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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

THE GEO GROUP, INC.,  
  
Plaintiff,  
  
v.  
  
GAVIN C. NEWSOM, in his official  
capacity as Governor of the State of  
California; XAVIER BECERRA, in his  
official capacity as Attorney General of  
the State of California,  
  
Defendants.

Case No.: 19-CV-2491 JLS (WVG)

**ORDER (1) GRANTING IN PART  
AND DENYING IN PART  
PLAINTIFFS’ MOTIONS FOR  
PRELIMINARY INJUNCTION, AND  
(2) GRANTING IN PART AND  
DENYING IN PART DEFENDANTS’  
MOTIONS TO DISMISS AND FOR  
JUDGMENT ON THE PLEADINGS**

AND ALL CONSOLIDATED CASES

This Order addresses motions concerning the constitutionality of California Assembly Bill 32 (“A.B. 32”) in two consolidated cases: *The GEO Group, Inc. v. Newsom*, No. 19-CV-2491 JLS (WVG) (S.D. Cal. filed Dec. 30, 2019) (“*GEO*”), and *United States v. Newsom*, No. 20-CV-154 JLS (WVG) (S.D. Cal. filed Jan. 24, 2020) (“*U.S.*”). Specifically before the Court are Plaintiff The GEO Group, Inc.’s (“*GEO*”), and the United States of America’s Motions for Preliminary Injunction (“*GEO Mot.*,” *GEO* ECF No. 15, and “*U.S. Mot.*,” *U.S.* ECF No. 8, respectively), as well as Defendants Gavin Newsom and Xavier Becerra’s Motion to Dismiss *GEO*’s Complaint (“*MTD*,” *GEO* ECF Nos. 20, 22)

1 and Defendants Newsom, Becerra, and the State of California’s Motion for Judgment on  
 2 the Pleadings of the United States’ Complaint (“MJP,” *U.S. ECF No. 13*). Also before the  
 3 Court are briefs of *Amici Curiae* Immigrant Legal Resource Center, Human Rights Watch,  
 4 and Freedom for Immigrants (the “Detention *Amici*”) filed in support of Defendants in both  
 5 cases (“Detention *Amici Br.*,” *GEO ECF No. 26 & U.S. ECF No. 19*), as well as the brief  
 6 of *Amici Curiae* Immigrant Defense Advocates and Immigrant Legal Defense (the  
 7 “Procurement *Amici*”) filed in support of Defendants in the *GEO* case (“Procurement *Amici*  
 8 *Br.*,” *GEO ECF No. 40*). The Court held a hearing on the above-enumerated matters on  
 9 July 16, 2020.<sup>1</sup> *See GEO ECF Nos. 43, 48 (“Tr.”); U.S. ECF No. 33*. Having carefully  
 10 considered the Parties’ arguments, pleadings and evidence, and the applicable law, the  
 11 Court **GRANTS IN PART AND DENIES IN PART** the *GEO* and *U.S.* Motions and  
 12 **GRANTS IN PART AND DENIES IN PART** Defendants’ Motions to Dismiss and for  
 13 Judgment on the Pleadings, as follows.

## 14 BACKGROUND<sup>2</sup>

### 15 I. A.B. 32

16 On December 3, 2018, California Assembly Member Rob Bonta introduced A.B. 32  
 17 in the California Legislature. *GEO ECF No. 1* (“*GEO Compl.*”) ¶¶ 21, 30. Governor  
 18 Newsom signed A.B. 32 into law on October 11, 2019. *GEO Compl.* ¶ 33.

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 20 <sup>1</sup> Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, *see, e.g.*, Order of the Chief Judge No. 24 (S.D. Cal. filed Apr. 17,  
 21 2020); Executive Order N-33-20, Executive Department of the State of California (Mar. 19, 2020), the  
 hearing was held by video and telephone. *See GEO ECF No. 42; U.S. ECF No. 32*.

22 <sup>2</sup> On a motion to dismiss pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 12(b)(6) or a motion for judgment  
 23 on the pleadings pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 12(c), the Court may take into account the  
 24 Parties’ pleadings, any documents physically attached to those pleadings or incorporated by reference  
 25 therein, and any documents properly subject to judicial notice. *See, e.g., Khoja v. Orexigen Therapeutics,*  
 26 *Inc.*, 899 F.3d 988, 999 (9th Cir. 2018) (judicial notice and incorporation by reference); *Harris v. Cty. of*  
 27 *Orange*, 682 F.3d 1126, 1132 (9th Cir. 2012) (Rule 12(c) motion); *Vasquez v. Los Angeles Cty.*, 487 F.3d  
 28 1246, 1249 (9th Cir. 2007) (Rule 12(b)(6) motion). “Nonetheless, in deciding a motion for preliminary  
 injunction—unlike a motion to dismiss—the Court is not limited solely to the pleadings and may consider  
 affidavits or declarations along with other evidence submitted by the parties.” *Walker v. Woodford*, 454  
 F. Supp. 2d 1007, 1024 (S.D. Cal. 2006) (citing Fed. R. Civ. P. 65; *Univ. of Tex. v. Camenisch*, 451 U.S.  
 390, 395 (1981); *Flynt Distrib. Co. v. Harvey*, 734 F.2d 1389, 1394 (9th Cir.1984)), *aff’d*, 393 F. App’x  
 513 (9th Cir. 2010). The Court is guided by these legal principles in its Analysis. *See infra* pages 21–69.

1 A.B. 32 contains three sections. *See* 2019 Cal. Legis. Serv. Ch. 739 (A.B. 32)  
2 (2019). Section 1 generally prohibits the California Department of Corrections and  
3 Rehabilitation (“CDCR”) from entering into a new contract, or renewing an existing  
4 contract, with a “private, for-profit prison facility located in or outside [California] to  
5 provide housing for state prison inmates” after January 1, 2020. *See* A.B. 32 § 1; Cal.  
6 Penal Code § 5003.1(a). There also is an exception allowing California to renew or extend  
7 a contract with a private, for-profit detention facility to comply with any court-ordered  
8 population cap.<sup>3</sup> *See* A.B. 32 § 1; Cal. Penal Code § 5003.1(e). In its entirety, Section 1  
9 of A.B. 32 provides:

- 10 (a) On or after January 1, 2020, [CDCR] shall not enter into a  
11 contract with a private, for-profit prison facility located in  
12 or outside of the state to provide housing for state prison  
13 inmates.
- 14 (b) On or after January 1, 2020, [CDCR] shall not renew an  
15 existing contract with a private, for-profit prison facility  
16 located in or outside of the state to incarcerate state prison  
17 inmates.
- 18 (c) After January 1, 2028, a state prison inmate or other  
19 person under the jurisdiction of [CDCR] shall not be  
20 incarcerated in a private, for-profit prison facility.
- 21 (d) As used in this section, “private, for-profit prison facility”  
22 does not include a facility that is privately owned, but is  
23 leased and operated by [CDCR].
- 24 (e) Notwithstanding subdivisions (a) and (b), [CDCR] may  
25 renew or extend a contract with a private, for-profit prison  
26 facility to provide housing for state prison inmates in order

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26 <sup>3</sup> California’s prison system is currently subject to a court-ordered population cap, pursuant to which its  
27 total population may not exceed 137.5 percent of the prisons’ design capacity. GEO Compl. ¶ 26 (citing  
28 *Brown v. Plata*, 563 U.S. 493 (2011); *Coleman v. Brown*, 952 F. Supp. 2d 901 (E.D. Cal. 2013)). As of  
December 1, 2019, California’s prison system was operating at 131.2 percent of design capacity. GEO  
Compl. ¶ 27.

1 to comply with the requirements of any court-ordered  
2 population cap.

3 Cal. Penal Code § 5003.1.

4 Section 2 of A.B. 32 contains several provisions codified at California Penal Code  
5 sections 9500 through 9505. *See* A.B. 32 § 2; Cal. Penal Code §§ 9500–9505. Section  
6 9500 defines the terms “[d]etention facility” and “[p]rivate detention facility.” *See*  
7 *generally* Cal. Penal Code § 9500. Specifically, the statute defines a “[d]etention facility”  
8 as “any facility in which persons are incarcerated or otherwise involuntarily confined for  
9 purposes of execution of a punitive sentence imposed by a court or detention pending a  
10 trial, hearing, or other judicial or administrative proceeding,” Cal. Penal Code § 9500(a),  
11 and a “[p]rivate detention facility” as “a detention facility that is operated by a private,  
12 nongovernmental, for-profit entity, and operating pursuant to a contract or agreement with  
13 a governmental entity.” Cal. Penal Code § 9500(b).

14 Section 9501 contains a general prohibition on the operation of a private detention  
15 facility within the State of California: “Except as otherwise provided in this title, a person  
16 shall not operate a private detention facility within the state.” Cal. Penal Code § 9501.  
17 This provision is followed by three additional provisions containing exceptions. *See* Cal.  
18 Penal Code §§ 9502, 9503, 9505.

19 Section 9502 excepts several, specific types of facilities, namely:

- 20 (a) Any facility providing rehabilitative, counseling,  
21 treatment, mental health, educational, or medical services  
22 to a juvenile that is under the jurisdiction of the juvenile  
23 court pursuant to Part 1 (commencing with Section 100)  
of Division 2 of the Welfare and Institutions Code.
- 24 (b) Any facility providing evaluation or treatment services to  
25 a person who has been detained, or is subject to an order  
26 of commitment by a court, pursuant to Section 1026, or  
27 pursuant to Division 5 (commencing with Section 5000)  
or Division 6 (commencing with Section 6000) of the  
28 Welfare and Institutions Code.

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- 1 (c) Any facility providing educational, vocational, medical, or  
2 other ancillary services to an inmate in the custody of, and  
3 under the direct supervision of, the Department of  
4 Corrections and Rehabilitation or a county sheriff or other  
5 law enforcement agency.
- 6 (d) A residential care facility licensed pursuant to Division 2  
7 (commencing with Section 1200) of the Health and Safety  
8 Code.
- 9 (e) Any school facility used for the disciplinary detention of a  
10 pupil.
- 11 (f) Any facility used for the quarantine or isolation of persons  
12 for public health reasons pursuant to Division 105  
13 (commencing with Section 120100) of the Health and  
14 Safety Code.
- 15 (g) Any facility used for the temporary detention of a person  
16 detained or arrested by a merchant, private security guard,  
17 or other private person pursuant to Section 490.5 or 837.

18 Cal. Penal Code § 9502.

19 Section 9503 exempts facilities that are leased from private parties but operated by  
20 CDCR or another law enforcement agency: “Section 9501 does not apply to any privately  
21 owned property or facility that is leased and operated by the [CDCR] or a county sheriff or  
22 other law enforcement agency.” Cal. Penal Code § 9503.

23 The last exception, appearing in Section 9505, exempts contracts in existence before  
24 January 1, 2020, and contracts renewed pursuant to Section 5003.1(e):

25 Section 9501 does not apply to either of the following:

- 26 (a) A private detention facility that is operating pursuant to a  
27 valid contract with a governmental entity that was in effect  
28 before January 1, 2020, for the duration of that contract,  
not to include any extensions made to or authorized by that  
contract.

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1 (b) A private detention facility contract renewed pursuant to  
2 subdivision (e) of Section 5003.1.

3 Cal. Penal Code § 9505.

4 Finally, Section 3 of A.B. 32 contains a severability clause: “The provisions of this  
5 act are severable. If any provision of this act or its application is held invalid, that invalidity  
6 shall not affect other provisions or applications that can be given effect without the invalid  
7 provision or application.” A.B. 32 § 3.

## 8 **II. Plaintiffs’ Private Detention Facilities in California**

### 9 **A. *The United States Bureau of Prisons***

#### 10 *1. Detention Facilities*

11 The United States Bureau of Prisons (“BOP”) is a sub-agency of the United States  
12 Department of Justice (“DOJ”) that is overseen by the United States Attorney General.  
13 *U.S. ECF No. 1 (“U.S. Compl.”) ¶¶ 6, 14.* BOP has the authority and responsibility to  
14 “‘designate the place of . . . imprisonment’ for persons sentenced to imprisonment,” *id.*  
15 ¶ 15 (citing 18 U.S.C. §§ 3621, 4042), and “may designate” as a place of confinement “any  
16 available penal or correctional facility that meets minimum standards of health and  
17 habitability established by [BOP], whether maintained by the Federal Government or  
18 otherwise.” *Id.* (quoting 18 U.S.C. § 3621(b)).

19 Nationwide, BOP houses nearly 25,000, or approximately 14 percent, of its over  
20 175,000 inmates in private detention facilities. *Id.* ¶ 40. Roughly the same proportion of  
21 BOP’s 16,000 inmates in California are also housed in private detention facilities. *Id.*

22 BOP owns one detention facility in California, Taft Correctional Institute (“Taft”),  
23 that is privately operated. *Id.* ¶ 41. Taft houses 1,300 inmates. *Id.* ¶ 42. BOP’s contract  
24 for the private operation of Taft was due to expire in March 2020. *Id.* ¶ 41. BOP considered  
25 not renewing the contract because of infrastructure issues at Taft, although BOP may seek  
26 to award a new contract if it determines that Taft could remain open while repairs are being  
27 made. *Id.* Although BOP currently does not have plans to contract with other private  
28 facilities in California, it may in the future depending on its needs. *Id.* ¶ 43.



1           2.     *Residential Reentry Centers*

2           Congress also expressly has provided that a federal prisoner may serve a limited  
3 portion of his or her sentence “under conditions that will afford that prisoner a reasonable  
4 opportunity to adjust to and prepare for the reentry of that prisoner into the community,”  
5 including in a community correctional facility. U.S. Compl. ¶ 17 (quoting 18 U.S.C.  
6 § 3624(c)) (citing 18 U.S.C. §§ 3563(b)(10)–(11)). Congress expanded BOP’s use of  
7 Residential Reentry Centers (“RRCs”) through the First Step Act of 2018, which authorizes  
8 extended placement in RRCs of inmates who have earned time credits under the risk-and-  
9 needs-assessment system. U.S. Compl. ¶ 47. BOP therefore anticipates that the need for  
10 RRCs in California will increase significantly over the next few years. *Id.*

11           Currently, BOP contracts with four private contractors to operate ten RRCs located  
12 throughout California that house and supervise approximately 900 inmates.<sup>4</sup> *Id.* ¶ 44.  
13 These RRCs supervise inmates on home confinement and also provide assistance to  
14 inmates who are nearing release by providing a supervised environment and several  
15 programs, including employment counseling, job placement, and financial management  
16 assistance. *Id.* Current contracts expire between March 2020 and February 2021, or, if all  
17 option periods are exercised, as they usually are, between March 2021 and January 2030.  
18 *Id.* ¶ 45.

19           BOP also has one open solicitation and one solicitation it would like to open for  
20 additional RRCs in San Francisco and San Diego, respectively. *Id.* ¶ 46. The anticipated  
21 performance dates are in 2021. *Id.*

22           Finally, BOP maintains about 15 to 20 percent of available beds in RRCs nationally  
23 for use by federal courts as an intermediate sanction during supervision or probation,  
24 although these individuals are not in BOP custody. *Id.* ¶ 48.

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28 <sup>4</sup> One RRC is located in each of Riverside, Oakland, San Francisco, San Diego, Garden Grove, El Monte, Brawley, and Van Nuys, and two are in Los Angeles.

1           **B.     *The United States Marshals Service***

2           The United States Marshals Service (“USMS”) is an agency within the DOJ under  
3 the supervision of the Attorney General. GEO Compl. ¶ 34 (citing 28 U.S.C. § 561(a));  
4 U.S. Compl. ¶¶ 6, 14. Congress has authorized the Attorney General to provide for “the  
5 housing, care, and security of persons held in custody of a United States marshal pursuant  
6 to Federal law under agreements with State or local units of government or contracts with  
7 private entities.” GEO Compl. ¶ 35 (quoting 18 U.S.C. § 4013(a)(3)); *see also* U.S. Compl.  
8 ¶ 16 (quoting 18 U.S.C. § 4013(a)). “[T]he Marshals Service does not own or operate  
9 detention facilities but partners with state and local governments using intergovernmental  
10 agreements to house prisoners. Additionally, the agency houses prisoners in Federal  
11 Bureau of Prisons facilities and private detention facilities.” GEO Compl. ¶ 27 (quoting  
12 U.S. Marshals Serv., Fact Sheet: Prisoner Operations 2 (2019), <https://bit.ly/2Yi5RED>).  
13 USMS is authorized to “designate districts that need additional support from private  
14 detention entities.” U.S. Compl. ¶ 16 (quoting 18 U.S.C. § 4013(c)) (citing 28 C.F.R.  
15 § 0.111(k); 28 C.F.R. § 0.111(o)).

16           The average daily population (“ADP”) of USMS detainees has increased “at an  
17 unprecedented rate” since April 2017. GEO Compl. ¶ 39 (quoting U.S. Marshals Serv.,  
18 FY 2020 Performance Budget President’s Budget: Federal Prisoner Detention  
19 Appropriation 2 (2019), <https://bit.ly/2SnzdAx> [hereinafter, “USMS 2020 Budget”]). The  
20 “[p]opulation increases from 2017 through 2019 have already created a significant strain  
21 on USMS resources during FY 2019,” *id.* (quoting USMS 2020 Budget at 30), and the  
22 USMS estimates that, in Fiscal Year 2020, it will have an average daily population of  
23 62,159 detainees, which is the highest level in more than a decade. *Id.* (citing USMS 2020  
24 Budget at 4). Based on current prosecutorial trends, USMS anticipates that the detention  
25 population in California will increase by approximately 25 percent by Fiscal Year 2023.  
26 U.S. Compl. ¶ 31.

27           Nationwide, USMS houses approximately 62,000 inmates, over 21,000 of whom (or  
28 approximately 34 percent) are housed in private detention facilities. *Id.* ¶ 28; *see also* GEO



1 Compl. ¶ 41 (citing USMS 2020 Budget at 19). In California, USMS houses approximately  
2 1,100 of its 5,000 inmates (or approximately 22 percent) in private detention facilities.  
3 U.S. Compl. ¶ 28. Because all the private USMS facilities contracted in California are  
4 located in the Southern District of California, *id.*, that percentage is even higher in this  
5 District, where 37.5 percent of USMS’s detention facilities were privately run as of the end  
6 of 2019. *See* GEO Compl. ¶ 41. Approximately 1,100 of the approximately 2,900 USMS  
7 inmates in this District are housed in private detention facilities, with an additional 450  
8 inmates housed outside of California because of the unavailability of detention space in the  
9 state. U.S. Compl. ¶ 28.

10 *1. USMS’s San Diego Facilities*

11 There are currently only two USMS facilities located in San Diego, California. GEO  
12 Compl. ¶ 47. One, Metropolitan Correction Center (“MCC”), is a BOP facility with an  
13 ADP of 779 detainees as of April 2019. *Id.* (citing U.S. Marshals Serv., USMS Detention  
14 Population 2 (Apr. 31, 2019), <https://bit.ly/2BmUFMp> [hereinafter, “USMS Detention  
15 Population”]).

16 The other, Western Region Detention Facility (“WRDF”), the County of San Diego  
17 originally built as a maximum-security correctional facility with 725 beds. *Id.* ¶ 42. In  
18 1999, GEO leased WRDF from the County. *Id.* GEO began housing USMS detainees at  
19 WRDF in 2000. *Id.* ¶ 43. As of April 2019, WRDF had an ADP of 676 detainees. *Id.* ¶ 42  
20 (citing USMS Detention Population at 2). USMS renewed its contract with GEO on  
21 November 14, 2017, for a base period of approximately two years, with four two-year  
22 options that USMS can exercise to continue GEO’s services through September 30, 2027.  
23 *Id.* ¶ 44. USMS exercised its first option under the contract on October 1, 2019, continuing  
24 its contract with GEO through September 30, 2021. *Id.* ¶ 45. Because USMS only pursues  
25 private detention facilities when there is no other available space, all option years are  
26 generally exercised. U.S. Compl. ¶ 30.

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1           2.       *USMS's Other Southern California Facilities*

2           The next closest USMS facility outside San Diego is the Otay Mesa Detention  
3 Center (“OMDC”), which also is privately run. GEO Compl. ¶ 48. It is primarily used by  
4 U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (“ICE”), as described below. *Id.*; *see also*  
5 *infra* Section II.C.4.

6           The El Centro Service Processing Center (“El Centro”) in El Cajon, California, GEO  
7 Compl. ¶ 51, is owned by ICE, which has authorized USMS to house USMS detainees  
8 there. *Id.* ¶ 52. USMS is authorized to house over 1,800 inmates in the El Centro facility  
9 in 2020. U.S. Compl. ¶ 29. On December 23, 2019, USMS awarded GEO a contract to  
10 operate El Centro for a base period of two years, with USMS having the right to exercise  
11 three two-year options and one nine-month option. GEO Compl. ¶ 53.

12           The next closest, non-private USMS facilities to San Diego are located  
13 approximately 90 miles away in Santa Ana, California. *Id.* ¶ 50. These two facilities had  
14 a combined ADP of approximately 213 in April 2019. *Id.* (citing USMS Detention  
15 Population at 2).

16           ***C. U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement***

17           In November 2002, Congress assigned the border-enforcement functions of the  
18 former Immigration and Naturalization Service to the newly created Bureau of Immigration  
19 and Customs Enforcement, which is housed within the Department of Homeland Security  
20 (“DHS”) and was later renamed ICE in March 2007. GEO Compl. ¶ 56 (citing U.S.  
21 Immigration & Customs Enf’t, Celebrating the History of ICE (Mar. 1, 2019),  
22 <https://bit.ly/35Jas68>). Congress has authorized ICE to detain aliens, *id.* ¶ 57 (citing 8  
23 U.S.C. §§ 1225(b)(1)(B)(ii), 1225(b)(2)(A), 1226(a), 1226(c); *Jennings v. Rodriguez*, 583  
24 U.S. \_\_\_, 138 S. Ct. 830, 836–38 (2018)); U.S. Compl. ¶ 20 (citing 8 U.S.C. §§ 1187, 1222,  
25 1225, 1226, 1226a, 1231), and has directed that “[t]he Attorney General shall arrange for  
26 appropriate places of detention for aliens detained pending removal or a decision on  
27 removal.” GEO Compl. ¶ 58 (quoting 8 U.S.C. § 1231(g)(1)). Consequently, DHS is  
28 congressionally authorized to provide appropriate detention facilities for detainees,

1 including by renting “facilities adapted or suitably located for detention” and by entering  
2 cooperative agreements with States and localities. U.S. Compl. ¶ 21 (quoting 8 U.S.C.  
3 §§ 1103(a)(11), 1231(g)). DHS also may “acquire, build, remodel, repair, and operate  
4 facilities . . . necessary for detention,” but must first “consider the availability for purchase  
5 or lease of any existing prison, jail, detention center, or other comparable facility suitable  
6 for such use.” *Id.* (quoting 8 U.S.C. § 1231(g)(1)); *see also* GEO Compl. ¶ 58 (quoting 8  
7 U.S.C. § 1231(g)(2)).

8       Whereas ICE’s immigration-enforcement efforts are usually aimed at the interior of  
9 the United States, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (“CBP”) enforces immigration law  
10 at the border. GEO Compl. ¶ 60. “Typically, when an alien is apprehended by CBP, they  
11 are transferred to ICE custody pending removal proceedings. However, ICE’s resources  
12 have been overburdened by the record numbers of CBP apprehensions at the southwest  
13 border.” *Id.* ¶ 61 (quoting Statement of Matthew T. Albence, Acting Dir., U.S.  
14 Immigration & Customs Enf’t, The Fiscal Year 2020 President’s Budget Request 3  
15 (July 25, 2019), <https://bit.ly/2Bllfp9> [hereinafter, “Albence Stmt.”]).

16       For example, as of July 2019, ICE was “detaining over 53,000 single adults, and  
17 there [were] approximately 8,000 single adults in CBP custody awaiting processing or  
18 transfer to ICE custody.” *Id.* ¶ 62 (quoting Albence Stmt. at 3). As of July 2019, there had  
19 been a 79 percent increase in intakes resulting from CBP apprehensions for the fiscal year  
20 to date over the same period for Fiscal Year 2018, taxing the “already overburdened”  
21 detention system. *Id.* ¶ 63 (quoting Albence Stmt. at 3). Indeed, whereas ICE’s detention  
22 capacity was approximately 45,700 beds as of July 12, 2018, nearly 400,000 detainees were  
23 booked into ICE’s facilities in Fiscal Year 2018. *Id.* ¶ 64 (quoting Audrey Singer, Cong.  
24 Research Serv., R45804, Immigration: Alternatives to Detention (ATD) Programs 14  
25 (July 8, 2019), <https://bit.ly/2ojQNSE> [hereinafter, “ATD Programs”]). In Fiscal Year  
26 2019, ICE arrested and detained over 44,000 aliens in California. U.S. Compl. ¶ 57.

27       Because of safety concerns, ICE aims to fill approximately 85 to 90 percent of total  
28 facility capacity; however, ICE meets or exceeds that target capacity in nearly all of the

1 facilities it currently uses. GEO Compl. ¶ 65 (quoting U.S. Immigration & Customs Enf’t,  
2 Dep’t of Homeland Sec., Budget Overview: Fiscal Year 2020 Congressional Justification  
3 ICE-O&S-119 (2019), <https://bit.ly/336G3g3> [hereinafter, “ICE 2020 Budget  
4 Overview”]). Because the system is “beyond capacity,” *id.* ¶ 66 (quoting Caitlin  
5 Dickerson, *ICE Faces Migrant Detention Crunch as Border Chaos Spills Into Interior of*  
6 *the Country*, N.Y. Times (Apr. 22, 2019), <https://nyti.ms/2BEKvGS>), ICE has determined  
7 that additional detention capacity is necessary. *Id.* ¶ 67 (quoting Dickerson, *supra*).

8 ICE neither constructs nor operates its own detention facilities because significant  
9 fluctuations in the alien population require ICE to maintain flexibility. U.S. Compl. ¶ 52.  
10 Of the average population of approximately 50,000 aliens ICE housed in Fiscal Year 2019,  
11 an average of about 9,300 were housed in privately owned and operated facilities. *Id.* ¶ 53.  
12 ICE has housing for 5,000 detainees in private detention facilities in California, which  
13 accounts for approximately 96 percent of ICE’s total detention space in California. *Id.*

14 Currently, there are four dedicated ICE detention facilities in California, GEO  
15 Compl. ¶ 69; U.S. Compl. ¶ 54, all of which are privately run. GEO Compl. ¶ 70; U.S.  
16 Compl. ¶¶ 53, 54. These four facilities can house approximately 5,000 detainees. U.S.  
17 Compl. ¶ 54. ICE also has entered into contracts to convert three other facilities, or  
18 “annexes,” into dedicated ICE detention centers, GEO Compl. ¶ 71; U.S. Compl. ¶ 54, all  
19 of which are owned by GEO or a GEO subsidiary and are operated by GEO under contracts  
20 with ICE. GEO Compl. ¶ 72; U.S. Compl. ¶ 54. These annexes can house approximately  
21 2,150 additional detainees beginning in August 2020. U.S. Compl. ¶ 55. In addition to the  
22 four privately owned, dedicated ICE facilities and their annexes, which have a combined  
23 capacity of 7,188 beds, GEO Compl. ¶ 106; U.S. Compl. ¶ 54, there are two non-dedicated  
24 ICE facilities in California shared with local entities housing non-ICE detainees. GEO  
25 Compl. ¶ 103.

26 *1. The Adelanto ICE Processing Center and Annex*

27 The Adelanto ICE Processing Center (“Adelanto”) is located in Adelanto,  
28 California, and was originally built as a correctional facility by the City of Adelanto. GEO

1 Compl. ¶¶ 69, 73. GEO purchased the eastern portion of the facility from the City of  
2 Adelanto in 2008, and it built the western portion of the facility in two phases in 2010 and  
3 2015. *Id.* ¶ 73. Currently, Adelanto has a capacity of 1,940 beds. *Id.* ¶ 69.

4 In May 2011, ICE entered into an Intergovernmental Service Agreement (“IGSA”)  
5 with the City of Adelanto to house detainees, and the City of Adelanto in turn contracted  
6 with GEO to carry out the IGSA. *Id.* ¶ 74. On March 27, 2019, the City of Adelanto  
7 informed ICE and GEO that it would terminate its contract with ICE effective June 2019.  
8 *Id.* ¶ 75. On June 25, 2019, ICE therefore contracted directly with GEO to continue  
9 operating the Adelanto facility. *Id.* ¶ 76. That contract was due to expire on March 25,  
10 2020. *Id.* Consequently, on December 19, 2019, ICE entered into a new contract with  
11 GEO to continue running the Adelanto facility, with a period of performance starting  
12 December 20, 2019, and ending December 19, 2034. *Id.* ¶ 77; *see also* U.S. Compl. ¶ 55.  
13 ICE has the option to terminate the contract every five years, with the first such option  
14 occurring on December 20, 2024. GEO Compl. ¶ 77; *see also* U.S. Compl. ¶ 55.

15 The Desert View Modified Community Correctional Facility (“Desert View”) is a  
16 prison owned and operated by GEO in Adelano, California, with a capacity of 750 beds.  
17 GEO Compl. ¶¶ 71, 79. Although GEO had been operating Desert View under a contract  
18 with CDCR, CDCR terminated its contract with GEO effective March 31, 2020. *Id.* ¶ 79.  
19 On September 20, 2019, ICE executed a modification to its Adelanto contract with GEO  
20 to incorporate Desert View as an “annex.” *Id.* ¶ 80.

## 21 2. *The Imperial Region Detention Facility*

22 The Imperial Region Detention Facility (“Imperial”) is located in Calexico,  
23 California, and has a capacity of 704 beds. GEO Compl. ¶ 69. It is owned by Management  
24 & Training Corporation (“MTC”) and, until recently, operated pursuant to an IGSA  
25 between ICE and the City of Holtville, California, which in turn contracted with MTC to  
26 operate the facility. *Id.* ¶ 100. ICE terminated the IGSA effective September 21, 2019,  
27 and entered into a contract directly with MTC on September 22, 2019, effective  
28 ///

1 December 20, 2019. *Id.* ¶ 101. The base period of performance runs through December 19,  
2 2024, with two five-year options. *Id.*; *see also* U.S. Compl. ¶ 55.

3 3. *The Mesa Verde ICE Processing Center and Annexes*

4 The Mesa Verde ICE Processing Center (“Mesa Verde”) is located in Bakersfield,  
5 California, and has a capacity of 400 beds. GEO Compl. ¶ 69. It was originally constructed  
6 as a minimum-security correctional facility and has been owned and operated by GEO  
7 since 2015. *Id.* ¶ 84.

8 In January 2015, ICE entered into an IGSA with the City of McFarland to house ICE  
9 detainees, and the City of McFarland contracted with GEO to carry out the IGSA. *Id.* ¶ 85.  
10 On December 19, 2018, the City of McFarland informed ICE and GEO that it would  
11 terminate its contract with ICE effective March 2019, as a result of the passage of Assembly  
12 Bill 103. *Id.* ¶ 86. Consequently, on March 5, 2019, ICE contracted directly with GEO to  
13 continue operating Mesa Verde, with the contract set to expire on March 18, 2020. *Id.*  
14 ¶ 87. On December 19, 2019, ICE entered into a new contract with GEO with the same  
15 period of performance and option periods as the Adelanto contract. *See id.* ¶ 88; *see also*  
16 U.S. Compl. ¶ 55.

17 The Central Valley Modified Community Correctional Facility (“Central Valley”)  
18 and Golden State Modified Community Correctional Facility (“Golden State”), both  
19 located in McFarland, California, are annexes to Mesa Verde, and each has a capacity of  
20 700 beds. GEO Compl. ¶ 71. Both are owned and operated by GEO and were under  
21 contracts with CDCR. *Id.* ¶¶ 90, 95. CDCR terminated its contract with GEO for Central  
22 Valley on July 10, 2019, effective September 30, 2019. *Id.* ¶ 90. On September 20, 2019,  
23 ICE executed a modification to the Mesa Verde contract to incorporate Central Valley as  
24 an “annex,” *id.* ¶ 91, with the same period of performance and option periods as the Mesa  
25 Verde contract. *Id.* ¶ 92. Similarly, CDCR notified GEO that it would terminate its Golden  
26 State contract with GEO effective June 30, 2020, *id.* ¶ 95, so ICE executed a modification  
27 to the Mesa Verde contract on September 20, 2019, to incorporate Golden Valley as an  
28 “annex,” *id.* ¶ 96, with the same period of performance and options periods as the Mesa



1 Verde and Central Valley contracts. *Id.* ¶ 97.

2 4. *The Otay Mesa Detention Facility*

3 The Otay Mesa Detention Facility (“OMDF”) is located in San Diego, California,  
4 and has a capacity of 1,994 beds. GEO Compl. ¶ 69. USMS and ICE jointly use OMDF,  
5 which is owned and operated by CoreCivic. *Id.* ¶ 102. ICE entered into a new contract  
6 with CoreCivic that became effective December 20, 2019. *Id.* Like the contract with MTC  
7 for Imperial, the OMDF contract has a base period of performance through December 19,  
8 2024, with two five-year options. *Id.*; *see also* U.S. Compl. ¶ 55.

9 5. *Non-Dedicated ICE Detention Facilities*

10 There are also two non-dedicated ICE detention facilities in California, which are  
11 authorized for ICE’s use pursuant to IGSA’s but also are shared with local governmental  
12 entities housing non-ICE detainees. GEO Compl. ¶ 103. One is the Glendale Police  
13 Department, located in Glendale, California, and owned and operated by the Glendale  
14 Police Department. *Id.* The second is the Yuba County Jail, located in Marysville,  
15 California, with a capacity of 220 beds. *Id.* ¶¶ 103, 106. The Yuba County Jail is owned  
16 by Yuba County and operated by the Yuba County Sheriff’s Department. *Id.* ¶ 103. ICE  
17 “rarely uses” the Glendale Police Department, which has had an ADP of zero detainees in  
18 Fiscal Year 2020, *id.* ¶ 104 (quoting Bradley Zint, *Glendale Police Vow Not To Enforce*  
19 *Federal Immigration Laws*, L.A. Times (Apr. 1, 2017), <https://lat.ms/31skq8o>), and it is  
20 unclear whether Yuba County will maintain its contract with ICE. *Id.* ¶ 105 (citing Don  
21 Thompson & Amy Taxin, *California to End Its Use of Private, For-Profit Prisons*, Assoc.  
22 Press (Oct. 11, 2019), <https://bit.ly/2Pgb6C6>).

23 **III. Impact of A.B. 32 on Plaintiffs**

24 **A. Impact on GEO**

25 GEO alleges that, if it must close its USMS and ICE detention facilities in California  
26 as a result of A.B. 32, it will lose approximately \$250 million per year in revenue over the  
27 next fifteen years. GEO Compl. ¶ 108. GEO has invested over \$300 million in acquiring,  
28 constructing, outfitting, and otherwise making ready for use its USMS and ICE detention

1 facilities in California. *Id.* ¶ 109. The replacement cost of GEO’s USMS and ICE detention  
2 facilities in California is approximately \$500 million. *Id.* Consequently, GEO alleges that  
3 it could lose over \$4 billion in capital investment and revenue over the next fifteen years if  
4 A.B. 32 forces GEO to close its USMS and ICE detention facilities in California. *Id.* ¶ 110.

5 ***B. Impact on the U.S.***

6 ***1. BOP***

7 The United States alleges that A.B. 32 would require BOP to transfer 1,300 inmates  
8 housed at Taft and 900 inmates housed in RRCs to other BOP facilities or to facilities  
9 outside California, which would cost significant taxpayer dollars and result in inmates  
10 being incarcerated further from their residences, families, and other visitors. U.S. Compl.  
11 ¶¶ 42, 49. In the case of RRCs, this would also result in inmates being placed further from  
12 the communities in which they are to be released, *id.* ¶ 49, thereby hindering BOP’s ability  
13 to provide community placement and develop community ties for offenders facing reentry.  
14 *Id.* ¶ 50. The relocation of those housed in RRCs would also prove problematic for federal  
15 courts, which use BOP’s RRCs to house individuals as an intermediate sanction during  
16 supervision or probation. *Id.* ¶ 51.

17 ***2. USMS***

18 If A.B. 32 were to force private detention facilities in California to close, the United  
19 States claims that USMS would have to relocate nearly 50% of its inmates in the Southern  
20 District of California and nearly 30% of its inmates in California, U.S. Compl. ¶ 32, with  
21 many of them likely to be housed out of state. *Id.* ¶ 33. Such relocations would cost  
22 taxpayers a significant amount and require USMS to compete with other agencies for  
23 limited detention space. *Id.* The displacement of these inmates also could result in  
24 overcrowding in additional facilities, *id.* ¶ 34, and the isolation of inmates, whose families  
25 are often in California and may lack the resources to visit their loved ones. *Id.* ¶ 35.

26 Because many of USMS’s detainees are pretrial, some prisoners may require  
27 frequent transportation, requiring a dramatic increase in transportation coordination and  
28 USMS’s cost per inmate. *Id.* ¶ 36. The increase in transportation also may heighten

1 security and safety risks for inmates, USMS personnel, and the public and adversely affect  
 2 prisoners with medical or mobility concerns. *Id.* ¶ 37. Competition for transportation with  
 3 other agencies, including BOP, may delay judicial proceedings and increase the length of  
 4 time prisoners are in USMS custody, *id.* ¶¶ 38, 39, concomitantly increasing the number  
 5 of prisoners in USMS custody and further increasing USMS's housing, medical, and  
 6 funding needs. *Id.* ¶ 38.

### 7 3. ICE

8 Because ICE has very limited access to housing capacity in California prisons, the  
 9 United States alleges that A.B. 32 would require ICE to relocate nearly all its detainees  
 10 outside California to neighboring states. U.S. Compl. ¶ 57. In Fiscal Year 2019, ICE  
 11 arrested and detained over 44,000 aliens in California. *Id.* Such a large number of  
 12 relocations would necessitate daily transfers, which would be burdensome and costly, *see*  
 13 *id.* ¶ 58, as well as heighten safety and security risks. *See id.* ¶ 59. Relocating California  
 14 detainees to out-of-state facilities may also cause overcrowding in those facilities, *id.* ¶ 60,  
 15 and reduce detainees' access to their families and other visitors, *id.*, which in turn may slow  
 16 immigration proceedings by hindering detainees' ability to enlist friends and families to  
 17 collect evidence on their behalf. *Id.* ¶ 61.

18 The United States claims that A.B. 32 may also cause tension with ICE's other  
 19 obligations under existing court orders and settlements. *Id.* ¶ 61 n.3 (citing *Gonzalez v.*  
 20 *Sessions*, 325 F.R.D. 616 (N.D. Cal. Jun. 5, 2018); *Franco-Gonzalez v. Holder*, No. 10-cv-  
 21 02211-DMG-DTB, 2013 WL 8115423 (C.D. Cal. 2013); *Orantes-Hernandez v. Meese*,  
 22 685 F. Supp. 1488 (C.D. Cal. 1988)); *see also infra* pages 66 – 67.

## 23 **IV. Procedural Background**

24 GEO filed its Complaint for declaratory and injunctive relief against Governor  
 25 Newsom and Attorney General Becerra, in their official capacities, on December 30, 2019,  
 26 alleging that A.B. 32 is unconstitutional (1) for violating the Federal Government's  
 27 intergovernmental immunity both (a) as a direct regulation of the Federal Government, and  
 28 (b) by discriminating against the Federal Government; and (2) as conflict preempted by

1 federal law. *See generally* GEO Compl.; *see also id.* ¶¶ 111–34. GEO also asks the Court  
2 for a declaration that its current contracts with the Federal Government are valid for their  
3 entire periods of performance, including all option extensions. *See generally id.*  
4 ¶¶ 135–44. GEO filed its Motion for Preliminary Injunction on January 7, 2020, *see*  
5 *generally* GEO Mot., which the Court deemed filed as of December 31, 2019, *see GEO*  
6 *ECF No. 14*, at GEO’s request. *See GEO ECF No. 13*. Defendants filed their Motion to  
7 Dismiss on March 5, 2020. *See generally* MTD.

8         The United States filed its Complaint for declaratory and injunctive relief against  
9 Governor Newsom and Attorney General Becerra, in their official capacities, and the State  
10 of California on January 24, 2020. *See generally* U.S. Compl. Like GEO, the United States  
11 sought to have A.B. 32 declared unconstitutional as preempted and as violating the United  
12 States’ intergovernmental immunity. *See generally id.*; *see also id.* ¶¶ 62–69. Although  
13 the United States’ action was originally assigned to the Honorable Michael M. Anello, the  
14 United States filed a notice of related case requesting that the action be transferred to this  
15 Court as related to *GEO*. *See generally U.S. ECF No. 2*. The case was transferred on  
16 January 31, 2020, *see U.S. ECF No. 6*, following which the United States filed its Motion  
17 for Preliminary Injunction. *See generally* U.S. Mot. After filing an answer on February 14,  
18 2020, *see generally U.S. ECF No. 9*, Defendants filed their Motion for Judgment on the  
19 Pleadings. *See generally* MJP. The Court ordered additional briefing regarding the United  
20 States’ standing as to its BOP facilities on May 4, 2020, *see generally U.S. ECF No. 27*,  
21 pursuant to which both the United States (“U.S. Supp. Br.,” *U.S. ECF No. 28*) and  
22 Defendants (“Defs.’ Supp. Br.,” *U.S. ECF No. 29*) filed responses.

23         With the Court’s permission, *see GEO ECF Nos. 25, 39; U.S. ECF No. 18*, the  
24 Detention *Amici* filed briefs in support of Defendants in both actions, *see generally*  
25 Detention *Amici* Br., and the Procurement *Amici* filed a brief in support of Defendants to  
26 the *GEO* action. *See generally* Procurement *Amici* Br.

27         The Court held a videographic and telephonic hearing on July 16, 2019, *see GEO*  
28 *ECF No. 43; U.S. ECF No. 33*, at which the Parties agreed to consolidation of the *GEO*

1 and U.S. actions. *See* Tr. at 18:15–19:8 (GEO), 32:13–18 (U.S.), 40:15–22 (Defendants).  
2 Accordingly, the Court ordered the cases consolidated. Tr. at 91:2–5; *see also* GEO ECF  
3 Nos. 43–44; U.S. ECF Nos. 33–34. The Court also requested additional briefing from all  
4 Parties following the hearing on “whether A.B. 32 is a direct regulation of the United States  
5 in violation of intergovernmental immunity and the Court’s jurisdiction over Plaintiff The  
6 GEO Group, Inc.’s fourth cause of action.” GEO ECF No. 45 at 1. GEO and the United  
7 States filed their additional briefs on August 4, 2020, *see* GEO ECF Nos. 49 (“GEO Add’l  
8 Br.”), 50 (“U.S. Add’l Br.”), and Defendants filed their additional brief on August 18,  
9 2020. *See* GEO ECF No. 51 (“Defs.’ Add’l Br.”).

## 10 MOTIONS TO DISMISS AND FOR JUDGMENT ON THE PLEADINGS

### 11 I. Legal Standards

#### 12 A. *Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 12(b)(6)*

13 Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 12(b)(6) permits a party to raise by motion the  
14 defense that the complaint “fail[s] to state a claim upon which relief can be granted,”  
15 generally referred to as a motion to dismiss. The Court evaluates whether a complaint  
16 states a cognizable legal theory and sufficient facts in light of Federal Rule of Civil  
17 Procedure 8(a), which requires a “short and plain statement of the claim showing that the  
18 pleader is entitled to relief.” Although Rule 8 “does not require ‘detailed factual  
19 allegations,’ . . . it [does] demand more than an unadorned, the-defendant-unlawfully-  
20 harmed-me accusation.” *Ashcroft v. Iqbal*, 556 U.S. 662, 678 (2009) (quoting *Bell Atl.*  
21 *Corp. v. Twombly*, 550 U.S. 544, 555 (2007)). In other words, “a plaintiff’s obligation to  
22 provide the ‘grounds’ of his ‘entitle[ment] to relief’ requires more than labels and  
23 conclusions, and a formulaic recitation of the elements of a cause of action will not do.”  
24 *Twombly*, 550 U.S. at 555 (citing *Papasan v. Allain*, 478 U.S. 265, 286 (1986)). A  
25 complaint will not suffice “if it tenders ‘naked assertion[s]’ devoid of ‘further factual  
26 enhancement.’” *Iqbal*, 556 U.S. at 677 (citing *Twombly*, 550 U.S. at 557).

27 To survive a motion to dismiss, “a complaint must contain sufficient factual matter,  
28 accepted as true, to ‘state a claim to relief that is plausible on its face.’” *Id.* (quoting

1 *Twombly*, 550 U.S. at 570); *see also* Fed. R. Civ. P. 12(b)(6). A claim is facially plausible  
2 when the facts pled “allow the court to draw the reasonable inference that the defendant is  
3 liable for the misconduct alleged.” *Iqbal*, 556 U.S. at 677 (citing *Twombly*, 550 U.S. at  
4 556). That is not to say that the claim must be probable, but there must be “more than a  
5 sheer possibility that a defendant has acted unlawfully.” *Id.* Facts “‘merely consistent  
6 with’ a defendant’s liability” fall short of a plausible entitlement to relief. *Id.* (quoting  
7 *Twombly*, 550 U.S. at 557). This review requires context-specific analysis involving the  
8 Court’s “judicial experience and common sense.” *Id.* at 678 (citation omitted). “[W]here  
9 the well-pleaded facts do not permit the court to infer more than the mere possibility of  
10 misconduct, the complaint has alleged—but it has not ‘show[n]’—‘that the pleader is  
11 entitled to relief.’” *Id.*

12 Where a complaint does not survive 12(b)(6) analysis, the Court will grant leave to  
13 amend unless it determines that no modified contention “consistent with the challenged  
14 pleading . . . [will] cure the deficiency.” *DeSoto v. Yellow Freight Sys., Inc.*, 957 F.2d 655,  
15 658 (9th Cir. 1992) (quoting *Schreiber Distrib. Co. v. Serv-Well Furniture Co.*, 806 F.2d  
16 1393, 1401 (9th Cir. 1986)).

### 17 **B. Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 12(c)**

18 Any party may move for judgment on the pleadings “[a]fter the pleadings are  
19 closed—but early enough not to delay trial.” Fed. R. Civ. P. 12(c). A motion for judgment  
20 on the pleadings attacks the legal sufficiency of the claims alleged in the complaint. *See*  
21 *Patel v. Contemporary Classics of Beverly Hills*, 259 F.3d 123, 126 (2d Cir. 2001). The  
22 Court must construe “all material allegations of the non-moving party as contained in the  
23 pleadings as true, and [construe] the pleadings in the light most favorable to the [non-  
24 moving] party.” *Doyle v. Raley’s Inc.*, 158 F.3d 1012, 1014 (9th Cir. 1998). “Judgment  
25 on the pleadings is proper when the moving party clearly establishes on the face of the  
26 pleadings that no material issue of fact remains to be resolved and that it is entitled to  
27 judgment as a matter of law.” *Hal Roach Studios, Inc. v. Richard Feiner & Co., Inc.*, 896  
28 F.2d 1542, 1550 (9th Cir. 1990). “Analysis under Rule 12(c) is ‘substantially identical’ to



1 analysis under Rule 12(b)(6) because, under both rules, ‘a court must determine whether  
 2 the facts alleged in the complaint, taken as true, entitle the plaintiff to a legal remedy.’”  
 3 *Chavez v. United States*, 683 F.3d 1102, 1108 (9th Cir. 2012).

## 4 **II. Analysis<sup>5</sup>**

5 The Supremacy Clause of the United States Constitution provides:

6 This Constitution, and the laws of the United States which shall  
 7 be made in pursuance thereof; and all treaties made, or which  
 8 shall be made, under the authority of the United States, shall be  
 9 the supreme law of the land; and the judges in every state shall  
 10 be bound thereby, anything in the Constitution or laws of any  
 State to the contrary notwithstanding.

11 Const. art. V, cl. 2. Both GEO and the United States allege that A.B. 32 violates the  
 12 Supremacy Clause because it is preempted by federal law and violates the  
 13 intergovernmental immunity of the United States and its contractors. *See generally* GEO  
 14 Compl.; U.S. Compl.

### 15 **A. Justiciability of the BOP Claims<sup>6</sup>**

16 Federal courts are courts of limited jurisdiction and, as such, have an obligation to  
 17 dismiss claims for which they lack subject-matter jurisdiction. *Demarest v. United States*,  
 18 718 F.2d 964, 965 (9th Cir. 1983). “The party asserting jurisdiction bears the burden of  
 19 establishing subject matter jurisdiction.” *In re Dynamic Random Access Memory Antitrust*  
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21 <sup>5</sup> Because “[a]nalysis under Rule 12(c) is ‘substantially identical’ to analysis under Rule 12(b)(6),”  
 22 *Chavez*, 683 F.3d at 1108, and because the Parties’ arguments are similar in both actions, *compare* GEO  
 23 ECF Nos. 15, 22, 30, 31; *with* U.S. ECF Nos. 8, 13, 22, 23, the Court analyzes Defendants’ Rule 12(b)(6)  
 and Rule 12(c) Motions together.

24 <sup>6</sup> Although originally framed as a challenge to standing, *see* MJP Reply at 8; *see also* U.S. ECF No. 27;  
 25 U.S. Supp. Br.; Defs.’ Supp. Br., it appears that the issue raised by Defendants also touches on ripeness.  
 26 *See, e.g., Coons v. Lew*, 762 F.3d 891, 897 (9th Cir.), *as amended* (Sept. 2, 2014) (“When addressing the  
 27 sufficiency of a showing of injury-in-fact grounded in potential future harms, Article III standing and  
 28 ripeness issues often ‘boil down to the same question.’”) (quoting *Susan B. Anthony List v. Driehaus*, 573  
 U.S. 149, 157 n.5 (2014)); *Thomas v. Anchorage Equal Rights Comm’n*, 220 F.3d 1134, 1138 (9th Cir.  
 2000) (“The constitutional component of the ripeness inquiry is often treated under the rubric of standing  
 and, in many cases, ripeness coincides squarely with standing’s injury in fact prong.”).

1 *Litig.*, 546 F.3d 981, 984 (9th Cir. 2008) (citing *Kokkonen v. Guardian Life Ins. Co. of Am.*,  
2 511 U.S. 375, 377 (1994); *Stock W., Inc. v. Confederated Tribes of Colville Reservation*,  
3 873 F.2d 1221, 1225 (9th Cir. 1989)). “Whether the question is viewed as one of standing  
4 or ripeness, the Constitution mandates that prior to [a federal court’s] exercise of  
5 jurisdiction there exist a constitutional ‘case or controversy,’ that the issues presented are  
6 ‘definite and concrete, not hypothetical or abstract.’” *Thomas*, 220 F.3d at 1139 (quoting  
7 *Ry. Mail Ass’n v. Corsi*, 326 U.S. 88, 93 (1945)).

8 Defendants challenge the United States’ “Article III standing to challenge AB 32 as  
9 applied to [Taft] or any BOP facility.” MJP Reply at 8. Specifically, Defendants contend  
10 that, because BOP “is transferring all inmates out of Taft Correctional Institution, the only  
11 BOP-contracted facility in California,” and “[t]here are no imminent plans to resume  
12 operations at Taft,” “AB 32 threatens no ‘actual or imminent’ harm related to Taft.” *Id.*  
13 (citing *Lujan v. Defenders of Wildlife*, 504 U.S. 555, 560 (1992)).

14 Because the argument was first raised in Defendants’ Reply, the Court ordered  
15 additional briefing on the issue. *See U.S. ECF No. 27*. Claiming that it is “no ordinary  
16 litigant,” U.S. Supp. Br. at 3, the United States contends that it need not show injury-in-  
17 fact, *see id.*; *see also* Tr. at 34:3–35:24, but that the harms it will suffer if A.B. 32 is  
18 enforced “more than suffice to satisfy the usual injury-in-fact requirement of standing.”  
19 U.S. Supp. Br. at 8 (citing *Rivas v. Rail Delivery Serv., Inc.*, 423 F.3d 1079, 1082–83 (9th  
20 Cir. 2005)). Defendants rejoin that “[t]he standing requirement applies to claims brought  
21 by the United States,” Defs.’ Supp. Br. at 4 (citing *Moe v. Confederated Salish & Kootenai*  
22 *Tribes of Flathead Reservation*, 425 U.S. 463, 475 n.13 (1976); *United States v. City of*  
23 *Arcata*, 629 F.3d 986, 989–90 (9th Cir. 2010); *United States v. Mattson*, 600 F.2d 1295,  
24 1297–1301 (9th Cir. 1979); *Marshall v. Gibson’s Prod., Inc. of Plano*, 584 F.2d 668, 676  
25 (5th Cir. 1978)), and that the United States has failed to demonstrate any “actual or  
26 imminent” injury given the absence of evidence concerning the United States’ plans to  
27 reopen Taft and the lack of a genuine threat of prosecution as to the RRCs. *See id.* at 5–6.

28 As an initial matter, the United States first argued at the hearing that “standing is

1 claim specific and relief specific” and “not fact specific to an agency.” *See* Tr. at  
2 66:16–17. Although it is true that standing is claim specific, the question is whether the  
3 United States’ configuration of its claims, which “are not limited to BOP,” *see id.* at 66:20,  
4 controls. The Court concludes that it does not. The United States could have broken its  
5 claims out by agency, or BOP could have brought suit in its own right. That the United  
6 States happens to have presented its claims in one form over another does not confer  
7 standing (or ripeness) where none exists. *See Lewis v. Casey*, 518 U.S. 343, 358 n.6 (1996)  
8 (“[S]tanding is not dispensed in gross.”). Consequently, the proper focus is not on the legal  
9 theories as arranged by the United States, but rather on the injury-in-fact suffered by it.  
10 *See, e.g., Gilmore v. Gonzales*, 435 F.3d 1125, 1134–35 (9th Cir. 2006) (concluding that  
11 the plaintiff lacked standing to challenge other security programs stemming from  
12 challenged policy beyond the one security program giving rise to his injury in fact); *Friends*  
13 *of Columbia Gorge, Inc. v. Schafer*, 624 F. Supp. 2d 1253, 1278 (D. Or. 2008) (concluding  
14 that one claim alleged by the plaintiffs was ripe as to certain guidelines but not as to others);  
15 *see also* 13B Charles Alan Wright & Arthur R. Miller, *Federal Practice and Procedure* §  
16 3531.16 (3d ed.). Consequently, to the extent the United States fails to establish that BOP  
17 is likely to suffer a concrete injury as a result of A.B. 32, the Court lacks jurisdiction over  
18 that part of the United States’ claims.

19 The Court concludes that the United States has failed to establish the requisite  
20 justiciable case or controversy concerning the constitutionality of A.B. 32 as applied to its  
21 BOP facilities. As an initial matter, the United States—even if “no ordinary litigant,” *see*  
22 U.S. Supp. Br. at 3—nonetheless must establish justiciability, including standing. *See, e.g.,*  
23 *City of Arcata*, 629 F.3d at 989–90. Defendants contend that the United States therefore  
24 must establish that there is a “genuine threat of imminent prosecution” under A.B. 32,<sup>7</sup>  
25 Defs.’ Supp. Br. at 6 (quoting *Thomas*, 220 F.3d at 1139 (quoting *Babbitt v. United Farm*  
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27 <sup>7</sup> “The threatened state action need not necessarily be a prosecution.” *Lopez v. Candaele*, 630 F.3d 775,  
28 786 (9th Cir. 2010) (citing *Meese v. Keene*, 481 U.S. 465, 472–73 (1987); *Canatella v. California*, 304  
F.3d 843, 852–53 (9th Cir. 2002)).

1 *Workers Nat'l Union*, 442 U.S. 289, 298 (1979))), requiring an examination of “whether  
 2 the [United States] ha[s] articulated a ‘concrete plan’ to violate the law in question, whether  
 3 the prosecuting authorities have communicated a specific warning or threat to initiate  
 4 proceedings, and the history of past prosecution or enforcement under the challenged  
 5 statute.” *Id.* (quoting *Thomas*, 220 F.3d at 1139). The United States contends, without  
 6 elaboration, that these factors do not apply. *See* Tr. at 68:1–4. The Court sees no reason  
 7 why they should not. These factors have been applied to assess the standing of the United  
 8 States. *See City of Arcata*, 629 F.3d at 989–90 (analyzing threatened enforcement of  
 9 ordinance against United States). They have also been applied in Supremacy Clause cases.  
 10 *See, e.g., id.; Valley View Health Care, Inc. v. Chapman*, 992 F. Supp. 2d 1016, 1031–35  
 11 (E.D. Cal. 2014).

12 Regarding the United States’ standing to challenge A.B. 32 as applied to BOP  
 13 prisons, the Court concludes that the United States has failed to meet its burden. When it  
 14 filed its Complaint,<sup>8</sup> the United States indicated that “BOP *may* seek to award a new  
 15 contract or a contract extension” if it determined that Taft could remain operational while  
 16 infrastructure repairs were being made.<sup>9</sup> U.S. Compl. ¶ 41 (emphasis added); *see also*  
 17 Jones Decl.<sup>10</sup> ¶ 14 (“If Taft CI can remain operational, then BOP *may* seek to extend its  
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19  
 20 <sup>8</sup> “The existence of federal jurisdiction ordinarily depends on the facts *as they exist when the complaint is*  
 21 *filed.*” *Lujan*, 504 U.S. at 571 n.4 (quoting *Newman-Green, Inc. v. Alfonzo-Larrain*, 490 U.S. 826, 830  
 22 (1989)) (emphasis in original). When asked at the hearing, counsel for the United States indicated its view  
 23 that post-filing developments were relevant and could properly be considered in determining a motion for  
 24 preliminary injunction. *See* Tr. at 33:10–34:2. Those post-filing developments, however, do not  
 25 strengthen the United States’ arguments for standing—Taft has since closed for repairs and relocated its  
 26 inmates. *See* Tr. at 33:14–19; *see also* Supp. Decl. of Pamela L. Jones in Support of U.S. Mot. (“Supp.  
 27 Jones Decl.,” ECF No. 22-1) ¶¶ 3–4. Although it is “BOP’s intent . . . to ultimately return Taft CI to  
 28 operational status,” *id.* ¶ 5, there is no indication as to how or when that may happen.

<sup>9</sup> The contract with MTC to operate Taft was to expire on March 31, 2020. *See* U.S. Compl. ¶ 41; Decl.  
 of Pamela L. Jones in Support of U.S. Mot. (“Jones Decl.,” ECF No. 8-2) ¶ 14.

<sup>10</sup> The Jones Declaration was signed on January 24, 2020, *see id.* at 7, the same day that the United States  
 filed its Complaint. *See generally* U.S. Compl. It was also filed on January 24, 2020, along with the  
 Complaint, as an exhibit to an *ex parte* motion seeking leave to file the U.S. Motion in excess of the  
 District’s page limit. *See* ECF No. 4-3.

1 current contract or award a new one.”) (emphasis added).<sup>11</sup> Further, at that time, “BOP  
2 d[id] not have any immediate plans for new contracts for private secure detention facilities  
3 in California.” Jones Decl. ¶ 15. Whether BOP intends to violate A.B. 32 therefore hinges  
4 on several contingencies, including whether Taft can remain operational while repairs are  
5 made (it could not), whether BOP decides to continue housing inmates at Taft while repairs  
6 are made (it did not), and whether BOP can extend or award a new contract for the private  
7 operation of the facility. “Such ‘some day’ intentions—without any description of concrete  
8 plans, or indeed even any specification of when the some day will be—do not support a  
9 finding of the ‘actual or imminent’ injury that [the Supreme Court’s] cases require.” *Long*  
10 *Beach Area Chamber of Commerce v. City of Long Beach*, 603 F.3d 684, 690 (9th Cir.  
11 2010) (quoting *Lujan*, 504 U.S. at 564); *see also Texas v. United States*, 523 U.S. 296, 300  
12 (1998) (“A claim is not ripe for adjudication if it rests upon contingent future events that  
13 may not occur as anticipated, or indeed may not occur at all.”) (quoting *Thomas v. Union*  
14 *Carbide Agric. Prods. Co.*, 473 U.S. 568, 580–581 (1985)) (internal quotation marks  
15 omitted); *W. Oil & Gas Ass’n v. Sonoma Cty.*, 905 F.2d 1287, 1291 (9th Cir. 1990) (holding  
16 that action challenging land use ordinances was not ripe where the new ordinances would  
17 only be applied if leases of federal waters off the California coast for oil and gas exploration  
18 and development were to be offered for sale in the future). The United States therefore  
19 fails to demonstrate a concrete plan to violate A.B. 32 as to BOP’s privately operated prison  
20 facilities in California. *See, e.g., Thomas*, 220 F.3d at 1139 (“A general intent to violate a  
21 statute at some unknown date in the future does not rise to the level of an articulated,  
22 concrete plan.”).

23 The United States fares no better as to its RRCs. Although the United States has  
24

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25  
26 <sup>11</sup> Although generally limited to the pleadings, *see supra* note 2, “in evaluating a motion for judgment on  
27 the pleadings in which a party challenges subject-matter jurisdiction, the Court may look beyond the  
28 pleadings and consider extrinsic evidence.” *Innovative Sports Mgmt., Inc. v. Robles*, No. 13-CV-00660-  
LHK, 2014 WL 129308, at \*2 (N.D. Cal. Jan. 14, 2014) (citing *Maya v. Centx Corp.*, 658 F.3d 1060,  
1067–68 (9th Cir. 2011); *In re Seizure of One Blue Nissan Skyline Auto.*, 683 F. Supp. 2d 1087, 1089  
(C.D. Cal. 2010)).



1 concrete plans to continue operating its RRCs in California, *see, e.g.*, Decl. of Jon Gustin  
2 in Support of U.S. Mot. (“Gustin Decl.,” ECF No. 8-3) ¶ 23, it has failed to establish a  
3 genuine threat of imminent prosecution. Defendants “ha[ve] suggested that the newly  
4 enacted law will not be enforced” as to BOP’s RRCs. *See Virginia v. Am. Booksellers*  
5 *Ass’n, Inc.*, 484 U.S. 383, 393 (1988). Indeed, Defendants have gone so far as to represent  
6 that BOP’s RRCs “are not covered by AB 32.” MJF at 27 n.14 (citing Cal. Penal Code  
7 § 9502(c)). Given the “remote” threat of enforcement, the United States has failed to  
8 establish Article III standing as to BOP’s RRCs. *See, e.g., Yoshioka v. Charles Schwab*  
9 *Corp.*, No. C-11-1625 EMC, 2012 WL 5932817, at \*9 (N.D. Cal. Nov. 27, 2012)  
10 (concluding that the plaintiff lacked standing and that action was not ripe where “[n]ot only  
11 is there no history of [agency] enforcement, [but] the [agency] has taken an affirmative  
12 stance that it will *not* consider potential prohibited transactions created by such language  
13 for the foreseeable future”) (emphasis in original).

14 There are two problems with the United States’ argument that Defendants’  
15 representation that BOP’s RRCs are subject to the Section 9502(c) exception is a “mere  
16 litigation position” that cannot “defeat standing.” U.S. Supp. Br. at 8 (citing *Lopez*, 630  
17 F.3d at 788; *Vt. Right to Life Comm., Inc. v. Sorrell*, 221 F.3d 376, 383 (2d Cir. 2000); *Am.-*  
18 *Arab Anti-Discrimination Comm. v. Thornburgh*, 970 F.2d 501, 507–08 (9th Cir. 1991);  
19 *Valley View Health Care, Inc.*, 992 F. Supp. 2d at 1033). First, the binding authorities cited  
20 by the United States all involved First Amendment challenges, *see, e.g., Lopez*, 630 F.3d  
21 at 785; *Thornburgh*, 970 F.2d at 504, to which the Ninth Circuit applies a “less stringent[,]”  
22 *Wolfson v. Brammer*, 616 F.3d 1045, 1058 (9th Cir. 2010), and “somewhat different”  
23 analysis. *See Protectmarriage.com-Yes on 8 v. Bowen*, 752 F.3d 827, 839 (9th Cir. 2014).  
24 Specifically, in First Amendment pre-enforcement cases, “the plaintiff need not establish  
25 an actual threat of government prosecution,” *see id.* (citing *Wolfson*, 616 F.3d at 1059–60),  
26 but rather merely “a credible threat of prosecution,” *Lopez*, 630 F.3d at 785 (quoting  
27 *Babbitt*, 442 U.S. at 298), which requires only that “plaintiffs . . . show a reasonable  
28 likelihood that the government will enforce the challenged law against them.” *See id.* at



1 786. Further, “when the threatened enforcement effort implicates First Amendment rights,  
2 the [standing] inquiry tilts dramatically toward a finding of standing.” *Ital. Colors*  
3 *Restaurant v. Becerra*, 878 F.3d 1165, 1172 (9th Cir. 2018) (quoting *LSO, Ltd. v. Stroh*,  
4 205 F.3d 1146, 1155 (9th Cir. 2000)). Because this case is not a First Amendment case,  
5 the United States faces a higher standard to bring its pre-enforcement claim.

6 Second, the United States’ binding authorities involve situations in which the  
7 plaintiff was already being investigated or prosecuted before filing suit, but the defendant  
8 ceased enforcement efforts after filing as a litigation tactic. *See, e.g., Lopez*, 630 F.3d at  
9 783–84, 788, 791–92 (acknowledging that “the government’s disavowal must be more than  
10 a mere litigation position” but concluding that the plaintiff had failed to establish standing  
11 where party responsible for enforcement of challenged policy wrote letter “indicating that  
12 no action w[ould] be taken” and the organization “had not taken any steps to enforce the  
13 . . . policy against [the plaintiff], either before or after [the plaintiff]’s threat to sue”);  
14 *Thornburgh*, 970 F.2d at 508 (concluding that the plaintiffs established standing where  
15 “[a]ready they have once been charged with the challenged provisions, which charges  
16 were dropped, not because they were considered inapplicable, but for tactical reasons”).  
17 Here, by contrast, Defendant have taken no pre- (or post-)filing enforcement action against  
18 the United States with respect to the RRCs and, to the contrary, explicitly have indicated  
19 no intent to do so in the future. Should Defendants change their mind regarding the  
20 applicability of the Section 9502(c) exception to the RRCs, the United States may be able  
21 to establish standing in the future, *see Sacks v. Office of Foreign Assets Control*, 466 F.3d  
22 764, 774–75 (9th Cir. 2006) (“Because [the plaintiff] fails to allege a concrete and  
23 imminent injury-in-fact caused by the [challenged] Restrictions, this claim is not justiciable  
24 both for lack of standing and ripeness. Of course, should [the defendant] take action to  
25 penalize [the plaintiff] for violating the [challenged] Restrictions at a later date, he would  
26 then have standing to challenge their legitimacy.”); however, at present, the United States  
27 has failed to establish a threat of enforcement that is “not simply ‘imaginary or  
28 speculative.’” *Thomas*, 220 F.3d at 1140 (quoting *Babbitt*, 442 U.S. at 298).

1 The Court therefore concludes that the United States has failed to establish a concrete  
 2 and imminent injury-in-fact caused by A.B. 32 as applied to its BOP facilities.  
 3 Consequently, those claims are not justiciable, and the Court **DISMISSES WITHOUT**  
 4 **PREJUDICE** the United States’ causes of action to the extent they challenge A.B. 32 as  
 5 applied to Taft and the BOP’s RRCs.

### 6 ***B. Preemption***

7 “Federal preemption occurs when: (1) Congress enacts a statute that explicitly pre-  
 8 empts state law; (2) state law actually conflicts with federal law; or (3) federal law occupies  
 9 a legislative field to such an extent that it is reasonable to conclude that Congress left no  
 10 room for state regulation in that field.” *CTIA – Wireless Ass’n v. City of Berkeley*, 928  
 11 F.3d 832, 849 (9th Cir. 2019). GEO contends that A.B. 32 is preempted under the second  
 12 category (conflict preemption), *see* GEO Compl. ¶¶ 130–34, while the United States  
 13 contends that A.B. 32 is preempted by both the second and third (field preemption)  
 14 categories. *See* U.S. Compl. ¶¶ 63–65.

15 In both conflict and field preemption cases, *see Puente Ariz. v. Arpaio*, 821 F.3d  
 16 1098, 1104 (9th Cir. 2016), the Court’s analysis “must be guided by two cornerstones of  
 17 [the Supreme Court’s] pre-emption jurisprudence.” *Wyeth v. Levine*, 555 U.S. 555, 565  
 18 (2009). “First, ‘the purpose of Congress is the ultimate touchstone in every pre-emption  
 19 case.’” *Id.* (quoting *Medtronic, Inc. v. Lohr*, 518 U.S. 470, 485 (1996)) (citing *Retail*  
 20 *Clerks v. Schermerhorn*, 375 U.S. 96, 103 (1963)). “Second, ‘[i]n all pre-emption cases,  
 21 and particularly in those in which Congress has ‘legislated . . . in a field which the States  
 22 have traditionally occupied,’ . . . [the Court] ‘start[s] with the assumption that the historic  
 23 police powers of the States were not to be superseded by the Federal Act unless that was  
 24 the clear and manifest purpose of Congress.’” *Id.* (quoting *Medtronic, Inc.*, 518 U.S. at  
 25 485) (first, second, and third alterations in original).

#### 26 ***1. Presumption Against Preemption***

27 “[T]he Supreme Court [has] noted that [i]n preemption analysis, courts should  
 28 assume that the historic police powers of the States are not superseded ‘unless that was the

1 clear and manifest purpose of Congress.” *United States v. California*, 921 F.3d 865, 885–  
2 86 (9th Cir. 2019) (quoting *Arizona v. United States*, 567 U.S. 387, 400 (2012)), *cert.*  
3 *denied*, \_\_\_ S. Ct. \_\_\_, 2020 WL 3146844 (2020). Defendants contend that, because  
4 “California possesses the historic police power ‘to ensure the health and welfare of inmates  
5 and detainees in facilities within its borders,’” MTD at 15 (quoting *California*, 921 F.3d at  
6 885–86) (citing *Medtronic, Inc.*, 518 U.S. at 475; *Hillsborough Cty. v. Automated Med.*  
7 *Labs., Inc.*, 471 U.S. 707, 719 (1985); *Puente Ariz.*, 821 F.3d at 1104); MJP at 15 (quoting  
8 *California*, 921 F.3d at 885–86) (citing *Puente Ariz.*, 821 F.3d at 1104), “Plaintiff[s] would  
9 have to show that it was Congress’s ‘clear and manifest purpose’ to preempt AB 32.” MTD  
10 at 15; MJP at 15.

11 Plaintiffs contend that the presumption against preemption is inapplicable here. *See*  
12 *generally* *GEO* ECF No. 30 (“GEO Opp’n”) at 12–15; *U.S.* ECF No. 22 (“U.S. Opp’n”) at  
13 11–14. Specifically, *GEO* argues that California exceeded its traditional police powers by  
14 enacting a law purporting to regulate facilities and detainees subject to the jurisdiction of  
15 the Federal Government, *GEO* Opp’n at 13; *see also id.* at 14, as well as “the conduct of  
16 federal officials and contractors.” *Id.* at 13. Similarly, the United States urges that “[t]here  
17 is no presumption against preemption in areas that are ‘inherently federal in character,’”  
18 including “(1) the United States’ authority to control rights and obligations under its  
19 contracts, (2) the Federal Government’s prerogative to provide for those in its custody, and  
20 (3) the federal power over foreign relations and immigration.” *U.S.* Opp’n at 11 (quoting  
21 *Buckman Co. v. Pls.’ Legal Comm.*, 531 U.S. 341, 347–48 (2001)) (citing *Stengel v.*  
22 *Medtronic Inc.*, 704 F.3d 1224, 1235 (9th Cir. 2013) (Watford, J., concurring); *U.S.* Mot.  
23 at 8). Defendants respond that “the presumption ‘applies when a state regulates in an area  
24 of historic state power even if the law touches on’ an area of significant federal presence.”  
25 *GEO* ECF No. 31 (“MTD Reply”) at 5 (quoting *Knox v. Brnovich*, 907 F.3d 1167, 1174  
26 (9th Cir. 2018)); *U.S.* ECF No. 23 (“MJP Reply”) at 5 (quoting *Knox*, 907 F.3d at 1174).

27 The Court agrees with Defendants. The Supreme Court has long recognized that  
28 “the regulation of health and safety matters is primarily, and historically, a matter of local

1 concern.” *Hillsborough*, 471 U.S. at 719 (citing *Rice v. Santa Fe Elevator Corp.*, 331 U.S.  
 2 218, 230 (1947)). As Defendants note, *see* MTD at 15; MJP at 15, the Ninth Circuit  
 3 recently recognized that “California possesses the general authority to ensure the health  
 4 and welfare of inmates and detainees in facilities within its borders.”<sup>12</sup> *California*, 921  
 5 F.3d at 886. The statute in question, Assembly Bill 103, authorized the California Attorney  
 6 General to “engage in reviews of county, local, or private locked detention facilities in  
 7 which noncitizens are being housed or detained for purposes of civil immigration  
 8 proceedings in California,” Cal. Gov’t Code § 12532(b), thereby “relat[ing] exclusively to  
 9 federal conduct.” *California*, 921 F.3d at 882. It therefore appears that the Ninth Circuit  
 10 implicitly has recognized that California’s authority to ensure the health and welfare of  
 11 inmates and detainees within its borders extends to federal inmates and detainees.

12 As confirmed by its legislative history,<sup>13</sup> A.B. 32 appears to be a regulation ensuring  
 13 the health and welfare of inmates and detainees within California’s borders. *See* Tr. at  
 14 \_\_\_\_\_

15 <sup>12</sup> Plaintiffs urge the Court to disregard the Ninth Circuit’s guidance in *California* as dicta, *see* GEO Opp’n  
 16 at 15, or as distinguishable on the grounds that the law at issue in *California* “d[id] not regulate whether  
 17 or where an immigration detainee may be confined.” U.S. Opp’n at 13 (quoting *California*, 921 F.3d at  
 18 885). Even if dicta, *California* remains the Ninth Circuit’s most recent and analogous guidance on the  
 19 issue, and it is all the more persuasive given Plaintiffs’ failure to identify analogous cases rejecting the  
 20 presumption against preemption. The portion of *California* from which the United States quotes served  
 21 to distinguish that case from *In re Tarble*, 80 U.S. 397 (1871). *See California*, 921 F.3d at 885. In *Tarble*,  
 22 the issue the Supreme Court confronted was “[w]hether any judicial officer of a State has jurisdiction to  
 23 issue a writ of *habeas corpus*, or to continue proceedings under the writ when issued, for the discharge of  
 24 a person held under the authority, or claim and color of the authority, of the United States, by an officer  
 25 of that government.” 80 U.S. at 402 (emphasis in original). Unlike in *Tarble*, neither this case nor  
 26 *California* involve *habeas corpus* or a state ordering the release of a person held in federal custody; rather,  
 27 both A.B. 32 and A.B. 103 address conditions in detention facilities located in California. In any event,  
 28 A.B. 32 “does not regulate whether or where an immigration detainee may be confined,” *cf. California*,  
 921 F.3d at 885, or federal detainees, officials, or contractors, *see* GEO Opp’n at 13; U.S. Opp’n at  
 11–12; rather, it regulates “person[s] . . . operat[ing] . . . private detention facility[ies] within the state.”  
*See* Cal. Penal Code § 9501.

<sup>13</sup> In each case, Defendants request that the Court take judicial notice of six exhibits, each part of the  
 legislative history of A.B. 32. *See generally* GEO ECF No. 20-1; GEO ECF No. 23; U.S. ECF No. 13-1;  
 U.S. ECF No. 15 (together, “Defs.’ RJNs”). Specifically, Defendants request that the Court take judicial  
 notice of the following: (1) Assem. Comm. on Public Safety, Bill Analysis of Assembly Bill 32, 2019-  
 2020 Reg. Sess. (Feb. 26, 2019); (2) Assem. Comm. on Appropriations, Bill Analysis of Assembly Bill  
 32, 2019-2020 Reg. Sess. (March 6, 2019); (3) Assem. Floor Analysis, Bill Analysis of Assembly Bill 32,

1 88:23–89:89:8. For example, the Assembly Committee on Public Safety’s February 26,  
2 2019 analysis of A.B. 32 reveals that Assemblyman Bonta—the author of A.B. 32—  
3 expressed concern that “[a] private, for-profit company that is traded on Wall Street will  
4 inherently be incentivized to maximize profits and minimize costs—including the  
5 important ‘cost’ of investments in programs, services and rehabilitation efforts for  
6 inmates.” Defs.’ RJNs Ex. 1 at 2. The Committee also noted “[c]oncerns with [p]rivate  
7 [p]risons,” specifically, a 2016 investigation by the DOJ’s Office of the Inspector General  
8 (“OIG”) that found, among other things, “that private prisons were less safe than federal  
9 prisons, poorly administered, and . . . had higher rates of assaults, both by inmates on other  
10 inmates and by inmates on staff.” *Id.* at 4; *see also* Defs.’ RJNs Ex. 5 at 6 (Senate  
11 Committee on Public Safety analysis discussing same DOJ OIG investigation). Similarly,  
12 the Assembly Committee on Appropriations’ March 6, 2019 analysis of A.B. 32 noted that  
13 “[t]he California State Auditor recently reported in February 2019 that Geo Group, Inc.,  
14 operates private facilities in McFarland and Adelanto that house Immigration and Customs  
15 Enforcement (ICE) detainees in arguably unsafe and unhealthy facilities with no city,  
16 county, or state oversight.” Defs.’ RJNs Ex. 2 at 2. Such health and safety concerns were  
17 also present in the Senate, which provided the following “digest” of A.B. 32 for the July 2,  
18 2019 Senate Judiciary Committee hearing: “In line with California’s interest in ensuring  
19 the safety and welfare of its residents, this bill abolishes the private for-profit prison  
20 industry from our state in order to protect incarcerated individuals from serious harm within  
21 our state border.” Defs.’ RJNs Ex. 4 at 1; *accord* Defs.’ RJNs Ex. 6 at 1. Consequently,

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23 2019-2020 Reg. Sess. (May 21, 2019); (4) Sen. Judiciary Comm., Bill Analysis of Assembly Bill 32,  
24 2019-2020 Reg. Sess. (July 2, 2019); (5) Sen. Public Safety Comm., Bill Analysis of Assembly Bill 32,  
25 2019-2020 Reg. Sess. (July 9, 2019); (6) Sen. Floor Analyses, Bill Analysis of Assembly Bill 32, 2019-  
26 2020 Reg. Sess. (Sept. 9, 2019). *See* Defs.’ RJNs at 2. As Defendants note, *see id.* (citing *Tan v. GrubHub,*  
27 *Inc.*, 171 F. Supp. 3d 998, 1004 (N.D. Cal. 2016); *Zephyr v. Saxon Mortg. Servs., Inc.*, 873 F. Supp. 2d  
28 1223, 1226 (E.D. Cal. 2012)), “[t]he legislative history of California statutes is judicially noticeable so  
long as the documents are readily available public records.” With the caveat that the Court “cannot take  
judicial notice of disputed facts contained in such public records,” *see Khoja*, 899 F.3d at 999 (citing *Lee*  
*v. City of Los Angeles*, 250 F.3d 668, 689 (9th Cir. 2001)), the Court therefore **GRANTS** Defendants’  
Requests for Judicial Notice.



1 even though A.B. 32 may affect areas of federal concern, including federal detention and  
2 contracting, it also regulates the health and safety of detainees held within California. *See,*  
3 *e.g., Puente Ariz.*, 821 F.3d at 1104 (“[W]hile the identity theft laws [at issue] certainly  
4 have effects in the area of immigration, the text of the laws regulate for the health and  
5 safety of the people of Arizona.”) (citing *Medtronic, Inc.*, 518 U.S. at 475).

6 The Court therefore concludes that the presumption against preemption applies and  
7 that Plaintiffs “bear the considerable burden of overcoming the starting presumption that  
8 Congress does not intend to supplant state law,” *see Stengel*, 704 F.3d at 1227–28 (quoting  
9 *De Buono v. NYSA-ILA Med. & Clinical Servs. Fund*, 520 U.S. 806, 814 (1997)) (internal  
10 quotation marks omitted), by demonstrating a contrary “clear and manifest purpose of  
11 Congress.” *California*, 921 F.3d at 885–86 (quoting *Arizona*, 567 U.S. at 400).

## 12 2. Conflict Preemption

13 “Conflict preemption is implicit preemption of state law that occurs where there is  
14 an actual conflict between state and federal law.” *CTIA*, 928 F.3d at 849 (quoting  
15 *McClellan v. I-Flow Corp.*, 776 F.3d 1035, 1039 (9th Cir. 2015)). “Conflict preemption  
16 arises either when ‘compliance with both federal and state regulations is a physical  
17 impossibility . . . or when state law stands as an obstacle to the accomplishment and  
18 execution of the full purposes and objectives of Congress.’” *Id.* (alteration in original)  
19 (quoting *McClellan*, 776 F.3d at 1039).

20 According to GEO, A.B. 32 is conflict preempted both by federal criminal law and  
21 immigration law, *see* GEO Compl. ¶¶ 125–34; *see also* GEO Opp’n at 15–24, while the  
22 United States contends that A.B. 32 is conflict preempted by Congress’s delegation to  
23 Executive Branch agencies authority to house federal prisoners and detainees. *See* U.S.  
24 Compl. ¶ 64; *see also* U.S. Opp’n at 21–25.

### 25 a. GEO

26 GEO argues that “AB-32 is preempted because it denies to both federal immigration  
27 and criminal law-enforcement statutes”—which “authorize ICE and the USMS to carry out  
28 their respective detention operations using private contractors,” GEO Mot. at 30—“their



1 ‘natural effect[s]’ and obviously ‘frustrate[s]’ their operation.” *Id.* at 29–30 (quoting  
2 *Savage v. Jones*, 225 U.S. 501, 533 (1912)) (alteration in original).

3 i. Federal Immigration Law

4 GEO does not appear to argue that it is impossible to comply with both A.B. 32 and  
5 federal law and regulations concerning the housing of immigration detainees; the relevant  
6 inquiry, therefore, is whether A.B. 32, as applied to GEO in its contracts with ICE, “stands  
7 as an obstacle to the accomplishment and execution of the full purposes and objectives of  
8 Congress.” *CTIA*, 928 F.3d at 849 (quoting *McClellan*, 776 F.3d at 1039); *see also* *Tr.* at  
9 55:5–9. “What is a sufficient obstacle is a matter of judgment, to be informed by  
10 examining the federal statute as a whole and identifying its purpose and intended effects.”  
11 *Crosby v. Nat’l Foreign Trade Council*, 530 U.S. 363, 373 (2000). In other words, “state  
12 law is preempted to the extent it actually interferes with the ‘methods by which the federal  
13 statute was designed to reach [its] goal.’” *In re Nat’l Sec. Agency Telecommc’ns Records*  
14 *Litig.*, 633 F. Supp. 2d 892, 907 (N.D. Cal. 2007) (quoting *Int’l Paper Co. v. Ouellette*, 479  
15 U.S. 481, 494 (1987)) (citing *Verizon N., Inc. v. Strand*, 309 F.3d 935, 940 (6th Cir. 2002)).

16 Here, the immigration statutes on which GEO relies do not reveal a clear and  
17 manifest congressional objective that ICE contract with private detention facilities to house  
18 immigration detainees. GEO relies predominantly on 8 U.S.C. § 1231(g), which provides:

19 **(g) Places of detention**

20 **(1) In general**

21 The Attorney General shall arrange for appropriate places of  
22 detention for aliens detained pending removal or a decision on  
23 removal. When United States Government facilities are  
24 unavailable or facilities adapted or suitably located for detention  
25 are unavailable for rental, the Attorney General may expend from  
26 the appropriation “Immigration and Naturalization Service--  
27 Salaries and Expenses”, without regard to section 6101 of Title  
28 41, amounts necessary to acquire land and to acquire, build,  
remodel, repair, and operate facilities (including living quarters  
for immigration officers if not otherwise available) necessary for

1 detention.

2 **(2) Detention facilities of the Immigration and**  
3 **Naturalization Service**

4 Prior to initiating any project for the construction of any new  
5 detention facility for the Service, the Commissioner shall  
6 consider the availability for purchase or lease of any existing  
7 prison, jail, detention center, or other comparable facility suitable  
8 for such use.

9 While Section 1231(g) articulates certain congressional objectives, such as purchasing or  
10 leasing available and existing facilities prior to the construction of new facilities, it does  
11 not express a clear intent that ICE lease private detention facilities in particular or, much  
12 less, contract with private parties to operate such facilities. Further, where appropriate  
13 facilities are “unavailable,” Congress explicitly has authorized the construction of new  
14 detention facilities. *See* 8 U.S.C. §§ 1231(g)(1), (2). Consequently, even if the application  
15 of A.B. 32 were to render private detention facilities within California “unavailable,”  
16 congressional objectives nonetheless can be fully accomplished through the construction  
17 of new facilities (or the lease of existing facilities that can no longer be operated by the  
18 private detention industry). “As the Supreme Court has cautioned, [courts] should not  
19 ‘seek[ ] out conflicts between state and federal regulation where none clearly  
20 exists.’” *Ass’n des Éleveurs de Canards et d’Oies du Quebec v. Becerra*, 870 F.3d 1140,  
21 1153 (9th Cir. 2017) (quoting *English v. Gen. Elec. Co.*, 496 U.S. 72, 90 (1990)) (second  
22 alteration in original); *see also Puente Ariz.*, 821 F.3d at 1105 (“[T]ension is not enough to  
23 rise to the level of a ‘clear and manifest purpose’ to preempt the [challenged] laws in their  
24 entirety.”) (citing *Wyeth*, 555 U.S. at 565).

25 The additional statutes cited by GEO are no more availing. GEO notes, for example,  
26 that “[t]he Secretary . . . shall have the authority to make contracts, grants, and cooperative  
27 agreements, and to enter into agreements with other executive agencies, as may be  
28 necessary and proper to carry out the Secretary’s responsibilities under this chapter or  
otherwise provided by law.” 6 U.S.C. § 112(b)(2). Although this statute could conceivably

1 encompass the authority to make contracts with private detention companies, that intention  
2 is by no means clearly and manifestly expressed. Similarly, that, “[e]xcept to the extent  
3 provided otherwise by law, the activities of the Department of Justice (including any  
4 bureau, office, board, division, commission, subdivision, unit, or other component thereof)  
5 may, in the reasonable discretion of the Attorney General, be carried out through any  
6 means, including . . . through contracts, grants, or cooperative agreements with non-Federal  
7 parties,” 28 U.S.C. § 530C(a)(4), does not reveal any clear and manifest congressional  
8 intent that ICE house detainees in private detention facilities. GEO also cites to a  
9 Department of Justice Appropriations Act passed in 2000, which provides,  
10 “[n]otwithstanding any other provision of law, . . . the [Secretary] hereafter may enter into  
11 contracts and other agreements, of any reasonable duration, for detention or incarceration  
12 space or facilities, including related services, on any reasonable basis.” GEO Opp’n at  
13 17–18 (second and third alterations in original) (emphasis omitted). Again, this does not  
14 clearly and manifestly reveal a congressional intent that ICE detainees be housed in private  
15 detention facilities.

16 Although A.B. 32

17 might at times be in tension with . . . [the] federal desire [to use  
18 private detention facilities,] . . . the question to be answered by  
19 the Court is not what preemption holding will produce the  
20 smoothest path for government. The Court is not a general  
21 ombudsman, at liberty to fashion a preemption ruling that  
accommodates priorities that appear to be important. The key  
question—the “touchstone”—is the intent of Congress.

22 *Puente Ariz. v. Arpaio*, No. CV-14-01356-PHX-DGC, 2016 WL 6873294, at \*15 (D. Ariz.  
23 Nov. 22, 2016) (citing *Wyeth*, 555 U.S. at 565; *Medtronic, Inc.*, 518 U.S. at 485). Because  
24 GEO has failed to establish a clear and manifest congressional intent that ICE house  
25 immigration detainees in private detention facilities, the Court concludes that A.B. 32 is  
26 not obstacle preempted as applied to GEO’s contracts with ICE.

27 ii. Federal Criminal Law

28 GEO argues that “AB-32 likewise conflicts with the Federal Government’s unique

1 interest in enforcing federal criminal law.” GEO Mot. at 34. As with GEO’s contracts  
2 with ICE, the Court must analyze whether A.B. 32, as applied to GEO in its contracts with  
3 USMS, “stands as an obstacle to the accomplishment and execution of the full purposes  
4 and objectives of Congress.” *CTIA*, 928 F.3d at 849 (quoting *McClellan*, 776 F.3d at 1039).

5 Section 4013 of Title 18 of the United States Code, which is central to the Court’s  
6 inquiry, provides:

7 The Attorney General, in support of United States prisoners in  
8 non-Federal institutions, is authorized to make payments from  
9 funds appropriated for Federal prisoner detention for . . . the  
10 housing, care, and security of persons held in custody of a United  
11 States marshal pursuant to Federal law under agreements with  
State or local units of government or contracts with private  
entities.

12 18 U.S.C. § 4013(a)(3). Further, “[t]he United States Marshals Service may designate  
13 districts that need additional support from private detention entities under [18 U.S.C.  
14 § 4013](a)(3) based on--(A) the number of Federal detainees in the district; and (B) the  
15 availability of appropriate Federal, State, and local government detention facilities.” *Id.*  
16 § 4013(c)(1). However, “to be eligible for a contract for the housing, care, and security of  
17 persons held in custody of the United States Marshals pursuant to Federal law and funding  
18 under [14 U.S.C. § 4013](a)(3), a private entity shall,” among other things, “be located in  
19 a district that has been designated as needing additional Federal detention facilities  
20 pursuant to [18 U.S.C. § 4013(c)](1),” *id.* § 4013(c)(2)(A), and “comply with all applicable  
21 State and local laws and regulations.” *Id.* § 4013(c)(2)(C).

22 The Court agrees with GEO that A.B. 32 stands as an obstacle to the execution of  
23 the full purposes of Congress reflected in Section 4013. Congress clearly authorized  
24 USMS to use private detention facilities in limited circumstances, such as where the  
25 number of USMS detainees in a given district exceeds the available capacity of federal,  
26 state, and local facilities. Although Congress plainly required private detention facilities  
27 to “comply with all applicable State and local laws and regulations” to be “eligible” for a  
28 contract with USMS in such districts, A.B. 32 would render *no* private detention facilities

1 eligible to contract with USMS. A.B. 32 therefore forecloses USMS from contracting with  
2 private detention facilities in those districts in which there does not exist sufficient  
3 availability in federal, state, or local facilities, in contravention of Congress' clear and  
4 manifest objective that the option be available. Accordingly, the Court concludes that A.B.  
5 32 is obstacle preempted as applied to GEO's contracts with USMS.

6 b. The United States

7 According to the United States, A.B. 32 would "eliminate congressionally  
8 authorized contracts for private detention facilities and jettison the Executive Branch's  
9 congressionally delegated discretion," U.S. Mot. at 32 (citing Cal. Penal Code §§ 9501,  
10 9505(a)), which would "defeat[] the purpose of Congress's pervasive statutory framework"  
11 because, "[w]hen Congress charges an agency with balancing competing objectives, it  
12 intends the agency to use its reasoned judgment to weigh the relevant considerations and  
13 determine how best to prioritize those objectives." *Id.* (quoting *CTIA*, 928 F.3d at 849).  
14 "'Allowing a state law to impose a different standard'—or, worse, obviating the need for  
15 congressionally prescribed balancing by eliminating an option altogether—violates the  
16 Supremacy Clause." *Id.* (quoting *CTIA*, 928 F.3d at 849) (citing *Arizona*, 567 U.S. at 406;  
17 *Crosby*, 530 U.S. at 376–77).

18 i. BOP

19 For the reasons discussed above, *see supra* Section II.A, the Court concludes that  
20 the United States has failed to establish a justiciable case or controversy as to whether A.B.  
21 32 is preempted with respect to BOP's privately contracted facilities. Even if the United  
22 States did have standing, however, the Court would conclude that A.B. 32 is not obstacle  
23 preempted as to those facilities.

24 With regard to Taft, the United States relies primarily on Section 3621(b), which  
25 instructs:

26 The Bureau of Prisons shall designate the place of the prisoner's  
27 imprisonment, and shall, subject to bed availability, . . . place the  
28 prisoner in a facility as close as practicable to the prisoner's  
primary residence, and to the extent practicable, in a facility

1 within 500 driving miles of that residence.

2 18 U.S.C. § 3621(b). Although the United States is correct that this provision reveals a  
3 clear congressional objective that BOP detainees be housed “as close as practicable” to  
4 their primary residence, it is not clear from the statutory text that Congress intended for  
5 BOP to accomplish that objective through the use of private detention facilities. Further,  
6 the directive is limited, among other things, by “bed availability.” To the extent A.B. 32  
7 limits “bed availability” within the preferred zone of detention, Congress specifically has  
8 authorized imprisonment at facilities further away.

9 The additional sources on which the United States relies are unavailing. Like  
10 Section 3621, Section 530C(a)(4) fails to reveal a clear congressional intent that BOP use  
11 private detention facilities. That statute provides:

12 Except to the extent provided otherwise by law, the activities of  
13 the Department of Justice (including any bureau, office, board,  
14 division, commission, subdivision, unit, or other component  
15 thereof) may, in the reasonable discretion of the Attorney  
16 General, be carried out through any means, including . . . through  
contracts, grants, or cooperative agreements with non-Federal  
parties.

17 28 U.S.C. § 530C(a)(4). Not only does Section 530(C) make no references to detention,  
18 but “non-Federal parties” does not clearly and manifestly refer to private parties, let alone  
19 private detention facilities.

20 Further, neither BOP’s contracting history nor the opinion from the Office of Legal  
21 Counsel is relevant to the Court’s analysis. As the Supreme Court has long recognized—  
22 and recently reiterated:

23 In all cases, the federal restrictions or rights that are said to  
24 conflict with state law must stem from either the Constitution  
25 itself or a valid statute enacted by Congress. “There is no federal  
26 preemption *in vacuo*,” without a constitutional text, federal  
statute, or treaty made under the authority of the United States.

27 *Kansas*, 140 S. Ct. at 801 (quoting *P.R. Dep’t of Consumer Affairs v. Isla Petroleum Corp.*,  
28 485 U.S. 495, 503 (1988)) (citing *Va. Uranium, Inc. v. Warren*, 587 U. S. \_\_\_, 139 S. Ct.



1 1894, 1901 (2019); *U.S. Chamber of Comm. v. Whiting*, 563 U.S. 582, 599 (2011)). BOP’s  
2 contracting history—extensive as it may be—and the opinion of the Office of Legal  
3 Counsel do not fit into any of these categories and, therefore, cannot establish  
4 congressional intent, *see, e.g., id.* at 807 (“The Supremacy Clause gives priority to ‘the  
5 Laws of the United States,’ not the . . . priorities or preferences of federal officers.”)  
6 (quoting U.S. Const. Art. VI, cl. 2), which is “‘the ultimate touchstone’ in every pre-  
7 emption case.” *Medtronic, Inc.*, 518 U.S. at 485. Accordingly, the Court concludes that  
8 federal criminal law does not obstacle preempt A.B. 32 as applied to BOP’s detention  
9 facilities.

10 As for BOP’s RRCs, the United States relies primarily on two statutes, neither of  
11 which reveals a clear and manifest congressional intent that BOP use private detention  
12 facilities for RRCs. The first statute on which the United States relies provides:

13 The Director of the Bureau of Prisons shall, to the extent  
14 practicable, ensure that a prisoner serving a term of  
15 imprisonment spends a portion of the final months of that term  
16 (not to exceed 12 months), under conditions that will afford that  
17 prisoner a reasonable opportunity to adjust to and prepare for the  
reentry of that prisoner into the community. Such conditions  
may include a community correctional facility.

18 18 U.S.C. § 3624(c)(1). The statute does not reveal a clear and manifest congressional  
19 intent that the Director of BOP use privately operated detention facilities to achieve the  
20 objective of “affording . . . prisoner[s] a reasonable opportunity to adjust to and prepare for  
21 . . . reentry . . . into the community.” *See id.* Further, such opportunities are to be made  
22 available “to the extent practicable.” *See id.*

23 The second statute on which the United States relies lays out certain “[d]iscretionary  
24 conditions” of probation. 18 U.S.C. § 3563(b). Specifically, the United States points to  
25 the fact that

26 [t]he court may provide, as further conditions of a sentence of  
27 probation, . . . that the defendant . . . remain in the custody of the  
28 Bureau of Prisons during nights, weekends, or other intervals of  
time, totaling no more than the lesser of one year or the term of

1 imprisonment authorized for the offense, during the first year of  
2 the term of probation or supervised release,

3 *id.* § 3563(b)(10), or “reside at, or participate in the program of, a community corrections  
4 facility (including a facility maintained or under contract to the Bureau of Prisons) for all  
5 or part of the term of probation.” *Id.* § 3563(b)(11). This statute applies to the courts, not  
6 BOP, and also is explicitly “[d]iscretionary.” *See generally id.* § 3563(b). In any event, to  
7 the extent that it does reveal a congressional intent that BOP may maintain community  
8 corrections facilities under contract with others, it does not clearly and manifestly reveal a  
9 congressional intent that those facilities be under contract with the operators of private  
10 detention facilities. Consequently, the Court concludes that A.B. 32 also is not obstacle  
11 preempted as applied to BOP’s RRCs.

12 ii. USMS

13 Like GEO, the United States contends that A.B. 32 would “nullif[y]” Congress’  
14 authorization that USMS may “designate districts that need additional support from  
15 private detention entities’ based on its consideration of ‘the number of Federal detainees in  
16 the district’ and ‘the availability of appropriate Federal, State, and local government  
17 detention facilities.’” U.S. Mot. at 34 (quoting 18 U.S.C. § 4013(c)(1)). For the reasons  
18 set forth above, *see supra* Section II.B.2.a.ii, the Court agrees. Accordingly, the Court  
19 concludes that A.B. 32 is obstacle preempted as applied to the USMS’s contracts with  
20 private detention centers pursuant to Section 4013(c)(1).

21 iii. ICE

22 Again, like GEO, the United States argues that A.B. 32 will “nullif[y] Congress’s  
23 purpose in allowing ICE to rent ‘facilities adapted or suitably located for detention’ as a  
24 first resort before ‘acquir[ing], build[ing], remodel[ing], repair[ing], and operat[ing]  
25 facilities . . . necessary for detention.’” U.S. Mot. at 34 (quoting 8 U.S.C.  
26 § 1231(g)(1)–(2)) (second through sixth alterations in original). For the reasons discussed

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1 above, *see supra* Section II.B.2.a.i, the Court disagrees.<sup>14</sup> The Court therefore concludes  
2 that A.B. 32 is not obstacle preempted as applied to ICE’s contracts with private detention  
3 centers.

#### 4 iv. Contract Options

5 Finally, the United States argues that “California’s obstruction of congressional  
6 objectives is perhaps best illustrated by A.B. 32’s prohibition on extending any contracts  
7 for private detention facilities, even when extensions are ‘authorized by th[ose]  
8 contract[s].’” U.S. Mot. at 34–35 (quoting Cal. Penal Code § 9505(a)) (alterations in  
9 original). The United States argues this is so because “Federal regulations specifically  
10 authorize option provisions that allow the United States to unilaterally extend arrangements  
11 with its contractors for a specified period,” and “the contractor is bound to perform during  
12 the ‘option period’ if exercised by the Federal Government.” *Id.* at 35 (citing 48 C.F.R. §  
13 17.208(f)–(g); 48 C.F.R. § 52.217-8; 48 C.F.R. § 52.217-9). This renders it “impossible  
14 for federal contractors providing private detention services to comply with both their  
15 obligations under the pre-negotiated contract (authorized by federal law) and California’s  
16 attempt to ban contract extensions.” *Id.*

17 In the absence of clear and manifest congressional intent that BOP or ICE contract  
18 with private detention facilities, A.B. 32 does not unconstitutionally impede the United  
19 States’ contracting ability. Further, the Court agrees with Defendants that the federal  
20 contract procurement regulations—which nowhere require contracts with private detention  
21 facilities to house BOP or ICE detainees or extensions of such contracts—do not conflict  
22 preempt A.B. 32.

#### 23 3. Field Preemption

24 The United States additionally contends that A.B. 32 is field preempted. *See* U.S.  
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26 <sup>14</sup> The additional authorities cited by the United States, consisting mainly of regulations promulgated by  
27 DHS, do not reveal a clear and manifest *congressional* intent that ICE use private detention facilities to  
28 house immigration detainees. That DHS has “promulgated numerous regulations predicated on [its  
perceived] authority,” *see* U.S. Opp’n at 24–25, does not mean that the Court should find a clear and  
manifest congressional intent where one is lacking.

1 Compl. ¶ 63. “States are precluded from regulating conduct in a field that Congress, acting  
 2 within its proper authority, has determined must be regulated by its exclusive governance.”  
 3 *Arizona*, 567 U.S. at 399 (citing *Gade v. Nat’l Solid Wastes Mgmt. Ass’n*, 505 U.S. 88, 115  
 4 (1992) (Souter, J., dissenting)). The Supreme Court has instructed:

5           The intent to displace state law altogether can be inferred from a  
 6 framework of regulation “so pervasive . . . that Congress left no  
 7 room for the States to supplement it” or where there is a “federal  
 8 interest . . . so dominant that the federal system will be assumed  
 to preclude enforcement of state laws on the same subject.”

9 *Id.* (alterations in original) (quoting *Rice*, 331 U.S. at 230) (citing *English*, 496 U.S. at 79).  
 10 The Supreme Court recently noted that field preemption has been found “[i]n rare cases.”  
 11 *See Garcia*, 140 S. Ct. at 804.

12           a.       The Relevant Field

13           “[T]o determine whether Congress has implicitly ousted the States from regulating  
 14 in a particular field, [a court] must first identify the field in which this is said to have  
 15 occurred.” *Kansas*, 140 S. Ct. at 804. “Because ‘Congress must clearly manifest an  
 16 intention’ to ‘enter and completely absorb the field’ in order to preclude state regulation in  
 17 that field . . . , it is necessary to delineate ‘the pertinent regulatory field’ with  
 18 specificity.” *Knox*, 907 F.3d at 1174 (quoting *Ry. Mail Ass’n*, 326 U.S. at 97; *Nat’l Fed’n*  
 19 *of the Blind v. United Airlines Inc.*, 813 F.3d 718, 734 (9th Cir. 2016)). The Parties agree  
 20 that the pertinent field must be defined “with specificity.” *See* MJP at 16 (citing *Knox*, 907  
 21 F.3d at 1173–74); U.S. Opp’n at 18 n.9 (citing *Nat’l Fed’n*, 813 F.3d at 734, 737; *Martin*  
 22 *ex rel. Heckman v. Midw. Express Holdings, Inc.*, 555 F.3d 806, 812 (9th Cir. 2009); *Novoa*  
 23 *v. GEO Grp., Inc.*, No. EDCV 17-2514 JGB (SHKx), 2018 WL 3343494, at \*4 (C.D. Cal.  
 24 June 21, 2018); *Bernstein v. Virgin Am., Inc.*, 227 F. Supp. 3d 1049, 1071 (N.D. Cal.  
 25 2017)). Indeed, “Courts tasked with delineating the pertinent regulatory field have tailored  
 26 it narrowly.” *Helicopters for Agric. v. Cty. of Napa*, 384 F. Supp. 3d 1035, 1041 (N.D.  
 27 Cal. 2019) (citing *Martin*, 555 F.3d at 811).

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1 Not surprisingly, given the importance of the inquiry, the United States and  
2 Defendants advocate for different definitions of the relevant field. Defendants argue that  
3 “AB 32 affects two fields in which Congress has legislated: (1) the operation of  
4 immigration detention facilities and (2) the operation of criminal detention facilities.” MJP  
5 at 16; *see also* MJP Reply at 6. The United States, on the other hand, contends that the  
6 relevant field is “contracting for federal prisoner and detainee housing.” MJP Opp’n at 14,  
7 15. Defendants respond that the United States’ proffered field is incorrect for two reasons.  
8 *See* MJP Reply at 6–7. First, “AB 32 regulates private persons’ operation of detention  
9 facilities,” meaning “AB 32’s potential effect on the federal government’s future  
10 contracting practices does not make contracting the subject of the state law.” *Id.* at 6 (citing  
11 Cal. Penal Code § 9501). “Second, there is no single ‘field’ of federal statutes governing  
12 both immigration and criminal detention facilities,” as “Congress has created separate  
13 statutory schemes to regulate them in Titles 8 and 18, respectively, because they serve  
14 entirely different purposes, one civil and one criminal.” *Id.* at 6–7. Defendants urge that  
15 the United States should not be allowed to merge disparate legislative fields “to create the  
16 illusion of ‘density and detail.’” *Id.* at 7 (quoting *Nat’l Fed’n of the Blind*, 813 F.3d at  
17 734).

18 On balance, the Court concludes that Defendants have the better argument. First,  
19 although the Court agrees with the United States that the relevant field must be determined  
20 based on federal statutes, not A.B. 32, *see* Tr. at 63:23–64:5; *cf.* MJP Reply at 6 (citing  
21 *Knox*, 907 F.3d at 1174),<sup>15</sup> the Court agrees with Defendants that the United States’  
22 emphasis on contracting is misplaced. *See* MJP Reply at 6 (“[Under the United States’  
23 argument], a federal agency could argue that *any* state regulation is preempted merely  
24 because the federal government may wish to enter into a contract that is [in] any arguable  
25 way affected by the regulation.”) (emphasis in original). Second, the United States’  
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27 <sup>15</sup> Indeed, *Knox* instructs that the Court must determine the field that “Congress intended to occupy by  
28 enacting the [pertinent s]tatutes.” 907 F.3d at 1177 (emphasis added) (citing *Nat’l Fed’n of the Blind*, 813  
F.3d at 734).

1 proposed field would have the Court comb through various provisions of Titles 8, 18, and  
 2 28 to the United States Code.<sup>16</sup> The Supreme Court has cautioned, however, that “[i]mplied  
 3 preemption analysis does not justify a ‘freewheeling judicial inquiry into whether a state  
 4 statute is in tension with federal objectives.’” *See Whiting*, 563 U.S. at 607. By defining  
 5 the field broadly enough to encompass both civil and criminal detention statutes and  
 6 regulations, the United States invites the Court to engage in such an erroneous and  
 7 freewheeling inquiry. Consequently, the Court concludes that the pertinent fields are  
 8 (1) ICE’s housing of immigration detainees and (2) USMS’s and BOP’s housing of federal  
 9 prisoners.

10                   b.       Dominant Federal Interest

11           As discussed above, “[t]he intent to displace state law altogether can be inferred . . .  
 12 where there is a ‘federal interest . . . so dominant that the federal system will be assumed  
 13 to preclude enforcement of state laws on the same subject.’” *Arizona*, 567 U.S. at 399  
 14 (quoting *Rice*, 331 U.S. at 230). The United States claims “at least three dominant federal  
 15 interests preclude A.B. 32: (1) the Federal Government’s prerogative to provide for those  
 16 in its custody, (2) the federal power over foreign relations and immigration, and (3) the  
 17 United States’ authority to control rights and obligations under its contracts.” U.S. Opp’n  
 18 at 15 (citing U.S. Mot. at 23–25). The United States urges that, “[i]ndividually or  
 19 combined, these dominant federal interests preempt the field of contracts for federal  
 20 prisoner and detainee housing.” *Id.* at 17.

21                   i.       Federal Custody

22           As for its first purportedly dominant interest, the United States contends that A.B.  
 23 32 “would impermissibly encroach on the United States’ sovereign prerogative to house  
 24

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25  
 26 <sup>16</sup> At the hearing, the United States argued that “it doesn’t matter if the federal field goes across how you  
 27 look at the U.S. Code or across different Acts.” Tr. at 64:7–9. Specifically, the United States cited *United*  
 28 *States v. Locke*, 529 U.S. 89 (2000), which regulated oil tankers, and *Knox*, 907 F.3d 1167, which  
 concerned a single statute codified across different Titles about the postal monopoly. *See* Tr. at 64:9–17.  
 That other courts have looked across Titles of the United States Code in defining a relevant field, however,  
 does not mean that doing so would be appropriate here, where there are two distinct legislative fields.



1 its own prisoners and detainees by nullifying the Executive Branch’s decision to use a  
2 congressionally authorized housing option.” U.S. Opp’n at 15 (citing U.S. Mot. at 23).  
3 Defendants respond that there can be no preemption as to USMS-contracted detention  
4 facilities because “Congress has expressly subjected those facilities to state regulation such  
5 as AB 32.”<sup>17</sup> MJP Reply at 8 (citing 18 U.S.C. § 4013(c)(2)(C)).

6 While the federal interest in the housing of the United States’ prisoners and detainees  
7 is undeniably substantial, the Court cannot conclude that it is to the exclusion of the states.  
8 Indeed, in discussing ICE detention facilities in California, the Ninth Circuit recently  
9 acknowledged that “California possesses the general authority to ensure the health and  
10 welfare of inmates and detainees in facilities within its borders.” *See California*, 921 F.3d  
11 at 886. Further, as Defendants note, *see* MJP Reply at 8, this conclusion is bolstered by  
12 Congress’ express recognition that private detention facilities holding those in USMS  
13 custody could be subject to further state and local regulations. *See* 18 U.S.C.  
14 § 4013(c)(2)(C). Accordingly, the Court concludes that the federal interest in housing its  
15 prisoners and detainees does not impliedly preempt A.B. 32.

16 ii. Foreign Relations/Immigration

17 The United States also contends that “A.B. 32 interferes with the dominant federal  
18 interest in foreign relations and immigration,” U.S. Opp’n at 16 (citing U.S. Mot. at  
19 24–25), because “it can neither adequately control the safety and security of aliens in its  
20 custody, nor communicate effectively with foreign countries as ‘one national sovereign,’  
21 if States like California are allowed to dictate how and where the United States may house  
22 such individuals.” *Id.* (citing U.S. Mot. at 24 (quoting *Arizona*, 567 U.S. at 395)).  
23 Defendants counter that “the federal interest in the operation of immigration detention  
24 facilities does not ‘preclude enforcement of state laws on the same subject.’” MJP Reply  
25 at 7 (quoting *Puente Ariz.*, 821 F.3d at 1103) (citing *California*, 921 F.3d at 875–76). In  
26

27  
28 <sup>17</sup> Because Defendants challenge the United States’ standing regarding its BOP facilities, *see supra*  
Section II.A, they raise no substantive argument as to BOP. *See* MJP Reply at 8.

1 any event, “AB 32 does not regulate th[e] field [of the Federal Government’s exclusive  
2 immigration power relating to who may enter and remain in the country]; it merely  
3 exercises the state’s police power to protect detainees from private actors.” *Id.*

4 The Court agrees with Defendants. It is clear from the face of A.B. 32 that it does  
5 not regulate either foreign relations or immigration—it regulates only the operation of  
6 private detention facilities in California. *See* Cal. Penal Code § 9501. In any event, as  
7 discussed above, *see supra* Section II.B.3.b.i, the United States’ substantial interest in the  
8 operation of detention facilities does not preclude California from enacting any legislation  
9 in that area. *See California*, 921 F.3d at 886. Accordingly, the Court concludes that the  
10 federal interest in foreign relations and immigration does not preempt A.B. 32.

### 11 iii. Federal Contracting

12 Finally, the United States argues that “the United States has a dominant federal  
13 interest in controlling obligations to and rights of the United States under its contracts.”  
14 U.S. Opp’n at 17. Defendants respond that “AB 32 does not purport to prohibit the federal  
15 government from doing anything, including entering into contracts,” MJP Reply at 2, and  
16 that “AB 32’s potential effect on the federal government’s future contracting practices does  
17 not make contracting the subject of the state law.” *Id.* at 6.

18 Again, the Court agrees with Defendants. A.B. 32 does not regulate federal  
19 contracting, but rather the operation of private detention facilities within California, *see*  
20 Cal. Penal Code § 9501, and any incidental effect on the Federal Government’s contracting  
21 interests does not suffice to establish field preemption. *See, e.g., Knox*, 907 F.3d at  
22 1177–78. Accordingly, the Court concludes that the United States’ interest in federal  
23 contracting does not preempt A.B. 32.

### 24 c. Pervasive Regulation

25 Field preemption also “can be inferred from a framework of regulation ‘so pervasive  
26 . . . that Congress left no room for the States to supplement it.’” *Arizona*, 567 U.S. at 399  
27 (alteration in original) (quoting *Rice*, 331 U.S. at 230). “Outside of the[] areas [of  
28 immigration, air safety, labor disputes, and pension disputes], field preemption is rare.” *In*

1 *re Chrysler-Dodge-Jeep Ecodiesel Mktg., Sales Practices, & Prod. Liab. Litig.*, 295 F.  
2 Supp. 3d 927, 1001 (N.D. Cal. 2018). “In addition, the mere fact that a federal scheme is  
3 comprehensive is insufficient for a finding of field preemption, which arises only in  
4 extraordinary situations.” *Valentine v. NebuAd, Inc.*, 804 F. Supp. 2d 1022, 1029 (N.D.  
5 Cal. 2011) (quoting *In re NSA Telcomms. Records Litig.*, 483 F. Supp. 2d 934, 938 (N.D.  
6 Cal. 2007) (quoting *Wayne v. DHL Worldwide Express*, 294 F.3d 1179, 1184 (9th Cir.  
7 2002))) (internal quotation marks omitted).

8 The United States argues that “[s]tate regulations of contracts for federal prisoner  
9 and detainee housing, like A.B. 32, are . . . field preempted because there is ‘a framework  
10 of regulation so pervasive that Congress left no room for the States to supplement it.’” U.S.  
11 Opp’n at 18 (quoting *Arizona*, 567 U.S. at 399). According to the United States, “[t]hat  
12 framework could not be any clearer: Congress explicitly delegated to the Executive Branch  
13 full authority over federal prisoner and detainee housing and provided a full set of standards  
14 for USMS, BOP, and ICE to use in contracting for private detention facilities.” *Id.* (citing  
15 U.S. Mot. at 26–31).

16 i. ICE

17 The United States relies primarily on 8 U.S.C. § 1231 to support its argument that  
18 Congress has occupied the field of contracting for immigration detainee housing. In  
19 Section 1231, Congress directed that “[t]he [Secretary of Homeland Security] shall arrange  
20 for appropriate places of detention for aliens detained pending removal or a decision on  
21 removal” and may rent “facilities adapted or suitable located for detention.” U.S. Opp’n  
22 at 18 (quoting 8 U.S.C. § 1231(g)(1)). Further, “the Secretary may ‘acquire, build,  
23 remodel, repair, and operate facilities . . . necessary for detention,’ but must first ‘consider  
24 the availability for purchase or lease of any existing prison, jail, detention center, or other  
25 comparable facility suitable for such use.’” *Id.* (quoting 8 U.S.C. § 1231(g)(1)–(2))  
26 (alteration in original). Defendants rejoin that “Congress has not clearly and manifestly  
27 occupied the field of immigration detention operations” because “[i]t has enacted only a  
28 handful of statutes that merely provide federal agencies with the general authority to

1 operate their own detention facilities and to contract with states to operate (and regulate)  
2 facilities for them,” MJP Reply at 7 (citing 8 U.S.C. §§ 1231(g)(1), 1103(a)(11)), which  
3 “are far from ‘pervasive,’ ‘dens[e]’ or ‘detail[ed],” *id.* (quoting *Rice.*, 331 U.S. at 230;  
4 *Nat’l Fed’n of the Blind*, 813 F.3d at 734) (alterations in original), and “do not constitute a  
5 ‘full set of standards’ that could be threatened by AB 32.” *Id.* (quoting U.S. Opp’n at 19).

6 The Court agrees with Defendants that Congress has not occupied the field of  
7 housing immigration detainees. Section 1231 can hardly be said to set forth a framework  
8 “so pervasive that Congress left no room for the States to supplement it.” *See Arizona*, 567  
9 U.S. at 399. Instead, it merely tasks the Attorney General with arranging for “appropriate  
10 places of detention,” *see* 8 U.S.C. § 1231(g)(1), and expresses a preference that existing  
11 facilities be rented or purchased before new facilities are built. *See id.* §§ 1231(g)(1)–(2).  
12 No mention is made of who should operate such facilities, in what manner they should be  
13 operated, or any number of additional details. The authorities cited by the United States  
14 therefore “do not amount to ‘pervasive’ regulations of” the housing of immigration  
15 detainees. *See Parver v. Jet Blue Airlines Corp.*, 649 F. App’x 539, 543 (9th Cir. 2016)  
16 (citing *Gilstrap v. United Air Lines*, 709 F.3d 995, 1006 (9th Cir. 2013)); *see also Trishan*  
17 *Air, Inc. v. Dassault Falcon Jet Corp.*, No. CV 08-7294-VBF(JTLX), 2011 WL 13186258,  
18 at \*2 (C.D. Cal. May 17, 2011) (“[T]he regulations cited by [the defendant]  
19 do not sufficiently show such pervasive federal regulation in the area of flight training so  
20 as to preempt all claims based on negligent instruction under state standards of  
21 care.”) (citing *Martin*, 555 F.3d 806; 14 C.F.R. §§ 142.35–142.39); *Hitt v. Ariz. Beverage*  
22 *Co., LLC*, No. 08 CV 809 WQH (POR), 2009 WL 449190, at \*5 (S.D. Cal. Feb. 4, 2009)  
23 (“[T]here is nothing in the statutory provisions of [the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic  
24 Act], its implementing regulations or its legislative history to suggest that Congress  
25 intended to exclusively occupy the field of labeling beverages that purport to contain fruit.  
26 The Court finds that this scheme of regulation is not so pervasive as to make reasonable  
27 the inference that Congress left no room for the States to supplement it.”) (internal  
28 quotation marks omitted). Accordingly, the Court concludes that A.B. 32 is not field

1 preempted by existing statutes and regulations concerning the housing of ICE’s  
2 immigration detainees.

3 ii. BOP

4 The United States notes that “Congress explicitly delegated BOP the authority to  
5 ‘designate the place of . . . imprisonment’ for persons sentenced to incarceration, including  
6 ‘any available penal or correctional facility . . . whether maintained by the Federal  
7 Government or otherwise.” U.S. Opp’n at 20 (quoting 18 U.S.C. §§ 3621(b), 4042).  
8 Congress set forth several factors that BOP was to consider in making such determinations,  
9 *id.* (citing U.S. Mot. at 28), including “‘bed availability,’ the ‘prisoner’s security  
10 designation,’ the ‘prisoner’s programmatic needs,’ the ‘prisoner’s mental and medical  
11 health needs,’ the ‘resources of the facility contemplated,’ and most importantly, ‘the  
12 prisoner’s primary residence.’” U.S. Mot. at 28 (quoting 18 U.S.C. § 3621(b)). Further,  
13 Congress

14 explicitly commanded that BOP “shall, to the extent practicable,”  
15 ensure that a federal prisoner “serving a term of imprisonment  
16 spends a portion of the final months of that term (not to exceed  
17 12 months), under conditions that will afford that prisoner a  
18 reasonable opportunity to adjust to and prepare for the reentry of  
that prisoner into the community.”

19 U.S. Opp’n at 20 (quoting 18 U.S.C. § 3624(c)). According to the United States, “[t]he[se]  
20 federal statutory directives provide a full set of standards governing’ contracting for federal  
21 prisoner housing.” *Id.* (quoting *Arizona*, 567 U.S. at 401) (second alteration in original).

22 The Court has concluded that there currently is no justiciable controversy as to the  
23 United States’ BOP facilities, *see supra* Section II.A; nonetheless, the United States’ field  
24 preemption arguments concerning BOP fare no better than those pertaining to ICE: the  
25 United States has failed to identify legislation or regulations relating to the detention of  
26 federal BOP prisoners that are so pervasive that Congress left no room for the states to  
27 supplement them. Accordingly, the Court concludes that A.B. 32 is not field preempted  
28 by existing statutes and regulations concerning the detention of BOP prisoners.

## 1 iii. USMS

2 Finally, as to USMS, the United States relies primarily on 18 U.S.C. § 4013. The  
3 United States notes that, “in ‘support of United States prisoners in non-Federal  
4 institutions,’ Congress specifically authorized the Attorney General to fund USMS custody  
5 of individuals ‘under agreements with State or local units of government or contracts with  
6 private entities.’” U.S. Mot. at 26–27 (quoting 18 U.S.C. § 4013(a)). Consequently, USMS  
7 “may designate districts that need additional support from private detention entities under  
8 subsection (a)(3) based on— . . . the number of Federal detainees in the district; and . . .  
9 the availability of appropriate Federal, State, and local government detention facilities.”  
10 *Id.* at 27 (quoting 18 U.S.C. § 4013(c)(1)); *see also, e.g.*, U.S. Opp’n at 20 n.12.

11 Although the Court already has concluded that A.B. 32 is conflict preempted as to  
12 USMS’s use of private detention facilities, *see supra* Section II.B.2.b.ii, the Court agrees  
13 with Defendants that there is no field preemption in this area. As Defendants note, *see*  
14 MJP Reply at 8, the primary statute on which the United States relies expressly  
15 contemplates that state and local governments may legislate and regulate such private  
16 detention facilities. *See* 18 U.S.C. § 4013(c)(2)(C). This would tend to suggest that  
17 Congress did not intend to occupy the field of the private detention of USMS detainees.  
18 *See, e.g., In re Rader*, 488 B.R. 406, 411 (B.A.P. 9th Cir. 2013) (“By explicitly  
19 incorporating other ‘applicable law,’ § 502(b)(1) demonstrates that Congress did not intend  
20 the Bankruptcy Code thoroughly to occupy the field related to the claims allowance  
21 process.”); *Familias Unidas por la Justicia v. Sakuma Bros. Farms, Inc.*, No. C14-737-  
22 MJP, 2014 WL 2154382, at \*3 (W.D. Wash. May 22, 2014) (“Consistent with the statute  
23 and its regulation’s incorporation of and reference to other laws applying to H-2A workers,  
24 numerous federal courts have rejected the notion that [the Immigration Reform and Control  
25 Act of 1986] occupies the entire regulatory field of immigrants and/or immigrant  
26 workers.”) (collecting cases). In any event, the United States again fails to identify statutes  
27 or regulations so pervasive as to imply that Congress left no room for supplemental state  
28 regulation. Accordingly, the Court concludes that A.B. 32 is not field preempted by



1 existing statutes and regulations concerning the detention of USMS prisoners.

2 **C. Intergovernmental Immunity**

3 Under the doctrine of intergovernmental immunity, “[a] state regulation is invalid  
4 only if it regulates the United States directly or discriminates against the Federal  
5 Government or those with whom it deals.” *North Dakota v. United States*, 495 U.S. 423,  
6 435 (1990) (plurality opinion) (citing *South Carolina v. Baker*, 485 U.S. 505, 523  
7 (1988); *United States v. Fresno Cty.*, 429 U.S. 452, 460 (1977)). GEO and the United  
8 States allege that A.B. 32 violates intergovernmental immunity principles on both grounds.  
9 *See* GEO Compl. ¶¶ 111–24; *see* U.S. Compl. ¶¶ 66–69.

10 **1. Direct Regulation**

11 Both GEO and the United States allege that A.B. 32 directly regulates the United  
12 States in contravention of intergovernmental immunity. *See* GEO Compl. ¶¶ 114–18; U.S.  
13 Compl. ¶ 67. Defendants contend that A.B. 32 does not directly regulate the Federal  
14 Government because, by its plain language, “it is a regulation of private persons in  
15 California,” MTD at 10; MJP at 8, and any indirect regulation of or burden on the Federal  
16 Government does not constitute direct regulation. *See* MTD at 10–11, 12 (citing *North*  
17 *Dakota*, 495 U.S. at 435); MJP at 10 (citing *North Dakota*, 495 U.S. at 435). Plaintiffs  
18 counter that A.B. 32 is a direct regulation of the United States because it directly regulates  
19 federal contractors and federal operations. *See* GEO Opp’n at 1–6; U.S. Opp’n at 3–8.

20 Following the hearing, the Court requested additional briefing on the issue, in  
21 particular “(1) on whom the legal incidence of A.B. 32 falls[ and] (2) whether GEO (or any  
22 other private contractor with whom the Federal Government contracts for detention  
23 services) is a federal instrumentality.”<sup>18</sup> ECF No. 45 at 1. Relying heavily on the Ninth  
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<sup>18</sup> The Court also requested additional briefing on “whether privately operated federal detention facilities—whether privately or federally owned—are federal installations.” *GEO* ECF No. 45 at 1–2 (footnote omitted). Because a federal installation is a “federally owned facility performing a federal function,” *Goodyear Atomic Corp. v. Miller*, 486 U.S. 174, 181 (1988), this inquiry is relevant only to the two federally-owned facilities at issue here: BOP’s Taft and USMS’s El Centro. *See* U.S. Compl. ¶¶ 29, 41; Tr. at 32:19–33:9. Because the Court has concluded that there is no justiciable controversy as to Taft,

1 Circuit’s decision in *Boeing Company v. Movassaghi*, 768 F.3d 832 (9th Cir. 2014),  
2 Plaintiffs express skepticism that the legal incidence test applies outside the tax context,  
3 *see* GEO Add’l Br. at 2–6; U.S. Add’l Br. at 6–7, but nonetheless contend that the legal  
4 incidence of A.B. 32 falls on GEO and the United States. *See* GEO Add’l Br. at 6–7; U.S.  
5 Add’l Br. at 6. They also urge that, to the extent it is even relevant, federal contractors  
6 operating private detention facilities for the Federal Government are federal  
7 instrumentalities for purposes of A.B. 32. *See* GEO Add’l Br. at 8–9; U.S. Add’l Br. at 6  
8 n.5. Defendants counter that the legal incidence of A.B. 32 is borne only by private  
9 detention contractors, *see* Defs.’ Add’l Br. at 2, 4, and that private detention contractors  
10 such as GEO are not federal instrumentalities. *See id.* at 7–11.

11 As an initial matter, although Plaintiffs contend that tax cases are not applicable here,  
12 *see* GEO Add’l Br. at 2–6, U.S. Add’l Br. at 6–7, this distinction does not appear to be  
13 borne out by Supreme Court precedent. *See, e.g.*, 1 Laurence H. Tribe, *American*  
14 *Constitutional Law* § 6–34, 1225–26 (3d ed. 2000) (“[S]tate taxes and regulations are  
15 subject to the same restrictions under the federal immunity doctrine.”) (quoting *North*  
16 *Dakota*, 495 U.S. at 454 n.3 (Brennan, J., concurring in the judgment in part and dissenting  
17 in part)) (citing *North Dakota*, 495 U.S. at 435; *Mayo v. United States*, 319 U.S. 441, 445  
18 (1943)); David S. Rubenstein, *Supremacy, Inc.*, 67 UCLA L. Rev 4, at 74 n.361 (2020)  
19 (“[T]he Supreme Court’s decisions do not draw discernable distinctions between state tax  
20 laws and state regulations [for purposes of intergovernmental immunity]; the Court cites  
21 the cases interchangeably.”) (citing *Mayo*, 319 U.S. at 446–48). Because there is a greater  
22 wealth of intergovernmental immunity authority concerning state tax regulations, the Court  
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26 *see supra* Section II.A, and that A.B. 32 is conflict preempted as to USMS facilities, *see supra* Sections  
27 II.B.2.a.ii, II.B.2.b.ii, the Court declines to wade into the quagmire of federally owned facilities. Further,  
28 given Defendants’ admission at the hearing that they “do not contend that [A.B. 32] applies to contractors  
who operate facilities that are federally owned,” *see* Tr. at 43:8–14, any challenge to federally owned  
facilities would suffer the same justiciability defects identified with regard to the United States’ BOP  
facilities. *See supra* Section II.A.

1 therefore looks to those cases to supplement state regulation cases in determining whether  
2 A.B. 32 is a direct regulation of the United States.

3 In addressing direct-regulation immunity, the United States Supreme Court has  
4 recognized that, “in the absence of congressional consent, there is an implied constitutional  
5 immunity of the national government from state taxation and from state regulation of the  
6 performance, by federal officers and agencies, of governmental functions.” *Penn Dairies*  
7 *v. Milk Control Comm’n of Pa.*, 318 U.S. 261, 269 (1943) (collecting cases). However,  
8 the Supreme Court has also cautioned that

9 those who contract to furnish supplies or render services to the  
10 government are not such agencies and do not perform  
11 governmental functions . . . , and the mere fact that non-  
12 discriminatory taxation or regulation of the contractor imposes  
13 an increased economic burden on the government is no longer  
regarded as bringing the contractor within any implied immunity  
of the government from state taxation or regulation.

14 *Id.* at 269–70 (citations omitted) (collecting cases). Rather, to enjoy the benefits of such  
15 immunity, the contractor must serve as an “instrumentality so closely connected to the  
16 Government that the two cannot realistically be viewed as separate entities, at least insofar  
17 as the activity being [regulated] is concerned.” *See United States v. New Mexico*, 455 U.S.  
18 720, 735 (1982); *accord North Dakota*, 495 U.S. at 435 (“A state regulation is invalid only  
19 if it regulates the United States directly or discriminates against the Federal Government  
20 or those with whom it deals.”) (citing *South Carolina*, 485 U.S. at 523; *Fresno Cty.*, 429  
21 U.S. at 460).

22 Under the legal incidence test, the wording of A.B. 32 is significant: “The  
23 Constitution . . . does not forbid a [regulation] whose legal incidence is upon a contractor  
24 doing business with the United States, even though the economic burden of the [regulation]  
25 . . . is ultimately borne by the United States.” *United States v. Boyd*, 378 U.S. 39, 44  
26 (1964); *see also United States v. Nye Cty.*, 178 F.3d 1080, 1084 (9th Cir. 1999) (“*Nye Cty.*  
27 *II*”) (“[T]he wording of a [state regulation] is significant.”) (quoting *United States v. Nye*  
28 *Cty.*, 938 F.2d 1040, 1042 (9th Cir. 1991) (“*Nye Cty. I*”). GEO’s argument concerning

1 what A.B. 32 “may as well have read” is therefore inconsequential. *See* Tr. at 50:24–51:6  
2 (“[A.B. 32] may as well have read as follows: the Federal Government shall not contract  
3 with a private for-profit entity for the operation of a detention facility in California. That  
4 would reword the prohibition to focus directly on the Federal Government, but it wouldn’t  
5 change its impact one bit, and so that would be a very direct regulation.”); *see also Nye*  
6 *Cty. II.*, 178 F.3d at 1085; *see also id.* at 1084–86, 1089 (concluding that statute previously  
7 found unconstitutional as a direct tax on federal property was constitutional when rewritten  
8 to “shift[] the subject of the taxes from the property itself to the beneficial use of that  
9 property” because “it [i]s the language of the . . . statute . . . that [i]s critical to the result”).  
10 As GEO itself recognizes, A.B. 32, as written, “focuses on the person operating the  
11 facility.” *See* Tr. at 50:20–21. In other words, the legal incidence of A.B. 32 is on those  
12 operating private detention facilities, such as GEO, rather than directly on the United  
13 States. Consequently, the only way that A.B. 32 can be a direct regulation of the United  
14 States is if those operating detention facilities under contract with the United States qualify  
15 as instrumentalities of the Federal Government.

16 The Court concludes that Plaintiffs have not carried their burden to establish this.  
17 To meet their burden, Plaintiffs must demonstrate that federal contractors operating  
18 detention facilities are “so closely connected to the Government that the two cannot  
19 realistically be viewed as separate entities.” *New Mexico*, 455 U.S. at 735. In other words,  
20 GEO (and its compatriots) “must actually ‘stand in the Government’s shoes,’” *id.* at 736  
21 (quoting *City of Detroit v. Murray Corp.*, 355 U.S. 489, 491 (1958) (Frankfurter, J.)), or  
22 be “so assimilated by the Government as to become one of its constituent parts.” *Id.*  
23 (quoting *Boyd*, 378 U.S. at 47 (quoting *United States v. Muskegon Twp.*, 355 U.S. 484, 486  
24 (1958))); *see also id.* at 736–37 (“The Court’s other cases describing the nature of a federal  
25 instrumentality have used similar language: ‘virtually . . . an arm of the Government,’ . . .  
26 ‘integral parts of [a governmental department,’ and ‘arms of the Government deemed by it  
27 essential for the performance of governmental functions.’”) (first and third alterations in  
28 original) (citation omitted) (quoting *Dep’t of Emp’t v. United States*, 385 U.S. 355, 359–

1 60 (1966); *Standard Oil Co. v. Johnson*, 316 U.S. 481, 485 (1942)). Although GEO is  
2 correct that “[t]here is no simple test for ascertaining whether an institution is so closely  
3 related to government activity as to become a tax-immune instrumentality,” GEO Add’l  
4 Br. at 8 (quoting *Dep’t of Emp’t*, 385 U.S. at 358–59), Defendants identify several factors  
5 used by the Supreme Court and Ninth Circuit in prior cases. *See* Defs.’ Add’l Br. at 7–9  
6 (collecting cases).

7 Although decided in a different context, *Logue v. United States*, 412 U.S. 521  
8 (1973), is illuminating. In *Logue*, the plaintiffs sued the United States under the Federal  
9 Tort Claims Act (“FTCA”) to recover for the wrongful death of their son, who had hanged  
10 himself while incarcerated in a county jail that had contracted with BOP to house federal  
11 prisoners. *Id.* at 522–23. To be liable under the FTCA, the employees of the county jail  
12 would have to be employees of the Federal Government or a “corporation[] primarily  
13 acting as [an] instrumentalit[y] or agenc[y] of the United States.” *See id.* at 526 (quoting  
14 28 U.S.C. § 2671). The Court rejected the plaintiffs’ contentions that the “County jail is a  
15 ‘Federal agency’ by reason of its contract for the care of federal prisoners, or that the  
16 employees of the jail are ‘acting on behalf of’ the Bureau of Prisons or the Government in  
17 performing services for federal prisoners.” *Id.* In so concluding, the Court reasoned that,  
18 pursuant to the contract between the county and the Federal Government, “[t]he county  
19 undertakes to provide custody in accordance with the Bureau of Prison’s ‘rules and  
20 regulations governing the care and custody of persons committed’ under the contract . . .  
21 [, b]ut the agreement gives the United States no authority to physically supervise the  
22 conduct of the jail’s employees.” *Id.* at 530. Ultimately, the Court was “not persuaded that  
23 employees of a contractor with the Government, whose physical performance is not subject  
24 to governmental supervision, are to be treated as ‘acting on behalf of’ a federal agency  
25 simply because they are performing tasks that would otherwise be performed by salaried  
26 employees of the Government.” *See id.* at 531–32.

27 As in *Logue*, GEO contends that it is an instrumentality of the Federal Government  
28 because it houses federal detainees and is subject to specific rules and regulations,

1 including the Federal Performance-Based Detention Standards, *see* GEO Add'l Br. at 8–9;  
2 however, under Supreme Court precedent, this does not suffice. *See Logue*, 532 U.S. at  
3 526, 531–32. Further, neither GEO's Complaint, *see generally* GEO Compl., nor the  
4 relevant contracts,<sup>19</sup> demonstrate that the United States has “authority to physically  
5 supervise the conduct of the jail's employees.” *Logue*, 412 U.S. at 530.

6 *Boyd* is also instructive. In *Boyd*, Tennessee imposed sales and use taxes on  
7 purchases made by two companies contracting with the Atomic Energy Commission. *See*  
8 378 U.S. at 40–41. One of the contractors “manage[d], operate[d], and maintain[ed] the  
9 [federal nuclear] plants and facilities,” *id.* at 41–42, while the other “perform[ed]  
10 construction services relating both to new facilities and to the modification of the existing  
11 plant.” *Id.* at 42–43. The contractors and the United States contended that the contractors  
12 should be entitled to immunity from the taxes because their “use of government property  
13 [wa]s . . . a use exclusively for the benefit of the United States.” *See id.* at 44. The Court  
14 rejected that the contractors were “so assimilated by the Government as to become one of  
15 its constituent parts,” *id.* at 47 (quoting *Muskegon Twp.*, 355 U.S. at 486), noting:

16 No one suggests that either [contractor] has put profit aside in  
17 contracting with the Commission[;] that the fee of either  
18 company is not set with commercial, profit-making  
19 considerations in mind[;] or that the operation of either company  
20 at [the federal nuclear facility] were not an important part of their  
regular business operations.

21 *Id.* at 45. Indeed, “[t]he vital thing’ is that [the contractors] ‘w[ere] using the property in  
22 connection with [their] own commercial activities.’” *Id.* (quoting *Muskegon Twp.*, 355  
23 U.S. at 486). The Court added:

24 ///

25 \_\_\_\_\_  
26 <sup>19</sup> GEO attached excerpts of the relevant contracts to its Complaint. *See generally* GEO ECF No. 15-5  
27 Exs. A–E. GEO's counsel indicated at the hearing that it would lodge copies of the full contracts with the  
28 Court, *see* Tr. at 20:4–22:3, and on September 25, 2020, the Court issued an order requesting the  
unexcerpted contracts. *See* ECF No. 52. The Court has reviewed the full contracts that were electronically  
submitted by GEO's counsel on October 1, 2020.



1           Should the Commission intend to build or operate the plant with  
2           its own servants and employees, it is well aware that it may do  
3           so and familiar with the ways of doing it. It chose not to do so  
4           here. [The Court] cannot conclude that [the contractors], both  
5           cost-plus contractors for profit, have been so incorporated into  
6           the government structure as to become instrumentalities of the  
7           United States and thus enjoy governmental immunity.

8           *Id.* at 48. Ultimately, the Court concluded, “[i]f the[ taxes] unduly intrude upon the  
9           business of the Nation, it is for Congress, in the valid exercise of its powers, not this Court,  
10          to make the desirable adjustment.” *Id.* at 51.

11          So, too, here—BOP’s, ICE’s, and USMS’s decisions to outsource work to private  
12          detention facilities does not transform those contractors into instrumentalities of the  
13          Federal Government. Ultimately, GEO and other private detention facility operators are  
14          pursuing their “own private ends—in connection with commercial activities carried on for  
15          profit.” *See id.* at 44; *see also id.* at 48. The Court therefore concludes that A.B. 32 does  
16          not directly regulate the United States in violation of the intergovernmental immunity  
17          doctrine. Rather, A.B. 32 directly regulates only “person[s] . . . operat[ing] a private  
18          detention facility within the state,” Cal. Penal Code § 9501, meaning that the legal  
19          incidence of A.B. 32 falls only on government contractors, and Plaintiffs have failed to  
20          show that those contractors are so closely connected to the Federal Government as to be  
21          instrumentalities of the United States.

## 22                   2.     *Discriminatory Regulation*

23          “[I]ntergovernmental immunity attaches only to state laws that discriminate against  
24          the federal government *and* burden it in some way.” *California*, 921 F.3d at 880 (emphasis  
25          added); *see also id.* at 881 (“Since the advent of the doctrine, intergovernmental immunity  
26          has attached where a state’s discrimination negatively affected federal activities in some  
27          way.”). “[A] state ‘does not discriminate against the Federal Government and those with  
28          whom it deals unless it treats someone else better than it treats them.’” *Id.* at 881 (quoting  
29          *Washington v. United States*, 460 U.S. 536, 544–45 (1983)). The Ninth Circuit also has  
30          clarified that there is no *de minimis* exception to intergovernmental immunity; rather,

1 “[a]ny economic burden that is discriminatorily imposed on the federal government is  
2 unlawful.” *Id.* at 883–84 (emphasis in original); *see also* Tr. at 46:3–5. Even if a state law  
3 does discriminate against and burden the Federal Government, it may nonetheless survive  
4 if that burden is “justified by[] ‘significant differences between the two classes.’” *Davis v.*  
5 *Mich. Dep’t of Treasury*, 489 U.S. 803, 816 (1989) (quoting *Phillips Chem. Co. v. Dumas*  
6 *Indep. Sch. Dist.*, 361 U.S. 376, 383–385 (1960)). Consequently, Plaintiffs must clear two  
7 hurdles with respect to intergovernmental immunity, showing that (1) A.B. 32  
8 discriminates against the Federal Government (or its contractors) by treating somebody  
9 similarly situated better, and (2) that discrimination in some way burdens the Federal  
10 Government (or its contractors). *See, e.g., California*, 821 F.3d at 881 (“Since the advent  
11 of the doctrine, intergovernmental immunity has attached where a state’s discrimination  
12 negatively affected federal activities in some way.”).

13 a. Discrimination

14 The Court must first determine whether A.B. 32 discriminates against the United  
15 States and its contractors, *i.e.*, whether A.B. 32 “treats someone else better than it treats  
16 them.” *California*, 821 F.3d at 881 (quoting *Washington*, 460 U.S. at 544–45). Although  
17 A.B. 32 applies to CDCR and “person[s] . . . operat[ing] . . . private detention facility[ies]  
18 within the state,” *see* Cal. Penal Code §§ 5003.1, 9501, Plaintiffs allege that the various  
19 exceptions contained in Sections 5003.1(e), 9502, 9503, and 9505(b) discriminate against  
20 them to the benefit of California and its contractors. *See, e.g.,* GEO Compl. ¶¶ 121, 123;  
21 U.S. Compl. ¶ 68.

22 Before delving into the merits of the Parties’ arguments, the Court must address two  
23 preliminary considerations. Initially, the Court rejects the United States’ argument that  
24 “the sole regulation of governmental actors itself renders A.B. 32 constitutionally infirm.”  
25 U.S. Opp’n at 8 (citing *Travis v. Reno*, 163 F.3d 1000, 1002 (7th Cir. 1998); *United States*  
26 *v. Kernen Constr.*, 349 F. Supp. 3d 988, 994 (E.D. Cal. 2018)). Not only is neither authority  
27 binding on this Court, but the rationale on which those cases relied does not apply here. In  
28 *Kernen Construction*, for example, the district court concluded that the underlying statute

1 still discriminated against the Federal Government, even though it “applie[d] to all public  
2 agencies, state and federal.” 349 F. Supp. 3d at 993. The court reasoned that “it is  
3 important that burdens also fall on private parties to ensure that there is a broad state  
4 constituency that can provide a political check against the abuse of a state’s regulatory  
5 authority.” *See id.* at 944 (citing *Fresno Cty.*, 429 U.S. at 463; *United States v. Lewis Cty.*,  
6 175 F.3d 671, 676 (9th Cir. 1999)). This is so because “the federal government does not  
7 have a direct voice in state legislatures, [so] states can unfairly burden its operations by  
8 subjecting it to disparate treatment.” *Id.* (citing *Washington*, 460 U.S. at 545). That  
9 reasoning does not apply here for several reasons.

10 First, there are private parties that may provide a political check here. Although  
11 GEO and other private detention facility operators are government contractors, they also  
12 are private parties. There are also a significant number of California residents employed  
13 by these private detention facilities that “can provide a political check against the abuse of  
14 a state’s regulatory authority.” *See id.*

15 Second, the authorities on which *Kernen Construction* relied were largely tax cases,  
16 in which the state government profits by imposing a discriminatory tax on the Federal  
17 Government. *See, e.g., Fresno Cty.*, 429 U.S. at 453, 455–56, 467–68 (upholding property  
18 tax on possessory interests of improvements on tax-exempt land imposed on Forest Service  
19 employees living in federally owned houses located in national forests); *Lewis Cty.*, 175  
20 F.3d at 673, 675–76 (upholding tax on farm property owned by the federal Farm Service  
21 Agency). In such circumstances, when a tax is applied to the state’s constituents as well  
22 as the Federal Government (or its contractors), the interest of the state’s constituents will  
23 provide a “check” on the unrepresented interest of the Federal Government. *See, e.g.,*  
24 *Lewis Cty.*, 175 F.3d at 675–76. Here, by contrast, the profit motive is lacking—there is  
25 no allegation that California profits from the closure of the Federal Government’s private  
26 detention facilities in California; rather, the Assembly Committee on Appropriations  
27 estimated that A.B. 32 would “[i]ncrease[] annual operating costs in the hundreds of  
28 millions of dollars.” *See* Defs.’ RJNs Ex. 2 at 1.

1 Third and finally, as Defendants note, *see* MTD Reply at 4; MJP Reply at 4, this is  
2 an area in which there can be no burden imposed on non-government contractors given that  
3 there simply are no truly private actors that legally can detain others in detention facilities.  
4 Consequently, it is appropriate for the Court to consider whether A.B. 32 treats California  
5 and its contractors better than the Federal Government and its contractors. *See, e.g., South*  
6 *Carolina*, 485 U.S. at 527 (concluding that federal law was nondiscriminatory and did not  
7 violate intergovernmental immunity where “the Federal Government has directly imposed  
8 the same registration requirement on itself that it has effectively imposed on States”).

9 This brings the Court to the second preliminary consideration: Although GEO urges  
10 that “the discriminatory effect of a state statute is analyzed by looking at the statutory  
11 scheme *as a whole*, not by examining each exception in isolation,” GEO Opp’n at 9  
12 (emphasis in original) (citing *Dawson v. Steager*, 586 U.S. \_\_\_, 139 S. Ct. 698, 705 (2019);  
13 *Washington*, 460 U.S. at 541–46), that rule is not absolute. “Where, as here, the statute  
14 contains a series of exemptions, some of which favor the federal government, others of  
15 which favor the state, most of which are unconcerned with the federal/state distinction, [the  
16 Court should] focus on the individual exemption to determine whether each taken on its  
17 own terms discriminates between state and federal interests to the detriment of the federal  
18 government.” *Nye Cty. II*, 178 F.3d at 1088. GEO urges that *Nye County II* is inapplicable  
19 because “*none* of AB-32’s exceptions discriminate in favor of the Federal Government  
20 over the State.” GEO Opp’n at 10 (emphasis in original). Certain provisions of A.B. 32,  
21 however, apply only to CDCR, such as Section 5003.1, which, among other things,  
22 prohibits CDCR from “enter[ing] into a contract with a private, for-profit prison facility  
23 located in *or outside of the state* to provide housing for state prison inmates.” Cal. Penal  
24 Code § 5003.1(a) (emphasis added). These provisions, which are more restrictive than  
25 those imposed on Plaintiffs, would favor the Federal Government under Plaintiffs’ logic.  
26 Other provisions, as discussed below, are facially neutral.

27 The Court therefore concludes that *Nye County II* applies here. Accordingly, the  
28 Court analyzes each of the three groups of exceptions in A.B. 32 that Plaintiffs contend

1 discriminate in favor of California and its contractors: (1) the Section 9502 exceptions,  
2 (2) the Section 9503 exception, and (3) the Sections 5003.1(e) and 9505(b) exception.

3 i. The Section 9502 Exceptions

4 Section 9502 exempts seven specific types of facilities from the blanket ban on  
5 operating private detention facilities found in Section 9501, namely:

- 6 (a) Any facility providing rehabilitative, counseling,  
7 treatment, mental health, educational, or medical services  
8 to a juvenile that is under the jurisdiction of the juvenile  
9 court pursuant to Part 1 (commencing with Section 100)  
10 of Division 2 of the Welfare and Institutions Code.
- 11 (b) Any facility providing evaluation or treatment services to  
12 a person who has been detained, or is subject to an order  
13 of commitment by a court, pursuant to Section 1026, or  
14 pursuant to Division 5 (commencing with Section 5000)  
15 or Division 6 (commencing with Section 6000) of the  
16 Welfare and Institutions Code.
- 17 (c) Any facility providing educational, vocational, medical, or  
18 other ancillary services to an inmate in the custody of, and  
19 under the direct supervision of, the Department of  
20 Corrections and Rehabilitation or a county sheriff or other  
21 law enforcement agency.
- 22 (d) A residential care facility licensed pursuant to Division 2  
23 (commencing with Section 1200) of the Health and Safety  
24 Code.
- 25 (e) Any school facility used for the disciplinary detention of a  
26 pupil.
- 27 (f) Any facility used for the quarantine or isolation of persons  
28 for public health reasons pursuant to Division 105  
(commencing with Section 120100) of the Health and  
Safety Code.
- (g) Any facility used for the temporary detention of a person  
detained or arrested by a merchant, private security guard,  
or other private person pursuant to Section 490.5 or 837.

1 Cal. Penal Code § 9502.

2 GEO argues that “Subsections 9502(a)–(b) and 9502(d)–(f) describe detention  
3 activity that is only carried out by the State, specifically referencing parts of the California  
4 Code under which the activity is being carried out.” GEO Mot. at 27. The United States  
5 similarly contends that five of the exceptions—those contained in subsections 9502(a)–(b),  
6 (d), and (f)–(g)—“apply to [California’s] own contracts but are facially inapplicable to the  
7 Federal Government’s contracts.” U.S. Mot. at 20. Further, “of the [two] exceptions that  
8 might conceivably apply to the United States’ contracts, the Federal Government cannot  
9 currently use any of them” because “[t]he Federal Government does not contract, and has  
10 never contracted, with ‘school facilit[ies] used for the disciplinary detention of a pupil’ in  
11 California” and “also does not contract for facilities in California ‘providing educational,  
12 vocational, medical, or other ancillary services to an inmate in the custody of, and under  
13 the direct supervision of’ a federal ‘law enforcement agency.’” U.S. Mot. at 20–21  
14 (quoting Cal. Penal Code §§ 9502(c), (e)).

15 Defendants counter that, even if certain of these exceptions describe only state  
16 detention facilities, “such a situation does not amount to discrimination resulting from AB  
17 32” because “[i]t simply reflects the reality that ‘there are no federal contractors analogous  
18 to the state contractors who benefit from’ these exceptions.” MTD at 10–11 (quoting *Nye*  
19 *Cty. II*, 178 F.3d at 1088); MJP at 12 (quoting *Nye Cty. II*, 178 F.3d at 1088). Further, the  
20 private detention facilities banned by Section 9501 “are quite different than the facilities  
21 covered by the [the Section 9502] exceptions,” MTD at 12; MJP at 12, which do not give  
22 rise to the same health and safety concerns as immigration and criminal detention facilities,  
23 *see* MTD Reply at 4 (citing Cal. Penal Code §§ 9502(a)–(g)); MJP Reply at 4 (citing Cal.  
24 Penal Code §§ 9502(a)–(g)), rendering “[a]ny disparate treatment . . . justified.” MTD at  
25 12 (citing *Davis*, 489 U.S. at 815–16); MJP at 12 (citing *Davis*, 489 U.S. at 815–16).

26 To the extent that neither GEO nor the United States operates any of the facilities  
27 enumerated in the Section 9502 exception, the Court concludes that they are not similarly  
28 situated to California and, consequently, that the exception does not discriminate against



1 the Federal Government and its contractors. This leaves only one of the Section 9502  
2 exceptions: the exception appearing in subsection (c), exempting “[a]ny facility providing  
3 educational, vocational, medical, or other ancillary services to an inmate in the custody of,  
4 and under the direct supervision of, the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation or a  
5 county sheriff or other law enforcement agency.” *See* Cal. Penal Code § 9502(c). But as  
6 explained above, *see supra* Section II.A, the Court concludes that it lacks jurisdiction over  
7 the United States’ challenges to A.B. 32 to the extent they relate to the BOP’s RRCs.  
8 Accordingly, based on the current record,<sup>20</sup> the Court concludes that the Section 9502  
9 exceptions do not impermissibly discriminate against the Federal Government.

10 ii. The Section 9503 Exception

11 Section 9503 exempts from the general provision in Section 9501 facilities that are  
12 privately owned but leased and operated by “law enforcement agenc[ies]”: “Section 9501  
13 does not apply to any privately owned property or facility that is leased and operated by  
14 the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation or a county sheriff or other law  
15 enforcement agency.” Cal. Penal Code § 9503. The United States argues that no “federal  
16 law enforcement agency ‘lease[s] and operate[s]’ a detention facility in California that is  
17 ‘privately owned.’” U.S. Mot. at 21 (quoting Cal. Penal Code § 9503). Further, “the only  
18 facility in the State that would currently meet this exception is the California City  
19 Correctional Center, which is owned by a private company and conveniently ‘leased and  
20 operated’ by [CDCR].” *Id.*

21 Although the United States currently does not operate any facilities falling under the  
22 exception in Section 9503, nothing in the text of Section 9503 prohibits the United States  
23 from operating such facilities in the future. *See also* Tr. at 44:24–45:3 (conceding that  
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25 <sup>20</sup> The Parties have reported that they “are in communications about submitting a written stipulation to the  
26 Court related to the RRCs,” Defs.’ Add’l Br. at 11 n.8; however, no such stipulation has been filed as of  
27 the date of this Order. The Court notes, however, that if California were to enforce A.B. 32 against the  
28 Federal Government’s RRCs but not the facilities in its own Alternative Custody Program, it would appear  
that California is treating itself and its contractors better than the Federal Government and its contractors,  
which would be constitutionally impermissible.

1 USMS, BOP, and ICE are all “law enforcement agenc[ies]” for purposes of Section 9503).  
 2 Because Section 9503 does not treat California better than the United States, the Court  
 3 concludes that Section 9503 does not render A.B. 32 discriminatory in violation of  
 4 intergovernmental immunity.

5 iii. The Sections 5003.1(e) and 9505(b) Exception

6 Section 9505(b) provides that the general rule against those operating private  
 7 detention facilities appearing in “Section 9501 does not apply to . . . [a] private detention  
 8 facility contract renewed pursuant to subdivision (e) of Section 5003.1.” Cal. Penal Code  
 9 § 9505(b). Section 5003.1, in turn, provides that “[CDCR] may renew or extend a contract  
 10 with a private, for-profit prison facility to provide housing for state prison inmates in order  
 11 to comply with the requirements of any court-ordered population cap.” Cal. Penal Code  
 12 § 5003.1(e).

13 GEO maintains that “the exception contained in Section 9505(b) applies only to  
 14 private detention facilities under contract with [CDCR].” GEO Mot. at 27. The United  
 15 States similarly contends that “no comparable exception exists for the Federal Government  
 16 to cope with overcrowding in *its* facilities under a court order or otherwise,” meaning  
 17 “California has plainly ‘treat[ed] someone else better than it treats’ the United States and  
 18 its contractors.” U.S. Mot. at 19 (quoting *Washington*, 460 U.S. at 544–45) (emphasis in  
 19 original).

20 Defendants respond that the provisions in question do “not create an exception  
 21 generally related to overcrowding in California’s prisons,” but rather “accommodate[]  
 22 compliance with a particular court order currently in place” setting “a population cap of  
 23 137.5% of design capacity,” which “is an ongoing obligation of [CDCR].” MJP at 13  
 24 (citing *Brown*, 563 U.S. at 539<sup>21</sup>); MTD at 13 (citing *Brown*, 563 U.S. at 539). On the  
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26 <sup>21</sup> The Court may *sua sponte* take judicial notice of the population cap imposed by *Brown v. Plata*. See,  
 27 e.g., *Reyn’s Pasta Bella, LLC v. Visa USA, Inc.* 442 F.3d 741, 746 n.6 (9th Cir. 2006); *United States ex*  
 28 *rel. Robinson Rancheria Citizens Council v. Borneo, Inc.*, 971 F.2d 244, 248 (9th Cir. 1992) (a court may  
 take judicial notice “of proceedings in other courts, both within and without the federal judicial system, if  
 those proceedings have a direct relation to matters at issue”).

1 other hand, “[n]either the federal government nor local governments are subject to similar  
2 litigation,” meaning “California [is] not similarly situated to the federal government or  
3 local governments.” MJP at 13 (citing *Davis*, 489 U.S. at 815–16); MTD at 13 (citing  
4 *Davis*, 489 U.S. at 815–16). Further, “[t]he provision in AB 32 is a temporary bridge that  
5 enables California to comply with an existing federal court order while it transitions its  
6 inmate population away from private operators, not a permanent, discriminatory loophole  
7 for California.” MJP at 14; MTD at 14.

8 The Court concludes that CDCR and its contractors are not similarly situated to the  
9 Federal Government and its contractors, given that the former must comply with a court-  
10 ordered population cap while the latter do not. As for GEO’s argument concerning the  
11 nature of the two classes, *see* GEO Opp’n at 11, the Supreme Court explained in *Dawson*  
12 that “[w]hether a State treats similarly situated state and federal employees differently  
13 depends on how the State has defined the favored class.” *See* 139 S. Ct. at 705 (citing  
14 *Davis*, 489 U.S. at 817). The favored class for purposes of the Section 9505(b) exception,  
15 however, explicitly is defined as CDCR *to the extent that it would violate a court-ordered*  
16 *population cap*. *See* Cal. Penal Code §§ 5003.1(e), 9505(b). This serves to distinguish the  
17 instant cases from *Dawson* and *Davis*, in which the defendant attempted to justify the  
18 discrimination based on an implicit distinction between the classes not expressed in the  
19 statute. *See, e.g., Dawson*, 139 S. Ct. at 706 (state could not claim that discrimination  
20 between taxation of state and federal pensions was based on generosity of pensions where  
21 statute defined favored class on basis of job responsibilities); *Davis*, 489 U.S. at 816–17  
22 (state did not demonstrate significant differences between classes where statute provided  
23 for different tax treatment based on source of income, not its amount). Because this  
24 distinction is explicit in the particular exception to A.B. 32 that Plaintiffs challenge, the  
25 Court may consider whether the existence (or absence) of a court-ordered population cap  
26 is a significant difference between CDCR, on the one hand, and local and Federal law  
27 enforcement agencies, on the other.

28 ///

1           The Court concludes that this is a significant difference between the two classes that  
2 renders them not similarly situated for purposes of intergovernmental immunity. Neither  
3 the United States nor GEO has identified any court-ordered population cap affecting their  
4 detention facilities, whether operated for USMS, BOP, or ICE, within the State of  
5 California. While the United States speculates that “A.B. 32 may cause overcrowding in  
6 federal facilities both in California and neighboring States,”<sup>22</sup> *see* U.S. Mot. at 19, that is  
7 not relevant to the distinction drawn between the two classes by A.B. 32. The relevant  
8 difference is that California has been ordered by a court not to exceed 137.5% of design  
9 capacity, whereas the Federal Government has not. *See Brown*, 563 U.S. at 539. Should  
10 the Federal Government face a court-ordered population cap in the future, it may find itself  
11 similarly situated to California and seek to renew its challenge.

12           To the extent the United States contends that “A.B. 32 may also cause tension with  
13 ICE’s other obligations under existing court orders and settlements,” *see* U.S. Mot. at 38  
14 n.20 (citing *Gonzalez*, 325 F.R.D. 616; *Franco-Gonzalez*, 2013 WL 8115423), none of  
15 these cases involve population caps. In *Gonzalez*, the district court preliminarily enjoined  
16 the Federal Government “from detaining Plaintiffs and the class members pursuant to [8  
17 U.S.C. §] 1231(a)(6) for more than 180 days without [] providing each a bond hearing  
18 before an [immigration judge] as required by *Diouff v. Napolitano*, 634 F.3d 1081 (9th Cir.  
19 2011)].” 325 F.R.D. at 629. In *Franco-Gonzalez*, the district court enjoined the Federal  
20 Government from (1) pursuing immigration proceedings against immigration detainees  
21 with serious mental disorders who are facing deportation and are unable adequately to  
22 represent themselves, unless those detainees are appointed a qualified representative; and  
23 (2) holding immigration detainees with serious mental disorders for more than 180 days  
24 without providing “a bond hearing before an Immigration Judge with the authority to order  
25

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26  
27 <sup>22</sup> Indeed, it appears that California and the Federal Government may be similarly situated in this regard,  
28 as the Assembly Committee on Appropriations noted that California would need “to absorb approximately  
4,252 inmates currently held in four private, for-profit facilities both in California and Arizona.” Defs.’  
RJNs Ex. 2 at 1.

1 their release on conditions of supervision, unless the Government shows by clear and  
2 convincing evidence that [their] ongoing detention is justified.” 2013 WL 8115423, at \*1–  
3 2. The United States also notes that “the permanent injunction issued in *Orantes-*  
4 *Hernandez* . . . prohibits ICE from transferring unrepresented Salvadorian nationals from  
5 their district of apprehension for at least seven days.” U.S. Mot. at 38 n.20. Because none  
6 of these cases have imposed a population cap on the Federal Government’s ICE detention  
7 facilities, however, they are not material to the issue before the Court.

8 In light of the foregoing, the Court concludes that, although A.B. 32’s exception in  
9 Sections 5003.1(e) and 9505(b) does treat CDCR differently than Federal or local law  
10 enforcement agencies, it does not discriminate because CDCR is not similarly situated to  
11 the extent that it is subject to a court-ordered population cap. Accordingly, that particular  
12 exception does not violate the Federal Government’s intergovernmental immunity.

13 b. Burden

14 Whether California has discriminated against the Federal Government and its  
15 contractors is not the end of the inquiry, however, because Plaintiffs must also demonstrate  
16 that they would be burdened as a result of the discrimination. *See, e.g., California*, 921  
17 F.3d at 880; *see also* Tr. at 24:25–25:12, 36:6–13, 45:18–46:6. GEO alleges that, “if AB-  
18 32 forces GEO to close its USMS and ICE detention facilities in California, GEO could  
19 lose over \$4 billion in capital investment and future revenue over the next fifteen years.”  
20 GEO Compl. ¶ 110. The United States contends that A.B. 32 would require it to transfer  
21 1,300 inmates housed at Taft, 900 inmates housed in RRCs, 50 percent of USMS inmates  
22 in this District, 30 percent of USMS inmates in California, and nearly all of ICE’s detainees  
23 in California, all of which would cost significant taxpayer dollars. U.S. Compl. ¶¶ 32–33,  
24 36, 42, 49, 57–58.

25 These are real and substantial burdens; however, to the extent that the Federal  
26 Government and its contractors are not similarly situated and therefore face no  
27 discrimination under A.B. 32, *see supra* Section II.C.2.a, they cannot establish the requisite  
28 causal connection to the burden. For example, the relocation of ICE detainees is not the

1 result of the Federal Government and its contractors not being able to use the exemption in  
2 Sections 5003.1(e) and 9505(b). Like California, GEO and the United States have to  
3 relocate their privately detained prisoners to the extent that they are not exempted by a  
4 population cap (which, according to GEO’s Complaint, California cannot currently use,  
5 *see* GEO Compl. ¶ 27). In other words, the relocation is happening as a result of the  
6 generally applicable prohibition appearing in Section 9501, not as a result of the challenged  
7 exceptions.<sup>23</sup> The Court therefore concludes that Plaintiffs have failed to establish the  
8 requisite causal connection between any alleged discrimination and the resultant burden.

9 **III. Conclusion**

10 In light of the foregoing, the Court **GRANTS IN PART AND DENIES IN PART**  
11 Defendants’ Motions to Dismiss and for Judgment on the Pleadings. Specifically,  
12 regarding the Motion to Dismiss, the Court **DISMISSES** GEO’s first and second causes  
13 of action for intergovernmental immunity and GEO’s third cause of action for obstacle  
14 preemption as to GEO’s contracts with ICE. As for the Motion for Judgment on the  
15 Pleadings, the Court **DISMISSES** the United States’ first and second causes of action as  
16 they relate to BOP facilities for lack of subject-matter jurisdiction. Additionally, the Court  
17 **DISMISSES** the United States’ first cause of action to the extent it is predicated on field  
18 preemption and to the extent that it claims obstacle preemption as to its contracts for private  
19 detention facilities on behalf of BOP and ICE. Finally, the Court **DISMISSES** the United  
20 States’ second cause of action for intergovernmental immunity in its entirety. In all  
21 remaining respects, Defendants’ Motions to Dismiss and for Judgment on the Pleadings

22 ///

23  
24 \_\_\_\_\_  
25 <sup>23</sup> The one exception would be for BOP’s RRCs with regard to Section 9502(c). Although the Court has  
26 concluded that the United States has failed to allege a justiciable controversy as to A.B. 32’s application  
27 to its BOP facilities, including the RRCs, *see supra* Section II.A, Section 9502(c) likely discriminates  
28 against the RRCs. *See supra* note 20. This discrimination also would directly result in the United States  
having to relocate the 900 inmates in that program. *See* U.S. Compl. ¶¶ 42, 49. Consequently, although  
not yet ripe for adjudication, the Section 9502(c) exception would appear unconstitutionally to violate the  
Federal Government’s intergovernmental immunity if enforced against the RRCs.



1 are **DENIED**. Any dismissals are **WITHOUT PREJUDICE** so that Plaintiffs may file  
2 amended complaints addressing the deficiencies outlined above.

### 3 **MOTIONS FOR PRELIMINARY INJUNCTION**

#### 4 **I. Legal Standard**

5 A preliminary injunction is an equitable remedy aimed at preserving the status quo  
6 and preventing the occurrence of irreparable harm during the course of litigation. *See* Fed.  
7 R. Civ. P. 65. “A plaintiff seeking a preliminary injunction must establish that he is likely  
8 to succeed on the merits, that he is likely to suffer irreparable harm in the absence of  
9 preliminary relief, that the balance of equities tips in his favor, and that an injunction is in  
10 the public interest.” *Winter v. Natural Res. Def. Council, Inc.*, 555 U.S. 7, 20 (2008).  
11 A preliminary injunction is an “extraordinary remedy that may only be awarded upon a  
12 clear showing that the plaintiff is entitled to such relief.” *Winter*, 555 U.S. at 22.

#### 13 **II. Analysis**

14 Both GEO and the United States request that the Court preliminarily enjoin  
15 Defendants from enforcing A.B. 32 against their privately operated facilities within the  
16 State of California. *See, e.g.*, GEO Compl. ¶ 145(b); U.S. Compl. ¶ 71; *see also* GEO Mot.  
17 at 40–41; U.S. Mot. at 43.

##### 18 **A. Likelihood of Success on the Merits**

19 Because the Court concludes that both GEO and the United States have failed to  
20 state a plausible claim for relief as to the BOP’s privately operated detention facilities,  
21 obstacle preemption as to BOP and ICE, field preemption, or intergovernmental immunity,  
22 *see generally supra* pages 21–69, the Court concludes that they are unlikely to succeed on  
23 the merits as to those claims. Accordingly, the Court **DENIES** the Motions for  
24 Preliminary Injunction as to those causes of action. *See, e.g., Sports Form, Inc. v. United*  
25 *Press Int’l, Inc.*, 686 F.2d 750, 753 (9th Cir. 1982). The Court therefore analyzes only (1)  
26 the constitutionality of A.B. 32 as applied solely to USMS’s privately contracted facilities,  
27 and (2) GEO’s request that the Court enjoin Defendants from enforcing A.B. 32 against  
28 their facilities through the end of their contractual terms.

1           1.     *USMS*

2           For the reasons discussed above, *see supra* pages 35–37, 40, the Court concludes  
3 that both GEO and the United States have demonstrated a likelihood of succeeding on the  
4 merits of their claim that A.B. 32 is obstacle preempted as applied to USMS’s contracts  
5 with privately operated detention facilities.

6           2.     *Applicability of Safe Harbor Through End of GEO’s Contractual*  
7                 *Terms*

8           Section 9505(a) provides that “Section 9501 does not apply to . . . [a] private  
9 detention facility that is operating pursuant to a valid contract with a governmental entity  
10 that was in effect before January 1, 2020, for the duration of that contract, not to include  
11 any extensions made to or authorized by that contract.” Cal. Penal Code § 9505(a). GEO  
12 alleges that this provision exempts its current contracts—entered into before January 1,  
13 2020—from Section 9501 through their full periods of performance, including any option  
14 extensions.<sup>24</sup> *See* GEO Compl. ¶¶ 135–44. GEO therefore requests that the Court enjoin  
15 Defendants from enforcing A.B. 32 against those contracts for their full periods of  
16 performance. *See id.* ¶¶ 145(c)–(e); *see also* GEO Mot. at 40–41.

17           As an initial matter, the Procurement *Amici* urge the Court to “decline to exercise  
18 jurisdiction” because “[t]he validity of the contracts in dispute is subject to the Contract  
19 Disputes Act of 1978, and thus any relief with respect to these contracts must be obtained  
20 through that statute, or alternatively through the United States Court of Federal Claims.”  
21 Procurement *Amici* Br. at 22 (citing 41 U.S.C. §§ 7101–7109). Because the Court “has an  
22 independent obligation to address *sua sponte* whether [it] ha[s] subject matter jurisdiction,”  
23

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24 <sup>24</sup> Specifically, GEO’s WRDF contract with USMS currently extends through September 30, 2021, with  
25 options extending through September 30, 2027. *See* GEO Compl. ¶¶ 44–45. The base period for GEO’s  
26 El Centro contract with USMS ends on December 22, 2021, with options extending through September  
27 25, 2028. *Id.* ¶ 53. Finally, GEO’s contracts with ICE for Adelanto, Desert View, Mesa Verde, Central  
28 Valley, and Golden State have option periods beginning December 20, 2024, with periods of performance  
through December 19, 2034. *Id.* ¶¶ 77–78, 80–81, 88, 92, 97. GEO therefore seeks to have the Court  
declare that A.B. 32 does not apply to its WRDF contract until September 30, 2027, its El Centro contract  
until September 25, 2028, and its ICE contracts until December 19, 2034. *See id.* ¶¶ 135–44, 145(c)–(e).

1 *Allstate Ins. Co. v. Hughes*, 358 F.3d 1089, 1093 (9th Cir. 2004) (citing *Dittman v.*  
2 *California*, 191 F.3d 1020, 1025 (9th Cir. 1999)), the Court may properly address a  
3 jurisdictional question first raised by *amici*. See, e.g., *Swan v. Peterson*, 6 F.3d 1373, 1383  
4 (9th Cir. 1993) (citing *Miller-Wohl Co. v. Comm’r of Labor & Indus.*, 694 F.2d 203, 204  
5 (9th Cir. 1982)); see also Tr. at 31:6–23.

6 The Court therefore requested additional briefing as to its jurisdiction over GEO’s  
7 fourth cause of action following the hearing. See GEO ECF No. 45 at 1–2. The Parties all  
8 agreed that the Court has jurisdiction. See GEO Add’l Br. at 10–11; Defs.’ Add’l Br. at  
9 13. The Court continues to harbor some doubts—although styled as a claim against the  
10 State of California, GEO’s fourth cause of action, at heart, seeks a “declaration of contract  
11 rights against the government,” over which the Court would lack jurisdiction. See *N. Side*  
12 *Lumber Co. v. Block*, 753 F.2d 1482, 1485–86 (9th Cir. 1985).

13 Regardless, the Court determines that GEO’s Motion must be denied as to its fourth  
14 cause of action because, assuming it has jurisdiction, the Court nonetheless concludes that  
15 GEO cannot demonstrate the requisite likelihood of success on the merits. Section 9505(a)  
16 explicitly excludes “any extensions made to or authorized by that contract.” See Cal. Penal  
17 Code § 9505(a). It appears unlikely that GEO will succeed in arguing that the options are  
18 not such extensions. Accordingly, the Court concludes that GEO is unlikely to succeed on  
19 the merits of its safe harbor cause of action. The Court’s analysis therefore proceeds only  
20 as to A.B. 32’s enforcement against USMS’s privately contracted facilities.

### 21 ***B. Likelihood of Irreparable Harm***

22 Plaintiffs must make a clear showing that irreparable harm will occur absent  
23 the preliminary injunction. This clear showing requires a plaintiff to prove more than a  
24 mere “possibility” of irreparable harm; instead, she must “demonstrate that irreparable  
25 injury is likely in the absence of an injunction.” *Am. Trucking Ass’ns, Inc. v. City of Los*  
26 *Angeles*, 559 F.3d 1046, 1052 (9th Cir. 2009). “[E]conomic injury alone does not support  
27 a finding of irreparable harm, because such injury can be remedied by a damage  
28 award.” *Rent-A-Ctr., Inc. v. Canyon Television & Appliance Rental, Inc.*, 944 F.2d 597,

1 603 (9th Cir. 1991).

2 GEO contends that it would suffer irreparable harm if forced to close its facilities  
3 during this litigation, because “constitutional violations cannot be adequately remedied  
4 through damages,” GEO Mot. at 38 (quoting *Nelson v. Nat’l Aeronautics & Space Admin.*,  
5 530 F.3d 865, 882 (9th Cir. 2008), *rev’d on other grounds*, 562 U.S. 134 (2011)), and GEO  
6 “may not pursue a damages suit in federal court against the State of California” because of  
7 California’s sovereign immunity. *Id.* at 38–39 (citing U.S. CONST. amend. XI; *Kentucky*  
8 *v. Graham*, 473 U.S. 159, 169 (1985)). The United States similarly contends that  
9 “irreparable harm necessarily results from the enforcement of a preempted state law.” U.S.  
10 Mot. at 36–37 (citing *New Orleans Pub. Serv., Inc. v. Council of New Orleans*, 491 U.S.  
11 350, 366-67 (1989); *Valle del Sol Inc. v. Whiting*, 732 F.3d 1006, 1029 (9th Cir. 2013);  
12 *Arizona*, 641 F.3d at 366), and that, “[a]s a result of this unconstitutional law, the United  
13 States and the public will suffer three principal harms: (1) costly relocation of prisoners  
14 and detainees and attendant consequences, (2) frequent and costly transport of prisoners  
15 and detainees, and (3) obstruction of federal proceedings,” which “could cripple federal  
16 law enforcement operations in California.” *Id.* at 37. Defendants respond that Plaintiffs  
17 are not threatened by imminent harm such that a preliminary injunction is necessary,  
18 because GEO’s USMS contracts do not expire until September 30, 2021, at the earliest.  
19 *See* Opp’n to GEO Mot. at 22; Opp’n to U.S. Mot. at 31. The United States rejoins that,  
20 “despite contracts ‘expiring’ in 2021, USMS must immediately begin planning for A.B.  
21 32’s deleterious effects.” U.S. Opp’n at 29.

22 Defendants do not contest the irreparability of the harm Plaintiffs may suffer. In  
23 addition to the irreparable harm caused by the likely violation of the Supremacy Clause  
24 should A.B. 32 be enforced against USMS’s privately operated detention facilities, *see*,  
25 *e.g.*, *California*, 921 F.3d at 893 (collecting authorities), it appears that the United States  
26 and GEO may face further imminent, irreparable injury in the form of disrupted operations  
27 and the incurrence of uncompensable damages, respectively. Accordingly, the Court

28 ///

1 concludes that this factor weighs in favor of preliminarily enjoining enforcement of A.B.  
2 32 against USMS's privately operated detention facilities.

3 **C. Balance of Equities**

4 "To qualify for injunctive relief, [a p]laintiff must establish that 'the balance of the  
5 equities tips in [its] favor.'" *Stormans, Inc. v. Selecky*, 586 F.3d 1109, 1138 (9th Cir. 2009)  
6 (quoting *Winter*, 555 U.S. at 20). A court has the "duty . . . to balance the interests of all  
7 parties and weigh the damage to each." *L.A. Mem'l Coliseum Comm'n v. Nat'l Football*  
8 *League*, 634 F.2d 1197, 1203 (9th Cir. 1980).

9 GEO urges that, to the extent it has established that A.B. 32 is unconstitutional, "it  
10 has 'also established that . . . the balance of the equities favor a preliminary injunction.'" GEO Mot. at 39 (quoting *Az. Dream Act Coalition v. Brewer*, 757 F.3d 1053, 1069 (9th  
11 Cir. 2014)). The United States similarly urges that "California 'cannot suffer harm from  
12 an injunction that merely ends an unlawful practice,'" U.S. Mot. at 42 (citing *Rodriguez v.*  
13 *Robbins*, 715 F.3d 1127, 1145 (9th Cir. 2013)), and "California is free to implement A.B.  
14 32 for itself and its localities." *Id.* Defendants counter that "a preliminary injunction  
15 enjoining the enforcement of AB 32 would lead to significant, concrete harm to the public,"  
16 because "[t]he California Legislature determined (and the federal government has  
17 recognized) that private prisons are a critical, ongoing public policy concern and that  
18 conditions in private facilities pose a threat to detainee safety." Opp'n to GEO Mot. at 22;  
19 Opp'n to U.S. Mot. at 32.

20  
21 The Court recognizes that California has a legitimate interest in safeguarding the  
22 health and safety of USMS detainees within its borders, *see California*, 921 F.3d at 886;  
23 however, given the Court's conclusion that A.B. 32 is obstacle preempted with respect to  
24 privately operated USMS detention facilities, *see supra* pages 35–37, 40, the Court  
25 ultimately concludes that the equities tip in favor of Plaintiffs.

26 **D. Public Interest**

27 Finally, "[i]n exercising their sound discretion, courts of equity should pay particular  
28 regard for the public consequences in employing the extraordinary remedy of

1 injunction.” *Winter*, 555 U.S. at 24. GEO contends that it has established that the public  
 2 interest favors a preliminary injunction for the same reasons that it has established that the  
 3 equities favor issuing an injunction, *see* GEO Mot. at 39–40; *see also supra* Section II.C,  
 4 while the United States contends that it has established this factor because the United States  
 5 will suffer irreparable harm “because the Government represents the public interest.” U.S.  
 6 Mot. at 36 (citing *Nken v. Holder*, 556 U.S. 418, 435 (2009)). Defendants also reiterate  
 7 their arguments concerning the balance of the equities in support of the public interest. *See*  
 8 Opp’n to GEO Mot. at 22–23; Opp’n to U.S. Mot. at 32–33; *see also supra* Section II.C.  
 9 For the reasons discussed above, *see supra* Sections II.B–C, the Court concludes that the  
 10 public interest also favors issuance of a preliminary injunction.

### 11 *E. Permanent Injunction*

12 Relying on *Baby Tam & Company v. City of Las Vegas*, 154 F.3d 1097, 1102 (9th  
 13 Cir. 1998), *abrogated on other grounds by Dream Palace v. County of Maricopa*, 384 F.3d  
 14 990, 1002 (9th Cir. 2004), both GEO and the United States request that the Court enter  
 15 final judgment awarding a permanent injunction. *See, e.g.*, GEO Mot. at 41; U.S. Mot. at  
 16 43. Although the Court may have the authority to issue a permanent injunction at this  
 17 stage, it declines to do so here, particularly given that several claims have been dismissed  
 18 and leave to amend has been granted.

### 19 **III. Conclusion**

20 In light of the foregoing, the Court **GRANTS IN PART AND DENIES IN PART**  
 21 Plaintiffs’ Motions for Preliminary Injunction. Accordingly, the Court  
 22 **PRELIMINARILY ENJOINS** Defendants from enforcing A.B. 32 against the USMS’s  
 23 privately contracted detention facilities within the State of California. Plaintiffs’ Motions  
 24 are otherwise **DENIED**.

### 25 **CONCLUSION**

26 In light of the foregoing, the Court **GRANTS IN PART AND DENIES IN PART**  
 27 Defendants’ Motions to Dismiss (*GEO* ECF Nos. 20, 22) and for Judgment on the  
 28 Pleadings (*U.S.* ECF No. 13), as set forth above. *See supra* pages 68–69. Plaintiffs **MAY**

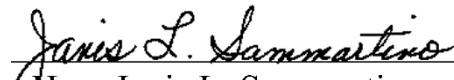


1 **FILE** amended complaints within twenty-one (21) days of the electronic docketing of this  
2 Order. *Should Plaintiffs elect not to file amended complaints, this action will proceed on*  
3 *their surviving causes of action.*

4 The Court also **GRANTS IN PART AND DENIES IN PART** GEO's and the  
5 United States' Motions for Preliminary Injunction (*GEO* ECF No. 15 and *U.S.* ECF No. 7,  
6 respectively), as set forth above, *see supra* page 74, and **PRELIMINARILY ENJOINS**  
7 Defendants from enforcing A.B. 32 against the USMS's privately contracted detention  
8 facilities within the State of California.

9 **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

10 Dated: October 8, 2020

  
Hon. Janis L. Sammartino  
United States District Judge

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