
UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 8-K

CURRENT REPORT
PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(D) OF THE
SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

Date of Report: April 17, 2009
(Date of earliest event reported)

EQUITY LIFESTYLE PROPERTIES, INC.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Maryland

(State or other jurisdiction of
incorporation or organization)

1-11718

(Commission File No.)

36-3857664

(IRS Employer Identification
Number)

Two North Riverside Plaza, Chicago, Illinois

(Address of principal executive offices)

60606

(Zip Code)

(312) 279-1400

(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions (see General Instruction A.2. below):

- Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)
 - Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)
 - Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))
 - Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))
-
-

Item 8.01 Other Events

On April 17, 2009, the United States District Court for the Northern District of California issued an “Order for Entry of Judgment,” and an “Order” relating to the parties’ requests for attorneys’ fees (the “Fee Order”), in connection with Equity LifeStyle Properties, Inc.’s lawsuit against the City of San Rafael, challenging the City of San Rafael’s rent control ordinance.

The Order for Entry of Judgment is included in this Form 8-K as Exhibit 99.1.

The Fee Order is included in this Form 8-K as Exhibit 99.2.

The information in Item 8.01 of this Form 8-K, including the Exhibit 99.1 and 99.2 attached hereto, shall not be deemed “filed” for purposes of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, or otherwise subject to the liabilities of that Section. The information in Item 8.01 of this Form 8-K, Exhibit 99.1 and Exhibit 99.2 attached hereto shall not be incorporated by reference into any registration statement or other document filed pursuant to the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, except as shall be expressly set forth by specific reference in such filing.

Item 9.01 Financial Statements and Exhibits**(d) Exhibits**

Exhibit 99.1	April 17, 2009 “Order for Entry of Judgment” of the United States District Court for the Northern District of California regarding Equity LifeStyle Properties, Inc. and the City of San Rafael.
Exhibit 99.2	April 17, 2009 “Order” of the United States District Court for the Northern District of California regarding Equity LifeStyle Properties, Inc. and the City of San Rafael.

SIGNATURE

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

EQUITY LIFESTYLE PROPERTIES, INC.

Date: April 20, 2009

By: /s/ Michael B. Berman

Michael B. Berman
Executive Vice President and
Chief Financial Officer

United States District Court
For the Northern District of California

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

MHC FINANCING, LTD, et al,

No C 00-3785 VRW

Plaintiffs,

**ORDER FOR ENTRY OF
JUDGMENT**

v

CITY OF SAN RAFAEL,

Defendant,

**CONTEMPO MARIN HOMEOWNERS
ASSOCIATION,**

Defendant-Intervenor.

_____ /

In the eight or so years this litigation has been pending, the takings jurisprudence of the United States Supreme Court and the Ninth Circuit has transformed. The market for housing now differs dramatically from that at the inception of this litigation. Before these changes, the extremely able lawyers at bar and the involvement of a renowned mediator were unable to find a resolution. Emotional and political obstacles to a resolution on one side and weighty constitutional issues on the other then worked

United States District Court
For the Northern District of California

1 against a resolution. Current conditions may afford a new
2 opportunity for the parties to achieve a fair and practical outcome
3 consistent with constitutional standards. This order seeks to
4 encourage those efforts.

5 More than a year ago, on January 29, 2008, the court
6 issued its findings of fact and conclusions of law on claims by MHC
7 Financing (“MHC”) that the City of San Rafael’s mobilehome rent and
8 vacancy control ordinance (“Ordinance”) effected an
9 unconstitutional taking. Doc #554 (“Findings”). MHC owns the
10 Contempo Marin Mobilehome Park (“Contempo Marin”) in San Rafael,
11 California. The Contempo Marin Homeowners Association (“Homeowners
12 Association”) defended the Ordinance along with the City of San
13 Rafael (“City”). The court found that the Ordinance effected a
14 regulatory taking and a private taking. Findings at 34, 51. The
15 Homeowners Association and the City now bring separate motions to
16 stay enforcement pending appeal of any judgment (so far none has
17 been entered) based on the court’s findings and legal conclusions.
18 Doc ##561, 576.

19 Although the case presents unsettled issues of takings
20 law, the violation of MHC’s constitutional rights seems no less
21 plain to the court now than when it entered its findings and
22 conclusions of law. A stay of relief pending appeal would,
23 therefore, continue in effect a constitutionally infirm ordinance.
24 But invalidating the ordinance as to all affected residents of
25 Contempo Marin may impose a hardship for which they are not
26 directly responsible. It is, after all, the City, not the Contempo
27 Marin residents, that enacted the Ordinance. Rather than enter a
28 judgment that immediately invalidates the Ordinance and then stay

United States District Court
For the Northern District of California

1 enforcement pending appeal to avoid an immediate hardship to
2 Contempo Marin residents, the court will deny a stay but frame the
3 injunctive relief in a manner that provides for an orderly remedy
4 for the constitutional violation found here. Under terms of the
5 judgment the court frames, the constitutional infirmity of the
6 Ordinance will dissolve gradually, minimizing possible hardships to
7 Contempo Marin residents while still vindicating the constitutional
8 interests at stake.

9 The judgment to be entered here will gradually phase out
10 the pad rent regulation scheme that the court has found
11 unconstitutional. Existing residents of Contempo Marin will be
12 able to continue to pay pad rentals as if the Ordinance were to
13 remain in effect for a period of ten years. Enforcement of the
14 Ordinance will be immediately enjoined with respect to new
15 residents of Contempo Marin and expire entirely ten years from the
16 date of judgment. During this ten year period, the only “hardship”
17 current residents of Contempo Marin will suffer is the inability to
18 capture the artificial premium in the resale price of their
19 mobilehomes that the Ordinance creates. As this premium represents
20 the unconstitutional taking of MHC’s property interest, its denial
21 to Contempo Marin residents deserves little weight in the balance
22 of equities employed to frame the injunctive relief afforded here.
23 The court’s reasoning for this result follows.

24

25

I

26

27

28

At Contempo Marin, MHC leases plots of land, called
“pads” for the purpose of installing a mobilehome on each plot.
MHC furnishes and maintains private roads and other community

United States District Court
For the Northern District of California

1 facilities within the park. Findings at 4-5 ¶7. MHC holds legal
2 title to the pads, and pad lessees pay monthly rent to MHC for use
3 of their respective pads and the facilities and services that MHC
4 provides. Id at 5 ¶9. Pad lessees at Contempo Marin who wish to
5 relocate usually sell their mobilehomes in place to the new
6 resident, and the purchaser — in addition to acquiring the
7 mobilehome — takes over the pad leasehold. Id at 5 ¶8, 8-9 ¶18.
8 The mobilehomes at Contempo Marin are not, in fact, very mobile.

9 In 1989, the City enacted the Mobilehome Rent
10 Stabilization Ordinance. The 1989 Ordinance imposed rent control
11 for the pad rents and provided that rents could increase only
12 according to a sliding scale tied to an inflation index prescribed
13 in the Ordinance. The mobilehome resale prices were left
14 unregulated. If the change in inflation was five percent or less,
15 the park owner was entitled to increase pad rents by a percentage
16 equal to the change in inflation. But if the change in inflation
17 was greater than five or ten percent, rents could increase only at
18 75 or 66 percent, respectively, of the change in inflation. Id at
19 9-10 ¶20. In no year from 1993 to 1999 did the inflation index
20 rise at an annual rate greater than 5 percent. Accordingly, rent
21 increases could essentially keep pace with the inflation benchmark
22 used in the Ordinance. Id at 14 ¶38.

23 In 1993, the City amended the Ordinance to add “vacancy
24 control.” Under vacancy control, any new resident taking over a
25 mobilehome pad lease in Contempo Marin had the right to rent the
26 pad at the same rate as the previous tenant. Thus, after the
27 vacancy control amendment, the park owner could no longer raise the
28 pad rent charged to a new pad lessee who took over the prior lease.

United States District Court
For the Northern District of California

1 Findings at 10 ¶22.

2 After the City imposed vacancy control, the then-owner of
3 Contempo Marin sued in state court, alleging that the combination
4 of pad rent control and vacancy control in the amended Ordinance
5 was an unconstitutional taking. The superior court upheld the
6 Ordinance. While on appeal, MHC purchased Contempo Marin. The
7 court of appeal later reversed the superior court judgment on other
8 grounds. Id at 12-13 ¶¶26-33.

9 In 1999, the City amended the Ordinance yet again. The
10 City replaced the sliding scale formula that provided for graduated
11 pad rent increases depending on the magnitude of inflation with a
12 single formula that limited increases to 75 percent of any change
13 in the inflation index. For that reason, the 1999 amendments
14 imposed an ever-growing gap between the fair market rental value of
15 a mobilehome pad lease and the rent MHC could charge. Id at 14-15
16 ¶39. The 1999 amendments alone reduced MHC's revenue streams from
17 Contempo Marin and the value of its property by a present value at
18 the time of trial of \$10,609,136. Id at 16 ¶42. Prior to the 1999
19 amendments, it was at least theoretically possible for pad rents to
20 keep up with inflation. The 1999 amendments eliminated that
21 possibility.

22 The market did not ignore the significant change that the
23 1999 amendments wrought. Future pad rents at Contempo Marin were
24 depressed because pad rents could not under any circumstance keep
25 up with the general level of inflation as represented by the index
26 used in the Ordinance. Accordingly, in order to obtain the benefit
27 of lower future rent payments, prospective buyers were able to —
28 and did — pay a higher price to purchase the mobilehome itself

United States District Court
For the Northern District of California

1 from the existing tenant than the value of the mobilehome divorced
2 from the below-market-value pad rental. In this manner, the
3 reduction in rents was “capitalized” into the value of the
4 mobilehome. Thus, the 1999 amendments created an inevitable
5 premium in the resale prices of mobilehomes in Contempo Marin.
6 Findings at 15-16 ¶41.

7 The only beneficiaries of that premium were the residents
8 of Contempo Marin at the time the 1999 amendments went into effect.
9 Id at 19 ¶52. These residents benefitted from the Ordinance if
10 they continued to reside in Contempo Marin or if they sold their
11 mobilehome plus pad leasehold to a new resident. Because the 1999
12 amendments did not change the total amount that future tenants
13 would pay to live at Contempo Marin (mobilehome price plus pad
14 rent), the 1999 amendments themselves did not contribute to the
15 availability of low-cost housing in the City, which was a stated
16 objective of the Ordinance. Id at 19 ¶51. Meanwhile, the whole
17 Ordinance reduced MHC’s net operating income by 75 percent and
18 reduced the value of the park from \$120 million to \$23 million. Id
19 at 24-26 ¶¶69-73.

20 Based on the foregoing findings of fact, the court
21 concluded that the Ordinance as amended in 1999 effected a
22 regulatory taking under the Penn Central test (id at 21-34) as well
23 as a private taking under the Public Use Clause of the Fifth
24 Amendment (id at 34-51). The court concluded as a matter of law
25 that the 1999 amendments were not severable from the previous
26 version of the Ordinance. Id at 74-79. Accordingly, the court
27 held that the Ordinance was invalid in its entirety.

28 //

United States District Court
For the Northern District of California

1 After the court issued its order, MHC submitted a
2 proposed form of judgment requesting that the court enjoin the
3 Ordinance effective immediately. The City and the Homeowners
4 Association filed objections (Doc ##555, 556), and the court took
5 the matter under submission. On February 12, 2008, the court
6 requested further briefing by March 14 on the question whether to
7 stay its judgment pending appeal. Doc #558.

8 On February 20, 2008, before the court entered judgment
9 or issued an injunction, MHC sent the Contempo Marin residents a
10 letter regarding their leases. Doc #564, Exh A. The letter stated
11 that monthly rents would increase to \$1,925.00 beginning in March
12 2008. Id. The letter stated that "Chief Judge Walker's January
13 29, 2008 Order" is a "binding federal court Order" and thus "the
14 City has no legal authority to enforce the Ordinance." Id.

15 At the City's request, the court held a telephone
16 conference on February 22, 2008, to discuss MHC's letter. The
17 court clarified that its order did not invalidate the Ordinance
18 immediately. MHC agreed to refrain from raising its rents until
19 the court ruled on the motion for a stay. The Homeowners
20 Association contends that even after that conference call, MHC
21 persisted in charging its residents \$1,925.00 in rent but only
22 demanded payment of current rent amounts, with rent invoices
23 categorizing the difference between the two as "amount in dispute."
24 Doc #569, Exh B. MHC has thus appeared to communicate to Contempo
25 Marin residents that they are racking up debt by remaining at the
26 park and will be liable for the "amounts in dispute" if MHC wins a
27 final judgment. Id. Pad lessees have reacted predictably.

28 //

United States District Court
For the Northern District of California

1 After the conference call, the parties submitted their
2 memoranda addressing whether enforcement of the court’s order
3 should be stayed. Doc ##561, 577, 581. In those memoranda, the
4 City and the Homeowners Association (in the following discussion,
5 the court refers the City and the Homeowners Association
6 individually when appropriate or together as “defendants”)
7 challenge the court’s findings of fact and conclusions of law. Doc
8 ##561, 577. Defendants claim that because most Contempo Marin
9 residents live on low or fixed incomes, the proposed rent is so
10 high that most residents “will be forced to relocate or be evicted
11 nearly immediately * * * .” Doc ##561 at 3, 577 at 25-27. MHC, on
12 the other hand, is anxious to get out from under an ordinance found
13 to be unconstitutional.

14
15 II

16 The Ninth Circuit reaffirmed recently the standard for
17 granting a stay pending appeal. See Golden Gate Restaurant Ass’n v
18 City and County of San Francisco, 512 F3d 1112, 1115-16 (9th Cir
19 2008). The party requesting a stay must show either (1) “a
20 probability of success on the merits and the possibility of
21 irreparable injury” or (2) that “serious legal questions are raised
22 and that the balance of hardships tips sharply in its favor.”
23 Lopez v Heckler, 713 F2d 1432, 1435 (9th Cir 1983). These are “two
24 interrelated legal tests” that “represent the outer reaches of a
25 single continuum.” Lopez, 713 F2d at 1435. “[T]he required degree
26 of irreparable harm increases as the probability of success
27 decreases.” NRDC v Winter, 502 F3d 859, 862 (9th Cir 2007).
28 Lastly, the court should “consider where the public interest lies”

United States District Court
For the Northern District of California

1 as a factor independent of the parties' interests. Golden Gate
2 Restaurant Ass'n, 512 F3d at 1116. "The relative hardship to the
3 parties is the critical element in deciding at which point along
4 the continuum a stay is justified." Lopez, 713 F2d at 1435.

5 Defendants' better argument for a stay is not that they
6 have a strong likelihood of success on appeal, but that the
7 relative hardships tip in their favor. Defendants argue that
8 Contempo Marin residents may suffer irreparable injuries if the
9 court does not grant a stay because an injunction against
10 enforcement of the Ordinance will cause MHC to increase pad rents,
11 forcing some Contempo Marin residents to move. Doc ##561 at 12-12,
12 577 at 25-27. The court will, therefore, analyze defendants'
13 motions under the "serious legal questions" test.

14 As the following demonstrates, there are serious
15 hardships on both sides. While Contempo Marin residents face the
16 prospect of a sudden increase in their pad rents, MHC has long been
17 deprived of its significant property interests, and a stay will
18 prolong the taking MHC has suffered. The appropriateness of a stay
19 turns on the weight of these hardships. Central to consideration
20 of the balance of hardships here is that the party primarily
21 responsible for creating MHC's hardship — namely, the City — will
22 not immediately suffer any hardship.

23 The party seeking a stay "must demonstrate that serious
24 legal questions are raised and that the balance of hardships tips
25 sharply in its favor." Lopez, 713 F2d at 1435. Defendants can
26 demonstrate a "serious legal question" by showing that they have a
27 "fair chance of success" on appeal. National Wildlife Federation v
28 Coston, 773 F2d 1513, 1517 (9th Cir 1985). Serious questions are

United States District Court
For the Northern District of California

1 “substantial, difficult and doubtful, as to make them a fair ground
2 for litigation and thus for more deliberative investigation.”
3 Republic of Philippines v Marcos, 862 F2d 1355, 1362 (9th Cir
4 1988). “For purposes of injunctive relief, ‘serious questions’
5 refers to questions which cannot be resolved one way or the other
6 at the hearing on the injunction and as to which the court
7 perceives a need to preserve the status quo lest one side prevent
8 resolution of the questions or execution of any judgment by
9 altering the status quo.” Gilder v PGA Tour, Inc, 936 F2d 417, 422
10 (9th Cir 1991) (quotation marks omitted).

11
12 A

13 Defendants challenge the court’s finding of a private
14 taking. Doc ##561 at 10-11, 577 at 22-23. In its findings of fact
15 and conclusions of law, the court determined that the “public
16 purposes” the City asserted for the Ordinance — protecting
17 homeowner equity, creating affordable housing and protecting fixed-
18 income residents — were “palpably without reasonable foundation”
19 and were mere “pretext[s]” that masked a private taking intended to
20 enrich the Contempo Marin residents. Findings at 49-51 ¶¶152-57;
21 see Kelo v City of New London, 545 US 469, 478 (2005).

22 In their motions for a stay, defendants argue the court’s
23 finding of a private taking is in tension with its conclusion that
24 the Ordinance survives rationality review under the Due Process
25 Clause. Doc ##561 at 11, 577 at 22-23. Although the court found
26 the Ordinance operated so far afield from its stated purposes as to
27 be pretextual, the court also found that the Ordinance was
28 rationally related to its stated purposes. The court held that the

United States District Court
For the Northern District of California

1 Ordinance was permissible under the Due Process Clause because “a
2 rational legislator could have believed that the rent control
3 ordinance would further the stated goals, at least insofar as the
4 purpose is to protect existing tenants.” Findings at 54 ¶169, 56
5 ¶171, quoting Levald, Inc v City of Palm Desert, 998 F2d 680, 690
6 (9th Cir 1993). Defendants argue that if the Ordinance is
7 rationally related to its stated public welfare goals as required
8 by due process, then those same public welfare goals cannot be
9 pretextual. Doc ##561 at 10-11, 577 at 22-23; see also Kelo, 545
10 US at 490-92 (Kennedy, J, concurring), citing Cleburne v Cleburne
11 Living Center, Inc, 473 US 432, 446-47, 450 (1985). Defendants
12 misapprehend the court’s findings and the governing test for a
13 stay.

14 In the context of a private taking claim, neither the
15 Supreme Court nor the Ninth Circuit has addressed a rent control
16 ordinance that purports to reduce rents but creates instead an
17 unavoidable one-time premium. Other cases raising taking and due
18 process claims are distinguishable. Mobilehomes at parks like
19 Contempo Marin are highly unusual because new buyers obtain a
20 unitary ownership interest in a divided asset. Buyers obtain
21 ownership of the mobilehome unit and a pad leasehold interest, but
22 negotiate one price with the mobilehome owner and pad lessee.
23 Buyers do not negotiate with or arrive at a pad rental price with
24 MHC, the pad lessor. The price paid to the mobilehome owner
25 incorporates the market value of the mobilehome unit and the value
26 of any premium inherent in the depressed pad rents resulting from
27 the Ordinance. Even though MHC is not a party to these
28 negotiations, its interests are nonetheless affected. Price

United States District Court
For the Northern District of California

1 regulation in this context is rare and, although there have been a
2 number of cases involving mobilehome pad rent regulation or
3 somewhat analogous regulation, no definitive guidance has emerged.

4 Previous judicial attempts to address the problem have
5 failed, leaving the question unsettled. The Supreme Court
6 encountered the “premium” issue in Yee v City of Escondido, 503 US
7 519 (1992), but that ruling is not helpful here because plaintiffs
8 in that case had raised a physical taking claim. Yee stated
9 specifically that the case might have turned out differently had
10 the court granted certiorari on the regulatory taking claim. 503
11 US at 530, 533.

12 In Richardson v City and County of Honolulu, 124 F3d 1150
13 (9th Cir 1997), the Ninth Circuit picked up where Yee left off.
14 The court found that a rent control ordinance that created a
15 premium caused an unconstitutional regulatory taking. Richardson,
16 124 F3d at 1165-66. That ruling does not apply here because the
17 court relied on the now-defunct “substantially advances” test,
18 which the Supreme Court spurned in Lingle v Chevron USA, Inc, 544
19 US 528 (2005).

20 Lingle addressed yet another rent control ordinance that
21 did not reduce rents but instead created a premium. 544 US at 534-
22 36. The plaintiff in Lingle — like the plaintiff in Richardson —
23 claimed that the ordinance did not “substantially advance” a
24 legitimate public interest and therefore effected a regulatory
25 taking. The Court held that the “substantially advances” test
26 could not apply to a regulatory taking claim, and the Court
27 reversed the district court’s judgment that the ordinance was
28 unconstitutional. 544 US at 548. Instead, the Court held that the

United States District Court
For the Northern District of California

1 “substantially advances” theory is “an inquiry in the nature of a
2 due process” test. 544 US at 540, 542. Justice Kennedy’s
3 concurrence emphasized that even though plaintiff had not made out
4 a regulatory taking claim, the ordinance might “be so arbitrary or
5 irrational as to violate due process” if it “fail[s] * * * to
6 accomplish a stated or obvious objective * * *.” 544 US at 548-49
7 (Kennedy concurring). See also *Kelo*, 545 US at 490-92 (Kennedy
8 concurring) (arguing the same point in the context of public use).

9 Each of these cases tried to address the type of
10 ordinance encountered here. But each court never made it past the
11 preliminary step of clarifying the applicable legal test. None of
12 the cases determined whether a rent control ordinance like the one
13 at bar effects a private taking. The Ordinance creates an
14 inevitable premium attributable to one property interest and
15 transfers that premium to someone else. In doing so, the Ordinance
16 shuts out from participation in the transaction the owner who loses
17 the premium — in this case, MHC. The validity of such an
18 Ordinance remains unsettled and presents a serious legal question
19 on appeal. The fact that a city council may rationally have
20 thought the Ordinance advanced its stated objectives should not
21 rescue an enactment that does no such thing. The rational basis
22 test does not insulate unsound public policy from attack. The
23 rational basis test is, instead, a principle of judicial restraint
24 — courts’ authority cannot and should not be invoked every time
25 elected officials enact or enforce some unwise or perverse statute,
26 ordinance or regulation. *Williamson v Lee Optical of Oklahoma,*
27 *Inc*, 348 US 483, 488 (“The day is gone when this Court uses the Due
28 Process Clause * * * to strike down state laws * * * because they

United States District Court
For the Northern District of California

1 may be unwise, improvident, or out of harmony with a particular
2 school of thought.”). But the judicial restraint embodied in the
3 rational basis test does not warrant judicial indifference to the
4 violation of important constitutional limitations.

6 B

7 Defendants also challenge the court’s finding of a Penn
8 Central regulatory taking. Doc ##561 at 7, 577 at 23. After
9 Lingle, the Homeowners Association contends, a court reviewing a
10 regulatory taking claim may not substitute its own findings about
11 the reasonableness of an ordinance for the findings of a
12 legislative body. Doc #589 at 6. Rather than consider the
13 Ordinance’s reasonableness, according to the Homeowners
14 Association, a regulatory taking claim focuses on “the magnitude or
15 character of the burden a particular regulation imposes upon
16 private property rights.” 544 US at 542 (emphasis in original).
17 Accordingly, so this argument goes, the dearth of authority on
18 “premium” rent control ordinances does not affect the court’s
19 regulatory taking analysis because the crucial inquiry — the
20 magnitude of MHC’s harm — is more economic and algebraic than
21 legal. Only the amount of damage is important. All the
22 considerations undergirding the private taking analysis — the
23 effectiveness of the Ordinance, the motivations of the City
24 Council, the peculiar unitary market for housing at Contempo Marin
25 — are irrelevant under this view.

26 The court’s finding that the Ordinance effects a Penn
27 Central regulatory taking included findings of fact as well as
28 conclusions of law. The court found that the 1999 amendments alone

United States District Court
For the Northern District of California

1 reduced MHC's revenue streams from Contempo Marin and the value of
2 its property by \$10,609,136. Findings at 16 ¶42. The Ordinance as
3 a whole reduced the value of MHC's land from approximately \$120
4 million to \$23 million. Id at 25-26 ¶¶72-73. Based on those
5 factual findings, the court concluded that the Ordinance was
6 functionally equivalent to a physical taking of all or an
7 overwhelming percentage of the value of MHC's land. Id at 27 ¶80.

8 "Findings of fact, whether based on oral or documentary
9 evidence, shall not be set aside unless clearly erroneous." FRCP
10 52(a). The court of appeals should "accept [this] court's findings
11 of fact unless upon review [it is] left with the definite and firm
12 conviction that a mistake has been committed." United States v
13 Doe, 155 F3d 1070, 1074 (9th Cir 1998). Under clearly erroneous
14 review, this court's findings of fact will likely be upheld.

15 This court's conclusion that the above facts constitute
16 a regulatory taking is a mixed finding of law and fact because it
17 involves a determination whether the reduction in value of MHC's
18 land satisfies an undisputed rule of law. Mixed questions of law
19 and fact are generally reviewed de novo. Diamond v City of Taft,
20 215 F3d 1052, 1055 (9th Cir 2000). This is even more true when the
21 mixed question involves constitutional rights. United States v
22 City of Spokane, 918 F2d 84, 86 (9th Cir 1990).

23 The City argues that the court misapplied the Penn
24 Central "economic impact analysis." Doc #577 at 23. The City
25 asserts that the court erred by considering the reduction in value
26 caused by the entire Ordinance, instead of solely the reduction
27 caused by the 1999 amendments. Only the 1999 amendments, according
28 to the City, not the Ordinance as a whole, failed to advance the

United States District Court
For the Northern District of California

1 City's asserted public purposes. In essence, the City argues that
2 prior to the 1999 amendments, the Ordinance was constitutional and
3 therefore any harm to MHC's constitutional rights did not accrue
4 until 1999. Doc #577 at 23.

5 If the court looks to the entire Ordinance in assessing
6 the reduction in value, the argument goes, MHC realizes a windfall,
7 benefitting from the invalidation of those portions of the
8 Ordinance that were well within the City's regulatory powers and
9 well within MHC's reasonable expectations at the time it purchased
10 the park. See Doc #561 at 9. Had the court calculated the
11 reduction in value caused by the 1999 amendments only, the City
12 contends the court would not have found a regulatory taking because
13 the reduction in value would have been approximately \$10 million
14 rather than \$97 million. Doc #577 at 23.

15 MHC responds that the court was correct to calculate the
16 effect of the Ordinance as a whole rather than only the effect of
17 the 1999 amendments. Doc #596 at 11. MHC asserts that calculating
18 the effect of the entire Ordinance "is especially appropriate
19 where, as here, the 1999 amendments are not severable from the rest
20 of the regulation. Under the City's theory, governments could
21 immunize a law from a Penn Central claim by repeatedly amending the
22 law so that the incremental economic impact of any one amendment,
23 standing alone, is insufficient to give rise to a taking * * *."
24 Id.

25 The only mentions in the Findings of any legally
26 significant distinction between the entire Ordinance and the 1999
27 amendments were in the court's analysis of the statute of
28 limitations (Findings at 66-69) and the court's analysis of

United States District Court
For the Northern District of California

1 severability (Findings at 74-79). Neither of those analyses is
2 relevant to the economic impact test the City posits.

3 The court's statute of limitations discussion is only
4 indirectly relevant to the economic impact test, and even if it
5 were directly relevant, it would not provide a clear answer. For
6 the purposes of the statute of limitations, the court found that
7 the 1999 amendments "substantially altered" "the operation of the
8 Ordinance" by causing "a fresh injury" to MHC's property rights.
9 Findings at 68-69. At most, the court's conclusion would support
10 the City only to the extent that it suggests the 1999 amendments
11 caused a distinct injury which may have pushed the preexisting
12 Ordinance from constitutional into unconstitutional terrain, and
13 thus MHC's harm equals the amount of the incremental injury only.

14 The court, however, further stated in the context of the
15 statute of limitations that MHC could still challenge the entire
16 Ordinance (not just the 1999 amendments) because "[t]he
17 constitutionality of an ordinance can only be determined by
18 evaluating the totality of its provisions and effects" and because
19 the 1999 amendments could not be "evaluated in isolation." Id at
20 69 ¶37, citing Richards v United States, 369 US 1, 11 (1962). MHC
21 reads that statement beyond the statute of limitations context,
22 arguing that the same principle must hold true for the purposes of
23 the economic impact test. Doc #596 at 11. This reading stretches
24 the court's statement too far. The court's holding implies only
25 that the 1999 amendments changed "the totality" of the Ordinance
26 and that the new "totality of the amended Ordinance" fell within
27 the limitations period and did not bar MHC's suit. Findings at 69.

28

United States District Court
For the Northern District of California

1 **The court’s severability analysis does not settle the**
2 **Penn Central question. See id at 74-79. For the purposes of**
3 **severability, the court concluded that the 1999 amendments were not**
4 **severable from the rest of the Ordinance because “[e]xcision of the**
5 **75 percent language [introduced by the amendments] renders the**
6 **Ordinance as a whole essentially meaningless.” Findings at 76.**
7 **MHC argues that holding supports applying the economic impact test**
8 **to the reduction in value caused by the Ordinance as a whole. Doc**
9 **#596 at 21-22. The court made its severability finding months**
10 **after it had determined that the Ordinance effected a regulatory**
11 **taking. Moreover, severability might present its own serious legal**
12 **question.**

13 **But more fundamentally, California state law on**
14 **severability has no relation to the Penn Central analysis. First,**
15 **a finding that the unconstitutional 1999 amendments are not**
16 **severable means that the full Ordinance may not be enforced; it**
17 **does not imply that the Ordinance is otherwise constitutional or**
18 **not. Second, merely because the severability analysis and the**
19 **economic impact analysis both might mention carving up a statute**
20 **does not mean that one rule of law controls the other. The court’s**
21 **conclusion whether the 1999 amendments are grammatically,**
22 **functionally and volitionally severable from the predecessor**
23 **Ordinance says nothing about whether the City exceeded its**
24 **authority to provide for its residents’ general welfare.**

25 **Overall, the court’s conclusions on the statute of**
26 **limitations and severability do not address a quite different**
27 **question: how to measure whether a property regulation “goes too**
28 **far” under the Fifth Amendment. Pennsylvania Coal Co v Mahon, 260**

United States District Court
For the Northern District of California

1 US 393, 415 (1922). There would be no logical inconsistency in
2 holding that the amendments are not severable, or that the statute
3 of limitations has not run, yet the economic impact on MHC's land
4 should be calculated in terms of the difference between the
5 unconstitutional Ordinance and the milder predecessor in force when
6 MHC purchased the park. Accordingly, the Penn Central issue here
7 — whether to apply the economic impact test to the entire
8 Ordinance or to the amendments that eliminated the sliding scale
9 adjustments tied to inflation — is difficult and unsettled, and
10 the court concedes fair grounds for disagreement. The court's
11 regulatory taking holding presents a serious legal question, but
12 this is a consideration that can more properly be considered in
13 framing the terms of the injunction and declaratory relief awarded
14 MHC than in whether any such relief should be stayed or held in
15 abeyance pending appeal.

16
17 C

18 The City has filed a notice of the Ninth Circuit's Nov
19 25, 2008 decision in Equity Lifestyle Property, Inc v County of San
20 Luis Obispo, et al, 548 F3d 1184 (Doc #605), upholding the district
21 court's dismissal of a mobilehome park owner's taking challenge to
22 a local rent control ordinance as unripe. Id at *4-7. The Ninth
23 Circuit held that California's administrative procedure, known as a
24 Kavanau adjustment, providing for adjustment of future rents to
25 compensate parties injured by a government taking is not futile per
26 se for failure to provide adequate compensation and that the claim
27 at issue was therefore unripe under Williamson County Regional
28 Planning Commission v Hamilton Bank of Johnson City, 473 US 172

United States District Court
For the Northern District of California

1 (1984), because the mobilehome park owner had failed to pursue a
2 Kavanau adjustment. Equity Lifestyle Property does not affect the
3 court's determination that MHC's claims here do not fail for
4 unripeness. See Findings at 58-66. Here, unlike in Equity
5 Lifestyle Property, the court has determined, based on the long and
6 tortured relationship between MHC and the City, that requiring a
7 Kavanau adjustment in this case would be futile.

8
9 III

10 Given the novel questions presented in the context of
11 unsettled principles of law, the court turns to the balance of
12 hardships that immediate invalidation of the Ordinance would
13 create.

14 The City, of course, is the party whose improvident
15 decisions created this unfortunate situation. Any claim of
16 hardship to the City itself would likely not move the court. But
17 on this motion to stay enjoinder of the Ordinance and modify the
18 relief awarded, the City seeks to piggyback on the interests
19 claimed by the Contempo Marin residents, most of whom are embroiled
20 in this litigation through no fault of their own. In crafting an
21 equitable remedy, the court must consider the hardship to them.

22 Defendants contend that if the court does not stay its
23 order pending appeal, then MHC will raise rents to two or three
24 times the current amounts, the Contempo Marin residents will not be
25 able to "pay the higher rent while they await the outcome of the
26 appellate process" and "there will be a mass exodus from the park
27 and it will be impossible to restore the status quo ante in the
28 event of a reversal." Doc #561 at 3-4. The City and the

United States District Court
For the Northern District of California

1 Homeowners Association have submitted 233 declarations from park
2 residents claiming that effect. Doc #562. These form declarations
3 include many handwritten comments from the declarants, including:
4 "[The proposed rent of \$1,925.00] is more than my monthly income"
5 (Doc #562, Exh A (Candace Clark Decl)); "I am a 73-year-old widow
6 living on limited fixed income" (Doc #562, Exh A (Ann Plant Decl));
7 "I am on fixed income, I am unable to work" (Doc #562, Exh A (Paula
8 Paganini Decl)); and "We will not be able to pay this large amount
9 of lot rent along with our mortgage. Our home is all we have! We
10 also care for our elderly parent who also lives in Contempo" (Doc
11 #562, Exh A (Jayne & Brian Johnson Decl)). The Homeowners
12 Association emphasizes that the residents' harm is irreversible and
13 includes many non-commensurable harms such as children changing
14 schools. Doc #592 at 5. These declarations have the earmarks of
15 an orchestrated and rather maudlin appeal to sympathy. But the
16 court does not doubt that a substantial pad rent increase could
17 work a palpable hardship on Contempo Marin residents.

18 MHC rejects the defendants' concerns as "speculative,"
19 "hearsay" and "self-serving." Doc #596 at 19. MHC redescribes the
20 residents' harm as merely the "elimination" of a "subsid[y] in the
21 form of below market rents." Doc ##596 at 17, 583 at 5. MHC,
22 understandably, also points to its own constitutional injury as
23 irreparable harm. Doc #596 at 18.

24 Although the court concludes that the regulation goes too
25 far in this case, the situation of the Contempo Marin residents
26 nonetheless calls for fashioning a phased remedy. Not all of the
27 current Contempo Marin residents have benefitted from the premium
28 that the 1999 amendments created. The premium benefitted only

United States District Court

For the Northern District of California

1 those pad lessees living in Contempo Marin when the amendments
2 became effective. New lessees have in effect already paid for the
3 privilege of paying below-market rent. Because these post-1999
4 Contempo Marin buyers presumably relied on the continued validity
5 of the Ordinance, to subject them immediately to higher rents would
6 be unjust in that they would be required to pay twice the premium
7 created by the Ordinance — once at the time of buying a Contempo
8 Marin mobilehome and then again through higher monthly pad rentals.
9 It is simply impossible as a practical matter to claw back from
10 pre-1999 residents any premium that they captured through sales of
11 their mobilehomes.

12 In this case, the balance of hardships tips in favor of a
13 remedy that accommodates the interests of the mobilehome residents
14 as well as MHC. As the court adverted at the outset, present
15 conditions in the housing market may very well mean that an
16 immediate and total striking down of the Ordinance would not affect
17 Contempo Marin residents as much as they fear and as much as
18 defendants would have the court believe. But the court's remedy is
19 designed to buffer Contempo Marin residents from the large, sudden
20 rent increases they fear.

21 As discussed above, at the time of trial, the operation
22 of the whole Ordinance reduced MHC's net operating income by 75
23 percent and has reduced the value of the park from \$120 million to
24 \$23 million. Every month that the Ordinance is in effect means
25 substantial lost revenue for MHC unless the economics of the
26 situation have changed very dramatically.

27 In crafting an appropriate remedy, the court must
28 consider "where the public interest lies." Golden Gate Restaurant

United States District Court
For the Northern District of California

1 Ass'n, 512 F3d at 1116. It is difficult to assess the public
2 interest without assuming the soundness of the court's Findings.
3 If the Ordinance is unconstitutional, then enforcing an
4 unconstitutional law does not serve the public interest. And if
5 the Ordinance is constitutional, then enjoining it serves no public
6 purpose. Because the public interest does not tip the scale
7 discernibly in either side's favor, consideration of the public
8 interest does not affect the court's analysis.

9 In this situation, there is no perfect remedy. But the
10 most equitable remedy is to fashion an injunction that allows
11 current residents to continue for a time their leases at pad rents
12 regulated by the Ordinance. These are, of course, the below-market
13 rents that the post-1999 residents paid for in the form of a
14 premium on the price of their mobilehomes if they moved in after
15 the effectiveness of the Ordinance. Allowing continued enforcement
16 of the Ordinance as to current residents will avoid the plight that
17 defendants so dramatically script. When a current Contempo Marin
18 resident transfers his leasehold to a new resident upon the sale of
19 his mobilehome or by some other means, however, the balance of
20 hardships tips sharply in favor of MHC and enjoining the Ordinance.
21 Hence, the Ordinance shall be enjoined as to the next resident and
22 any future resident, and those residents shall pay rates set by MHC
23 (in the absence of any new and constitutional regulations enacted
24 by the City).

25 The court realizes, of course, that enjoining the
26 Ordinance as to future residents will significantly reduce the
27 premium current residents will collect from new residents for the
28 ability to pay below-market pad rents. But collecting that premium

United States District Court
For the Northern District of California

1 was never a legal right of the current residents. Moreover, the
2 premium represents the net present value of expected future pad
3 rent discounts. Consequently, the adjustment to the premium based
4 on the remedy the court fashions here will not be the first change
5 to the premium — the premium has likely been changing during all
6 stages of this litigation. For example, when the court issued its
7 findings of fact and conclusions of law on January 29, 2008 that
8 the Ordinance was unconstitutional, the expected value of future
9 discounts likely dropped significantly because the chances that
10 Contempo Marin mobilehome owners would be able to collect that
11 premium in the future plunged. But most importantly, the purpose
12 of the relief awarded by the court is to remedy the constitutional
13 violation in a manner that does not impose undue hardships on
14 Contempo Marin residents and is not unwarrantedly disruptive of the
15 parties' expectations. Given the unusual factual context and the
16 changed law, an invalidation of the Ordinance as to new residents
17 of Contempo Marin while maintaining a lengthy status quo for
18 current residents allows for an orderly transition.

19 One potential pitfall of a remedy that allows MHC to
20 charge one price to current Contempo Marin residents and a
21 different price to future residents is that the difference in the
22 prices could produce inefficiencies by causing the residents to
23 prolong their residency at Contempo Marin. Diminished turnover, of
24 course, would further impose on MHC the hardship inherent in the
25 Ordinance. An end date to effectiveness of the Ordinance is,
26 therefore, appropriate. To mitigate the unintended consequences of
27 price differentials between current and future residents, the court
28 will delay complete invalidation of the Ordinance to a date ten

United States District Court
For the Northern District of California

1 years from entry of judgment. Ten years is an appropriate period
2 for the Ordinance to sunset because Contempo Marin lots are turned
3 over, on average, every ten years. Doc ## 607, 608 (parties'
4 submissions pointing to multiple sources in the record indicating
5 that annual turnover is approximately ten percent and average
6 tenancy is approximately ten years). Because ten years from now
7 the average current resident would have sold his or her unit if
8 there were no pad rent price differential between current and
9 future residents, invalidating the Ordinance as to all residents at
10 that time reduces incentives for strategic behavior by current
11 residents.

12 An alternative might be to enjoin enforcement of the
13 Ordinance only as to Contempo Marin residents who bought their
14 mobilehomes after enactment of the 1999 amendments and who,
15 therefore, paid the premium created by those amendments. As,
16 however, those current residents who resided at Contempo Marin
17 before the 1999 amendments are, in all likelihood, among the older
18 residents of Contempo Marin, setting a definitive sunset date for
19 the Ordinance would appear to be both more practical and more
20 equitable.

21

22

IV

23 The court is well aware of the potential hardships that
24 the Contempo Marin tenants will face if the Ordinance is
25 immediately enjoined in full. The court emphasizes that it has
26 considerable discretion in crafting a final injunction and has
27 attempted to do so in a manner that vindicates MHC's constitutional

28

United States District Court
For the Northern District of California

1 **interests without undue hardship to current Contempo Marin**
2 **residents.**

3 **Accordingly, the court DENIES the Homeowners**
4 **Association's and the City's motions for a stay of the January 29,**
5 **2008 order (Doc ##561, 576) and will enter judgment accordingly.**
6 **MHC is DIRECTED to submit a proposed form of judgment whereby**
7 **enforcement of the Ordinance is enjoined as to pad lessees of**
8 **Contempo Marin who come into possession after the date of judgment**
9 **so that all current Contempo Marin pad lessees shall be allowed to**
10 **continue their leases at rents regulated by the Ordinance. When a**
11 **current Contempo Marin pad lessee transfers his leasehold to a new**
12 **resident upon the sale of the accompanying mobilehome, the**
13 **Ordinance shall be enjoined as to the next resident and any future**
14 **resident. The Ordinance shall be enjoined as to all residents ten**
15 **years from entry of judgment. No bond shall be required.**

16
17 **IT IS SO ORDERED.**
18

19 

20 _____
21 **VAUGHN R WALKER**
22 **United States District Chief Judge**
23
24
25
26
27
28

United States District Court
For the Northern District of California

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
22
23
24
25
26
27
28

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

MHC FINANCING, LTD, et al,

No C 00-3785 VRW

Plaintiffs,

ORDER

v

CITY OF SAN RAFAEL,

Defendant,

**CONTEMPO MARIN HOMEOWNERS
ASSOCIATION,**

Defendant-Intervenor.

_____ /

Plaintiffs MHC Financing Ltd Partnership and Grapeland

**Vistas, Inc (collectively, MHC), filed a complaint in 2000 against
defendant City of San Rafael (the City) alleging that the City’s
mobilehome rent control ordinance (“Ordinance”) was an unlawful
taking in violation of the Fifth Amendment. Doc #1. The parties
now move for attorney fees and costs under 42 USC § 1988, the fee-**

United States District Court
For the Northern District of California

1 shifting statute applicable to civil rights cases. Doc ##576, 583.
2 Because both MHC and the City asserted they had achieved some
3 measure of success in this lengthy litigation, the court requested
4 briefing to determine the “prevailing party.” Doc #558.

5
6 I

7 MHC owns the Contempo Marin Mobilehome Park (“Contempo
8 Marin”) in San Rafael. Doc #1 at 2. In its original complaint,
9 MHC claimed the Ordinance was a regulatory taking because it failed
10 substantially to advance a legitimate state interest. Id at 7; see
11 Richardson v City and County of Honolulu, 124 F3d 1150, 1164 (9th
12 Cir 1997). MHC alleged that although the City’s stated purpose in
13 enforcing the Ordinance was to provide affordable housing, the
14 Ordinance did no such thing. Id. The complaint requested monetary
15 and injunctive relief. Id at 8.

16 MHC’s complaint related to the City’s regulation of rent
17 control in Contempo Marin. In 1993, the City had amended a
18 previous ordinance to add “vacancy control.” Doc #554 at 10.
19 Under vacancy control, any new resident taking over a lease in
20 Contempo Marin would rent the pad at the same rate as the previous
21 tenant. Id. In 1999, the City amended the ordinance again to
22 limit rent increases to 75 percent of any change in inflation. Id
23 at 13. The 1999 amendments imposed an ever-growing gap between the
24 fair market rental value of a mobilehome pad lease and the rental
25 rate MHC could charge. Id at 14.

26 As a result of the 1999 amendments, future rents at
27 Contempo Marin would be depressed because rents would not keep up
28 with inflation. Id at 15-16. Accordingly, in order to obtain the

United States District Court
For the Northern District of California

1 benefit of lower future rent payments, prospective buyers would be
2 willing to pay a higher price to purchase the mobilehome itself
3 from the existing tenant. Id. In this manner, the reduction in
4 rents was “capitalized” into the value of the mobilehome. Id.
5 Thus the 1999 amendments created a one-time-only premium in the
6 resale prices of mobilehomes in Contempo Marin.

7 The only beneficiaries of that premium were the residents
8 of Contempo Marin at the time the 1999 amendments went into effect.
9 Doc #554 at 19-20. Because the 1999 amendments did not change the
10 total amount that future tenants would end up paying to live at
11 Contempo Marin (mobilehome price plus rent), the 1999 amendments
12 themselves did not contribute to the availability of low-cost
13 housing in the City. Id at 19. Meanwhile, the complete Ordinance
14 reduced MHC’s net operating income by 75 percent and reduced the
15 value of the park from \$120 million to \$23 million. Id at 24-26.

16 In 2001, the parties reached a settlement agreement
17 whereby the City agreed to “initiate” amendments that would repeal
18 vacancy control. See Doc #23, Exh 1. On July 11, 2001, the court
19 stayed proceedings in this case while the parties implemented the
20 conditional settlement agreement. Doc #10. The City Council held
21 public hearings, but elected not to repeal vacancy control. MHC
22 then moved to enforce the settlement agreement. Doc #23. On March
23 19, 2002, the court granted MHC’s motion, finding that the City was
24 contractually obligated to repeal vacancy control. Doc #56.

25 MHC next filed a First Amended Complaint (FAC) alleging
26 state-law claims for breach of contract and breach of the duty of
27 good faith and fair dealing. Doc #78 (third and fourth causes of
28 action). The FAC also alleged that the City’s refusal to permit

United States District Court
For the Northern District of California

1 MHC to change the use of the park constituted a physical taking.

2 Doc #78 (fifth and sixth causes of action).

3 In 2002, the court granted the motion of Contempo Marin
4 Homeowners Association (CMHA) to intervene as a defendant. In
5 addition, on August 7, 2002, the court granted the City's motion
6 for reconsideration of the court's earlier holding that the
7 settlement agreement was a valid contract. Doc #99.

8 The case proceeded to trial. In late October and
9 November, 2002, the state-law contract causes of action were tried
10 before a jury (Doc ##337-350) and the constitutional causes of
11 action were tried before the court (Doc #366, 370, 371, 378). The
12 jury returned a verdict in favor of the City on the contract
13 claims. Doc #350. The court stayed its ruling on the takings
14 causes of action pending the Ninth Circuit's decision in Lingle v
15 Chevron USA, Inc, 363 F3d 846 (9th Cir 2004).

16 The Ninth Circuit issued its decision in Lingle on April
17 1, 2004. On October 14, 2004, the United States Supreme Court
18 granted certiorari in Lingle (543 US 924 (2004)) and the court
19 subsequently extended its stay pending the Supreme Court's Lingle
20 decision. Doc #437.

21 On May 23, 2005, the United States Supreme Court issued
22 its decision in Lingle, rejecting the "substantially advances"
23 theory that had served as the basis for MHC's regulatory takings
24 claim. Doc #444. Based on the Lingle decision, MHC requested
25 leave to amend its complaint and file new constitutional claims.
26 Doc #450. The court granted MHC's motion to amend its complaint on
27 January 27, 2006. Doc #468.

28 //

United States District Court
For the Northern District of California

1 On February 17, 2006, MHC filed a corrected Second
2 Amended Complaint (SAC). Doc #472 Exh A. The SAC alleged a
3 regulatory taking under Penn Central Transportation Co v New York
4 City, 438 US 104 (1978) rather than under Richardson. In
5 connection with its regulatory taking argument, MHC alleged that
6 the Ordinance was an improper land-use exaction under Nollan v
7 California Coastal Commission, 483 US 825 (1987) and Dolan v City
8 of Tigard, 512 US 374 (1994). Id at ¶¶96-101. The SAC also
9 alleged that the Ordinance was a private taking under Kelo v City
10 of New London, 545 US 469 (2005). MHC added a claim that the
11 Ordinance denied them substantive due process as described in
12 Lingle. The SAC retained the physical takings cause of action as
13 well as the contract causes of action. The SAC sought declaratory
14 and injunctive relief.

15 On December 5, 2006, the court granted defendants' motion
16 to dismiss the physical takings cause of action and denied the
17 motion on the other causes of action. Doc #486.

18 The court conducted a bench trial on MHC's remaining
19 claims on April 9, 11, 24 and 30, and May 1, 2007. Doc #509, 517,
20 524, 526, 527. The court issued preliminary findings of fact and
21 conclusions of law on July 26, 2007 (Doc #544) and, after further
22 briefing, issued a final order on January 29, 2008. Doc #554.

23 In its final order, the court concluded that the
24 Ordinance effected a regulatory taking under the Penn Central test
25 as well as a private taking under the Public Use Clause of the
26 Fifth Amendment. The court held that the Ordinance did not deny
27 MHC due process of law under the Fourteenth Amendment.

28 //

United States District Court
For the Northern District of California

1 II

2 MHC moves to recover all of its attorney fees and costs
3 because it prevailed on its ultimate regulatory taking claim and
4 achieved its objective in bringing the lawsuit with a court order
5 that the Ordinance is unconstitutional. Doc #584 at 6. The City
6 argues that it is entitled to attorney fees and costs as the
7 prevailing party on MHC's breach of contract claim and breach of
8 implied covenant claim. Doc #577 at 11-14. And while the City
9 concedes that MHC prevailed on some of its takings theories
10 (regulatory taking and private taking), the City requests a
11 reduction in MHC's fee request on the grounds that MHC failed to
12 succeed on all its takings theories. The City argues that MHC did
13 not prevail on either its pre-Lingle claim or its breach of
14 contract claims and is not entitled to fees incurred in pursuing
15 those unsuccessful causes of action. Id at 15-18.

16 42 USC § 1988 allows a court to award reasonable attorney
17 fees to a prevailing party in a civil rights action. Hensley v
18 Eckerhart, 461 US 424, 429 (1983); Chalmers v City of Los Angeles,
19 796 F2d 1205, 1210 (9th Cir 1985). "The purpose of § 1988 is to
20 ensure effective access to the judicial process for persons with
21 civil rights grievances." Hensley, 461 US at 429 (internal
22 quotation and citation omitted). Accordingly, a prevailing
23 plaintiff in a civil rights action should typically recover a
24 reasonable attorney fee "unless special circumstances would render
25 such an award unjust." Id (internal quotation and citations
26 omitted); see Chalmers, 796 F2d at 1210.

27 The Supreme Court has instructed that "the extent of a
28 plaintiff's success is a crucial factor in determining the proper

United States District Court
For the Northern District of California

1 amount of an award of attorney’s fees under 42 USC § 1988.”
2 Hensley, 461 US at 440. In determining whether a plaintiff’s
3 limited success should reduce the number of hours for which it is
4 entitled to a reasonable fee, the Ninth Circuit has formulated a
5 two-part test: (1) consider whether the claims on which the
6 plaintiff failed to prevail are related to the claims on which he
7 succeeded; (2) if the claims are related, determine whether the
8 plaintiff achieved a level of success that makes the hours
9 reasonably expended on those unrelated claims a satisfactory basis
10 for the fee award. Sorenson v Mink, 239 F3d 1140, 1147 (9th Cir
11 2001). MHC was successful on its takings claim but lost on its
12 contract claims. Accordingly, the court must determine whether to
13 award fees on each of those claims.

14 First, to determine whether the claims are related, the
15 court essentially must examine whether the claims were intended to
16 remedy “the same course of conduct.” Schwarz v Sec’y of Health &
17 Human Services, 73 F3d 895, 903 (9th Cir 1995). Factors to
18 consider are: (1) whether the claims arise from the same core of
19 facts; (2) whether it is likely that some of the work performed in
20 connection with the unsuccessful claims aided the work performed on
21 the merits of the successful claims; and (3) whether the same or
22 different individuals were the primary perpetrators. Id. If the
23 unsuccessful claim is unrelated to the successful claims, then the
24 hours expended on those unrelated, unsuccessful claims should not
25 be included in the fee award.

26 //

27 //

28 //

United States District Court
For the Northern District of California

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28

A

The City argues first that the pre-Lingle takings causes of action are not related to the constitutional causes of action on which MHC eventually prevailed. MHC prevailed on a private takings cause of action and an as-applied regulatory takings cause of action. MHC did not prevail on its facial regulatory takings cause of action (the “substantially advances” theory), its substantive due process cause of action, its land-use exaction theory or its physical takings cause of action.

All these different causes of action except due process are part of the same “claim”: a taking of private property in violation of the Fifth Amendment. MHC’s various causes of action are different theories in support of the same claim. This court recognized that distinction in its order of December 5, 2006, granting partial summary judgment, in which the court defined the second amended complaint thusly: “MHC proffers four different theories for its takings claim, alleging that the City has performed: [a regulatory taking, a physical taking, a private taking and a land-use exaction].” Doc #486 at 3 (emphasis added).

The Supreme Court emphasized the claim versus cause of action distinction in Yee v Escondido, 503 US 519, 534-35 (1992). Yee focused on physical taking, but the Court also considered whether to address the landowner’s regulatory taking argument. Yee rejected the contention that the regulatory taking argument was not before the Court because it was not raised below. The Court focused on claims, not arguments:

//
//

United States District Court
For the Northern District of California

1 **Petitioners unquestionably raised a taking claim in the**
2 **state courts. The question whether the rent control**
3 **ordinance took their property without compensation, in**
4 **violation of the Fifth Amendment’s Takings Clause, is**
5 **thus properly before us. Once a federal claim is**
6 **properly presented, a party can make any argument in**
7 **support of that claim; parties are not limited to the**
8 **precise arguments they made below. Petitioners’**
9 **arguments that the ordinance constitutes a taking in two**
10 **different ways, by physical occupation and by regulation**
11 **are not separate claims. They are, rather, separate**
12 **arguments in support of a single claim — that the**
13 **ordinance effects an unconstitutional taking.**

14 Yee, 503 US at 534-35; see also id at 537 (declining nevertheless
15 to rule on regulatory taking because the question presented was
16 limited to physical taking).

17 Similarly, MHC’s various taking theories here all support
18 a single unconstitutional taking claim. Moreover, MHC’s pre-Lingle
19 taking claim was closely related to the regulatory taking claim on
20 which MHC ultimately prevailed. The variety and changes in MHC’s
21 theories merely reflect the uncertainty and dynamic nature of
22 Takings Clause case law. Accordingly, MHC’s various taking
23 arguments are all part of the same taking claim. MHC prevailed on
24 its regulatory taking claim and is entitled to recover attorney
25 fees and costs for its pursuit of that claim even though its
26 arguments changed to correspond with the changing law.

27 The substantive due process claim, by contrast, is a
28 separate and distinct claim. It arises out of the Fourteenth
29 Amendment directly, whereas the taking claim arises out of the
30 Fifth Amendment as incorporated against the several states. As the
31 Supreme Court stated in Lingle, a “means-ends” due process inquiry
32 “is logically prior to and distinct from the question whether a
33 regulation effects a taking * * *.” 544 US at 542-43.

34 //

United States District Court
For the Northern District of California

1 Nevertheless, under the Schwarz factors described above,
2 the two claims are related. First, the claims arise from the same
3 set of facts: the City’s 1993 and 1999 amendments to its rent
4 control Ordinance. The facts underlying both claims are identical;
5 the only difference is the legal theory of liability. Second, much
6 of the work performed in connection with the unsuccessful due
7 process claim aided the successful private taking claim. The
8 essence of the court’s private taking ruling was that the
9 amendments were pretextual and were not connected to the City’s
10 asserted interests in affordable housing. The evidence suggesting
11 that the Ordinance was not rationally related to its stated goals
12 is especially relevant in determining whether those stated goals
13 were pretextual. Third, the same entity — the City, and in
14 particular the City Council — was responsible for all the actions
15 challenged in this litigation. Under Schwarz, the unsuccessful due
16 process claim is related to the successful constitutional claim.

17 The somewhat more difficult issue is whether MHC’s state-
18 law claims are related to its taking claim. MHC alleged that by
19 not repealing vacancy control, the City breached the settlement
20 agreement and breached its duty of good faith and fair dealing.

21 The court determined early on that the contract claims
22 were substantively unrelated to the taking claim. On October 18,
23 2002, the court prohibited CMHA from participating in the jury
24 trial for this reason. Doc #252. The court stated that CMHA’s
25 interest was “limited to * * * [the] defense of the ordinance” and
26 thus CMHA could participate in the taking claim only. On the eve
27 of trial, therefore, the court specifically recognized that the
28 Ordinance’s enforcement — the central issue in this litigation and

United States District Court
For the Northern District of California

1 the focus of MHC’s requested relief — was not at stake in MHC’s
2 contract claims. The court’s determination in 2002 that the
3 contract claims were unrelated to the Ordinance’s validity
4 contradicts MHC’s argument today that the contract “claims also
5 sought to achieve the same objective as the successful
6 constitutional claims, i e, relief from the effects of the
7 ordinance.” Doc #584 at 6.

8 The relief sought on contract claims was not related to
9 the relief eventually obtained: an injunction against the
10 Ordinance. Consider Hensley, 461 US at 435 (“Litigants in good
11 faith may raise alternative legal grounds for a desired outcome,
12 and the court’s rejection of or failure to reach certain grounds is
13 not a sufficient reason for reducing a fee. The result is what
14 matters.”). The contract claims were not “alternative legal
15 grounds” for MHC’s desired outcome — to enjoin the Ordinance. If
16 MHC had prevailed on its contract claims, it would not have been
17 entitled to specific performance of the settlement agreement.
18 Instead, the City would have paid the monetary “compensatory
19 damages” that MHC requested in its prayer for relief. See Doc #68
20 (FAC).

21 Under Schwarz, the question is whether the claims were
22 intended to remedy “the same course of conduct.” Schwarz, 73 F3d
23 at 903. Again, the factors to consider are: (1) whether the claims
24 arise from the same core of facts; (2) whether it is likely that
25 some of the work performed in connection with the unsuccessful
26 claims aided the work performed on the merits of the successful
27 claims; and (3) whether the same or different individuals were the
28 primary perpetrators. The court concludes that only at a high

United States District Court
For the Northern District of California

1 level of generality were the taking claims and state claims
2 intended to remedy “the same course of conduct.” Accordingly, the
3 claims are not “related” for the purposes of section 1988.

4 MHC has not established that the claims arise from the
5 same core set of facts. The facts relevant to MHC’s state claims
6 all occurred in 2001, culminating in the City Council’s vote
7 against repeal on September 17, 2001. The facts relevant to MHC’s
8 taking claim, however, occurred primarily in 1993 and 1999 when the
9 City Council studied and debated the Ordinance. Similarly, the
10 questions whether the City broke a promise or negotiated unfairly
11 are not connected to the question whether the Ordinance takes MHC’s
12 property unlawfully. And the reasons for declining to repeal an
13 ordinance — including a reluctance to disrupt reasonable
14 expectations in the housing market — are not necessarily connected
15 to the reasons for enacting the law in the first place. Overall,
16 the relationship between the facts underlying the taking claim and
17 the facts underlying the state claims is unclear, but that
18 uncertainty weighs against the party requesting fees.

19 On the second Schwarz factor, there is little to suggest
20 that the work performed on the state claims aided the work
21 performed on the Penn Central and private taking theories. MHC’s
22 proposed findings of fact and conclusions of law are particularly
23 useful in determining which evidence MHC relied on to support its
24 successful takings theories. See Doc #539. But evidence
25 surrounding the failed settlement agreement did not materially aid
26 MHC’s argument that the Ordinance effected a regulatory taking and
27 a private taking.

28 //

United States District Court
For the Northern District of California

1 The Penn Central argument centered on the reduction in
2 value of MHC’s property. That inquiry requires detailed economic
3 analysis of housing markets, not contract interpretation or
4 testimony from City Council members. MHC contends that the failed
5 settlement agreement offered further evidence that the City would
6 not allow MHC to put the park to other economically beneficial uses
7 (see Doc #539 at ¶178). While this fact appears to be true, it
8 does not closely relate to the showing that MHC needed to make, and
9 did make, to establish its taking claim: namely, the ever-
10 increasing premium that the Ordinance extracted from MHC and
11 appropriated to Contempo Marin residents dating from its enactment.

12 MHC cites statements made by the City in 2001 surrounding
13 the settlement agreement. See Doc #539 at ¶¶47-56. MHC argues
14 that those statements show that the City knew the Ordinance did not
15 create affordable housing, and thus the Ordinance was a pretext to
16 cover up a wealth transfer to politically powerful citizens.
17 Again, despite the apparent accuracy of MHC’s observation,
18 invalidity of the Ordinance does not turn on the subjective intent
19 of the authorities enacting it.

20 The third Schwarz factor — the perpetrator’s identity —
21 is neutral here because subjective intent is what counts for
22 purposes of the pretext analysis, and the record is unclear whether
23 City Council membership was constant from 1993 to 2001.

24 Although it is sometimes difficult to untangle “the hours
25 expended on a claim-by-claim basis” (see Hensley, 461 US at 435),
26 that concern is less present in this case than in most. The state
27 claims did not accrue until September 2001, at which point they
28 were quickly briefed and brought to trial in 2002. There may be

United States District Court
For the Northern District of California

1 overlap in the evidence used in the jury trial and that used in the
2 original bench trial, but almost all of that evidence had already
3 been collected while pursuing the taking claim.

4 Accordingly, MHC's unsuccessful breach of contract claims
5 are not "related" to the taking claim for the purposes of section
6 1988. The court will reduce MHC's number of claimed hours for lack
7 of success on the contract claims.

8
9 **B**

10 The City, having obtained a jury verdict in its favor on
11 the contract claims, requests its fees and costs incurred in
12 defending against that claim.

13 The City argues that it is the prevailing party on the
14 contract claims. The settlement agreement states:

15 If any action at law or in equity including an action for
16 declaratory relief is brought to enforce or interpret the
17 terms or provisions of this Agreement, the prevailing
18 party shall be entitled to recover its reasonable
19 attorney's fees and costs * * *.

20 Doc #23 Exh 1 at ¶2.14. The agreement states that "all disputes"
21 shall be governed by California law. Id at ¶2.15. California
22 Civil Code § 1717(a) states:

23 In any action on a contract, where the contract
24 specifically provides that attorney's fees and costs,
25 which are incurred to enforce that contract, shall be
26 awarded either to one of the parties or to the prevailing
27 party, then the party who is determined to be the party
28 prevailing on the contract * * * shall be entitled to
reasonable attorney's fees in addition to other costs.

Cal Civ Code § 1717(a) (emphasis added). The City argues that even
though it lost on the taking claim, it prevailed on the contract
claims and is entitled to fees incurred in defending those claims.

//

United States District Court
For the Northern District of California

1 MHC responds that the City “lost the war by choosing to
2 fight this battle” and therefore the court “should find either that
3 MHC prevailed on the settlement agreement claims or that there was
4 no prevailing party on those claims.” Doc #584 at 10-11. MHC
5 asserts that the City’s loss on the constitutional claim should
6 affect the City’s fee request on the contract claims.

7 The California Supreme Court addressed this issue in Hsu
8 v Abarra, 9 Cal 4th 863 (1995). Hsu analyzed the evolution of
9 section 1717 over six years of amendments. While the statute
10 previously awarded fees to the party that obtained a final judgment
11 in the litigation, the current version made a significant change:
12 “The Legislature replaced the term ‘prevailing party’ with ‘party
13 prevailing on the contract,’ evidently to emphasize that the
14 determination of prevailing party for purposes of contractual
15 attorney fees was to be made without reference to the success or
16 failure of noncontract claims.” Hsu, 9 Cal 4th at 873-74 (emphasis
17 added). Hsu emphasized that the outcome of a noncontract claim
18 cannot tarnish an unqualified win on the contract claim:

19 [W]hen the results of the litigation on the contract
20 claims are not mixed — that is, when the decision on the
21 litigated contract claims is purely good news for one
22 party and bad news for the other — the Courts of Appeal
23 have recognized that a trial court has no discretion to
24 deny attorney fees to the successful litigant. Thus,
25 when a defendant defeats recovery by the plaintiff on the
26 only contract claim in the action, the defendant is the
27 party prevailing on the contract under section 1717 as a
28 matter of law. * * *.

* * *.

Here, the judgment was a ‘simple, unqualified win’ for
[defendants] on the only contract claim between them and
[plaintiffs]. In this situation, the trial court had no
discretion to deny [defendants] their attorney fees under
section 1717 by finding, expressly or impliedly, that
there was no prevailing party on the contract. * * *.

9 Cal 4th at 875-76 (internal citations omitted).

United States District Court
For the Northern District of California

1 Under Hsu, the court may look to overall litigation
2 success to determine who is the prevailing party only if the result
3 of the contract claim is mixed or ambiguous. The City here
4 obtained an unqualified victory on the MHC's contract claims.
5 Accordingly, Hsu dictates that the City is entitled to reasonable
6 costs and attorney fees incurred in defending those claims.

7
8 III

9 A reasonable attorney fee is the number of hours and the
10 hourly rate that would be billed by "reasonably competent counsel."
11 Venegas v Mitchell, 495 US 82, 86 (1990); Blanchard v Bergeron, 489
12 US 87 (1989). In Venegas and Blanchard, the reasonable fee awarded
13 by the district court differed from the fee due under the agreement
14 between the fee applicant and the attorney. In each case, the
15 party entered into a contingent fee agreement, prevailed on the
16 merits and obtained an award of reasonable attorney fees. In
17 Blanchard, the court-awarded fees were greater than the amount due
18 under the fee agreement whereas in Venegas, the court-awarded fees
19 were less than the amount due under the fee agreement. In each
20 case, the Supreme Court concluded that the fee agreement was
21 enforceable and did not alter the amount awardable as a reasonable
22 attorney fee. Blanchard, 489 US at 96 (concluding that the "trial
23 judge should not be limited by the contractual fee agreement
24 between plaintiff and counsel"); Venegas, 495 US at 90 (holding
25 that "§ 1988 controls what the losing defendant must pay, not what
26 the prevailing party must pay his lawyer").

27 Under Venegas and Blanchard, fee applicants are entitled
28 to an award sufficient to "enable them to secure reasonably

United States District Court
For the Northern District of California

1 competent counsel,” but are not entitled to an award “necessary to
2 secure counsel of their choice.” Venegas, 495 US at 89-90.
3 Accordingly, courts award the fee that would be charged by
4 reasonably competent counsel, not the fee due under the agreement
5 between the fee applicant and its attorneys. Limiting the award to
6 the fee charged by reasonably competent counsel fulfills the aim of
7 fee-shifting provisions, which is to allow parties to employ
8 reasonably competent counsel “without cost to themselves if they
9 prevail.” 495 US at 86. Thus, even if a party chooses to employ
10 counsel of unusual skill and experience, the court awards only the
11 fee necessary to secure reasonably competent counsel.

12 Reasonably competent counsel bill a reasonable number of
13 hours. Reasonably competent counsel do not bill hours that are
14 “excessive, redundant, or otherwise unnecessary.” See Hensley, 461
15 US at 434. Additionally, the court must take into consideration
16 discounts commonly given to clients and an attorney’s ability to
17 collect fees from clients. As Hensley emphasized:

18 In the private sector, “billing judgment” is
19 an important component in fee setting. It is
20 no less important here. Hours that are not
21 properly billed to one’s client also are not
22 properly billed to one’s adversary pursuant to
23 statutory authority.

24 461 US at 434 (internal quotation omitted; emphasis omitted).

25 First, the court must determine whether the requested
26 number of hours is greater than, less than or the same number of
27 hours that reasonably competent counsel would have billed. If the
28 requested number of hours is greater than the number of hours
reasonably competent counsel would have billed, then the court
should reduce the requested number of hours accordingly. See

United States District Court
For the Northern District of California

1 Hensley, 461 US at 434 (describing the court’s duty to eliminate
2 hours that are “excessive, redundant, or otherwise unnecessary”).
3 If the requested number of hours is less than the number of hours
4 reasonably competent counsel would have billed, the court should
5 compensate the fee applicant at an above-average hourly rate. If
6 the requested number of hours is the same as the number of hours
7 reasonably competent counsel would have billed, the court should
8 use the number of hours requested.

9 Second, the court must determine a reasonable hourly
10 rate. As the parties recognize, it is this court’s practice to
11 rely on the so-called Laffey matrix in determining a reasonable
12 hourly rate. See Laffey v Northwest Airlines, Inc, 572 F Supp 354
13 (DDC 1983), aff’d in part, rev’d in part on other grounds, 746 F2d
14 4 (DC Cir 1984). In performing a lodestar calculation, the court
15 ensures that the fee applicant receives, and the losing party pays,
16 a reasonable attorney fee; the court need not ensure that the
17 agreement between the fee applicant and its attorneys provides a
18 fair market rate for the attorneys’ services. As stated in
19 Venegas, a court’s determination of a reasonable attorney fee
20 “controls what the losing defendant must pay, not what the
21 prevailing party must pay his lawyer.” Venegas, 495 US at 90.

22
23 A

24 The court now turns to the substance of the fee requests.
25 MHC has filed three documents supporting its accounting of attorney
26 fees. Doc ##585, 600, 610. MHC provided the affidavit of David
27 Bradford, on March 14, 2008, which listed the total attorney hours
28 expended on this case of 10,640.35. Doc #585, Exh E. On April 15,

United States District Court
For the Northern District of California

1 2008, MHC requested administrative leave to file a supplemental
2 memorandum and the supporting affidavit of Lisa Scruggs (Doc #600),
3 which provided additional documentation in support of MHC's request
4 for costs and attorney fees. See Doc #600, Exh 2. Finally, in
5 response to the court's April 4, 2009 order requesting MHC to
6 resolve several discrepancies between the Bradford affidavit and
7 the Scruggs affidavit, MHC filed David Bradford's supplemental
8 declaration on April 8, 2009.

9 As a preliminary matter, the court has considered the
10 City's opposition to MHC's request to file the Scruggs affidavit.
11 Doc #602. MHC provided supporting documentation in its initial
12 request for attorney fees and its bill of costs (Doc ##585, 586).
13 MHC felt the need, however, to file a second submission (the
14 Scruggs affidavit, Doc #600) to respond to some of the arguments
15 the City made in its opposition to MHC's initial requests. Doc
16 #600 at 2. The City argues that MHC should be denied this
17 opportunity to supplement the record because the local rules
18 require appropriate supporting documentation for a bill of costs to
19 be filed along with the bill of costs. Civ L R 54-1. Because MHC
20 initially supported its request for attorney fees and bill of
21 costs, but further support became necessary in response to the
22 City's opposition memorandum (Doc #588), the court GRANTS MHC's
23 request for leave to file the Scruggs affidavit. Doc #600.

24 As a second preliminary matter, the court found several
25 discrepancies between the Bradford affidavit (Doc #585) and the
26 Scruggs affidavit (Doc #600) in the documentation of attorney
27 hours. See Doc #609 (court order requesting MHC to provide an
28 explanation and resolve the discrepancies). In response to the

United States District Court
For the Northern District of California

1 court's request for an explanation, MHC provided a detailed
2 explanation of discrepancies between the Bradford affidavit and the
3 Scruggs affidavit and submitted updated hour totals. Doc #610.
4 Additionally, MHC submitted the declaration of Patrick Bull, Chief
5 Financial Officer for Jenner & Block, one of the law firms
6 representing MHC, who independently verified that the updated hour
7 totals were correct. Doc #611. Upon close review of MHC's
8 submissions, the court is satisfied with MHC's explanation of the
9 initial discrepancies and the updated hour totals. Moreover, the
10 updated hours total is not significantly different from the
11 previous total (total attorney hours changed from 10,640.35 to
12 10,760.8). Accordingly, the court will consider MHC's request for
13 attorney fees to include the corrected hour totals listed in
14 Bradford's supplemental declaration. Doc #610, Exh S-1 at 12.

15 MHC states that its counsel have expended a total of
16 14,104.9 professional hours in this litigation, which includes
17 attorney time, summer associate time and paralegal time. Doc
18 ##585, Exh E, 610, Exh S-1 (number obtained by making the
19 adjustments shown in exhibit S-1 to the tables presented in exhibit
20 E; see attachment 3, *infra*). MHC states that the "total amount
21 billed and paid" in "legal fees for professional time" was
22 \$3,846,456.87. Doc #585 at ¶17. Using the Laffey 2008-09 rates,
23 the total expended hours produce a lodestar calculation of
24 \$4,437,047.97. Attachment 4, *infra*.

25 Because MHC was not the prevailing party on its contract
26 claims, see part II A *supra*, MHC is not entitled to attorney fees
27 for time spent on those claims. At the court's request (Doc #609),
28 MHC submitted documentation of the amount of time each attorney

United States District Court
For the Northern District of California

1 spent working on MHC's contract claims. Doc #610 at 11. The total
2 number of hours expended on the contract claims, according to MHC,
3 was 3,871.7. This number seems reasonable based on the fact that
4 the City stated that it spent a total of 2896.35 hours opposing
5 those claims. See Attachment 5 (presenting the sum of the total
6 hours presented by the City in Doc #590, Exh C). Accordingly, for
7 each MHC attorney, the court will revise MHC's fee request by
8 reducing each MHC attorney's total hours by the number of hours
9 that attorney worked on the contract claims. See Attachment 4
10 (presenting the revised hour totals for each MHC attorney and staff
11 group). The adjusted hour total is 10,233.2, for a lodestar of
12 \$2,995,612.37. MHC states that it incurred \$92,192.05 in
13 computerized research costs, bringing the attorney fee request to
14 \$3,087,804.42.

15 The City describes MHC's fee request as "shocking,"
16 stating that "[i]t is difficult to imagine a more defective (and
17 outrageous) fee application." Doc #588 at 8. The City argues that
18 (1) MHC made no attempt to reduce its hours expended to a
19 reasonable amount; (2) the case was overstaffed; (3) the total
20 hours worked is "patently excessive" and "nearly twice the hours
21 incurred by the City" (Doc #588 at 17); (4) the work should be
22 charged at the Laffey rate for the year in which the work was
23 performed rather than the 2007-08 rate; (5) the requested hours are
24 insufficiently documented; (6) the Westlaw and Lexis charges are
25 insufficiently documented; and (7) the fee MHC actually paid is
26 lower than the requested lodestar fee. Doc #588.

27 As for the City's own fee application, the City states
28 that it spent 2,896.35 hours on the contract claims. Applying the

United States District Court
For the Northern District of California

1 2008-09 Laffey rate, adjusted for the locality pay differential for
2 the San Francisco Bay area, the lodestar total is \$1,191,935.89.
3 Attachment 5; Doc #590, Exh C.

4 While MHC disputes the award of any legal fees to the
5 City based on MHC's status as a prevailing party (see Doc #595 at
6 13-15), MHC does not dispute the reasonableness of the City's
7 attorney fee requests. Accordingly, the fee award to MHC will be
8 reduced by \$1,191,935.89 to account for the City's attorney fees on
9 the contract claims.

10
11 B

12 The court begins its analysis of the reasonableness of
13 MHC's fee request by determining whether the requested number of
14 hours is greater than the number of hours that reasonably competent
15 counsel would have billed. If so, then the court should reduce the
16 number of hours accordingly. See Hensley, 461 US at 434 (holding
17 that court must eliminate hours that are "excessive, redundant, or
18 otherwise unnecessary").

19 As noted, MHC claims to have spent 14,104.9 professional
20 hours on this case. The City argues that this claimed number of
21 hours is unreasonable. Specifically, the City argues that MHC used
22 an unreasonable number of attorneys and staff (thirty-two lawyers,
23 six summer associates, ten paralegals and thirteen project
24 assistants), offered no explanation for the use of multiple law
25 firms and requested payment for a substantially larger number of
26 hours than the city required to litigate the same case. Doc #588
27 at 16-18.

28 //

United States District Court
For the Northern District of California

1 In Democratic Party of Washington v Reed, 388 F3d 1281

2 (9th Cir 2004), the Ninth Circuit discussed the use of the opposing
3 party's total fees in evaluating the prevailing party's fee
4 request:

5 While '[c]omparison of the hours spent in particular tasks by
6 the attorney for the opposing party * * * does not necessarily
7 indicate whether the hours expended by the party seeking fees
8 were excessive' because numerous factors can cause the
9 prevailing party to have spent more time than the losing
10 party, such a comparison is a useful guide in evaluating the
appropriateness of time claimed. If the time claimed by the
prevailing party is of a substantially greater magnitude than
what the other side spent, that often indicates that too much
time is claimed.

11 *Id* (alterations in original). The City claims to have spent 5,566
12 attorney hours and 877 paralegal hours on this case. Doc #590, ¶5.
13 This compares to MHC, which spent a total of 10,760.8 attorney
14 hours and 3,286 staff hours. See attachment 3.

15 While MHC's attorneys and staff spent about double the
16 time the City's attorneys and staff spent, the court finds that
17 MHC's request is reasonable. MHC spent about a third more hours
18 than the City litigating the contract claims (compare 3,871.7
19 professional hours expended by MHC (Doc #610), with 2896.35
20 professional hours spent by the City (Attachment 5)). Although
21 this difference is significant in terms of hours, its significance
22 diminishes considering the litigation postures of the parties. MHC
23 was put to the test of attempting to prove the intent of City
24 officials in entering into the settlement agreement. Pinning these
25 officials down was no small task and ultimately unsuccessful. By
26 contrast, all the City needed to do — and did do — was introduce
27 testimony that City officials had not understood the agreement,
28 //

United States District Court
For the Northern District of California

1 something that did not require much attorney time. A third more
2 hours spent by MHC under the circumstances was not unreasonable.

3 Most of the difference in time spent on this case was
4 based on the substantial amount of time MHC attorneys spent on the
5 various theories in support of MHC's taking claim. MHC's taking
6 claim was both novel and complicated and the court finds it
7 reasonable that it took a substantial amount of time to pursue.
8 MHC faced enormous challenges stemming from a legal and
9 constitutional landscape in avulsive change. The City had only to
10 react. The court finds that the two-to-one ratio spent on this
11 claim is justified given that MHC was forced to plow new ground in
12 this area of the law.

13 Accordingly, the court finds that the total hours claimed
14 in MHC's fee request is a reasonable total. The court will reduce
15 the total for each MHC attorney by the amount of time spent on the
16 contract claims — because MHC did not prevail on its contract
17 claims — and award attorney fees based on that adjusted total.
18 See Attachments 3, 4.

19
20 C

21 It is the practice of the undersigned to rely on official
22 data to determine reasonable hourly rates. One reliable official
23 source for rates that vary by experience levels is the Laffey
24 matrix used in the District of Columbia. See United States
25 Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia, Laffey Matrix 2003-
26 09, available at [http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/dc/Divisions/](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/dc/Divisions/Civil_Division/Laffey_Matrix7.html)
27 Civil_Division/Laffey_Matrix7.html (last visited April 3, 2009),
28 Attachment 1, citing Laffey v Northwest Airlines, Inc. supra.

United States District Court
For the Northern District of California

1 Under the 2008-09 Laffey matrix, attorneys with 20 or
2 more years experience bill \$465/hour; attorneys with 11-19 years
3 experience bill \$410 per hour; attorneys with 8-10 years experience
4 bill \$330 per hour; attorneys with 4-7 years experience bill \$270
5 per hour; attorneys with 1-3 years experience bill \$225 per hour
6 and paralegals and law clerks bill \$130 per hour.

7 These figures are, however, tailored for the District of
8 Columbia, whereas the attorneys who represented MHC were located in
9 Chicago, Santa Ana and San Francisco. The court will adjust these
10 figures accordingly. The locality pay differentials within the
11 federal government approximate these differences. See United
12 States Office of Personnel, Salary Table, available at
13 <http://www.opm.gov/oca/08tables/pdf/salhr.pdf> (last visited April
14 3, 2009), Attachment 2 (exerpts). The Washington-Baltimore area
15 has a +20.89% locality pay differential; the Chicago-Naperville-
16 Michigan City, IL-IN-WI area has a 23.16% locality pay
17 differential; the Los Angeles-Long Beach-Riverside, CA area (close
18 to Sanata Ana, CA) has a 25.26% locality pay differential and the
19 San Jose-San Francisco-Oakland, CA area has a +32.53% locality pay
20 differential. Thus, adjusting the Laffey matrix figures upward by
21 the following rates will yield appropriate rates for the
22 corresponding cities: 2% for Chicago¹; 4% for Santa Ana² and 10% for
23 San Francisco³.

24 Applying this adjustment and rounding, the court obtains
25 the following rates: (1) for attorneys located in Chicago, the
26

27 ¹ $(123.16 - 120.89) / 120.89 = 0.018$, or about 2%.

28 ² $(125.26 - 120.89) / 120.89 = 0.036$, or about 4%.

³ $(132.53 - 120.89) / 120.89 = 0.096$, or about 10%.

United States District Court
For the Northern District of California

1 following pay rates apply: 20 or more years bill \$473/hour, 11-19
2 years bill \$417/hour, 8-10 years bill \$336/hour, 4-7 years bill
3 \$275/hour, 1-3 years bill \$229/hour and paralegals and law clerks
4 bill \$132/hour; (2) for attorneys located in Santa Ana, the
5 following pay rates apply: 20 or more years bill \$482/hour, 11-19
6 years bill \$425/hour, 8-10 years bill \$342/hour, 4-7 years bill
7 \$280/hour, 1-3 years bill \$233/hour and paralegals and law clerks
8 bill \$135/hour; (3) for attorneys located in San Francisco, the
9 following pay rates apply: 20 or more years bill \$510/hour, 11-19
10 years bill \$449/hour, 8-10 years bill \$362/hour, 4-7 years bill
11 \$296/hour, 1-3 years bill \$247/hour and paralegals and law clerks
12 bill \$142/hour.

13 The City argues that the court should apply Laffey rates
14 corresponding to the year in which the work was completed rather
15 than current rates. Because this litigation has lasted since 2000
16 and attorney rates have increased each year since that time,
17 applying Laffey rates applicable at the time the work was completed
18 would result in lower rates.

19 The court finds, however, that applying present rates to
20 all work done over the course of the litigation is more reasonable.
21 See generally Young v Polo Retail, LLC, 2007 WL 951821 at *6 (ND
22 Cal, Mar 28, 2007). Applying present rates simplifies the
23 calculation and accounts for the time value of money in that the
24 attorney fees were not paid contemporaneously with the work. See
25 Vizcaino v Microsoft Corp, 290 F3d 1043, 1051 (9th Cir 2002),
26 citing Gates v Deukmejian, 987 F2d 1392, 1406 (9th Cir 1992)
27 (“Calculating fees at prevailing rates to compensate for delay in
28 receipt of payment was within the district court’s discretion.”).

United States District Court
For the Northern District of California

1 While, as the City points out, MHC’s attorneys were paid
2 contemporaneously for their work on this matter, this fact is
3 immaterial for the purposes of determining a reasonable rate at
4 which to award attorney fees after the fact. The purpose of
5 section 1988 is to allow parties to employ reasonably competent
6 counsel “without cost to themselves if they prevail.” Venegas, 495
7 US at 86. Because MHC had to pay its attorney fees
8 contemporaneously and only receives compensation now, the adjusted
9 rates compensate MHC in this case for the time value of the money
10 paid during the course of the litigation.

11 Additionally, the City requests that the court reduce
12 MHC’s attorney fee award based on a so-called Herrington
13 adjustment. See Herrington v County of Sonoma, 883 F2d 739, 742—33
14 (9th Cir 1989). In Herrington, the Ninth Circuit explained that
15 where there are “special circumstances” that render a particular
16 fee award unjust, the court may depart from “the general rule that
17 prevailing parties are to be awarded fees.” Id at 744. The City
18 argues that there are special circumstances in this case warranting
19 a downward adjustment to MHC’s attorney fee award. Namely, the
20 City alludes to a statement in Herrington that a plaintiff’s
21 pursuit of a “private property right rather than a broader public
22 goal may be considered in setting the amount of fees.” Id at 746.

23 The court finds that no departure is justified here.
24 While MHC had substantial private incentives to challenge the
25 Ordinance, the issues MHC raised in this action have important
26 public policy dimensions. Further, considering the other factors
27 enumerated in Herrington, it would be inappropriate to reduce the
28 attorney fee award here. See Id at 746, citing Kerr v Screen

United States District Court
For the Northern District of California

1 **Extras Guild, 526 F2d 67, 70 (9th Cir 1975). This case presented**
2 **novel and difficult questions of law and MHC would likely not have**
3 **been successful without attorneys of considerable skill and**
4 **experience dedicating extensive time and labor to the case. These**
5 **facts might have caused the Ordinance to go unchallenged if there**
6 **were no possibility for recovery of attorney fees for the**
7 **prevailing party. Accordingly, the court finds the hourly rates**
8 **outlined above to be reasonable without any downward departure.**

9

10

D

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

Attachment 3 presents a table listing the attorneys and staff MHC employed to work on this case. For each attorney and staff group, the table lists the adjusted 2008-09 Laffey rate (based on experience and locality as discussed supra), the total hours spent on the case and the lodestar amount. The sum of the lodestar amounts for all of the MHC attorney and staff hours is \$4,437,047.97.

Attachment 4 presents a similar table, but the hours expended by each attorney and staff group are reduced by the number of hours spent on MHC's contract claims. The sum of the lodestar amounts for the MHC attorney and staff adjusted hours is \$2,995,612.37.

Attachment 5 presents a similar chart for the City's fee request based on the attorney and staff hours the City spent opposing MHC's contract claims. The lodestar amount for the City's legal fees is \$1,191,935.89.

//

//

United States District Court
For the Northern District of California

1 **The City award of \$1,191,935.89 offsets the MHC fee award**
2 **of \$2,995,612.37. Accordingly, MHC is entitled to the remaining**
3 **\$1,803,676.48 from the City.**

4 **With regard to the appropriate allocation of costs, the**
5 **parties are DIRECTED to confer to approve of an allocation and**
6 **award of costs in accordance with the prevailing party**
7 **determination made herein if they can do so. Hence, Doc #579 and**
8 **Doc #586 are TERMINATED. If the parties are unable to reach**
9 **agreement, they shall inform the court, which will refer the matter**
10 **to the chief magistrate judge or his designee, pursuant to 28 USC §**
11 **636.**

12
13
14 **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

15
16 

17 **VAUGHN R WALKER**
18 **United States District Chief Judge**
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27

Attachment 1



UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

555 4TH STREET, NW
WASHINGTON, DC 20530
(202) 514-7566

SEARCH

HOME

U.S. ATTORNEY

ABOUT US

DIVISIONS

COMMUNITY PROSECUTION

PROGRAMS FOR YOUTH

VICTIM WITNESS ASSISTANCE

PARTNERSHIPS

PRESS RELEASES

EMPLOYMENT

ESPAÑOL

CONTACT US

LINKS

SITE MAP

LAFFEY MATRIX 2003-2009

Experience	03-04	04-05	05-06	06-07	07-08	08-09
20+ years	380	390	405	425	440	465
11-19 years	335	345	360	375	390	410
8-10 years	270	280	290	305	315	330
4-7 years	220	225	235	245	255	270
1-3 years	180	185	195	205	215	225
Paralegals & Law Clerks	105	110	115	120	125	130

Years (Rate for June 1 — May 31, based on prior year's CPI-U)

Explanatory Notes

1. This matrix of hourly rates for attorneys of varying experience levels and paralegals/law clerks has been prepared by the Civil Division of the United States Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia. The matrix is intended to be used in cases in which a "fee-shifting" statute permits the prevailing party to recover "reasonable" attorney's fees. See, e.g., 42 U.S.C. § 2000e-5(k) (Title VII of the 1964 Civil Rights Act); 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(E) (Freedom of Information Act); 28 U.S.C. § 2412 (b) (Equal Access to Justice Act). The matrix does not apply in cases in which the hourly rate is limited by statute. See 28 U.S.C. § 2412(d).
2. This matrix is based on the hourly rates allowed by the District Court in *Laffey v. Northwest Airlines, Inc.*, 572 F. Supp. 354 (D.D.C. 1983), *aff'd in part, rev'd in part on other grounds*, 746 F.2d 4 (D.C. Cir. 1984), *cert. denied*, 472 U.S. 1021 (1985). It is commonly referred to by attorneys and federal judges in the District of Columbia as the "Laffey Matrix" or the "United States Attorney's Office Matrix." The column headed "Experience" refers to the years following the attorney's graduation from law school. The various "brackets" are intended to correspond to "junior associates" (1-3 years after law school graduation), "senior associates" (4-7 years), "experienced federal court litigators" (8-10 and 11-19 years), and "very experienced federal court litigators" (20 years or more). See *Laffey*, 572 F. Supp. at 371.
3. The hourly rates approved by the District Court in *Laffey* were for work done principally in 1981-82. The Matrix begins with those rates. See *Laffey*, 572 F. Supp. at 371 (attorney rates) & 386 n.74 (paralegal and law clerk rate). The rates for subsequent yearly periods were determined by adding the change in the cost of living for the Washington, D.C. area to the applicable rate for the prior year, and then rounding to the nearest multiple of \$5 (up if within \$3 of the next multiple of \$5). The result is subject to adjustment if appropriate to ensure that the relationship between the highest rate and the lower rates remains reasonably constant. Changes in the cost of living are measured by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for Washington-Baltimore, DC-MD-VA-WV, as announced by the Bureau of Labor Statistics for May of each year.
4. Use of an updated *Laffey* Matrix was implicitly endorsed by the Court of Appeals in *Save Our Cumberland Mountains v. Hodel*, 857 F.2d 1516, 1525 (D.C. Cir. 1988) (en banc). The Court of Appeals subsequently stated that parties may rely on the updated *Laffey* Matrix prepared by the United States Attorney's Office as evidence of prevailing market rates for litigation counsel in the Washington, D.C. area. See *Covington v. District of Columbia*, 57 F.3d 1101, 1105 & n. 14, 1109 (D.C. Cir. 1995), *cert. denied*, 516 U.S. 1115 (1996). Lower federal courts in the District of Columbia have used this updated *Laffey* Matrix when determining whether fee awards under fee-shifting statutes are reasonable. See, e.g., *Blackman v. District of Columbia*, 59 F. Supp. 2d 37, 43 (D.D.C. 1999); *Jefferson v. Milvets System Technology, Inc.*, 986 F. Supp. 6, 11 (D.D.C. 1997); *Ralph Hoar & Associates v. Nat'l Highway Transportation Safety Admin.*, 985 F. Supp. 1, 9-10 n.3 (D.D.C. 1997); *Martini v. Fed. Nat'l Mtg Ass'n*, 977 F. Supp. 482, 485 n.2 (D.D.C. 1997); *Park v. Howard University*, 881 F. Supp. 653, 654 (D.D.C. 1995).

Last Updated on
06/19/2008

Attachment 2

**SALARY TABLE 2008-CHI
 INCORPORATING THE 2.50% GENERAL SCHEDULE INCREASE AND A LOCALITY PAYMENT OF 23.16%
 FOR THE LOCALITY PAY AREA OF CHICAGO-NAPERVILLE-MICHIGAN CITY, IL-IN-WI
 (See <http://www.opm.gov/oca/08tables/locdef.asp> for definitions of locality pay areas.)
 (TOTAL INCREASE: 3.65%)**

EFFECTIVE JANUARY 2008

*Hourly Basic (B) Rates by Grade and Step
 Hourly Overtime (O) Rates by Grade and Step*

Grade	B/O	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3	Step 4	Step 5	Step 6	Step 7	Step 8	Step 9	Step 10
1	B	\$ 10.06	\$ 10.40	\$ 10.73	\$ 11.06	\$ 11.40	\$ 11.59	\$ 11.92	\$ 12.26	\$ 12.27	\$ 12.58
	O	15.09	15.60	16.10	16.59	17.10	17.39	17.88	18.39	18.41	18.87
2	B	11.31	11.58	11.95	12.27	12.41	12.77	13.14	13.50	13.87	14.23
	O	16.97	17.37	17.93	18.41	18.62	19.16	19.71	20.25	20.81	21.35
3	B	12.34	12.75	13.16	13.57	13.99	14.40	14.81	15.22	15.63	16.04
	O	18.51	19.13	19.74	20.36	20.99	21.60	22.22	22.83	23.45	24.06
4	B	13.85	14.32	14.78	15.24	15.70	16.16	16.63	17.09	17.55	18.01
	O	20.78	21.48	22.17	22.86	23.55	24.24	24.95	25.64	26.33	27.02
5	B	15.50	16.02	16.53	17.05	17.56	18.08	18.60	19.11	19.63	20.15
	O	23.25	24.03	24.80	25.58	26.34	27.12	27.90	28.67	29.45	30.23
6	B	17.28	17.85	18.43	19.00	19.58	20.16	20.73	21.31	21.88	22.46
	O	25.92	26.78	27.65	28.50	29.37	30.24	31.10	31.97	32.82	33.69
7	B	19.20	19.84	20.48	21.12	21.76	22.40	23.04	23.68	24.32	24.96
	O	28.80	29.76	30.72	31.68	32.64	33.60	34.56	35.52	36.48	37.44
8	B	21.26	21.97	22.68	23.39	24.10	24.81	25.51	26.22	26.93	27.64
	O	31.89	32.96	34.02	35.09	36.15	37.22	38.27	38.79	38.79	38.79
9	B	23.48	24.27	25.05	25.83	26.62	27.40	28.18	28.97	29.75	30.53
	O	35.22	36.41	37.58	38.75	38.79	38.79	38.79	38.79	38.79	38.79
10	B	25.86	26.72	27.59	28.45	29.31	30.17	31.03	31.90	32.76	33.62
	O	38.79	38.79	38.79	38.79	38.79	38.79	38.79	38.79	38.79	38.79
11	B	28.41	29.36	30.31	31.25	32.20	33.15	34.10	35.04	35.99	36.94
	O	38.79	38.79	38.79	38.79	38.79	38.79	38.79	38.79	38.79	38.79
12	B	34.06	35.19	36.33	37.46	38.60	39.73	40.87	42.00	43.14	44.27
	O	38.79	38.79	38.79	38.79	38.79	39.73	40.87	42.00	43.14	44.27
13	B	40.50	41.85	43.20	44.55	45.90	47.25	48.60	49.95	51.30	52.65
	O	40.50	41.85	43.20	44.55	45.90	47.25	48.60	49.95	51.30	52.65
14	B	47.86	49.45	51.05	52.64	54.24	55.83	57.43	59.02	60.62	62.21
	O	47.86	49.45	51.05	52.64	54.24	55.83	57.43	59.02	60.62	62.21
15	B	56.29	58.17	60.05	61.92	63.80	65.68	67.55	69.43	71.31	71.39
	O	56.29	58.17	60.05	61.92	63.80	65.68	67.55	69.43	71.31	71.39

SALARY TABLE 2008-LA
INCORPORATING THE 2.50% GENERAL SCHEDULE INCREASE AND A LOCALITY PAYMENT OF 25.26%
FOR THE LOCALITY PAY AREA OF LOS ANGELES-LONG BEACH-RIVERSIDE, CA
(See <http://www.opm.gov/oca/08tables/locdef.asp> for definitions of locality pay areas.)
(TOTAL INCREASE: 3.52%)

EFFECTIVE JANUARY 2008

Hourly Basic (B) Rates by Grade and Step
Hourly Overtime (O) Rates by Grade and Step

Grade	B/O	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3	Step 4	Step 5	Step 6	Step 7	Step 8	Step 9	Step 10
1	B	\$ 10.23	\$ 10.57	\$ 10.91	\$ 11.25	\$ 11.59	\$ 11.79	\$ 12.13	\$ 12.47	\$ 12.48	\$ 12.80
	O	15.35	15.86	16.37	16.88	17.39	17.69	18.20	18.71	18.72	19.20
2	B	11.50	11.78	12.16	12.48	12.62	12.99	13.36	13.73	14.10	14.47
	O	17.25	17.67	18.24	18.72	18.93	19.49	20.04	20.60	21.15	21.71
3	B	12.55	12.97	13.39	13.81	14.22	14.64	15.06	15.48	15.90	16.32
	O	18.83	19.46	20.09	20.72	21.33	21.96	22.59	23.22	23.85	24.48
4	B	14.09	14.56	15.03	15.50	15.97	16.44	16.91	17.38	17.85	18.32
	O	21.14	21.84	22.55	23.25	23.96	24.66	25.37	26.07	26.78	27.48
5	B	15.76	16.29	16.81	17.34	17.86	18.39	18.91	19.44	19.96	20.49
	O	23.64	24.44	25.22	26.01	26.79	27.59	28.37	29.16	29.94	30.74
6	B	17.57	18.16	18.74	19.33	19.91	20.50	21.09	21.67	22.26	22.84
	O	26.36	27.24	28.11	29.00	29.87	30.75	31.64	32.51	33.39	34.26
7	B	19.53	20.18	20.83	21.48	22.13	22.78	23.43	24.08	24.73	25.38
	O	29.30	30.27	31.25	32.22	33.20	34.17	35.15	36.12	37.10	38.07
8	B	21.62	22.35	23.07	23.79	24.51	25.23	25.95	26.67	27.39	28.11
	O	32.43	33.53	34.61	35.69	36.77	37.85	38.93	39.45	39.45	39.45
9	B	23.88	24.68	25.48	26.27	27.07	27.87	28.66	29.46	30.26	31.05
	O	35.82	37.02	38.22	39.41	39.45	39.45	39.45	39.45	39.45	39.45
10	B	26.30	27.18	28.06	28.93	29.81	30.69	31.56	32.44	33.32	34.19
	O	39.45	39.45	39.45	39.45	39.45	39.45	39.45	39.45	39.45	39.45
11	B	28.90	29.86	30.82	31.79	32.75	33.71	34.68	35.64	36.60	37.57
	O	39.45	39.45	39.45	39.45	39.45	39.45	39.45	39.45	39.45	39.45
12	B	34.64	35.79	36.95	38.10	39.26	40.41	41.56	42.72	43.87	45.03
	O	39.45	39.45	39.45	39.45	39.45	40.41	41.56	42.72	43.87	45.03
13	B	41.19	42.56	43.93	45.31	46.68	48.05	49.43	50.80	52.17	53.55
	O	41.19	42.56	43.93	45.31	46.68	48.05	49.43	50.80	52.17	53.55
14	B	48.67	50.29	51.92	53.54	55.16	56.78	58.41	60.03	61.65	63.27
	O	48.67	50.29	51.92	53.54	55.16	56.78	58.41	60.03	61.65	63.27
15	B	57.25	59.16	61.07	62.98	64.89	66.80	68.70	70.61	71.39	71.39
	O	57.25	59.16	61.07	62.98	64.89	66.80	68.70	70.61	71.39	71.39

**SALARY TABLE 2008-SF
 INCORPORATING THE 2.50% GENERAL SCHEDULE INCREASE AND A LOCALITY PAYMENT OF 32.53%
 FOR THE LOCALITY PAY AREA OF SAN JOSE-SAN FRANCISCO-OAKLAND, CA
 (See <http://www.opm.gov/oca/08tables/locdef.asp> for definitions of locality pay areas.)
 (TOTAL INCREASE: 4.23%)**

EFFECTIVE JANUARY 2008

*Hourly Basic (B) Rates by Grade and Step
 Hourly Overtime (O) Rates by Grade and Step*

Grade	B/O	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3	Step 4	Step 5	Step 6	Step 7	Step 8	Step 9	Step 10
1	B	\$ 10.82	\$ 11.19	\$ 11.55	\$ 11.90	\$ 12.26	\$ 12.48	\$ 12.83	\$ 13.19	\$ 13.20	\$ 13.54
	O	16.23	16.79	17.33	17.85	18.39	18.72	19.25	19.79	19.80	20.31
2	B	12.17	12.46	12.86	13.20	13.35	13.74	14.14	14.53	14.92	15.31
	O	18.26	18.69	19.29	19.80	20.03	20.61	21.21	21.80	22.38	22.97
3	B	13.28	13.72	14.16	14.61	15.05	15.49	15.93	16.38	16.82	17.26
	O	19.92	20.58	21.24	21.92	22.58	23.24	23.90	24.57	25.23	25.89
4	B	14.91	15.40	15.90	16.40	16.90	17.39	17.89	18.39	18.89	19.38
	O	22.37	23.10	23.85	24.60	25.35	26.09	26.84	27.59	28.34	29.07
5	B	16.68	17.23	17.79	18.35	18.90	19.46	20.01	20.57	21.12	21.68
	O	25.02	25.85	26.69	27.53	28.35	29.19	30.02	30.86	31.68	32.52
6	B	18.59	19.21	19.83	20.45	21.07	21.69	22.31	22.93	23.55	24.17
	O	27.89	28.82	29.75	30.68	31.61	32.54	33.47	34.40	35.33	36.26
7	B	20.66	21.35	22.04	22.72	23.41	24.10	24.79	25.48	26.17	26.86
	O	30.99	32.03	33.06	34.08	35.12	36.15	37.19	38.22	39.26	40.29
8	B	22.88	23.64	24.41	25.17	25.93	26.69	27.46	28.22	28.98	29.74
	O	34.32	35.46	36.62	37.76	38.90	40.04	41.19	41.75	41.75	41.75
9	B	25.27	26.11	26.96	27.80	28.64	29.48	30.33	31.17	32.01	32.85
	O	37.91	39.17	40.44	41.70	41.75	41.75	41.75	41.75	41.75	41.75
10	B	27.83	28.76	29.68	30.61	31.54	32.47	33.40	34.32	35.25	36.18
	O	41.75	41.75	41.75	41.75	41.75	41.75	41.75	41.75	41.75	41.75
11	B	30.58	31.59	32.61	33.63	34.65	35.67	36.69	37.71	38.73	39.75
	O	41.75	41.75	41.75	41.75	41.75	41.75	41.75	41.75	41.75	41.75
12	B	36.65	37.87	39.09	40.31	41.53	42.76	43.98	45.20	46.42	47.64
	O	41.75	41.75	41.75	41.75	41.75	42.76	43.98	45.20	46.42	47.64
13	B	43.58	45.03	46.48	47.94	49.39	50.84	52.30	53.75	55.20	56.66
	O	43.58	45.03	46.48	47.94	49.39	50.84	52.30	53.75	55.20	56.66
14	B	51.50	53.21	54.93	56.65	58.36	60.08	61.79	63.51	65.23	66.94
	O	51.50	53.21	54.93	56.65	58.36	60.08	61.79	63.51	65.23	66.94
15	B	60.57	62.59	64.61	66.63	68.65	70.67	71.39	71.39	71.39	71.39
	O	60.57	62.59	64.61	66.63	68.65	70.67	71.39	71.39	71.39	71.39

SALARY TABLE 2008-DCB
INCORPORATING THE 2.50% GENERAL SCHEDULE INCREASE AND A LOCALITY PAYMENT OF 20.89%
FOR THE LOCALITY PAY AREA OF WASHINGTON-BALTIMORE-NORTHERN VIRGINIA, DC-MD-VA-WV-PA
(See <http://www.opm.gov/oca/08tables/locdef.asp> for definitions of locality pay areas.)
(TOTAL INCREASE: 4.49%)

EFFECTIVE JANUARY 2008

Hourly Basic (B) Rates by Grade and Step
Hourly Overtime (O) Rates by Grade and Step

Grade	B/O	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3	Step 4	Step 5	Step 6	Step 7	Step 8	Step 9	Step 10
1	B	\$ 9.87	\$ 10.20	\$ 10.53	\$ 10.86	\$ 11.19	\$ 11.38	\$ 11.70	\$ 12.03	\$ 12.04	\$ 12.35
	O	14.81	15.30	15.80	16.29	16.79	17.07	17.55	18.05	18.06	18.53
2	B	11.10	11.37	11.73	12.04	12.18	12.54	12.89	13.25	13.61	13.97
	O	16.65	17.06	17.60	18.06	18.27	18.81	19.34	19.88	20.42	20.96
3	B	12.11	12.52	12.92	13.32	13.73	14.13	14.54	14.94	15.34	15.75
	O	18.17	18.78	19.38	19.98	20.60	21.20	21.81	22.41	23.01	23.63
4	B	13.60	14.05	14.51	14.96	15.41	15.87	16.32	16.77	17.23	17.68
	O	20.40	21.08	21.77	22.44	23.12	23.81	24.48	25.16	25.85	26.52
5	B	15.21	15.72	16.23	16.73	17.24	17.75	18.25	18.76	19.27	19.78
	O	22.82	23.58	24.35	25.10	25.86	26.63	27.38	28.14	28.91	29.67
6	B	16.96	17.52	18.09	18.65	19.22	19.78	20.35	20.92	21.48	22.05
	O	25.44	26.28	27.14	27.98	28.83	29.67	30.53	31.38	32.22	33.08
7	B	18.85	19.47	20.10	20.73	21.36	21.99	22.61	23.24	23.87	24.50
	O	28.28	29.21	30.15	31.10	32.04	32.99	33.92	34.86	35.81	36.75
8	B	20.87	21.57	22.26	22.96	23.65	24.35	25.04	25.74	26.44	27.13
	O	31.31	32.36	33.39	34.44	35.48	36.53	37.56	38.09	38.09	38.09
9	B	23.05	23.82	24.59	25.36	26.13	26.89	27.66	28.43	29.20	29.97
	O	34.58	35.73	36.89	38.04	38.09	38.09	38.09	38.09	38.09	38.09
10	B	25.39	26.23	27.08	27.92	28.77	29.62	30.46	31.31	32.16	33.00
	O	38.09	38.09	38.09	38.09	38.09	38.09	38.09	38.09	38.09	38.09
11	B	27.89	28.82	29.75	30.68	31.61	32.54	33.47	34.40	35.33	36.26
	O	38.09	38.09	38.09	38.09	38.09	38.09	38.09	38.09	38.09	38.09
12	B	33.43	34.54	35.66	36.77	37.89	39.00	40.11	41.23	42.34	43.46
	O	38.09	38.09	38.09	38.09	38.09	39.00	40.11	41.23	42.34	43.46
13	B	39.75	41.08	42.40	43.73	45.05	46.38	47.70	49.03	50.35	51.68
	O	39.75	41.08	42.40	43.73	45.05	46.38	47.70	49.03	50.35	51.68
14	B	46.97	48.54	50.10	51.67	53.24	54.80	56.37	57.93	59.50	61.06
	O	46.97	48.54	50.10	51.67	53.24	54.80	56.37	57.93	59.50	61.06
15	B	55.25	57.10	58.94	60.78	62.62	64.46	66.31	68.15	69.99	71.39
	O	55.25	57.10	58.94	60.78	62.62	64.46	66.31	68.15	69.99	71.39

Attachment 3

MHC Attorney Hours at 2008-09 Locality-Adjusted Laffey Rates*

Attorney	Locality	Experience	2008-09 Laffey Rate (per hour)	Total Hours	Lodestar
David Bradford	Chicago	32	473	2,120.5	\$1,003,781.09
Lisa Scruggs	Chicago	10	336	2,636.25	\$ 885,621.83
Bradley Yusim	Chicago	6	275	680.75	\$ 187,110.95
Barry Levenstam	Chicago	30	473	27.5	\$ 13,017.68
Terry Mascherin	Chicago	24	473	2	\$ 946.74
Mark Heilbrun	Chicago	18	417	14	\$ 5,843.32
Matt Basil	Chicago	11	417	241.75	\$ 100,901.62
Sean Herring	Chicago	3	229	106.75	\$ 24,451.09
Jason Green	Chicago	6	275	254.5	\$ 69,951.87
April Otterberg	Chicago	2	229	17.75	\$ 4,065.64
Shannon Jones	Chicago	2	229	7	\$ 1,603.00
Benjamin Weinberg	Chicago	15	417	1,170.75	\$ 488,647.64
Christine Miller	Chicago	11	417	125.5	\$ 52,381.19
Therese Tully	Chicago	12	417	135	\$ 56,346.30
Nanci Rogers	Chicago	7	275	1,031.75	\$ 283,586.81
Daniel Konieczny	Chicago	7	275	1,012.75	\$ 278,364.47
Katherine Saunders	Chicago	9	336	170.25	\$ 57,193.79
Hannah Stotland	Chicago	6	275	19.75	\$ 5,428.49
Robert S Coldren	Santa Ana	30	510	245.3	\$ 118,170.82
C William Dahlin	Santa Ana	29	510	253.4	\$ 122,072.92
Mark Alpert	Santa Ana	20	510	15.5	\$ 7,466.97
Robert Mulvihill	Santa Ana	24	510	15.9	\$ 7,659.67
Robert Williamson	Santa Ana	32	510	24.7	\$ 11,898.98
William Hart	Santa Ana	32	510	0.4	\$ 192.70
Andrew Sussman	Santa Ana	25	510	20.7	\$ 9,972.02
Scott Shintani	Santa Ana	11	449	0.5	\$ 212.38
Steven Lowery	Santa Ana	11	449	1.2	\$ 509.71
Diane Haugeberg	Santa Ana	11	449	5.7	\$ 1,948.72
Jason Pyrz	Santa Ana	11	449	18.5	\$ 5,174.82
Kenneth Keller	San Francisco	32	482	277.1	\$ 141,221.24
Michael Lisi	San Francisco	12	425	0.7	\$ 314.55
Ingrid Leverett	San Francisco	18	425	106.7	\$ 47,946.71
Chicago Paralegals**	Chicago	0	132	3171	\$ 418,572.00
Santa Ana Paralegals	Santa Ana	0	135	15.7	\$ 2,119.50
SF Paralegals	San Francisco	0	142	157.4	\$ 22,350.80
TOTAL				14,104.9	4,437,047.97

* Attorney and experience obtained from Doc #585, Exh E. Total hours obtained from Doc #600, Exh 2. 2008-09 Laffey Rate (per hour) derived from Attachment 1 using the multipliers for localities of Chicago (0.018), Santa Ana, Ca (0.036) and San Francisco, CA (0.096). See supra at 21-22 and n1-n3.

** Chicago paralegal hours include summer associate hours listed in Doc #585, Exh E.2.

Attachment 4

MHC Attorney Hours on Non-Contract Claims at 2008-09 Locality-Adjusted Laffey Rates*

Attorney	Locality	Experience	2008-09 Laffey Rate (per hour)	Total Hours	Lodestar
David Bradford	Chicago	32	473	1,543.75	\$ 730,764.94
Lisa Scruggs	Chicago	10	336	2,003	\$ 672,887.82
Bradley Yusim	Chicago	6	275	361	\$ 99,224.46
Barry Levenstam	Chicago	30	473	27.5	\$ 13,017.68
Terry Mascherin	Chicago	24	473	2	\$ 946.74
Mark Heilbrun	Chicago	18	417	14	\$ 5,843.32
Matt Basil	Chicago	11	417	4.5	\$ 1,878.21
Sean Herring	Chicago	3	229	106.75	\$ 24,451.09
Jason Green	Chicago	6	275	73	\$ 20,064.78
April Otterberg	Chicago	2	229	17.75	\$ 4,065.64
Shannon Jones	Chicago	2	229	7	\$ 1,603.00
Benjamin Weinberg	Chicago	15	417	646.5	\$ 269,836.17
Christine Miller	Chicago	11	417	125.5	\$ 52,381.19
Therese Tully	Chicago	12	417	135	\$ 56,346.30
Nanci Rogers	Chicago	7	275	654.5	\$ 179,895.87
Daniel Konieczny	Chicago	7	275	613.5	\$ 168,626.61
Katherine Saunders	Chicago	9	336	46	\$ 15,453.24
Hannah Stotland	Chicago	6	275	19.75	\$ 5,428.49
Robert S Coldren	Santa Ana	30	510	171.5	\$ 82,618.41
C William Dahlin	Santa Ana	29	510	194	\$ 93,457.56
Mark Alpert	Santa Ana	20	510	4.8	\$ 2,312.35
Robert Mulvihill	Santa Ana	24	510	15.9	\$ 7,659.67
Robert Williamson	Santa Ana	32	510	0	\$ 0.00
William Hart	Santa Ana	32	510	0	\$ 0.00
Andrew Sussman	Santa Ana	25	510	20.7	\$ 9,972.02
Scott Shintani	Santa Ana	11	449	0.5	\$ 212.38
Steven Lowery	Santa Ana	11	449	1.2	\$ 509.71
Diane Haugeberg	Santa Ana	11	449	5.7	\$ 1,948.72
Jason Pyrz	Santa Ana	11	449	18.5	\$ 5,174.82
Kenneth Keller	San Francisco	32	482	18.9	\$ 9,632.20
Michael Lisi	San Francisco	12	425	0.7	\$ 314.55
Ingrid Leverett	San Francisco	18	425	35.7	\$ 16,042.15
Chicago Paralegals**	Chicago	0	132	3171	\$ 418,572.00
Santa Ana Paralegals	Santa Ana	0	135	15.7	\$ 2,119.50
SF Paralegals	San Francisco	0	142	157.4	\$ 22,350.80
TOTAL				10,233.2	\$2,995,612.37

* Attorney and experience obtained from Doc #585, Exh E. Hours obtained by subtracting hours worked on contract claims (Doc #610 at 11) from total hours worked on the case (Doc#610, Exh S-1 at 12; Attachment 3). 2008-09 Laffey Rate (per hour) derived from Attachment 1 using the multipliers for localities of Chicago (0.018), Santa Ana, Ca (0.036) and San Francisco, CA (0.096). See supra at 25 and n1-n3.

** Chicago paralegal hours include summer associate hours listed in Doc #585, Exh E.2.

Attachment 5

**City of San Rafael Attorney Hours on Contract Claim at 2008-09 San Francisco Locality-
Adjusted Laffey Rates***

Attorney	Locality	Experience	2008-09 Laffey Rate (per hour)	Total Hours	Loadstar
H Sinclair Kerr, Jr	San Francisco	20+	510	323.95	\$ 165,097.88
James Wagstaffe	San Francisco	20+	510	483.2	\$ 246,258.05
Michael von Loewenfeldt	San Francisco	13	449	815	\$ 366,228.40
Rachel Sater	San Francisco	19	449	29.6	\$ 13,301.06
Pamela Urueta	San Francisco	12	449	35.6	\$ 15,997.22
Timothy Fox	San Francisco	11	449	141.2	\$ 63,449.63
Ivo Labar	San Francisco	9	362	736.1	\$ 266,232.65
Alex Grab	San Francisco	9	362	37	\$ 13,382.16
Paralegal	San Francisco	0	142	294.7	\$ 41,988.86
TOTAL				3,683	\$1,191,935.89

* Attorney, experience and total hours obtained from Doc #590, Exh C. 2009 Laffey Rate (per hour) derived from Attachment 1 using the multiplier for the San Francisco locality 0.096. See supra at 25 and n3.