id.

16 Unless a DMV mismatch can be corrected by a CIS Analyst, the DROS application must  
17 be rejected. See id. at 172:4-11, 238:17-25.

18 Once a DROS application successfully passes the DMV database check, the next step in  
19 the BFEC process is for the DROS application to be queried against the Automated Firearms  
20 System (“AFS”) database. See id. at 295:9-12. The AFS database checks to see if the subject  
21 firearm has been reported as lost or stolen. See id. at 173:7-14, 295:19-20.

22 The AFS contains various firearms records, but does not contain records for every gun in  
23 circulation in California. See id. at 180:17-19. The bulk of the firearms records in the AFS  
24 database are DROS’s that were made on a particular date and time. See id. at 180:21-24. DROS  
25 records from January 1, 2014 forward are kept for long guns. See id. At 181:24-182:1. Although  
26 they may go back earlier, the bulk of the DROS records for handguns are from 1996 forward. See  
27 id. at 340:1-11. Registrations of certain weapons classified as “assault weapons” from 1989 to  
28 2001 are contained in the AFS. See id. at 181:2-7. The AFS also contains records of CCW

1 license holders. See id. at 181:8-9. The AFS also contains law enforcement reports of weapons  
2 that have been identified as being lost, stolen, evidence, held for safekeeping, or retained for  
3 official use. See id. at 181:9-13. Finally, the AFS contains voluntary reports of people who have  
4 obtained a firearm by various methods, such as operation of law, an inter-family transfer, or  
5 transfers relating to curios and relic collections. See id. at 181:14-21. The AFS database is not an  
6 “absolute database,” but is a type of “leads database” that reflects Cal. DOJ’s belief about whom  
7 the last possessor of a firearm was based on the most recent DROS transaction. See id. 253:11-14.  
8 Law enforcement personnel can access the AFS in the field in real time, and law enforcement  
9 officers view the AFS database as reliable. See id. at 251:19-22, 252:15-21, 443:3-20.

10 If the AFS search finds that the subject firearm has been reported as lost or stolen, Cal.  
11 DOJ notifies the local law enforcement agency that made the report and requests that the agency  
12 conduct an investigation to confirm that the firearm involved in the pending DROS transaction is  
13 the same firearm that was reported as lost or stolen, and to confirm whether the “lost or stolen”  
14 entry in the AFS database is still valid and active. See id. at 174:5-14. The resulting  
15 investigations by local law enforcement agencies require them to take an active role to confirm  
16 that the firearm on the DROS application is actually the firearm that was reported as lost or stolen.  
17 See id. at 175:5-9. How soon an agency begins its investigation depends on the agency’s  
18 priorities, and the issue is rarely resolved within one day’s time. See id. at 175:10-15.

19 If a gun passes the AFS database check, and if the subject gun is a handgun, then the CFIS  
20 conducts a 30-day purchase-restriction check.<sup>24</sup> See id. at 296:5-8.

21 CFIS checks within its own database to determine whether the DROS applicant purchased  
22 another handgun within the previous 30 days. See id. at 296:9-12. If the DROS applicant  
23 purchased another handgun within 30 days, then the background check stops and the DROS  
24 application is denied. See id. at 296:13-15.

25 If the DROS applicant has not purchased a handgun within the previous 30 days, CFIS  
26 continues to check whether the applicant has had a previous application denied. See id. at 296:16-

27  
28 <sup>24</sup> Under California law, a person can lawfully purchase only one handgun in a 30-day period. See Cal. Pen. Code § 27535; Trial Tr. at 206:19-21.

23. If so, summary information regarding the previous denial is electronically appended to the background check results for a CIS Analyst to review at a later time. See id. at 296:24-297:3. The background check then continues forward. See id. at 297:3-4.

The next step in the BFEC process for all firearms is for the DROS application to be queried against the Automated Criminal History System (“ACHS”). See id. at 297:14-18. ACHS is a state database that contains criminal history information reported to Cal. DOJ by criminal justice agencies in California. See id. at 176:7-16.

The DROS applicant’s name, variations on the DROS applicant’s name (e.g. Robert, Bob, Bobby), date of birth, a range of dates around the date of birth, and any other identifying information from the DROS application, are all run through the ACHS database as part of an initial check. See id. at 297:19-22, 298:22-299:8. As part of the initial check, ACHS also will query three other databases: the Wanted Persons System (“WPS”) database, the California Restraining and Protective Order System (“CARPOS”) database, and the Mental Health Firearms Prohibition System (“MHFPS”) database. See id. at 297:23-298:7.

WPS is a California state database that contains records of warrant information. See id. at 184:10-21. A person with a record in WPS could potentially be prohibited from possessing a firearm. See id. at 184:14-18. Under federal law, any warrant prohibits the wanted person from owning or possessing a firearm, and under state law, persons wanted for a felony offense are prohibited from owning or possessing a firearm. See id. at 184:22-185:6

CARPOS is a California state database that contains information on restraining and protective orders. See id. at 182:16-21, 184:6-9. CARPOS is queried in order to detect domestic violence restraining orders and certain protective orders that would prohibit the DROS applicant from owning or possessing a firearm. See id. at 182:22-25.

MHFPS is a California state database that contains mental health records and records of certain prohibited juveniles. See id. at 185:18-186:2. MHFPS is queried in order to detect prohibitions under California law relating to mental health issues. See 186:3-187:17.

The initial check is to see if there is more detailed information about the DROS applicant contained within any of the ACHS, WPS, CARPOS, and MHFPS databases. See id. at 298:17-21.

1           If the name variations and possible birth dates run in the initial check match records in  
2 ACHS’s own database, then ACHS returns “criminal identification information” (“CII”) numbers  
3 associated with the records. See id. at 300:1-13, 327:19-22. CFIS then conducts a subsequent  
4 query of the ACHS database utilizing the unique CII numbers to obtain more detailed criminal  
5 history information about the DROS applicant. See id. at 300:1-13. If any of the variant names  
6 and birth dates match information contained in the WPS, CARPOS, or MHFPS, then the CFIS  
7 system will do a subsequent check of those databases using the particular name and birthdate that  
8 generated a match during the initial search so that more detailed information/records can be  
9 obtained. See id. at 298:17-21, 300:14-301:23.

10           If matches are found in the ACHS, WPS, CARPOS, or MHFPS databases, the information  
11 is appended to the results of the background check. See id. at 301:18-23.

12           After the ACHS, WPS, CARPOS, or MHFPS queries are complete, the next step in the  
13 BFEC process is for the DROS application to be queried against the federal National Instant  
14 Criminal Background Check System (“NICS”) database. See id. at 302:1-3.

15           NICS checks are similar to ACHS checks in that NICS does a name variant and birth date  
16 range check. See id. at 302:4-11. Also similar to ACHS, NICS will conduct a search of its own  
17 database as well as a search of three other federal databases: the Interstate Identification Index  
18 (“III”) database, the National Crime Information Center (“NCIC”) database, and the Immigration  
19 and Customs Enforcement (“ICE”) database. See id. at 191:6-8, 193:13-14, 194:17-25, 195:1-3,  
20 302:12-17.

21           The III database contains criminal history records from California and other states that  
22 share their criminal history records with the FBI. See id. at 191:6-16. If a person is convicted of a  
23 felony in any state, that person is prohibited from owning or possessing a firearm under California  
24 law. See id. at 192:1-4.

25           The NCIC database contains federal warrants, domestic violence restraining orders, and  
26 stolen gun information. See id. at 193:15-19.

27           The ICE database helps to identify people who are in the United States unlawfully. See id.  
28 at 195:1-7.



1 If there are matches or “hits” in the NICS system, the CFIS system goes into a response  
2 process. See id. at 303:3-7. The CIFS system will check if there is an FBI number or a state  
3 identification number from another state that was included in the NICS response. See id. at 303:7-  
4 8. If there are FBI or state identification numbers, then the CFIS system will send another  
5 transaction out specifically to the III database to see if there is additional information. See id. at  
6 303:9-12.

7 After the NICS check is completed, the BFEC is considered complete. See id. at 303:13-  
8 16. All results obtained by CFIS through the BFEC’s search of databases are attached to the  
9 DROS application, and those DROS applications for which there is a hit/match are placed into the  
10 DROS processing queue for a CIS Analyst to review. See id. at 200:6-11, 303:13-304:3. The  
11 processing queue is an electronic queue. See id. at 200:9-10.

12 CIS Analysts first review records in the DMV mismatch queue to determine whether there  
13 is a real mismatch of the applicant’s identity in the DMV records, or whether the records can be  
14 fixed and a match can be made. See id. at 316:20-317:15. If the CIS Analyst is able to correct the  
15 mismatch, the CIS Analyst will then send the DROS application through the BFEC process. See  
16 id. If a match cannot be made, the DROS application is rejected. See id. at 317:3-5.

17 CIS Analysts then verify that each DROS applicant is the same individual matched by the  
18 computer to the criminal and other database records. See id. at 201:16-20.

19 CIS Analysts then look into the record to determine if the information in the record would  
20 prohibit the individual from possessing a firearm. See id. at 201:20-22. If there is information in  
21 the record that would prohibit possession of the firearm, then the CIS Analyst verifies the  
22 prohibiting information. See id. at 201:23-202:6. If the CIS Analyst determines that an individual  
23 is prohibited from purchasing or possessing a firearm, the CIS Analyst instructs the dealer not to  
24 deliver the firearm to the DROS applicant. See id. at 202:7-10.

25 The amount of time it takes a CIS Analyst to process a queued DROS application depends  
26 upon the size of the records involved and the number of databases for which there have been hits.  
27 See id. at 202:11-14. It is “fairly routine” for a CIS Analyst to take longer than a day to process a  
28 queued DROS application. See id. at 202:15-20.

1 CIS Analysts may have to confirm or discover a disposition as part of the process of  
2 verifying prohibiting information. For example, if the disposition of a prohibiting arrest was a  
3 conviction, the person would not be eligible to own or possess a firearm, but if the conviction was  
4 dismissed or reduced, the person may be eligible. See id. at 179:11-25.

5 In cases in which an arrest record contains no dispositional information, the CIS Analyst  
6 must obtain a final disposition on that arrest to determine whether the person is actually  
7 prohibited. See id. at 201:23-202:6. Without dispositional information, a CIS Analyst cannot  
8 determine whether an individual is eligible to own and possess a firearm because there must be a  
9 conviction for there to be a prohibition. See 323:12-21. If there is an open disposition, a CIS  
10 Analyst has to obtain the disposition, which could mean telephoning a local law enforcement  
11 agency, a district attorney, or a court to try to find out the disposition (for example, a conviction or  
12 a dismissal). See id. at 180:5-13, 201:23-202:6, 323:12-324:1. Dispositional records could be  
13 lost, missing, or purged. See 177:10-11.

14 In addition to obtaining and confirming in-state records, CIS Analysts routinely “chase  
15 down” out-of-state dispositions. See id. at 192:14-21. The federal III database, which contains  
16 criminal history information from other states, often does not contain complete and accurate  
17 records on out-of-state criminal convictions. See id. at 192:5-8. Dispositional information is  
18 frequently missing in the III records. See id. at 192:9-13. CIS Analysts then have to call or fax  
19 courts of other states or federal courts to obtain the disposition information. See id. at 192:22-  
20 193:12.

21 Obtaining the necessary dispositional information from either in-state or out-of-state courts  
22 can be a very lengthy process. See 180:11-13.

23 For cases in which there is a disposition, CIS Analysts review criminal history or other  
24 relevant records to confirm that Cal. DOJ is correctly approving or denying a DROS application.  
25 See id. at 178:12-20.

26 Further, mental health facilities get information from the patients, who may not be able to  
27 provide accurate personal information, and this may cause the CIS Analysts to contact the mental  
28 health facility to ensure that a person is not prohibited. See id. at 455:17-456:5.

1 CIS Analysts must also review and verify the results of the federal NCIC queries because  
2 NCIC results are based on a person's name. See 193:20-194:7. CIS Analysts may also need to  
3 contact the relevant agencies to confirm that certain warrants are still active because sometimes  
4 the warrants are no longer valid. See id. at 194:4-13.

5 In addition to obtaining missing dispositional information, CIS Analysts must inquire into  
6 the background or details of records to make the correct determination on a prohibition. See id. at  
7 319:1-14. For example, an analyst may have to determine whether a felony that was reduced to a  
8 misdemeanor actually could have been reduced. See id. at 319:15-18; see also 319:23-320:7. To  
9 conduct such an investigation, the CIS Analysts must contact the arresting agency for a copy of  
10 the arrest report and review that report and determine the relationship between the offender and  
11 the victim. See 320:8-17.

12 Similarly, if a member of the military is arrested out of state for possession of a controlled  
13 substance, a CIS Analyst must determine the disposition, determine whether the member was  
14 subject to a court-marshal, and find out the type of discharge the individual may have received  
15 (i.e., honorable or dishonorable). See id. at 320:23-321:7. To conduct this investigation, the CIS  
16 Analyst must obtain specific information from the military. See id. at 321:16-22.

17 CIS Analysts may also have to decipher people's names because aliases may be used. See  
18 id. at 455:4-16.

19 Not all DROS applications go to the processing queue for an analyst to review. See id. at  
20 303:19-21. If a DROS application has been checked by all of the databases, and there are no hits  
21 or matches found in any of the databases, then that DROS application is considered "auto-  
22 approved" and is not put into any queue for a CIS Analyst to review. See id. at 198:5-12, 303:22-  
23 304:3.

24 The BCEF currently does not check to see if a DROS applicant has a COE, a CCW license,  
25 or a firearm within the AFS system. However, it is possible for the BCEF to include an automated  
26 search to determine whether a DROS applicant has a COE, a CCW license, or a firearm in the  
27 AFS system. See id. at 279:11-281:24. Such a check would be "simple." See id. at 279:23.  
28

1 The BFEC may result in one of six dispositions: approved, denied, delayed, undetermined,  
2 approved after delay, and denied after delay.<sup>25</sup> See id. at 505:11-17. A DROS application may be  
3 delayed for up to 30 days in order for BOF to further investigate whether the applicant is  
4 prohibited from possessing a firearm. See id. at 506:11-21. For dispositions that result in a  
5 finding of “undetermined,” i.e. BOF cannot determine whether a person is prohibited from  
6 possessing a firearm, the dealer has the discretion to either refuse or permit the transfer of the  
7 firearm. See id. at 232:6-15, 506:24-507:3.

8 Once BOF approves a DROS application, the DROS applicant has 30 days in which to  
9 take possession of the firearm. See 27 C.F.R. § 478.124; see also Cal. Pen. Code § 26835(f); Trial  
10 Tr. 459:10-13. Accordingly, BOF considers a completed and approved background check to “be  
11 good” for 30 days. See Trial Tr. at 459:10-13.

#### 12 4. DROS Processing

13 Cal. DOJ can receive between 1,500 and 10,000 DROS applications per day, but on  
14 average, it currently receives between 2,000 to 3,000 DROS applications per day. See id. at  
15 172:24-173:1, 456:6-8.

16 In 2010, Cal. DOJ processed 498,945 DROS applications, and had 5,026 denials. See Def.  
17 Ex. AA. Therefore, about 99% of DROS applications were approved and found to have been  
18 submitted by non-prohibited citizens in 2010.

19 In 2011, Cal. DOJ processed 601,243 DROS applications, and had 5,805 denials. See id.  
20 Therefore, about 99.1% of DROS applications were approved and found to have been submitted  
21 by non-prohibited citizens in 2011.

22 In 2012, Cal. DOJ processed 817,738 DROS applications, and had 7,524 denials. See id.  
23 Therefore, about 99.1% of DROS applications were approved and found to have been submitted  
24 by non-prohibited citizens in 2012. Of the denials, most were crime related, but 793 were due to  
25 mental health prohibitions and 405 were due to domestic violence restraining orders. See

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26  
27 <sup>25</sup> Under new legislation known as AB 500, and which appears to be codified at Penal Code § 28220(f), BOF can  
28 delay a disposition for up to 30 days in order to further investigate whether an applicant is prohibited from possessing  
a firearm. See Cal. Pen. Code § 28220(f); Trial Tr. 506:11-21. Plaintiffs have partially relied upon § 28220(f) in their  
discussion of straw purchases. Plaintiffs do not challenge the constitutionality of § 28220(f).

1 Defendant's Ex. AO.

2 In 2013, Cal. DOJ processed 960,179 DROS application, and had 7,371 denials. See  
3 Defendant's Ex. AP; 489Trial Tr. 332:4-14, 453:4-7. Therefore, about 99.3% of DROS  
4 applications were approved and found to have been submitted by non-prohibited citizens in 2013.  
5 Of the denials, most were crime related, but 810 were due to mental health prohibitions and 460  
6 were due to domestic violence restraining orders. See Defendant's Ex. AP.<sup>26</sup>

7 There is always a backlog of DROS applications in the electronic DROS application queue  
8 for background checks, and the current backlog stands at about 20,000 DROS applications. See  
9 id. at 314:11-20. There are 24 CIS Analysts, and they typically work well in excess of 40 hours a  
10 week to keep up with the influx of DROS applications.<sup>27</sup> See id. at 200:18-19, 203:1-8, 313:7-  
11 314:13. CIS Analysts are required to work mandatory overtime hours (between 30 and 40  
12 overtime hours per week) in order to address the backlog of queued DROS applications. See id.  
13 313:7-314:3.

14 If a DROS application has been in the DROS application queue for an extended period of  
15 time before a CIS Analyst can review it, e.g. day 8 or 9 of the 10-day waiting period, then the CIS  
16 Analyst will re-run that DROS application through a "refresher" check of the CFIS state data  
17 bases in order to ensure that all updated information is in the CIS Analyst's possession. See id. at  
18 322:3-23, 475:1-14. There have been instances in which additional prohibitors have arisen  
19 between the time the DROS application is submitted and the time in which the CIS Analyst  
20 reviews the application. See id. at 322:18-21. However, no evidence was presented that  
21 quantifies how many times new prohibitors have arisen between the initial check and the refresher  
22 check.

23 Approximately 80% of all DROS applications are not auto-approved and require the  
24 review of a CIS Analyst. See id. at 200:2-5.

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26 <sup>26</sup> From 1991 to the present, there has consistently been a DROS application approval rate near 99%. See Defendant's Ex. AA.

27 <sup>27</sup> Cal. DOJ does not hire temporary employees as CIS Analysts because the California budget process does not allow the BOF to start hiring new people, and it typically takes six to eight months to train a CIS Analyst. See Trial Tr. 204:21-205:14, 326:17-327:11.

1 Approximately 20% of all DROS applications are auto-approved and do not go into the  
2 DROS application queue for review by a CIS Analyst. See id. at 198:13-15, 303:22-304:3.

3 Depending on network traffic or database maintenance issues, a DROS application can be  
4 auto-approved somewhere between 1 minute and 120 minutes, but “probably” auto approvals  
5 occur within 60 minutes.<sup>28</sup> See id. at 240:1-6, 307:22-309:15.

6 The only time that a CIS Analyst would review an auto-approved DROS application is if  
7 BOF is contacted about a particular DROS applicant by an outside source, such as a law  
8 enforcement officer or a medical professional. See 199:8-200:1. Outside requests to further  
9 investigate an auto-approved DROS application occur “occasionally.” See id. at 199:14-16. No  
10 evidence was presented to quantify or explain what is meant by “occasionally.” No evidence was  
11 presented concerning at what point in the 10-day waiting period the outside requests are received.  
12 No evidence was presented as to how many of the outside requests ultimately led to a denial of the  
13 auto-approved DROS applications.

14 There is no evidence of the average amount of time it takes to complete a “non-auto  
15 approved” DROS application. However, because of the daily applications received and the  
16 backlog, sometimes a CIS Analyst will not begin to review a queued DROS application until day 8  
17 or 9 of the 10 day waiting period. See id. at 322:3-5.

18 BOF employees believe that 10 days is a sufficient period of time in which to complete a  
19 background check. See 473:25-474:5.

20 If a background check is completed prior to 10 days, the firearm is not released because  
21 state law mandates a 10-day waiting period. See id. at 244:5-12.

## 22 5. Information Entry In The Cal. DOJ Databases

23 Cal. DOJ databases may not have the most up-to-date information because reporting  
24 agencies may fail to submit information to the Cal. DOJ databases or may delay in submitting  
25 information to Cal. DOJ databases. See Trial Tr. 177:2-15, 187:8-188:15, 220:23-221:2, 324:13-  
26 16.

27  
28 <sup>28</sup> The 1 minute figure is based on test programs that were run by BOF. See Trial Tr. 308:8-17.

1 ACHS is not always up-to-date with criminal history records for various reasons, including  
2 a lag time between actual disposition and entry of the disposition, and occasionally records are  
3 lost, purged, or never reported. See id. at 177:5-15.

4 Records in the MHFP are often not complete or up-to-date. See id. 187:8-10. Even  
5 though mental health facilities are required by law to report prohibiting events immediately, some  
6 facilities still submit records only periodically despite the ability to electronically report  
7 immediately. See id. at 187:23-188:7. Further, some courts have not been reporting mental health  
8 prohibition information as required by law, and when the state courts do report prohibiting events,  
9 the reports are done through the mail, which results in a time lag between when the courts mail the  
10 reports and when Cal. DOJ receives and processes them.<sup>29</sup> See id. at 187:13-188:15.

11 6. Cooling Off Period

12 A cooling off period is a period of time that is intended to provide a person with the  
13 opportunity to gather their emotions, so that they do not obtain a firearm in a state of anger and  
14 make impulsive decisions to commit acts of violence against themselves or others. See Trial Tr.  
15 232:16-233:7, 499:16-24.

16 No evidence has been submitted regarding current or historical California suicide statistics  
17 or “time to crime” statistics.<sup>30</sup>

18 One study that examined 30 survivors of firearm suicide attempts indicated that suicide can  
19 be a relatively impulsive act in that more than half of the 30 survivors reported having suicidal  
20 thoughts for less than 24 hours. See Defendant’s Ex. DS at 230. Other studies indicate that, of the  
21 total number of survivors studied, more than half had considered suicide for less than one hour  
22 prior to their attempt. See Defendant’s Ex. DG at p.28. Another study indicates that risk periods  
23 for suicide are transient. See Defendant’s Ex. DT at 61.

24  
25 \_\_\_\_\_  
26 <sup>29</sup> There is currently work being done to automate the ability of the state courts to report prohibiting mental health  
events to the BOF. See 188:14-15. There is no indication of when those efforts will come to fruition.

27 <sup>30</sup> Time to crime statistics are kept by the Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives. See Trial  
28 Tr. 418:11-23. Time to crime statistics measure the elapsed time from a lawful sale of a firearm to the time of a crime  
committed with that firearm. See id.

1 In order to limit the access of a suicidal individual to a handgun, one recent study  
2 recommends a waiting period combined with a permit requirement. See Defendant’s Ex. DG at  
3 29. The study hypothesizes that for “a suicidal person who does not already own a handgun, a  
4 delay in the purchase of one allows time for suicidal impulses to pass or diminish.” Id. No  
5 specific waiting period is advocated by this study.

6 Studies regarding suicide rates and waiting period laws conducted prior to 2005 are  
7 generally considered inconclusive. See Eugene Volokh, *Implementing the Right To Keep And*  
8 *Bear Arms For Self-Defense: An Analytical Framework And A Research Agenda*, 56 UCLA L.  
9 Rev. 1443, 1538 (citing Robert A. Hahn, et al., *Firearms Laws and the Reduction of Violence: A*  
10 *Systematic Review*, 28 Am. Jrnl. of Preventative Med. 40, 52 (2005)).

11 One study examined the national homicide and suicide rates between 1985 and 1997 in  
12 light of the enactment of the Brady Act. See Defendant’s Ex. DH. For victims aged 21 to 55, no  
13 statistically significant differences between treatment states and controls states were found, as to  
14 either homicide rates or suicide rates. See id. at 588, 590. However, a decrease in suicide rates for  
15 individuals over the age of 55 was observed. See id. The decrease was at least partially offset by  
16 an increase in non-gun suicides, which makes it less clear that the waiting period reduced overall  
17 suicides for those over age 55. See Defendant’s Ex. EJ.

18 One study performed in 1992 found that only 3% of suicides occur within 2 weeks of  
19 obtaining a firearm. See Defendant’s Ex. DW at 235 (discussing Kellerman, A.L, et al., *Suicide In*  
20 *The Home In Relationship To Gun Ownership*, N. Eng. J. Med. 327:467-472 (1992)).

21 One study examined suicide rates for the 238,292 individuals who purchased handguns in  
22 California in 1991. See Defendant’s Ex. DV. From 1991 to 1996, the waiting period in effect in  
23 California for handguns was 15 days. See id. The study concluded that those who purchase a  
24 handgun have a substantially increased risk of firearm suicide, beginning with the first week of  
25 purchase and lasting for six years. See id. Of the 238,292 purchasers, 48 committed suicide  
26 within two weeks of obtaining the firearm (after having waited 15 days), and 40 purchasers were  
27 murdered with firearms within the first month of obtaining a handgun. See id. at 1585.



1                   7.       Criminal Investigations Of Straw Purchases

2                   A “straw purchase” is a purchase that a non-prohibited person makes for someone who is  
3 prohibited from owning and possessing a firearm. See Trial Tr. 343:4-14. Straw purchases are  
4 prohibited under federal law, and may implicate California law. See 18 U.S.C. §§ 922, 924;  
5 Abramski v. United States, 134 S.Ct. 2259 (2014); Cal. Pen. Code §§ 27545, 27590.

6                   Some straw purchasers have never purchased a firearm in California, and some straw  
7 purchasers previously have purchased firearms in California. See id. at 350:12-16.

8                   Gun dealers have the right to refuse to conduct a sale of a firearm. See id. at 405:1-3.  
9 Dealers can also be indicted for conspiring to facilitate straw purchases of firearms, and so have an  
10 incentive to report a suspected straw purchase. See id. at 405:18-25.

11                   Cal. DOJ special agents attend gun shows to ensure that promoters are in compliance with  
12 the law and to prevent prohibited persons from obtaining firearms, magazines, or ammunition.  
13 See id. at 342:14-25. Special agents also look for potential straw purchases of firearms. See id. at  
14 343:1-16.

15                   The special agents attempt to identify the parties involved in a straw purchase, such as  
16 through license plates, business cards on tables, or observing printed forms being filled out. See  
17 id. at 346:14-347:10, 400:1-7. As many as four individuals may participate in a straw purchase at  
18 a gun show. See 346:14-347:1. Agents spend a good portion of their time attempting to  
19 determine whether any person whom they have identified at the gun show is a prohibited person.  
20 See id. at 398:9-399:2.

21                   The special agents attempt to complete an investigation within 10 days because the agents  
22 want to be able to intercept the firearm before it is delivered to the straw purchaser. See id. at  
23 348:14-25. Because of the nature of the investigation, if the waiting period were 3 days instead of  
24 10, it would be nearly impossible for the special agents to complete an investigation of a gun show  
25 straw purchase prior to delivery of the firearm. See id. at 348:14-349:12. The special agents  
26 prefer to intercept a firearm before the firearm is transferred from the straw buyer to the prohibited  
27 person because it keeps the firearm off of the street and out of trouble. See id. at 349:13-21.

28                   There are other ways in which the special agents become aware of straw purchases besides

1 observations at gun shows. See id. at 351:3-6. The federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco,  
2 Firearms, and Explosives (“BATFE”) and the gun dealers themselves may report suspicious  
3 activity, as well as special agent inspections of a gun dealer’s records. See id. at 351:8-20.  
4 Depending on when the information is obtained by the special agent, the 10-day waiting period  
5 may aid the special agents in determining whether a transaction is a straw purchase and may help  
6 the agents intercept the firearm. See 353:6-9, 354:21-355:7, 356:10-16. However, sometimes the  
7 special agents must go retrieve the firearm from the straw purchaser because the firearm has  
8 already been delivered. See id. at 349:22-23, 354:21-355:7, 407:22-408:6, 408:19-24. For straw  
9 purchases detected through an inspection of a dealer’s records, the firearm in question usually will  
10 have left the store by 30 to 60 days. See id. at 407:22-408:15.

11 There is no evidence concerning how many straw purchase arrests are made/violations  
12 determined by the special agents. There is no evidence that describes what percentage of straw  
13 purchase investigations are from gun shows or BATFE reports or dealer reports or dealer  
14 inspections. However, in approximately 15% of the straw purchase investigations, the weapon  
15 was intercepted within the 10-day waiting period. See id. at 408:16-24. Approximately 85% of  
16 straw purchase investigations do not conclude within the 10-day waiting period and a retrieval of  
17 the firearm may then be necessary. See id.

#### 18 8. The APPS System

19 The Armed and Prohibited Persons System (“APPS”) is a database that cross-references  
20 persons with firearms records in the AFS, typically a DROS record, with those who have a  
21 prohibiting conviction or circumstance. See Trial Tr. At 216:21-217:2. The APPS database  
22 consults each of the state databases involved in a BFEC, i.e. the AFS, ACHS, WPS, CARPOS,  
23 and MHFPS databases. See id. at 475:17-476:10. However, the APPS database is prohibited by  
24 law from accessing the NICS system. See id. at 475:11-15. APPS became active in 2007. See id.  
25 at 337:19-21. APPS is updated on a 24 hour 7 days a week basis. See id. at 497:25-498:7.

26 The purpose behind APPS is to identify prohibited persons who have firearms and to  
27 enable law enforcement to retrieve the firearms before those persons can use the firearms to harm  
28 others or themselves. See id. at 217:21-218:3. APPS is a kind of “pointer tool” that identifies

1 people who may be armed and prohibited in a particular law enforcement agency’s jurisdiction,  
2 but the information in APPS must be updated and verified before any law enforcement action can  
3 be taken. See id. at 218:4-219:7, 337:4-10. As part of the verification process, dispositions  
4 sometimes must be “chased down” by an analyst. See id. at 219:11-20.

5 The BFEC and waiting period is designed to stop a prohibited person from obtaining a  
6 firearm, whereas the APPS system is designed to retrieve a firearm from someone who has  
7 subsequently become prohibited from possessing a firearm. See id. at 420:11-16, 497:10-15.

8 APPS records-matching software searches for only an exact name and date of birth,  
9 whereas the BFEC searches for name variants and date of birth ranges. See id. at 304:16-305:10.  
10 That is, the APPS check will only find exact matches to the name entered, but will not find  
11 variations of a name. See id. at 304:24-305:18.

12 There are 21,000 people identified as armed and prohibited in the APPS system, and these  
13 individuals purchased firearms prior to becoming prohibited from doing so. See id. at 338:2-8.  
14 Not every person who has become prohibited from possessing a firearm is in the APPS system.  
15 See id. at 219:7-10, 340:15-18. Most of the APPS candidates are pulled from records concerning  
16 handguns that were sold in California from 1996 forward. See id. at 340:3-11.

## 17 9. Rap-Back

18 A “rap-back” is a notification that Cal. DOJ receives whenever someone with fingerprints  
19 on file with Cal. DOJ is the subject of a criminal justice agency record, e.g. a notification of a  
20 subsequent arrest record. See Trial Tr. 221:21-222:9, 492:7-12. Rap-back is fingerprint based,  
21 which means the match is done by fingerprint. See id. at 223:19-20.

22 A non-fingerprint based event, such as a mental health hold or a restraining order, would  
23 not be discovered through rap-back. See id. at 223:13-16, 224:8-9. Cal. DOJ does not receive  
24 rap-backs for persons who are arrested or convicted outside of California. See id. at 224:25-225:2.

25 Rap-back mainly deals with people who are in the criminal history system and who have  
26 fingerprints on record. See 493:8-14. In contrast, APPS deals with people who may or may not  
27 have fingerprints in the criminal history system, but who nevertheless are found in a non-  
28 fingerprint database, such as the MHFP database. See id. at 493:8-12.

1                    10. CCW Licenses

2                    California law provides for either the sheriff of a county or the chief of police of a city to  
3 issue a CCW license to a citizen. See Cal. Pen. Code §§ 26150 (sheriff), 26155 (chief of police);  
4 Trial Tr. 458:19-20. CCW licenses apply to pistols, revolvers, or firearms that are capable of  
5 being concealed upon a person. See Cal. Pen. Code §§ 26150, 26155. A CCW license allows an  
6 individual to carry a concealed firearm in public. See id.

7                    CCW licenses, amendments to CCW licenses, and applications for a CCW license are  
8 required to be uniform throughout California. See Cal. Pen. Code § 26175; Scocca v. Smith, 912  
9 F.Supp.2d 875, 883 (C.D. Cal. 2012).

10                    In order to obtain a CCW license, an applicant must prove to the sheriff or chief of police  
11 that: (1) the applicant is of good moral character; (2) good cause exists for issuance of the license;  
12 (3) the applicant either is a resident of the city or county, or has a place of business/employment  
13 within the city or county and spends a substantial period of time at the place of  
14 business/employment; and (4) the applicant has completed the training course required by Penal  
15 Code § 26165.<sup>31</sup> See Cal. Pen. Code §§ 26150, 26155. CCW license applicants must submit  
16 fingerprints along with the CCW license application, and those fingerprints are submitted to Cal.  
17 DOJ. See Cal. Pen. Code § 26185(a)(1); Scocca, 912 F.Supp.2d at 883. Additionally, if there is  
18 “compelling evidence,” an applicant may be required to submit to psychological testing before  
19 being issued a CCW license. See Cal. Pen. Code § 26190(f).

20                    Once Cal. DOJ receives the fingerprints, Cal. DOJ sends a report to the licensing agency  
21 relating to the CCW license applicant, including whether the person is prohibited under state or  
22 federal law from possessing, receiving, owning, or purchasing a firearm. See Cal. Pen. Code §  
23 26185(a)(2).

24                    The sheriff or chief of police may not issue a CCW license until he or she receives the Cal.  
25 DOJ report on the CCW applicant. See Cal. Pen. Code § 26185(a)(3). No CCW license may be  
26 issued if the Cal. DOJ “determines that the person is prohibited by state or federal law from

27 \_\_\_\_\_  
28 <sup>31</sup> The Court notes that in order to purchase a handgun in California, unless an exemption applies, an individual must  
obtain a handgun safety certificate. See Cal. Pen. Code § 31615. In order to obtain a handgun safety certificate, an  
individual must pay a fee and pass a written test. See Cal. Pen. Code §§ 31630, 31640, 31645, 31650, 31655.

1 possessing, receiving, owning, or purchasing a firearm.” Cal. Pen. Code § 26195(a); Scocca, 912  
2 F.Supp.2d at 883.

3         Once a CCW license is issued, it is valid for up to two years. See Cal. Pen. Code §  
4 26220(a).

5         The sheriff or police chief may include reasonable restrictions or conditions that they deem  
6 warranted, including restrictions as to the time, place, manner, and circumstances under which the  
7 CCW license holder may carry a concealed handgun. See Cal. Pen. Code § 26200(a). With some  
8 exceptions, the general rule is that a CCW license has applicability throughout the state of  
9 California. See Scocca, 912 F.Supp.2d at 883-84.

10         A CCW license may be revoked whenever Cal. DOJ or the issuing local agency determines  
11 that the CCW license holder has become prohibited under state or federal law from possessing,  
12 owning, receiving or purchasing a firearm. See Cal. Pen. Code § 26195(b)(1). If Cal. DOJ  
13 determines that a CCW license holder has become prohibited, then Cal. DOJ is required to contact  
14 the local agency that issued the CCW license. See Cal. Pen. Code § 26195(b)(2). If the local  
15 agency revokes a CCW license, that local agency must notify Cal. DOJ. See Cal. Pen. Code §  
16 26195(b)(3).

17         BOF does not issue CCW licenses, but does accept the applicant’s fingerprints and runs a  
18 background check on the applicant in order to insure that the applicant is not prohibited from  
19 possessing a firearm. See Trial Tr. 458:17-459:6. The BOF forwards the results of the  
20 background check, along with a copy of the applicant’s California criminal history, to the sheriff  
21 or chief of police. See id. at 459:4-6.

22         BOF considers an approved background check to “be good” for 30 days. See 459:7-13.

23         Sheriffs or chiefs of police rarely issue a CCW license within 30 days of the completed  
24 background check, and some agencies may wait as long as 9 months after the background check  
25 before issuing the CCW license. See id. at 459:14-23.

26         CCW license holders are subject to the “rap-back” system. See id. at 225:15-17. CCW  
27 license holders have a CII number. See id. at 488:14-489:22.

1 Silvester possess a CCW license issued by the City of Hanford chief of police. See Joint  
2 Ex. 6.<sup>32</sup>

3 11. Certificate Of Eligibility

4 A COE is a certificate issued by the California Department of Justice. See Cal. Pen. Code  
5 § 26710; Trial Tr. 60:14-17, 494:14-15.

6 In order to obtain a COE, a person must make a request for a COE to Cal. DOJ. See Cal.  
7 Pen. Code § 26710(a). The COE applicant is required to pay a fee. See id. § 26710(d). A COE  
8 applicant also provides a full set of live scan fingerprints and is issued a CII number. See Trial Tr.  
9 at 495:9-13. Cal. DOJ is then required to examine its records and the records in NICS “in order to  
10 determine if the applicant is prohibited by state or federal law from possessing, receiving, owning,  
11 or purchasing a firearm.” Cal. Pen. Code § 26710(b). If a person passes the background check,  
12 pays the filing fees, and submits the fingerprints, then Cal. DOJ is required to issue the COE. See  
13 Cal. Pen. Code § 26710(c); Trial Tr. at 511:9-12.

14 A COE is valid for one year. See Trial Tr. at 61:7-8. COE’s may be renewed on a yearly  
15 basis by paying a fee. See id. at 60:23-25. Prior to the expiration of the COE, the holder submits  
16 a renewal form, attests to the accuracy of the date in the renewal form, and pays a fee. See id. at  
17 61:9-22.

18 A COE is one component/requirement for several exceptions to the 10-day waiting period  
19 and for other firearms related activities. For example, “consultant evaluators,” who are exempt  
20 from the 10-day waiting period, are required to have a COE. See Cal. Pen. Code §§ 16410,  
21 27750. Along with a federal license, a COE is required for certain transfers of curio and relic  
22 firearms, and for the curio and firearm exception to the 10-day waiting period. See Cal. Pen. Code  
23 §§ 26585, 26970, 27670, 27966. Retail firearms dealers are required to possess *inter alia* a COE.  
24 See Cal. Pen. Code §§ 26700, 26705. A COE may also be obtained for employees of firearm  
25 dealers. See Cal. Pen. Code §§ 26915, 29120. In order to organize a gun show, an organizer or  
26 producer must have a COE. See Cal. Pen. Code §§ 16800, 27200. A COE is required for some  
27

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28 <sup>32</sup> The issuing agency is identified as the city of Hanford. Under Penal Code § 26155, Silvester’s CCW license would have been approved by the Hanford chief of police.

1 transfers of used firearms at gun shows. See Cal. Pen. Code § 26525. A manufacturer of firearms  
2 is required *inter alia* to possess a COE. See Cal. Pen. Code § 29050. Additionally, some  
3 individuals in the entertainment industry or individuals working with the military may seek to  
4 obtain a COE. See Trial Tr. 494:25-495:8.

5 A COE reads: “This is to certify that [Cal. DOJ] has completed a firearms eligibility check  
6 on the above named individual. As of the date of issue, there is nothing that would prohibit the  
7 individual from acquiring or possessing a firearm.” Plaintiff’s Ex. 4. COE’s also identify their  
8 “date of issuance” and their “date of expiration.” See id.

9 COE holders are subject to the “rap-back” system. See id. at 224:21-24.

10 Combs possess a valid COE. See Joint Ex. 5.

### 11 **C. Legal Standard**

12 The Second Amendment reads: “A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security  
13 of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.” U.S. Const.  
14 amend. II. The Second Amendment right to keep and bear arms is an individual right and a  
15 fundamental right that is incorporated against states and municipalities under the Fourteenth  
16 Amendment. See McDonald v. City of Chicago, 130 S.Ct. 3020, 3042 (2010); District of  
17 Columbia v. Heller, 554 U.S. 570, 595 (2008); Peruta v. County of San Diego, 742 F.3d 1144,  
18 1149-50 (9th Cir. 2014); Nordyke v. King, 681 F.3d 1041, 1043 (9th Cir. 2012) (en banc). The  
19 Second Amendment “protects a personal right to keep and bear arms for lawful purposes, most  
20 notably for self-defense within the home.” McDonald, 130 S.Ct. at 3044; see Heller, 554 U.S. at  
21 630. However, the Second Amendment’s protection is not unlimited, and longstanding regulatory  
22 measures such as “prohibitions on the possession of firearms by felons and the mentally ill, or  
23 laws forbidding the carrying of firearms in sensitive places such as schools and government  
24 buildings, or laws imposing conditions and qualifications on the commercial sale of arms,” are  
25 presumptively lawful. McDonald, 130 S.Ct. at 3047; Heller, 554 U.S. at 626-27; United States v.  
26 Chovan, 735 F.3d 1127, 1133 (9th Cir. 2013).

27 The Ninth Circuit has adopted a two-step Second Amendment framework: (1) the court  
28 asks whether the challenged law burdens conduct protected by the Second Amendment, and (2) if

1 so, the court determines whether the law meets the appropriate level of scrutiny. See Jackson v.  
2 City & County of San Francisco, 746 F.3d 953, 960 (9th Cir. 2014); Chovan, 735 F.3d at 1136; see  
3 also National Rifle Ass’n of Am. v. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, 700  
4 F.3d 185, 194-95 (5th Cir. 2012) (“N.R.A.”); Ezell v. City of Chicago, 651 F.3d 684, 702-03 (7th  
5 Cir. 2011); United States v. Chester, 628 F.3d 673, 680 (4th Cir. 2010).

6 Under the first step, courts must determine “whether the challenged law burdens conduct  
7 protected by the Second Amendment, based on a historical understanding of the scope of the  
8 Second Amendment right, or whether the challenged law falls within a well-defined and narrowly  
9 limited category of prohibitions that have been historically unprotected.” Jackson, 746 F.3d at 960  
10 (citing Brown v. Entertainment Merchants Ass’n, 131 S.Ct. 2729, 2733-34 (2011)); Heller, 554  
11 U.S. at 625; Chovan, 735 F.3d at 1136). This is accomplished by asking “whether the regulation  
12 is one of the ‘presumptively lawful regulatory measures’ identified in *Heller*, or whether the  
13 record includes persuasive historical evidence establishing that the regulation at issue imposes  
14 prohibitions that fall outside the historical scope of the Second Amendment.” Jackson, 746 F.3d  
15 at 960 (citing Heller, 554 U.S. at 627; Chovan, 735 F.3d at 1137); see also Peruta, 742 F.3d at  
16 1153-54; Ezell, 651 F.3d at 702-03; Chester, 628 F.3d at 680. In assessing the historical  
17 understanding, not all historical or scholarly sources are equal, and courts should focus on  
18 scholarly opinions that are consistent with *Heller* and *McDonald*, and on historical sources around  
19 the adoption of the Second Amendment (1791) and the time near the adoption of the Fourteenth  
20 Amendment (1868). See Peruta, 742 F.3d at 1155-66; Ezell, 651 F.3d at 702-03; Chester, 628  
21 F.3d at 680. If a law burdens conduct that falls outside of the Second Amendment’s scope, then  
22 the analysis ends and there is no violation. See N.R.A., 700 F.3d at 195; Ezell, 651 F.3d at 703.

23 As to the second step, rational basis review is not to be used. Heller, 554 U.S. at 628 n.27;  
24 Chovan, 735 F.3d at 1137. Instead, if a law burdens a right within the scope of the Second  
25 Amendment, either intermediate or strict scrutiny will be applied. See Jackson, 746 F.3d at 961;  
26 Chovan, 735 F.3d at 1138; N.R.A., 700 F.3d at 195; Chester, 628 F.3d at 682. Whether  
27 intermediate or strict scrutiny applies depends on: (1) how close the law comes to the core of the  
28 Second Amendment right, and (2) the severity of the law’s burden on the right. Jackson, 746 F.3d



1 at 960-61; Chovan, 735 F.3d at 1138; N.R.A., 700 F.3d at 195; Ezell, 651 F.3d at 703. Generally,  
2 a regulation that threatens a core Second Amendment right is subject to strict scrutiny, while a less  
3 severe regulation that does not encroach on a core Second Amendment right is subject to  
4 intermediate scrutiny. See Jackson, 746 F.3d at 961; N.R.A., 700 F.3d at 195; Chester, 628 F.3d  
5 at 682.

6 The “intermediate scrutiny” standard requires: (1) that the government’s stated objective  
7 must be significant, substantial, or important, and (2) that there is a reasonable fit between the  
8 challenged regulation and the government’s asserted objective. Jackson, 746 F.3d at 960; Chovan,  
9 735 F.3d at 1139; N.R.A., 700 F.3d at 195; Chester, 628 F.3d at 683. For there to be a “reasonable  
10 fit,” the regulation must not be substantially broader than necessary to achieve the government’s  
11 interest. See Peruta, 742 F.3d at 1177; Reed v. Town of Gilbert, 707 F.3d 1057, 1074 n.16 (9th  
12 Cir. 2013); Fantasyland Video, Inc. v. County of San Diego, 505 F.3d 996, 1004 (9th Cir. 2007);  
13 see also United States v. Marzzarella, 614 F.3d 85, 98 (3d Cir. 2010). The government cannot rely  
14 on “mere speculation or conjecture.” See Edenfield v. Fane, 507 U.S. 761, 770-71 (1993); see  
15 also United States v. Carter, 669 F.3d 411, 418 (4th Cir. 2011) (government may not rely on  
16 “anecdote and supposition”). A regulation “may not be sustained if it provides only ineffective or  
17 remote support for the government’s purpose,” rather there must be an indication that the  
18 regulation will alleviate the asserted harms to a “material degree.” Edenfield, 507 U.S. at 770-71;  
19 Valley Broadcasting Co. v. United States, 107 F.3d 1328, 1334 (9th Cir. 1997).

## 20 **D. Conclusions Of Law**

### 21 **1. Burden On The Second Amendment**

22 When the 10-day waiting period laws apply, they prohibit every person who purchases a  
23 firearm from taking possession of that firearm for a minimum of 10 days. One cannot exercise the  
24 right to keep and bear arms without actually possessing a firearm. Cf. Andrews v. State, 50 Tenn.  
25 165, 178 (1871) (“The right to keep and bear arms necessarily involves the right to purchase  
26 them . . . .”). The purchased firearm cannot be used by the purchaser for any purpose for at least  
27 10 days. Also, in some cases, due to additional costs and disruptions to schedules, the 10-day  
28 waiting period may cause individuals to forego the opportunity to purchase a firearm, and thereby

1 forego the exercise of their Second Amendment right to keep and bear arms. Therefore, the 10-  
2 day waiting period burdens the Second Amendment right to keep and bear arms.<sup>33</sup> Cf. id.

3 It is Defendant’s burden to show that the 10-day waiting period either falls outside the  
4 scope of Second Amendment protections as historically understood or fits within one of several  
5 categories of longstanding regulations that are presumptively lawful. See Jackson, 746 F.3d at  
6 960; Chovan, 735 F.3d at 1136-37; United States v. Greeno, 679 F.3d 510, 518 (6th Cir. 2012);  
7 Ezell, 651 F.3d at 702-03; Chester, 628 F.3d at 680. Defendant has not met her burden.

8 First, in terms of relevant historical understandings, Defendant has not established that  
9 waiting period laws were understood to be outside the protections of the Second Amendment.  
10 Defendant has cited no statutes or regulations around 1791 or 1868 that imposed waiting periods  
11 between the time of purchase and the time of delivery. Nor has Defendant cited historical  
12 materials or books that discuss waiting periods or attitudes towards waiting periods between 1791  
13 and 1868. There is no evidence to suggest that waiting periods imposed by the government would  
14 have been accepted and understood to be permissible under the Second Amendment. Cf. Peruta,  
15 742 F.3d at 1153-66.

16 Second, in terms of *Heller*’s longstanding presumptively lawful regulations, Defendant has  
17 not established that the 10-day waiting period is a presumptively lawful longstanding regulatory  
18 measure that imposes a condition and qualification on the commercial sale of a firearm. Such  
19 commercial regulations have been recognized as presumptively lawful by the Supreme Court.  
20 McDonald, 130 S.Ct. at 3047; Heller, 554 U.S. at 626-27. The Supreme Court did not explain  
21 what precisely it meant by the phrase “conditions and qualifications on the commercial sale of  
22 arms,” and the parties have cited no cases that interpret this phrase. Through a parenthetical  
23 citation in *Nordyke*, the Ninth Circuit suggested that a county ordinance, which permitted firearms  
24 to be brought to gun shows on county property if the gun was secured or in one’s personal  
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26 <sup>33</sup> Defendant has argued that because Combs and Silvester have each had a firearm during the relevant time period,  
27 their Second Amendment rights have not been impaired. However, that Combs and Silvester have been able to  
28 exercise their Second Amendment right with respect to at least one firearm does not mean that they have diminished  
rights under the Second Amendment. The Second Amendment applies to “arms” and its language does not limit its  
full protections to a single firearm. Some firearms are better suited for particular lawful purposes than others.  
Defendant has cited no authority that suggests that the Second Amendment only has application to a single firearm.

1 possession, was a law imposing a condition and qualification on the commercial sale of a firearm.  
2 See Nordyke, 681 F.3d at 1044. *Nordyke* did not expand on the concept beyond parenthetically  
3 quoting the relevant language from *Heller*. *Nordyke* may be read as indicating that the manner of  
4 how a firearm is displayed for sale is an acceptable commercial regulation.

5         Aside from *Nordyke*, and based on a plain reading of the term, longstanding commercial  
6 regulations might entail regulations about who may sell (e.g. a licensed dealer) or purchase (e.g.  
7 someone over the age of 18) a firearm, what firearms may be sold (e.g. prohibiting the sale of  
8 certain types of firearms), when a firearm may be purchased (e.g. no purchases after 8:00 p.m.), or  
9 where a firearm store may be located (e.g. zoning ordinances). In comparison to *Nordyke* and a  
10 plain reading of *Heller*'s language, it is not clear to the Court that a 10-day waiting period would  
11 qualify as a commercial regulation. Defendant cites no comparable commercial laws that apply to  
12 other goods and that require an individual to wait around 10-days before completing a purchase.  
13 The Court is not satisfied that Defendant has shown that the 10-day waiting period is one of  
14 *Heller*'s envisioned conditions and qualifications of a commercial sale.

15         Moreover, Defendant has not established that the waiting period law is sufficiently  
16 "longstanding" to be entitled to a presumption of lawfulness. Included in the concept of a  
17 "longstanding and presumptively lawful regulation" is that the regulation has long been accepted  
18 and is rooted in history. See N.R.A., 700 F.3d at 196; United States v. Rene E., 583 F.3d 8, 12  
19 (1st Cir. 2008). It is true that California has had some form of a waiting period since 1923.  
20 However, as described above, the Court is aware of no waiting period laws in any states during the  
21 time periods around 1791 and 1868. Consistent with these historical periods, currently only ten  
22 states impose a waiting period between the time of purchase and the time of delivery of a firearm.  
23 Waiting period laws did not exist near the time of adoption of the Second and Fourteenth  
24 Amendments, and they are not common now. That one state may have had some form of  
25 regulation for a significant period of time is insufficient for the Court to conclude that the law has  
26 been so generally accepted that it is presumptively lawful. Cf. N.R.A., 700 F.3d at 196 ("... a  
27 longstanding measure that harmonizes with the history and tradition of arms regulation in this  
28 country would not threaten the core of the Second Amendment guarantee."). Further, the 10-day

1 waiting period at issue was not imposed until 1996, and it was not until 1975 that California began  
2 to impose a waiting period that extended to double digits (15 days). Prior to 1975, the waiting  
3 period was 5 days. The waiting period that was in effect the longest in California was the 1-day  
4 waiting period between 1923 and 1955 for handguns, and there is an indication that the law was  
5 not applied to all transactions. Imposition of waiting periods beyond a “single digit” period is a  
6 recent development. Cf. Church of the Am. KKK v. City of Gary, 334 F.3d 676, 682-83 (7th Cir.  
7 2003) (noting that 30-day advance notice requirement to obtain a permit was reasonable under the  
8 circumstances of one case, but that a 45-day advance notice requirement was a substantially longer  
9 period and not reasonable). Finally, the waiting period at issue applies to all firearms. Prior to  
10 1991, the waiting period applied only to handguns. Although the 1996 waiting period is shorter in  
11 duration than the 15-day period imposed in 1975, the 1996/1991 waiting period is wider in scope.  
12 Applying a waiting period to all firearms is a recent development. In essence, Defendant has  
13 simply pointed to the fact that California has had some form of waiting period since 1923. That is  
14 not enough.

15 The 10-day waiting period burdens the Second Amendment rights of the Plaintiffs.

## 16 2. Level Of Scrutiny

17 Defendants contend that intermediate scrutiny applies to this case. Plaintiffs contend that  
18 the Court may utilize intermediate scrutiny because, if the laws do not pass intermediate scrutiny,  
19 then they will not pass strict scrutiny. Plaintiff is correct that if the waiting period laws do not  
20 pass intermediate scrutiny, they will not pass strict scrutiny. Given the parties’ focus on  
21 intermediate scrutiny, and the necessary implication if the laws do not pass intermediate scrutiny,  
22 the Court need not decide whether strict scrutiny applies. Instead, the Court will examine the  
23 waiting period laws under intermediate scrutiny.

## 24 3. Governmental Interest

25 Defendant contends that California has important interests in public safety/preventing gun  
26 violence and preventing prohibited individuals from obtaining firearms. Plaintiffs do not dispute  
27 that these are important interests. Courts have recognized a state’s important public safety interest  
28 with respect to various firearms laws. See Jackson, 746 F.3d at 965. “It is self-evident that public

1 safety is an important government interest.” Id. It is also self-evident that preventing people who  
2 are prohibited from possessing a firearm from obtaining one is also an important interest that goes  
3 hand in hand with public safety. Defendant has demonstrated that public safety and keeping  
4 firearms out of the hands of prohibited individuals are important interests. See id.; see also  
5 Chovan, 735 F.3d at 1139.

6 4. Reasonable Fit

7 Defendant has identified three rationales that it contends are “reasonable fits” that justify  
8 the 10-day waiting period: (1) conducting a background check; (2) providing a “cooling off  
9 period” to prevent impulsive acts of violence; and (3) investigating straw purchases. The Court  
10 will assess each of these justifications in relation to the three “as applied” groups.

11 a. Those Who Have A Firearm In The AFS System

12 The class of individuals that Plaintiffs identify within this group are those who already  
13 possess a firearm as confirmed by the AFS database, i.e. a firearm transaction is within the AFS  
14 system. See Doc. Nos. 91 at 30:5-8; and 105 at 7:15-18. Plaintiffs do not argue that this class of  
15 individuals should be exempt from further background checks. Rather, Plaintiffs contend that  
16 these individuals should not be subject to a per se 10-day waiting period, and should be able to  
17 take possession of their firearm upon passing the background check. See Doc. Nos. 98 at 16:10-  
18 15; and 105 at 7:6-8, 13:17-20, 30:25-31:12, 31:21-22. Thus, under Plaintiffs’ arguments and  
19 challenges, this class of individuals will still be required to undergo and pass a background check  
20 when they attempt to purchase a firearm. See Doc. Nos. 91 at 30:5-8; and 105 at 7:6-9, 13:17-20,  
21 30:25-31:22.

22 i. Background Check

23 Given the current BOF staffing levels, the potential additional research involved in  
24 reviewing a DROS application, and the possible response times from other agencies and states,  
25 10-days is a sufficient period of time in the clear majority of cases for BOF to complete a  
26 background check and approve or deny a DROS application.

27 However, within the 10-day waiting period, background checks can be completed  
28 anywhere from 1 minute to 10 days.

1           20% of all DROS applications are auto-approved usually in about 1 to 2 hours, and require  
2 no further review.<sup>34</sup> The mandated 10-day waiting period is the only thing that stops BOF from  
3 approving the sale and releasing the firearm when a DROS application is auto-approved.

4           80% of all DROS applications are not auto-approved, and further review, analysis, and/or  
5 investigation is necessary to determine if a person is prohibited from possessing a firearm. For  
6 non-auto-approved DROS applications that are completed within 10-days, the 10-day mandatory  
7 waiting period is the only thing stopping BOF from approving the sale and releasing the firearm.

8           For all DROS applications that are approved by BOF prior to expiration of the 10-day  
9 waiting period, conducting a background check is no longer a justification for the 10-day waiting  
10 period because the DROS applicant has been approved as determined by a completed background  
11 check.

12           Although additional disqualifying information may come to BOF's attention during the 10-  
13 day waiting period, that can be said of any time-frame, be it 1 day or 60 days. Moreover, the  
14 requirement in essence is to pass the background check, it is not to pass the background check  
15 every day for 10 straight days. Further, 20% of all DROS applications are auto-approved in a very  
16 short period of time, and they normally are not reviewed or rechecked at any time. Finally, of the  
17 approximately 99% of DROS applications that are approved, no new disqualifying information  
18 was obtained during the 10-day waiting period. Of the approximately 1% of DROS applications  
19 that are denied, there is no evidence regarding when in the 10-day waiting period that the  
20 disqualifying information was obtained, i.e. was the disqualifying information obtained during the  
21 initial BFEC or was it obtained late in the process as part of a re-check. Requiring an approved  
22 DROS applicant to wait the full 10-days, when the application is otherwise approved and the  
23 applicant already has a firearm in the AFS system, on the chance that new information might come  
24 in, is unduly speculative and anecdotal. See Edenfield, 507 U.S. at 770-71; Carter, 669 F.3d at  
25 418; Valley Broadcasting, 107 F.3d at 1334.

26           If disqualifying information arises about an individual who has already taken possession of  
27 a newly purchased firearm, California has in place the APPS system, which is designed to retrieve  
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<sup>34</sup> No evidence indicates that a material number of auto-approved DROS applications are ever rechecked.

1 such firearms from prohibited persons. The APPS system acts as a safety net for individuals who  
2 have been previously approved to possess a firearm, but who later become prohibited.

3 ii. Cooling Off Period

4 The rationale behind the “cooling off period” is to prevent individuals from performing  
5 impulsive acts of violence to others or to themselves. The “cooling off period” seeks to limit a  
6 person’s access to a firearm.

7 Because 80% of DROS applications are not auto-approved, a waiting period of at least 1-  
8 day will naturally occur because CIS Analysts must obtain and review various information.

9 If a person already possess a firearm, then that person will generally have access to that  
10 firearm and may commit impulsive acts of violence with it.

11 There is no evidence that a “cooling off period,” such as that provided by the 10-day  
12 waiting period, prevents impulsive acts of violence by individuals who already possess a firearm.<sup>35</sup>  
13 A waiting period for a newly purchased firearm will not deter an individual from committing  
14 impulsive acts of violence with a separate firearm that is already in his or her possession.

15 None of the submitted social science studies/excerpts advocate for a 10-day waiting period,  
16 or attempt to defend a 10-day waiting period as being supported by clinical or empirical evidence.  
17 The studies that are supportive of waiting periods are supportive in theory and seem to assume that  
18 the individual does not already possess a firearm. E.g. Defendant’s Ex. DG at 29.

19 It is true that some individuals may not have ammunition for a firearm in their possession,  
20 or that the firearm may not be in working condition. However, no evidence attempts to quantify  
21 this, and it is unduly speculative to conclude that this is a common occurrence. See Edenfield, 507  
22 U.S. at 770-71; Carter, 669 F.3d at 418; Valley Broadcasting, 107 F.3d at 1334.

23 \_\_\_\_\_  
24 <sup>35</sup> Defendant argues that because some firearms are better suited for certain purposes than other firearms, a waiting  
25 period may prevent an impulsive act of violence with the new weapon. Relying on Agent Graham’s testimony,  
26 Defendant cites the example of Shareef Allman, an individual who had several firearms, including at least one pistol, a  
27 rifle, and an assault-style weapon, and who killed nine people in Cupertino, California. See Trial Tr. at 360:13-20,  
28 415:21-416:8. The assault-weapon was not used in the shooting. See id. at 415:17-21. The pistol was obtained  
legally, and it was unknown whether the rifle was legally obtained. See id. at 417:9-17, 418:3-10. However, as  
Agent Graham admitted, any cooling off period created by the 10-day waiting period did not work. See id. at 419:20-  
23. In Allman’s case, Allman did not use the most dangerous firearm (the assault weapon). The firearms that Allman  
did have were either lawfully obtained and subjected to the 10-day waiting period, or they were obtained unlawfully  
and not subject to any background checks or waiting periods. Aside from Allman, Agent Graham had no other  
examples. See id. at 414:7-15.

1           If an individual already possess a firearm and then passes the background check, this  
2 indicates a history of responsible gun ownership. There has been no showing that applying the 10-  
3 day waiting period to all individuals who already possess a firearm will materially prevent  
4 impulsive acts of violence. See Valley Broadcasting, 107 F.3d at 1334.

5           In terms of the AFS database to confirm possession of a firearm, the BCEF can be  
6 modified to make a simple check if a DROS applicant has a firearm within the AFS database.

7           It is true that the AFS system does not contain every firearm in circulation in California.  
8 However, if a person has a weapon that appears within the AFS system database, and that person's  
9 application is otherwise approved, Defendant has not explained why it should be presumed that  
10 such an individual no longer possesses the firearm. Such a presumption is not supported by any  
11 identified evidence. Moreover, the AFS system is available to law enforcement personnel on a  
12 real time basis in the field, and law enforcement considers the AFS system to be reliable. If a law  
13 enforcement officer in the field who is about to confront a suspect can use and rely on the AFS  
14 system and proceed with more caution, then it is unknown why Cal. DOJ or BOF cannot also  
15 assume that an otherwise approved DROS applicant is still in possession of a firearm that is in the  
16 AFS system. Considering the absence of relevant data, law enforcement's real time reliance on  
17 the AFS system, and an otherwise approved background check, it can reasonably be assumed that  
18 a DROS applicant who has a firearm in the AFS system is still in possession of that firearm.<sup>36</sup>

19                           iii.     Straw Purchases

20           There is no evidence that the legislature implemented the waiting period laws in order to  
21 give law enforcement the opportunity to investigate straw purchases.

22           In a straw purchase, although it might be easier to intercept a weapon prior to delivery, this  
23 only occurs in about 15% of investigations. There is no evidence regarding the number of straw  
24 purchase investigations that lead to arrests or convictions or retrievals of firearms relative to the  
25 number of DROS applications. Further, although some straw purchasers have purchased other

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26 <sup>36</sup>To the extent that there are unarticulated concerns about whether an individual still possess a firearm within the AFS  
27 system, it may be possible to add a question on the DROS application in order for the applicant to confirm that the  
28 individual still possess a firearm that was either voluntarily registered, a handgun purchased on or after January 1,  
1996, or any firearm purchased on or after January 1, 2014. However, the parties have not addressed the issue, and  
the Court expresses no opinion on the matter, other than to say that an additional question may be a possibility.



1 guns in the past, there is no evidence regarding how often this occurs.

2 Straw purchase investigations begin when law enforcement officers review paperwork at  
3 gun shops, observe behavior and interactions at gun shows, or receive a tip from BATFE or a gun  
4 shop owner. Not all of the transactions observed or paperwork examined create a reasonable  
5 belief that a straw purchase is occurring. The agents only investigate a transaction if they have  
6 reason to believe that a straw purchase is occurring. Given Agent Graham’s description of straw  
7 purchase investigations, the vast majority of transactions do not appear to be straw purchases.

8 Applying the full 10-day waiting period to all transactions for purposes of investigating a  
9 straw purchase, in the absence of any reason to suspect that a straw purchase is in fact occurring, is  
10 too overbroad. See Peruta, 742 F.3d at 1177.

11 If law enforcement officers personally observe what they believe to be a straw purchase, be  
12 it at a gun show or at a gun store, they may intercede during the purchase process.

13 If the legislature believes that law enforcement should have additional time in which to  
14 investigate a straw purchase, then a statute could be enacted that permits law enforcement to cause  
15 a delay in the approval of a DROS application, if law enforcement has reason to believe that a  
16 straw purchase is occurring.<sup>37</sup>

17 iv. Conclusion

18 As applied to individuals who already possess a firearm as confirmed by the AFS system,  
19 Defendant has not established that applying the full 10-day waiting period when the background  
20 check is completed prior to 10-days is a “reasonable fit.” The 10-day waiting period laws as  
21 applied to individuals who already lawfully possess a firearm as confirmed by the AFS system,  
22 and who pass the background check prior to 10-days, violates the Second Amendment.<sup>38</sup> See  
23 Edenfield, 507 U.S. at 770-71; Peruta, 742 F.3d at 1177; Valley Broadcasting, 107 F.3d at 1334.

24 \_\_\_\_\_  
25 <sup>37</sup> California has provided for additional delays if there is difficulty in determining whether an individual is prohibited  
26 from possessing a firearm. Cal. Pen. Code § 28220(f). Plaintiffs suggest that law enforcement may utilize AB 500/§  
28220(f) in the context of straw purchases. The parties have not briefed this issue extensively, and the Court does not  
express an opinion on the question, other than to note that such an interpretation of § 28220(f) may be possible.

27 <sup>38</sup> Again, the Court emphasizes that this as applied challenge is not one that challenges the requirement that a  
28 purchaser pass a background check. These individuals must still pass the background check when they attempt to  
purchase a firearm. They may not, however, be required to wait the full 10-days if the background check is completed  
and approved prior to 10-days.

1                    b.     Those Who Have A CCW License

2                    i.     Background Check

3                    Plaintiffs do not contend that CCW license holders should not have to undergo and pass  
4 the background check. First, Plaintiffs' proposed injunctive relief requests that CCW license  
5 holders undergo the same background check as other individuals who are exempt from the 10-day  
6 waiting period. Police officers who are exempt from the 10-day waiting period pursuant to  
7 California Penal Code § 26950(a) and § 27650(a) must still pass the BFEC. See Trial Tr. 501:17-  
8 19. Therefore, the BFEC/standard background check would apply to CCW license holders when  
9 they attempt to purchase a firearm. Second, Plaintiffs have expressly confirmed that all members  
10 of the as applied challenges would still be required to pass a background check when they attempt  
11 to purchase a firearm. See Doc. No. 105 at 7:6-8, 13:17-20, 30:25-31:22.

12                    The Court's above analysis with respect to background checks for those who have a  
13 firearm in the AFS system also applies to CCW license holders. If the background check is  
14 completed in less than 10-days, then a background check is no longer a justification to make a  
15 CCW license holder wait the full 10-days.

16                    Also, the BFEC can be modified to make a simple check through the AFS system to  
17 determine if a person has a valid CCW license.

18                    Additionally, not only does the APPS system act as a safety net for any CCW license  
19 holder who may become prohibited from possessing a firearm, the rap back program acts as a  
20 further safety net with respect to California criminal conduct by a CCW license holder.

21                    ii.     Cooling Off Period

22                    For CCW license holders who already possess a firearm as confirmed by the AFS system,  
23 the above analysis regarding a cooling off period (for those who already have a firearm as  
24 confirmed in the AFS system) also applies to CCW license holders.

25                    For CCW license holders who do not already possess a firearm as confirmed by the AFS  
26 system, there is no evidence regarding unlawful firearm violence committed by CCW license  
27 holders. There is no evidence regarding suicide attempts by CCW license holders or how long  
28 after purchase of a firearm that suicides by CCW license holders generally occur. The social

1 science studies regarding waiting periods in general are inconclusive at best. None of the  
2 submitted social science studies presented to the Court address suicide as it relates to individuals  
3 who must meet the type of requirements of a CCW license,<sup>39</sup> and none of the excerpts advocate for  
4 or defend a 10-day cooling off period.

5         The nature and unique requirements of CCW licenses are such that it is unlikely that CCW  
6 license holders would engage in impulsive acts of violence. CCW license applicants must  
7 demonstrate good moral character. Engaging in unlawful acts of violence is inconsistent with  
8 good moral character. CCW license applicants must take a statutorily mandated class and  
9 demonstrate proficiency and safe handling of a firearm. Safe handling practices could cause a gun  
10 owner to be more reflective and deliberate about using a firearm. CCW license applicants must  
11 pass the BFEC, which searches databases that deal with criminal and mental health prohibitions.  
12 If the person does not pass the background check, they cannot obtain a CCW license. CCW  
13 license applicants must demonstrate good cause to either a sheriff or a police chief in order to  
14 obtain the CCW license, and a sheriff or chief of police may impose reasonable restrictions on as  
15 part of a CCW license. Thus, CCW licenses are not issued without reason and individual  
16 consideration. If there is sufficient cause to believe that an applicant has or is experiencing mental  
17 health problems, then a sheriff or police chief may require that applicant to undergo psychological  
18 testing. If a person is mentally unstable with respect to themselves or others, the psychological  
19 testing could detect that problem. With the exception of passing the BFEC/standard background  
20 check, none of these CCW license requirements must be met by an ordinary California firearms  
21 purchaser. Finally, once issued, a CCW license allows its holder to carry a concealed handgun in  
22 public for 2 years, generally throughout the entire State of California.

23         If an individual has met the requirements for obtaining a CCW license, and thereby has  
24 demonstrated that he or she can be expected and trusted to carry a concealed handgun in public for  
25 2 years, it is unknown why that person would have to wait 10-days before being permitted to take

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26 <sup>39</sup> The Court notes that one professional article endorsed waiting periods, prohibiting certain individuals from  
27 purchasing firearms, and permits for handgun purchasers. See Defendant's Ex. DG. California has such a prohibition  
28 and conducts a background check to enforce those prohibitions. Also, CCW license holders who purchase a handgun  
will have gone through two certification-type processes: the process to obtain the CCW license and the process to  
obtain a handgun safety certificate. See Cal. Pen. Code §§ 26150, 26155, 31615.

1 possession of newly purchased firearm.<sup>40</sup> Imposing the 10-day waiting period as a cooling off  
2 period on a CCW license holder is speculative and its effects appear remote at best.<sup>41</sup> See  
3 Edenfield, 507 U.S. at 770-71; Peruta, 742 F.3d at 1177; Valley Broadcasting, 107 F.3d at 1334.

4 iii. Straw Purchase

5 The Court's above analysis with respect to straw purchases for those who have a firearm in  
6 the AFS system also applies to CCW license holders.

7 There is no data or evidence regarding CCW license holders engaging in straw purchases.

8 The requirements for obtaining a CCW license strongly indicate that a CCW license holder  
9 is unlikely to engage in a straw purchase. A CCW license holder must demonstrate to either a  
10 sheriff or a police chief that he or she is of good moral character. Engaging in a straw purchase so  
11 that a prohibited person may obtain a firearm is not compatible with good moral character. A  
12 CCW license holder must also demonstrate good cause for issuance of a CCW license. If there is  
13 good cause to obtain the CCW license, it seems unlikely that a CCW license holder would  
14 jeopardize the CCW license for the purpose of helping a prohibited individual obtain a firearm.  
15 See Edenfield, 507 U.S. at 770-71; Valley Broadcasting, 107 F.3d at 1334.

16 iv. Conclusion

17 As applied to individuals who hold a valid CCW license, Defendant has not established  
18 that applying the full 10-day waiting period when the background check is completed prior to 10-  
19 days is a "reasonable fit." The 10-day waiting period laws as applied to individuals who possess a  
20 valid CCW license, and who pass the background check prior to 10 days, violates the Second  
21 Amendment.<sup>42</sup> See Edenfield, 507 U.S. at 770-71; Peruta, 742 F.3d at 1177; Valley Broadcasting,  
22 107 F.3d at 1334.

23  
24 \_\_\_\_\_  
25 <sup>40</sup> The Court notes that the submitted legislative history regarding the California waiting periods generally support the  
26 conclusion that the waiting period laws were modified to 5 days, 15 days, and 10 days in response to concerns about  
the background check process. There is little evidence to suggest that the waiting periods were modified for the  
purpose of expanding or retracting a cooling off period.

27 <sup>41</sup> The Court notes that the state of Florida excepts its CCW license holders from the 3-day waiting period for  
28 handguns. See Fla. Stat. § 790.0655(2)(a).

<sup>42</sup> Again, the Court emphasizes that this as applied challenge is not one that challenges the requirement that a

1                   c.     Those Who Have A COE

2                   Plaintiffs do not contend that COE holders should not have to undergo and pass a  
3 background check. First, Plaintiffs’ proposed injunctive relief requests that COE holders undergo  
4 the same background check as other individuals who are exempt from the 10-day waiting period.  
5 Police officers who are exempt from the 10-day waiting period pursuant to California Penal Code  
6 §§ 26950(a) and 27650(a) must still pass the BFEC/standard background check. See Trial Tr.  
7 501:17-19. Therefore, the BFEC/standard background check would apply to COE holders when  
8 they attempt to purchase a firearm. Second, Plaintiffs have expressly confirmed that all members  
9 of the as applied challenges would still be required to pass a background check when they attempt  
10 to purchase a firearm. See Doc. No. 105 at 7:6-8, 13:17-20, 30:25-31:22.

11                  The class of COE holders under this as applied challenge was somewhat unclear. Plaintiffs  
12 indicated that the class consisted of those who merely hold a valid COE. See id. at 7:11-13.

13                  However, a COE in and of itself only establishes that a person passed the background  
14 check one other time in the past. Unlike a CCW license holder, a COE holder does not have to  
15 establish good moral character, good cause, take a mandated course, or be subject to possible  
16 psychological testing. That is, COE holders are not subject to nearly the same level of scrutiny as  
17 are CCW license holders. At oral argument, Plaintiffs acknowledged that the process to obtain a  
18 CCW license is more demanding than that required to obtain a COE. See id. at 8:12-21.

19                  If a COE holder does not already possess a firearm, they are very similar to a first time  
20 firearms purchaser. Plaintiffs do not challenge the waiting period laws for first time firearms  
21 purchasers without a COE. Plaintiffs stated at oral argument that while it is theoretically possible  
22 for a COE holder to not possess a firearm, it was highly unlikely. See id. at 8:21-9:1. However,  
23 Plaintiffs conceded that “if somebody has a COE, but there is no evidence that they also own a  
24 gun, it may be appropriate to subject them to a 10-day waiting period.” Id. at 10:8-12.

25                  Given the Plaintiffs’ concessions at oral argument and the nature of merely holding a COE,  
26 the Court cannot hold that the 10-day waiting period as applied to those who merely hold a valid

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27 purchaser pass a background check. These individuals must still pass the background check when they attempt to  
28 purchase a firearm. They may not, however, be required to wait 10-days if the background check is completed and  
approved prior to 10-days.

1 COE violates the Second Amendment.

2         However, Plaintiffs stated that any concerns about whether a COE holder already possess a  
3 firearm could be addressed through the remedy issued, essentially by fashioning “a remedy that  
4 says COE and possess a firearm.” Id. at 9:22-10:3. This is consistent with the relief requested by  
5 Plaintiffs in their proposed findings of fact and conclusions of law. Plaintiffs requested injunctive  
6 relief for those who hold a valid COE and also have a firearm as confirmed by the AFS system.  
7 See Doc. No. 91 at 30:1-4.

8         Consideration of the waiting period laws as applied to those who possess both a valid COE  
9 and a firearm as confirmed by the AFS system leads to a finding that the waiting period laws  
10 violate the Second Amendment. For those who have both a valid COE and already possess a  
11 firearm as confirmed by the AFS system, the constitutional analysis would be the same as detailed  
12 above for those who already possess a firearm as confirmed by the AFS system. The only  
13 distinction between the two “as applied groups” is that the COE holder has made himself or  
14 herself more identifiable in terms of the state criminal law firearms prohibitions through the rap  
15 back program and the issuance of a CII number.

16         The BFEC can be modified to make a simple check through the AFS system to determine  
17 if a DROS applicant has a valid COE and also to determine if the DROS applicant has a firearm  
18 within the AFS database.

19         The Court will accept Plaintiffs’ concessions and suggestions. For the reasons stated  
20 above with respect to those who have a firearm as confirmed by the AFS system, the Court finds  
21 that the 10-day waiting period laws as applied to those who possess both a valid COE and a  
22 firearm as confirmed by the AFS system, and who pass the background check prior to 10 days, is  
23 not a reasonable fit and thus, violates the Second Amendment. See Edenfield, 507 U.S. at 770-71;  
24 Peruta, 742 F.3d at 1177; Valley Broadcasting, 107 F.3d at 1334.

25  
26 **IV.                   FOURTEENTH AMENDMENT CHALLENGE**

27         Plaintiffs state that the Court need not address their Fourteenth Amendment challenges if  
28 the Court finds merit to their three as applied challenges to the 10-day waiting period. Plaintiffs

1 contend that if a violation of the Second Amendment is found, then the appropriate injunctive  
2 relief would essentially create additional exceptions to the waiting period and the Fourteenth  
3 Amendment issues would not need to be addressed. Because the Court has found violations of the  
4 Second Amendment as discussed above, the Court will follow Plaintiffs' recommendation and  
5 decline to reach the Fourteenth Amendment issues.

6  
7 **V. ORDER**

8 The Court has found that the 10-day waiting periods of Penal Code § 26815(a) and §  
9 27540(a) violate the Second Amendment as applied to certain groups. Plaintiffs urge the Court to  
10 follow the approach of *Moore v. Madigan*, 702 F.3d 933, 942 (7th Cir. 2012), in which the  
11 Seventh Circuit stayed its ruling for 180-days in order to give the Illinois legislature the  
12 opportunity to craft new laws in light the unconstitutionality of various Illinois firearms laws. The  
13 Court finds *Moore's* approach to be appropriate.

14 Accordingly, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that:

- 15 1. The 10-day waiting periods of California Penal Code § 26815(a) and § 27540(a) violate  
16 the Second Amendment as applied to those individuals who successfully pass the  
17 BFEC/standard background check prior to 10 days and who are in lawful possession of an  
18 additional firearm as confirmed by the AFS system;
  - 19 a. If the BFEC/standard background check for such an individual is completed and  
20 approved before 10-days, Defendant shall immediately release the firearm for  
21 delivery to such individual and shall not wait the full 10-days;
- 22 2. The 10-day waiting periods of California Penal Code § 26815(a) and § 27540(a) violate  
23 the Second Amendment as applied to those individuals who successfully pass the  
24 BFEC/standard background check prior to 10 days and who possess a valid CCW license  
25 issued pursuant to California Penal Code § 26150 or § 26155;
  - 26 a. If the BFEC/standard background check for such an individual is completed and  
27 approved before 10-days, Defendant shall immediately release the firearm for  
28 delivery to such individual and shall not wait the full 10-days;

1 3. The 10-day waiting periods of California Penal Code § 26815(a) and § 27540(a) violate  
2 the Second Amendment as applied to those individuals who successfully pass the  
3 BFEC/standard background check prior to 10 days and who possess both a valid COE  
4 issued pursuant to California Penal Code § 26710 and a firearm as confirmed by the AFS  
5 system.

6 a. If the BFEC/standard background check for such an individual is completed and  
7 approved before 10-days, Defendant shall immediately release the firearm for  
8 delivery to such individual and shall not wait the full 10-days;

9 4. Defendant shall modify their BFEC procedures as they deem necessary so as to be able to  
10 comply fully and in good faith with this order;<sup>43</sup>

11 5. Nothing in this order is to be construed as interfering with Defendant's authority to deny a  
12 transfer or sale of a firearm to those who are prohibited by state or federal law from  
13 possessing a firearm;

14 6. Nothing in this order is to be construed as interfering with the Defendant's ability to delay  
15 a transfer or sale of a firearm when further investigation is required to confirm that a buyer  
16 or transferee is not prohibited by state or federal law from possessing a firearm;

17 7. Paragraphs 1 through 6 of this order are stayed for a period of 180 days from entry of this  
18 order;

19 8. The parties shall appear for a status conference on December 8, 2014 in Courtroom No. 2  
20 at 1:30 p.m.;<sup>44</sup> and

21 9. The Clerk shall enter judgment in favor of Plaintiffs and against Defendant.

22 IT IS SO ORDERED.

23 Dated: August 22, 2014

24   
25 SENIOR DISTRICT JUDGE

26 \_\_\_\_\_  
27 <sup>43</sup> The Court particularly directs Defendant's attention to the testimony Assistant Bureau Chief Buford and the  
28 "simple" checks within AFS to determine if an individual has a firearm, has a valid CCW license, or has a valid COE.

<sup>44</sup> The parties shall file a joint status conference report on December 1, 2014. If the parties agree upon a different date  
for a status conference, they may file a stipulation with the Court to move the status conference.