1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	C. D. Michel - S.B.N. 144258 Glenn S. McRoberts - S.B.N. 144852 Clinton B. Monfort - S.B.N. 255609 MICHEL & ASSOCIATES, PC 180 E. Ocean Boulevard, Suite 200 Long Beach, CA 90802 Telephone: 562-216-4444 Facsimile: 562-216-4445 Email: cmichel@michellawyers.com Attorneys for Plaintiffs	TATES DISTRICT COURT	
9	FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA		
10	SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION		
11	ESPANOLA JACKSON, PAUL COLVIN,) THOMAS BOYER, LARRY BARSETTI,)	CASE NO. CO9-2143 PJH	
12	DAVID GOLDEN, NOEMI MARGARET) ROBINSON, NATIONAL RIFLE)) PLAINTIFFS' OPPOSITION TO DEFENDANTS' MOTION TO DISMISS	
13 14	ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA, INC. SAN) FRANCISCO VETERAN POLICE) OFFICERS ASSOCIATION,) [FRCP Rule 12(b)(1)]	
15) Hearing Date: April 14, 2011	
16	Plaintiffs	Time:9:00 a.m.Place:Courtroom 5	
17	VS.		
18 19	CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO, MAYOR GAVIN NEWSOM, IN HIS OFFICIAL CAPACITY; POLICE CHIEF GEORGE GASCÓN, in his)		
19 20	official capacity, and Does 1-10,		
20 21	Defendants.		
22			
23			
24			
25			
26			
27			
28			
	Plaintiffs' Opposition to Defendants' Motion to Dismiss		

1	TABLE OF CONTENTS		
2	PAGE(S)		
3			
4	STATEMENT OF ISSUES TO BE DECIDED 1		
5	INTRODUCTION 1		
6 7	SUMMARY OF FACTS 3		
/ 8			
0 9	Section 4512: "Safe" Storage Law 3		
10	Section 1290: Discharge Ban 5		
11	Section 613.10(g): Ban on Ammunition Serving "No Sporting Purpose"		
12	Section 013.10(g): Ban on Ammunition Serving No Sporting Furpose		
13	SUMMARY OF ARGUMENT 7		
14	ARGUMENT		
15			
16 17	I. TO SURVIVE A MOTION TO DISMISS, PLAINTIFFS NEED ONLY PRESENT PLAUSIBLE ALLEGATIONS SUFFICIENT TO ESTABLISH THIS COURT HAS SUBJECT MATTER JURISDICTION		
18			
19	II. PLAINTIFFS HAVE PLED SUFFICIENT FACTS TO ESTABLISH STANDING TO BRING THIS ACTION, INDICATING AN INJURY		
20	-IN-FACT TRACEABLE TO DEFENDANTS' ACTIONS 9		
21	A. Plaintiffs Have Established an Intention to Engage in a Course of Conduct Protected by the Constitution, Yet Proscribed by the		
22	Challenged Ordinances 10		
23	B. Plaintiffs Reasonably Fear the Challenged Ordinances Are Being		
24	and Will Continue to Be Enforced 13		
25	1. Plaintiffs Need Not Face an "Individualized Threat of Imminent		
26	Prosecution" Before They May Bring a Pre-Enforcement Challenge; The Requisite "Credible Threat of Enforcement" Is Established by a Shawing that Defondants Intend to Enforce		
27 28	Is Established by a Showing that Defendants Intend to Enforce the Ordinances 14		
	Plaintiffs' Opposition to Defendants' Motion to Dismiss i		

1	TABLE OF CONTENTS (CONT.)
2	PAGE(S)
3 4	2. The "Mere Existence" of the Ordinances Is Sufficient to Confer
4 5	Standing in Cases, Like This, Wherein Constitutionally Protected Conduct Is "Chilled" 17
6	
7	C. Plaintiffs Have Standing to Challenge Section 613.10(g) As They Assert Their Own Rights, Not the Rights of Third Party Ammunition Retailers
8	
9 10	III. PLAINTIFFS' CLAIMS ARE RIPE BECAUSE PLAINTIFFS HAVE SUFFERED AN INJURY-IN-FACT, NOTHING WILL BRING MORE CLARITY TO THE ISSUES, AND PLAINTIFFS WILL CONTINUE TO
10	SUFFER GREAT HARDSHIP ABSENT REVIEW OF THEIR CLAIMS 23
12	A. Having Established Sufficient Injury to Confer Article III Standing,
13	Plaintiffs Meet the Requirement of Constitutional Ripeness 23
14	B. Plaintiffs Meet the Further Requirement of Prudential Ripeness Because
15	No Further Factual Development Will Make the Issues More Clear and Their Constitutional Rights Are Undermined Every Second the Court
16	Delays Review of Their Claims 23
17	1. Plaintiffs' Challenge Is Fit for Judicial Review Because No Further Factual Context Is Required to Clarify the Issues
18	
19	2. Plaintiffs Presently Suffer Great Hardship by the Infringement of Their Constitutional Rights and They Will Continue to so Suffer
20	Unless and Until This Court Grants Review of Their Claims 24
21	CONCLUSION
22	
23 24	
24 25	
25 26	
20	
28	
	Plaintiffs' Opposition to Defendants' Motion to Dismiss ii

1	TABLE OF AUTHORITIES
2	PAGE(S)
3	FEDERAL CASES
4	
5	Abbott Labs. v. Gardner, 387 U.S. 136, 148-49 (1967) 23
6 7	Andrews v. State, 50 Tenn. 165, 178, 8 A. Rep. 8, 13 (1871) 21
8 9	<i>Ashcroft v. Iqbal,</i> U.S, 129 S. Ct. 1937, 1949 (2009)
9 10	Ariz. Right to Life Pol. Action Comm. v. Bayless, 320 F.3d 1002 (9th Cir. 2003)
11	Babbitt v. United Farm Workers Nat'l Union, 442 U.S. 289, 298 (1979) 7
12 13	Bland v. Fessler, 88 F.3d 729, 737 (9th Cir. 1996) 2, 12, 14, 18
14	Cal. Pro-Life Council v. Getman, 328 F.3d 1088, 1093 (9th Cir. 2003)
15 16	<i>Clinton v. Acequia, Inc.</i> , 94 F.3d 568, 572 (9th Cir. 1992) 24
17	Culinary Workers Union, Local 226 v. Del Papa, 200 F.3d 614, 618 (9th Cir. 1999) 14
18 19	<i>District of Columbia v. Heller</i> , 554 U.S. 570, 571 (2008) 3
20	Doe v. Bolton, 422 U.S. 179, 188 (1973) 16, 21
21 22	<i>Epperson v. Arkansas,</i> 393 U.S. 97 (1968)
23	<i>McDonald v. Chicago</i> , U.S, 130 Sup. Ct. 3020 (2010) 6, 20
24 25	<i>Hickman v. Block</i> , 81 F.3d 98, 101 (9th Cir. 1996) 19
26	Holder v. Humanitarian Law Project, U.S, 130 S. Ct. 2705, 2717 (2010) 10, 11, 12, 16, 17
27 28	
	Plaintiffs' Opposition to Defendants' Motion to Dismiss iii

1	TABLE OF AUTHORITIES (CONT.)
2	PAGE(S)
3	FEDERAL CASES (CONT.)
4	Jones v. Comty. Redevel. Agency of City of L.A.,
5	733 F.2d 646, 650 (9th Cir. 1984)
6	<i>Kokkonen v. Guardian of Life Ins. Co. of Am.</i> , 511 U.S. 375, 377 (1994)
7	Lujan v. Defenders of Wildlife,
8	504 U.S. 555, 561 (1992) 8, 9, 15
9 10	Majors v. Abell, 317 F.3d 719, 721 (7th Cir. 2001) 17
10	<i>MedImmune, Inc. v. Genentech, Inc.,</i> 549 U.S. 118, 129 (2007)
12	Mobil Oil Co. v. Attv Gen. of Commw. of Va.,
13	940 F.2d 73, 74 (4th Cir. 1991) 2
14	Nat'l Park Hospitality Ass'n v. Dep't of Interior,538 U.S. 803 (2003)23
15	Navegar, Inc. v. United States, 103 F.3d 994, 1000 (D.C. Cir. 1997)
16	Nordyke v. King,
17	563 F.3d 439, 444 (9th Cir. 2009) 19
18	<i>Poe v. Ullman</i> , 367 U.S. 497, 508 (1961) 15
19 20	<i>Richardson v. Ramirez,</i> 48 U.S. 24, 36 (1974)
20 21	Rincon Band of Mission Indians v. County of San Diego,
22	495 F.2d 1, 4 (9th Cir. 1974) 15
23	<i>Samuels v. Mackell</i> , 401 U.S. 66, 73 (1971) 15
24	San Diego Gun Rights Committee v. Reno,
25	98 F.3d 1121 (1996)
26	326 F.3d 351, 357 (2d Cir. 2003)
27	
28	Plaintiffs' Opposition to Defendants' Motion to Dismiss iv

1	TABLE OF AUTHORITIES (CONT.)
2	PAGE(S)
3	FEDERAL CASES (CONT.)
4	
5	Socialist Party v. Gilligan, 406 U.S. 583 (972) 24
6 7	<i>Steffel v. Thompson,</i> 415 U.S. 452, 462 (1974) 7, 15, 16
8 9	<i>Stoianoff v. Montana</i> , 695 F.2d 1214, 1223 (9th Cir. 1983) 17
9 10	<i>Stormans, Inc. v. Selecky</i> , 586 F.3d 1109, 1125 (9th Cir. 2009) 24
11	<i>Takhar v. Kessler</i> , 76 F.3d 995, 1000 (9th Cir. 1996)
12 13	Thomas v. Anchorage Equal Rights Comm'n, 220 F.3d 1134 (1999) 17, 23
14	United States v. Chester, 628 F.3d 673, 682 (4th Cir. 2010) 20
15 16	United States v. Huet, No. 08-0215, 2010 WL 4853847, * 10-11 (W.D. Pa. Nov. 22, 2010)
	United States v. Marzzarella, 614 F.3d 85, 89 n.4, 96-97 (3d Cir. 2010) 20
18 19	U.S. Civil Service Comm'n v. Nat'l Ass'n of Letter Carriers, 413 U.S. 548 (1973)
20	Virginia v. Am. Booksellers Ass'n, Inc., 484 U.S. 383 (1988) 13, 18
21 22	<i>Younger v. Harris</i> , 401 U.S. 37, 40-41 (1971) 15
23	STATUTES & RULES
24 25	San Francisco Police Code sections 4512 passim
25 26	San Francisco Police Code sections 1290 passim
20 27	San Francisco Police Code sections 613.10(g) passim
28	Plaintiffs' Opposition to Defendants' Motion to Dismiss v

1

STATEMENT OF ISSUES TO BE DECIDED

Do Plaintiffs have standing to challenge unconstitutional city laws that cause Plaintiffs
 direct and ongoing harm, where: (1) the city has declared its intention to enforce those laws and/or
 has never declared it was *not* going to enforce those laws; (2) Plaintiffs comply with the laws and,
 in so doing, forego fundamental, constitutionally protected rights; and (3) because of this coerced
 compliance, Plaintiffs have not yet been criminally prosecuted under the laws? Or, must they first
 violate the law and subject themselves to prosecution to have standing?

8 2. Do Plaintiffs have standing to challenge a law that deprives them of access to the
9 types of ammunition most suitable for self-defense, where the Supreme Court has held that
10 individuals have the right to possess functional firearms for self-defense, and where ammunition
11 is a necessary component of a functional firearm, or must Plaintiffs first open their own firearms
12 business within the city, begin selling such ammunition in violation of the law, and subject
13 themselves to forfeiture of their business licenses before they may raise a challenge to vindicate
14 their personal rights to purchase ammunition most suitable for self-defense?

3. Where Defendants' unconstitutional laws currently cause specific harm to Plaintiffs
by coercing them to forego the exercise of individual, fundamental rights, including the right to
keep a firearm ready for self-defense emergencies, to purchase ammunition tailored for selfdefense, and to use a firearm in self-defense, are Plaintiffs' grievances ripe for adjudication, or
must they suffer these harms until they violate the law, then seek redress of their grievances in a
state criminal court to have their rights restored?

21

INTRODUCTION

Motions to dismiss for lack of subject matter jurisdiction on fact-dependant bases
generally waste the court's time because they are premature, being brought before the parties have
had an opportunity to flesh out the factual grounds for plaintiffs' claims. Because, at this stage,
courts favor amendment of the pleadings over dismissal, any defect regarding standing or ripeness
is often easily corrected. For these reasons, such motions are disfavored.
That said, Plaintiffs' current dispute with Defendants is real and ripe for adjudication.

Plaintiffs presently own guns and want to keep them in their homes in operable condition, ready to Plaintiffs' Opposition to Defendants' Motion to Dismiss

defend themselves and their families. Defendants' ordinances prevent them from doing so without
 violating the law, thereby infringing upon Plaintiffs' Second Amendment right to keep and bear
 arms for self-defense and other lawful purposes. Defendants have moved to dismiss this action,
 claiming their laws cause Plaintiffs no harm and, because no Plaintiff has actually been criminally
 charged, prosecuted, or convicted for violating the challenged laws, the case is not ripe.

6 In short, Defendants argue that until Plaintiffs break the law, and unless Defendants
7 choose to prosecute them for doing so, Plaintiffs have no standing to seek a declaration regarding
8 whether the laws in question violate their constitutional rights. Hence, Plaintiffs must either
9 forego their right to possess a handgun in the home that is ready to be used for immediate defense
10 against a violent attack, or violate the law and become "criminals" themselves.

11 Defendants' claims are untenable and conflict with the body of authority on declaratory 12 relief. Plaintiffs' "predicament-submit to a statute or face the likely perils of violating it-is 13 precisely why the declaratory judgment cause of action exists." Mobil Oil Co. v. Atty Gen. of 14 Commw. of Va., 940 F.2d 73, 74 (4th Cir. 1991), cited with approval, Bland v. Fessler, 88 F.3d 15 729, 737 (9th Cir. 1996). Moreover, Defendants' contention that Plaintiffs are unharmed unless 16 actually prosecuted conflicts with general legal principles and the law in this circuit. Bland, 88 17 F.3d at 737. Plaintiffs have raised serious legal issues concerning the fundamental right of law-18 abiding citizens to keep and bear arms within the sanctity of their homes to defend themselves and 19 their loved ones. The Court should address these concerns now, as it is authorized to do under the 20 Declaratory Relief Act, 28 U.S.C. §§ 2201-2201, rather than force Plaintiffs to break the law and 21 face criminal prosecution before their rights can be ascertained.

Finally, Plaintiffs are regrettably compelled to note that Defendants' jurisdictional
challenge appears to have more to do with gamesmanship than with merit. Despite pushing to
consolidate this case with *Pizzo v. Newsom* (which includes, among many others, "copy and
paste" challenges to sections 4512, 1290 and 613.10(g)), Defendants forewent a motion to dismiss
in that case. *See* Defendants' Answer, *Pizzo v. Newsom*, No. 09-4493 (N.D. Cal. filed Sept. 23,
2009) (Pls.' Req. Jud. Notice, Exh. A); Case Docket Sheet, *Pizzo, supra*, No. 09-4493 (Pls.' Req.
Jud. Notice, Exh. B). Defendants' willingness to pass on an opportunity to dismiss those claims in Plaintiffs' Opposition to Defendants' Motion to Dismiss

Pizzo, while fervently arguing they should be dismissed here, suggests Defendants' concern is not
 with this case's justiciability, but with ensuring it is bogged down with yet another preliminary
 motion, while *Pizzo* moves toward resolution on the merits.

4 Defendants' motion should be denied in full, and the parties should have their dispute
5 heard and their rights and obligations under the law adjudicated on the merits. To the extent the
6 Court is not so inclined, Plaintiffs should be granted leave to amend.

SUMMARY OF FACTS

8 Plaintiffs brought this suit to challenge the validity of San Francisco Police Code sections
9 4512, 1290, and 613.10(g)¹ enacted by Defendant City and County of San Francisco and enforced
10 by its Mayor and Chief of Police ("Defendants"). Each of these sections violates Plaintiffs' right
11 to keep and bear arms under the Second Amendment to the Constitution and, specifically, their
12 right to defense of self and others by exercising that right within their homes.

13

7

Section 4512: "Safe" Storage Law

14 In August 2007, Defendants passed section 4512, requiring handguns kept within the 15 home to be stored in a locked container or disabled with a trigger lock, unless that firearm "is 16 carried on the person of an individual over the age of 18" or "under the control of a person who is 17 a peace officer" as defined by state law. Violation is a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to 18 exceed \$1,000 and/or by imprisonment not to exceed six months. S.F. Cal., Police Code art. 45, § 19 4512(e). In effect, section 4512 requires, under threat of criminal prosecution, that Plaintiffs 20 render and keep their handguns inoperable and practically useless for self-defense emergencies. 21 The Supreme Court, in District of Columbia v. Heller, 554 U.S. 570, 571 (2008), struck 22 down a similar trigger lock ordinance, finding the requirement "makes it impossible for citizens to 23 use them for the core lawful purpose of self-defense and is hence unconstitutional." The 24 requirements of section 4512 similarly make it virtually impossible for Plaintiffs to use their 25 handguns for the constitutionally protected purpose of self-defense-particularly in life-threatening 26 27

All further statutory references are to the San Francisco Police Code unless otherwise indicated.

situations when the need to exercise that right is most acute.² Regardless, Defendants have "failed 1 2 to repeal and continue to enforce" section 4512 (Am. Compl. ¶ 35) and "ha[ve] never advised the 3 public or [their] law enforcement personnel that [they] did not intend to enforce" or "that [they 4 have] stopped enforcing [it] at any time following its enactment" (Am. Compl. ¶ 55).

5 In fact, quite the opposite is true–Defendants' have expressly indicated their intention to enforce the law. For instance, upon passage of section 4512, former District Attorney Kamala 6 7 Harris infamously declared "[j]ust because you legally possess a gun in the sanctity of your locked 8 home doesn't mean that we're not going to walk into that home and check to see if you're being 9 responsible and safe in the way that you conduct your affairs." (Am. Compl. ¶ 52.) In short, 10 Defendants have clearly stated their intent to enforce the law and coerce behavior restricting 11 constitutional rights, going so far as to publicly threaten the preemptive enforcement of the law by 12 invading the sanctity of one's home just to "check" on whether handguns are stored in compliance 13 with the ordinance. Additionally, on May 6, 2009, a city official came unannounced to Plaintiff 14 Golden's residence, demanding to see that his firearms were properly stored in a locked container 15 for the purpose of ensuring he was safely storing his handguns. (Am. Compl. ¶ 53.) 16 As a matter of fact (assumed true for purposes of this motion), Plaintiffs each presently 17 own at least one handgun that they intend to keep operable within their homes, accessible for immediate self-defense and not disabled by a trigger lock nor stored in a locked container. (Am. 18 19

JUSTICE SCALIA: You turn on, you turn on the lamp next to your bed so you can-you 23 can turn the knob at 3-22-95, and so somebody--24

Well--MR. DELLINGER:

- CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: Is it like that? Is it a numerical code? 25
 - MR. DELLINGER: Yes, you can have one with a numerical code.
- CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS: So then you turn on the lamp, you pick up your reading 26 glasses--
- Transcript of Oral Argument at 83-84, Heller, 554 U.S. 570 (2008) (No. 07-290). Clearly, the 27 Court was having a bit of fun of Mr. Dellinger's suggestion that the District's trigger-lock 28 ordinance would impose a minimal or insignificant burden to one's right to Arms in an emergency.

 $^{^{2}}$ While the burden Defendants impose on Plaintiffs' right to keep and bear arms is not at issue 20 in this motion, we note that the Heller Court understood it to be a serious concern, so much so that 21 Chief Justice Roberts and Justice Scalia had the following exchange with counsel for the District of Columbia, regarding the ease with which one might render a locked weapon operable in the 22 dead of night to defend against an intruder:

Compl. ¶¶ 22-23, 37.) Plaintiffs presently keep their handguns in inoperable condition in
compliance with the law. (Am. Compl. ¶¶ 23, 25.) But for the enactment and credible threat of
enforcement of section 4512, they would each "keep their handguns operable within the home,
i.e., not disabled by a trigger lock or locked in a container" (Am. Compl. ¶ 23.) Plaintiffs
thus seek a declaration of their rights under the Second Amendment with respect to section 4512
and, should the Court enjoin the enforcement of the law, would immediately resume keeping their
handguns in operable condition, ready for use in a self-defense emergency.

8

Section 1290: Discharge Ban

9 In addition, section1290's blanket prohibition against the "discharge [of] any firearms"
10 within the City and County of San Francisco–with no exception for self-defense discharges within
11 the home–violates Plaintiffs' right to keep and bear arms in defense of self and others as
12 guaranteed by the Second Amendment. The rights recognized in *Heller* necessarily include a right
13 to discharge firearms in self-defense, not simply to keep and bear them. Simply put, section 1290
14 deters, punishes, and directly conflicts with the exercise of that constitutional right.

15 Notably, Police Code section 4502 prohibits discharging firearms in *public* places, and 16 section 4506(a) *expressly* provides an exception for public discharges made in self-defense. 17 Section 1290 provides no such exception. Further, as alleged in Plaintiffs' Amended Complaint, 18 Defendants have threatened enforcement of section 1290 in self-defense situations. Specifically, 19 "San Francisco police have advised homeowners, who have otherwise lawfully discharged 20 firearms in self-defense to thwart late-night criminal attacks in their homes, that they would be 21 arrested for discharging their firearms [under section 1290] unless they stated the discharges were 22 'accidental.' The police further advised these homeowners that it was the city's policy to arrest anyone who discharged a firearm within the city, and that there was no exception for discharges 23 24 within one's home while defending oneself from criminal attack." (Am. Compl. § 65.) Based on 25 the foregoing, no self-defense exception can be implied.³

26

³ Moreover, this suit was filed initially on May 15, 2009. Defendants have had ample opportunity to amend section 1290 to cure the obvious defect (and narrow the issues in this suit), but has chosen not to do so. Evidently, in addition to Plaintiffs' suit, it will take an order from this Plaintiffs' Opposition to Defendants' Motion to Dismiss

In sum, as a matter of fact (based on the statute's existence and on Plaintiffs' allegations), 1 2 section 1290 remains the law in San Francisco and has been enforced, as a matter of policy, 3 against residents discharging firearms in self-defense within the sanctity of their own homes. 4 Defendants have provided no evidence that its policy of enforcing section 1290 has changed. (Am. 5 Compl. ¶¶ 61-62.) And Plaintiffs have alleged their intent to discharge their firearms in violation of section 1290 to defend hearth and home should the need arise. (Am. Compl. ¶ 38-39.) 6 7 Plaintiffs thus seek a judicial declaration of their rights under the Second Amendment as it relates 8 to section 1290 and injunctive relief prohibiting enforcement of the same.

9

Section 613.10(g): Ban on Ammunition Serving "No Sporting Purpose"

10 Plaintiffs also challenge section 613.10(g), Defendants' ban on the sale, lease, or transfer 11 of ammunition that "serves no sporting purpose" or is designed to expand or fragment upon 12 impact. Section 613.10(g) effectively bans all self-defense ammunition that does not also serve a 13 "sporting purpose." But self-defense is not a "sport." Thus, section 613.10(g) effectively prohibits city residents, including Plaintiffs, from purchasing ammunition specifically designed for self-14 15 defense. This is often the same ammunition used by law enforcement. It is ammunition designed, 16 for safety reasons, to prevent ricochet and eliminate over-penetration of unarmored assailants. 17 (Am. Compl. ¶ 58.) Such ammunition is the exact opposite of the "cop-killer bullets" Defendants 18 claim it seeks to ban, yet it remains subject to prohibition under section 613.10(g).

Banning the sale of ammunition designed for self-defense violates Plaintiffs' right to keep
and bear arms and defeats its "core lawful purpose of self-defense." Moreover, Section
613.10(g)'s ban on the sale of all ammunition that "serves no sporting purpose" is vague and
overbroad, as it fails to adequately inform ammunition retailers and law enforcement as to which
ammunition is regulated by the law. (Am. Compl. ¶¶ 70-72.) In turn, retailers, unsure of which
ammunition is subject to the ordinance, steer far wider of the zone of unlawful conduct and refrain
from selling far more types of ammunition that may or may not be subject to the ban. This further

- 26
- 27 28

court to force Defendants to bring section 1290 into compliance with *Heller* and *McDonald v. Chicago*, U.S. __, 130 Sup. Ct. 3020 (2010). Plaintiffs' Opposition to Defendants' Motion to Dismiss

impacts Plaintiffs' access to ammunition necessary for the exercise of their fundamental rights.
 Plaintiffs' thus seek declaratory and injunctive relief.

3

SUMMARY OF ARGUMENT

The assertion that Plaintiffs lack standing and that their claims are not yet ripe for review
because Plaintiffs have not suffered an injury-in-fact traceable to Defendants' conduct is without
merit. By Defendants' enactment and ongoing enforcement of sections 4512, 1290, and 613.10(g),
Plaintiffs presently endure the direct and ongoing harm of the denial of their individual,
fundamental right to keep and bear arms, which necessarily includes the right to keep their
firearms in a condition ready for use in self-defense emergencies.

Defendants' core argument, that Plaintiffs suffer no harm unless and until they violate the
law, and Defendants directly threaten to prosecute them, runs counter to case law governing preenforcement challenges to laws that violate fundamental rights and has harmful practical
consequences. Nonetheless, Plaintiffs will address each of Defendants' contentions in turn.

Because Plaintiffs have been placed "between the Scylla of intentionally flouting state law 14 15 and the Charybdis of forgoing what [they believe] to be constitutionally protected activity in order 16 to avoid becoming enmeshed in a criminal proceeding," they have suffered a sufficient injury to 17 seek declaratory relief without "first expos[ing] [themselves] to actual arrest or prosecution." 18 Steffel v. Thompson, 415 U.S. 452, 462 (1974). By virtue of the mere enactment of the ordinances, 19 which prohibit the exercise of fundamental rights, and Defendants' expressly declared intent to 20 enforce these laws and failure to disavow such intent, Plaintiffs suffer direct harm and face a 21 credible threat of enforcement, such that Plaintiffs have standing to challenged these ordinances 22 and their claims are ripe for review. See Babbitt v. United Farm Workers Nat'l Union, 442 U.S. 23 289, 298 (1979); Epperson v. Arkansas, 393 U.S. 97 (1968).

Regarding Plaintiffs' challenges to section 613.10(g), they have standing to bring this
action on their own behalf to vindicate their personal rights to purchase the ammunition most
suitable for self-defense. They do not, as Defendants suggest, seek to assert the rights of third
party ammunition retailers to sell the ammunition regulated by the challenged ordinance.

28 Finally, no further factual development will make the underlying issues any more clear, so Plaintiffs' Opposition to Defendants' Motion to Dismiss

1	this Court should refuse to exercise its discretion to dismiss this case on prudential ripeness		
2	grounds and address Plaintiffs' harms <i>now</i> , rather than wait until some unknown future date.		
3	For the reasons set out above-and more thoroughly examined below-Defendants' motion		
4	should be denied, and litigation on the merits of Plaintiffs' claims should be permitted to proceed.		
5	In the event the Court is not satisfied with the sufficiency of Plaintiffs' allegations,		
6	Plaintiffs respectfully request leave to amend the complaint under the liberal policy in federal		
7	courts favoring amendment of the pleadings over dismissal before plaintiff has an opportunity to		
8	be heard. Jones v. Comty. Redevel. Agency of City of L.A., 733 F.2d 646, 650 (9th Cir. 1984).		
9	ARGUMENT		
10	I. TO SURVIVE A MOTION TO DISMISS, PLAINTIFFS NEED ONLY PRESENT PLAUSIBLE ALLEGATIONS SUFFICIENT TO ESTABLISH THIS COURT		
11	HAS SUBJECT MATTER JURISDICTION		
12	The plaintiff has the initial burden of establishing standing. See, e.g., Kokkonen v.		
13	Guardian of Life Ins. Co. of Am., 511 U.S. 375, 377 (1994). The particular weight of that burden		
14	is contingent upon the procedural posture of the case. See Lujan v. Defenders of Wildlife, 504 U.S.		
15	555, 561 (1992). "For purposes of ruling on a motion to dismiss for want of standing, both the		
16	trial and reviewing courts must accept as true all material allegations of the complaint, and must		
17	construe the complaint in favor of the complaining party." Takhar v. Kessler, 76 F.3d 995, 1000		
18	(9th Cir. 1996) (internal citations and quotation marks omitted). And, as the Supreme Court		
19	observed in Lujan, "at the pleading stage, general factual allegations of injury resulting from the		
20	defendant's conduct may suffice, for on a motion to dismiss we presum[e] that general allegations		
21	embrace those specific facts that are necessary to support the claim." 504 U.S. at 561.		
22	Defendants raise doubts about the plausibility of Plaintiffs' factual allegations by attacking		
23	only the specifics behind Plaintiffs' general statements regarding issues central to the standing		
24	question. (See Defs.' Mem. Supp. Mot. to Dismiss ("Defs.' Mot.") 7, 11-12 n.4.) But Plaintiffs		
25	have sufficiently pled in general terms, which is all that is required, Lujan, 504 U.S. at 561, that		
26	they and others similarly situated have been subject to threats of enforcement by Defendants under		
27	the provisions challenged in this action (Am. Compl. $\P\P$ 52-53, 65) and that Defendants have		
28	never disavowed their intention to enforce those sections (Am. Compl. ¶¶ 54-55, 61-62, 66-67). Plaintiffs' Opposition to Defendants' Motion to Dismiss 8		

1	To require that Plaintiffs show more to survive a motion to dismiss would be improper. While it is		
2	true that the court need not accept mere "labels and conclusions" or a "formulaic recitation of the		
3	elements of a cause of action" Ashcroft v. Iqbal, U.S, 129 S. Ct. 1937, 1949 (2009), such is		
4	not the case here. The Amended Complaint does more than make conclusory statements that the		
5	challenged ordinances violate the Second Amendment. It alleges facts that, if accepted as true,		
6	establish a credible threat the ordinances will be enforced, causing Plaintiffs to surrender their		
7	rights to engage in constitutionally protected conduct.		
8 9	II. PLAINTIFFS HAVE PLED SUFFICIENT FACTS TO ESTABLISH STANDING TO BRING THIS ACTION, INDICATING AN INJURY-IN-FACT TRACEABLE TO DEFENDANTS' ACTIONS		
10	Article III of the U.S. Constitution limits the jurisdiction of federal courts to "actual cases		
11	or controversies," requiring there be an "actual dispute[] between adverse parties." Richardson v.		
12	Ramirez, 48 U.S. 24, 36 (1974). This requirement encompasses the "core component of standing."		
13	Lujan, 504 U.S. at 560. To establish Article III standing, Plaintiffs must show they "have suffered		
14	a constitutionally cognizable injury-in-fact," Cal. Pro-Life Council v. Getman, 328 F.3d 1088,		
15	1093 (9th Cir. 2003), generally requiring the "invasion of a legally protected interest which is (a)		
16	concrete and particularized, and (b) actual or imminent, not conjectural or hypothetical." Lujan,		
17	504 U.S. at 560. Defendants argue this requires Plaintiffs show they are "actually being		
18	prosecuted, or at a minimum, [have] received a personalized threat of <i>imminent</i> prosecution under		
19	the challenged law." (Defs.' Mot. 8 (emphasis added).) Such a showing is far more than is		
20	required of Plaintiffs.		
21	It is not a controversial legal principle that the government creates an "actual case or		
22	controversy" whenever its laws cause reasonable people to forego behavior protected by the		
23	Constitution. As the Supreme Court recently affirmed:		
24	[W]here threatened action by government is concerned, we do not require a plaintiff to expose himself to liability before bringing suit to challenge the basis for		
25 26	the threat-for example, the constitutionality of a law threatened to be enforced. The plaintiff's own action (or inaction) in failing to violate the law eliminates the imminent threat of prosecution, but nonetheless does not eliminate Article III		
27	jurisdiction. MedImmune, Inc. v. Genentech, Inc., 549 U.S. 118, 129 (2007) (emphasis omitted). In other		
28	words, a plaintiff need not first expose himself to actual arrest or prosecution to challenge a		
	Plaintiffs' Opposition to Defendants' Motion to Dismiss 9		

statute that arguably infringes on the exercise of his constitutional rights. *Babbitt*, 442 U.S. at 298. 1 2 Indeed, if actual prosecution were required to establish standing, the Declaratory Judgment Act, 3 under which this action is brought and which provides the mechanism for seeking pre-4 enforcement review, would *itself* be unconstitutional. 5 Accordingly, in cases where a plaintiff seeks to challenge a law under which he has not yet faced prosecution, the courts have found that Article III standing lies so long as a plaintiff: (1) 6 7 "alleges an intention to engage in a course of conduct arguably affected with a constitutional 8 interest, but proscribed by a statute" and (2) can demonstrate a "credible threat of enforcement" of that law. Id. at 298. Plaintiffs have plainly alleged facts sufficient to satisfy both prongs of the 9 10 standing analysis for pre-enforcement challenges. 11 Plaintiffs Have Established an Intention to Engage in a Course of Conduct Α. Protected by the Constitution, Yet Proscribed by the Challenged Ordinances 12 Under the first prong of *Babbitt*, Plaintiffs must "allege[] an intention to engage in a 13 course of conduct arguably affected with a constitutional interest, but proscribed by statute." Id. It 14 is not necessary that Plaintiffs allege an intention to *break the law*, it is sufficient that they 15 establish a concrete plan to engage in the proscribed conduct and that they would immediately 16 implement that plan, but for the arguably unconstitutional limitation. See Holder v. Humanitarian 17 *Law Project*, U.S. , 130 S. Ct. 2705, 2717 (2010). 18 Nevertheless, Defendants erroneously equate this case with San Diego Gun Rights 19 Committee v. Reno, 98 F.3d 1121 (1996), a firearms case decided before the Second Amendment 20 was recognized as protecting a fundamental, individual right, in which the court found plaintiffs 21 lacked standing. There, the plaintiffs expressed only a "desire or wish" to manufacture or possess 22 "assault weapons" in some unspecified manner at some unspecified future time. Id. at 1127. Here, 23 "Plaintiffs presently intend to exercise their rights to defend themselves, their homes and families 24 by keeping firearms in the home, including handguns, available for immediate use by assembling 25 them, removing trigger locks, removing them from locked storage containers, and loading them 26 with appropriate ammunition and, if necessary discharging them is defense of self or others." 27 (Am. Compl. ¶ 37.) Plaintiffs also allege that, but for the enforcement of these ordinances, they would presently "keep their handguns in their residences without being stored in a locked 28 Plaintiffs' Opposition to Defendants' Motion to Dismiss

container or disabled with a trigger lock; would forthwith purchase ammunition designed for self defense use without regard to whether it serves any sporting purpose; and would discharge their
 firearms if threatened with imminent deadly force." (Am. Compl. ¶ 40.)

In sum, Plaintiffs currently own guns, which are presently kept inoperable as required by
law, and Plaintiffs seek-immediately-to render their guns operable for defense of themselves,
their families, and their homes. (Am. Compl. ¶¶ 37-39.) Unlike *Reno*, Plaintiffs here have
described a "concrete plan" to engage in constitutionally protected conduct-a plan they would
implement presently but for the challenged ordinances. And this, under *Holder* and *Arizona Right to Life Political Action Committee v. Bayless*, 320 F.3d 1002 (9th Cir. 2003) is all that is required
to meet the first prong of the pre-enforcement standing analysis.

In *Holder*, plaintiffs challenged a federal law prohibiting the knowing provision of
"material support or resources" to designated terrorist organizations. 130 S. Ct. at 2712-13. There,
plaintiffs were found to have standing where they had provided support to two such organizations
before the enactment of the statute and alleged only "that they would provide similar support if the
statute's allegedly unconstitutional bar were lifted." *Id.* at 2717. They never established an intent
to break the law, only to engage in the proscribed conduct *immediately*, but for the ongoing
enforcement of the challenged statute.

Similarly, in *Arizona Right to Life*, the Ninth Circuit found plaintiff had standing to raise a
pre-enforcement challenge, though they alleged only that they "wanted" to engage in the regulated
conduct, but obeyed the law to avoid civil penalties. 320 F.3d at 1006. Because plaintiff neither
broke the law, nor alleged an intention to do so, it was never "personally in danger of prosecution
on the basis of [its] actions." (*See* Defs.' Mot. 12.) Regardless, the court found pre-enforcement
standing existed because plaintiff reasonably "modif[ied] its behavior out of fear of being the
object of an enforcement action." *Ariz. Right to Life* at 1007.

Here, Plaintiffs have alleged that, but for the enactment and enforcement of the challenged
ordinances, they would exercise their rights to defend themselves immediately, keeping handguns
unencumbered by trigger locks or locked containers, purchasing and loading the most appropriate
ammunition, regardless of whether it serves a "sporting purpose," and discharging them when
Plaintiffs' Opposition to Defendants' Motion to Dismiss

necessary for self-defense. (Am. Compl. ¶ 23-25, 37-39.) Like the plaintiffs in *Holder*, Plaintiffs
would immediately engage in the described course of conduct "if the [ordinance's] allegedly
unconstitutional bar were lifted." *See Holder*, 130 S. Ct. 2717. And, like the plaintiffs in *Arizona Right to Life*, Plaintiffs have not alleged an intention to break the law, but to obey it until such
time as this Court declares their rights under the Constitution. This course of action demonstrates
a "commendable respect for the rule of law" and should not be the basis for the Court to shut its
doors to Plaintiffs' concerns. *See Bland*, 88 F.3d at 737.

8 To follow Defendants' suggestion that Plaintiffs must first allege an intention to *break the*9 *law* (Defs.' Mot. 12), would put Plaintiffs in an unenviable position, requiring them to openly
10 flout the law and come to the attention of the authorities before seeking a declaration of the
11 parties' rights and responsibilities under the Second Amendment.⁴ Sound public policy dictates
12 against encouraging individuals–who wish to both obey the law *and* exercise their fundamental
13 rights–to themselves become criminals before their rights can be declared by a court.⁵

Accordingly, because Plaintiffs have alleged they would presently render their firearms
operable for use in a self-defense emergency if the Court prevented the enforcement of the
challenged ordinances, Plaintiffs have presented a sufficiently concrete plan to engage in
constitutionally protected conduct proscribed by law. As such, Plaintiffs have satisfied the first

18

⁴ Taken to its logical conclusion, the position lobbied by Defendants would leave Plaintiffs and 19 similarly situated law-abiding citizens subject to a grievous wrong without a remedy, as they would never be in the position to challenge these ordinances. For if Plaintiffs obey the law and are 20 robbed, raped, or murdered while unlocking and loading their handguns, they will obtain no relief 21 for the harm caused by the ordinances, which they followed to their detriment. Defendants' untenable position would leave only *law-breaking* gun owners, who have actually violated the law, 22 with standing to determine legislative constitutional rights violations. Accordingly, Second Amendment challenges would be muddied (as Defendants would no doubt prefer it), such that they 23 would only be brought by criminals who have already violated the law as opposed to law-abiding 24 individuals whom the Second Amendment was intended to protect. And all the while Plaintiffs will continue to be denied their rights without any avenue for recourse. 25 ⁵ "Public policy should encourage a person aggrieved by laws he considers unconstitutional to

26 "Public policy should encourage a person aggrieved by laws he considers unconstitutional to seek a declaratory judgment against the arm of the state entrusted with the state's enforcement power, *all the while complying with the challenged law*, rather than to deliberately break the law and take his chances in the ensuing suit or prosecution." *Mobil Oil Corp.*, 940 F.2d at 75, *cited with approval*, *Ariz. Right to Life*, 320 F.3d at 1007; *Bland*, 88 F.3d at 737.

1 prong of the standing analysis for pre-enforcement challenges as set forth in *Babbit*.

2

B. Plaintiffs Reasonably Fear the Challenged Ordinances Are Being and Will Continue to Be Enforced

3 Plaintiffs allege that Defendants have expressly indicated an intention to enforce the 4 challenged ordinances. For instance, former District Attorney Kamala Harris publicly declared 5 "[j]ust because you legally possess a gun in the sanctity of your locked home doesn't mean that we're not going to walk into that home and check to see if you're being responsible and safe in the 6 7 way that you conduct your affairs." (Am. Compl. ¶ 52.) And on May 6, 2009, a city official came 8 unannounced to Plaintiff Golden's residence, demanding to see that his firearms were properly 9 stored in a locked container. (Am. Compl. ¶ 53.) "San Francisco police have [repeatedly] advised 10 homeowners, who have otherwise lawfully discharged firearms in self-defense to thwart late-night 11 criminal attacks in their homes, that they would be arrested for discharging their firearms [under 12 section 1290] unless they stated the discharges were 'accidental.' The police further advised these 13 homeowners that it was the city's policy to arrest anyone who discharged a firearm within the city, and that there was no exception for discharges within one's home while defending oneself from 14

15 criminal attack." (Am. Compl. \P 65.)⁶

16 In light of these instances, as well as Defendants' failure to publicize that the ordinances 17 are not being enforced, Plaintiffs legitimately fear prosecution should they exercise their 18 fundamental rights in violation of the law. They have thus alleged facts sufficient to establish 19 standing to raise a pre-enforcement challenge, having presented "an actual and well-founded fear 20 that the law will be enforced against them." Virginia v. Am. Booksellers Ass'n, Inc., 484 U.S. 383 21 (1988). As explained above, the fact that Plaintiffs have curbed their behavior in order to evade 22 actual prosecution does not destroy Article III standing, and it does not destroy their reasonable 23 fear that, should they resume the proscribed conduct, the law will be enforced against them. It is 24 sufficient that the threat of prosecution is "credible"-as it would be with any statute threatened to

25

⁶ Although section 613.10(g) does not impose liability on individual purchasers, Plaintiffs
nonetheless have standing to sue in their own right as Defendants' enforcement denies them access to constitutionally protected components of a functional firearm as set forth fully in section II. C., *infra*.

be enforced-rather than "imaginary or speculative"-as would be the case if the statute were
 obsolete or never enforced. *See Babbitt*, 442 U.S. at 298.

3 In accordance with the Supreme Court's opinions in *Babbitt* and its progeny, the Ninth 4 Circuit has concluded that a plaintiff who challenges a law before it is enforced can establish the 5 requisite "credible threat of enforcement" by demonstrating that the defendant "intends either to enforce a statute or to encourage local law enforcement agencies to do so." Culinary Workers 6 Union, Local 226 v. Del Papa, 200 F.3d 614, 618 (9th Cir. 1999). Judicial authorization for pre-7 8 enforcement standing is especially apparent in instances where the "alleged danger of the 9 [challenged law] is, in large measure, one of self-censorship," wherein the challenger abstains 10 from the exercise of constitutionally protected conduct for fear the law will be enforced against 11 him. Id. Such a harm is one "that can be realized even without actual prosecution." Am. 12 *Booksellers*, 484 U.S. at 393. The Ninth Circuit has repeatedly affirmed that the "pre-enforcement" 13 nature" of a suit does not foreclose standing where a plaintiff alleges a well-founded fear the law will be enforced. Bland, 88 F.3d at 737 (emphasis added). Plaintiffs fears are indeed well 14 15 founded-for not only have Defendants promised to enforce the laws should they happen to 16 encounter a violation, the *City's chief prosecutor publicly* threatened to enter *the sanctity of* 17 residents' locked homes to guarantee compliance with Defendants' gun policies. 18 Plaintiffs here have established a "credible threat of enforcement," having alleged that 19 Defendants have explicitly stated their intention to enforce the challenged ordinances. But even 20 absent Defendants' noted policy of enforcement, under the circumstances, the ordinances' "mere 21 existence" provides sufficient threat of enforcement to defeat Defendants' motion. 1. 22 Plaintiffs Need Not Face an "Individualized Threat of Imminent **Prosecution**" Before They May Bring a Pre-Enforcement Challenge; The Requisite "Credible Threat of Enforcement" Is Established by a 23 Showing that Defendants Intend to Enforce the Ordinances 24 The "credible threat" standard does not, as Defendants suggest, require that Plaintiffs show 25 they are subject to an "individualized threat of imminent prosecution." (Defs.' Mot. 9.) In fact, the 26 requirement advocated by Defendants is not supported by the great body of case law regarding 27 28 Plaintiffs' Opposition to Defendants' Motion to Dismiss

pre-enforcement constitutional challenges.⁷ Defendants' imminent prosecution requirement 1 2 instead echoes the injury-in-fact element of standing, requiring an "invasion of a legally protected 3 interest that is . . . 'actual or imminent.' "Lujan, 504 U.S. at 560-61. Perhaps Defendants are 4 advocating that if a plaintiff challenging a statute does not face "actual" prosecution, he must at 5 least face an "imminent" one, but this erroneously conflates Plaintiffs' "injury" and the government's "prosecution." In so doing, Defendants ignore the great harm inflicted by the 6 7 existence and enforcement of a statute that prevents individuals from *engaging in constitutionally* 8 protected conduct. Standing exists because plaintiff's abstention, when reasonably coerced by the 9 government, is *itself* an actual injury, regardless of whether prosecution is imminent. See Poe v. 10 Ullman, 367 U.S. 497, 508 (1961).

11 Not only does Defendants' imminent prosecution requirement conflict with Supreme 12 Court guidance on this issue, but it has harmful practical consequences. Obviously, a prosecution 13 is unlikely to be imminent if individuals refrain from violating the law under a credible threat of 14 the law's enforcement, as Plaintiffs have done. Yet, as Defendants would have it, individuals 15 would have pre-enforcement standing only if they come close enough to violating the law to 16 become singled out or uniquely targeted by law enforcement. But if they do violate the law, the 17 door to declaratory relief in federal court is slammed shut as soon as the government initiates 18 prosecution. See Younger v. Harris, 401 U.S. 37, 40-41 (1971); see also Samuels v. Mackell, 401 19 U.S. 66, 73 (1971) (extending *Younger* to actions for declaratory relief). But the Declaratory

20

⁷ Defendants rely on *Steffel*, 415 U.S. at 459, for the rule that a pre-enforcement challenge may be heard only "so long as [plaintiff] faces a genuine, individualized threat of imminent prosecution." (Defs.' Mot. 9.) *Steffel* should not be read to require such a stringent test. Even though plaintiffs in that case had faced an individualized threat, the Court no where states that such is *required* before pre-enforcement standing can be had. To the contrary, the *Steffel* Court relies on *Epperson v. Arkansas*, 393 U.S. 97, a case in which plaintiff faced *no* individualized threat of prosecution, imminent or otherwise. *Steffel*, 415 U.S. at 459.

Defendants also cite *Rincon Band of Mission Indians v. County of San Diego*, 495 F.2d 1, 4
(9th Cir. 1974) to argue that threats of prosecution of a "general nature" are insufficient to confer standing. This case, however, is distinguishable because no fundamental right was implicated by the challenged ordinance. Id. at 3-4. *Rincon* itself indicates this would have made a difference. *Id.* at 6 (distinguishing *Rincon* from a case in which plaintiff had standing where he alleged "interference with fundamental rights").

 Judgment Act was designed precisely to provide " 'an alternative to pursuit of the arguably illegal activity.' "*MedImmune*, 549 U.S. at 129 (quoting *Steffel*, 415 U.S. at 480 (Rehnquist, J.
 concurring)). To follow Defendants' rule would essentially nullify the purpose of the Act.

4 Instead, courts have found standing in instances in which prosecution was neither 5 imminent nor individually threatened. *Holder*, a recent Supreme Court case discussed *supra*, is a good example. Recall that, there, plaintiffs sought pre-enforcement review of a federal statute 6 7 making it a crime to "knowingly provid[e] material support or resources" to foreign terrorist 8 organizations. Holder, 130 S. Ct. at 2712, 2717. Though the government never actually threatened plaintiffs with prosecution (even during twelve years of litigation), the Court nonetheless found 9 10 the requisite "credible threat of enforcement" because it never disavowed its ability or intent to 11 enforce the statute against plaintiffs. *Id.* at 2717.

12 Similarly, Plaintiffs allege they would immediately engage in constitutionally protected 13 conduct but for the enactment and continued enforcement of sections 4512, 1290, and 613.10(g). 14 (Am. Compl. ¶¶ 23-25, 37-39.) They have a valid, well-founded fear of prosecution the moment 15 they do engage in that conduct. The challenged ordinances are, after all, neither "moribund," Doe 16 v. Bolton, 422 U.S. 179, 188 (1973), nor a "historical curiosity," Navegar, Inc. v. United States, 17 103 F.3d 994, 1000 (D.C. Cir. 1997). Plaintiffs genuinely fear enforcement based on "credible 18 threats" by high-profile city officials and law enforcement officers, expressly indicating their 19 intention to enforce these laws. (Am. Compl. ¶¶ 52-53, 56.) And Defendants have not disavowed 20 their ability to enforce the ordinances (Am. Compl. ¶ 54-55, 61-62, 66-67), a fact which courts 21 have long considered to be a factor in favor of finding standing, *Babbit*, 442 U.S. at 302.

To establish a "credible threat," Plaintiffs need not show a history of completed or
imminently threatened prosecutions. Plaintiffs have satisfied their burden by pleading, in general
terms, that a "credible threat of enforcement" exists because Defendants have demonstrated an
intention to enforce the challenged ordinances. Recall that Defendants have publicly threatened to
enter the locked homes of firearms owners to ensure compliance with the "safe" storage law,
conducted a surprise home visit of Plaintiff Golden to ensure his firearms were stored in a locked
container, and informed homeowners–who had otherwise lawfully discharged their firearms in
Plaintiffs' Opposition to Defendants' Motion to Dismiss

1	self-defense-of Defendants' intention to enforce section 1290 against them unless they claimed		
2	the discharge was accidental. In light of all these facts, just like the plaintiffs in Holder, Plaintiffs		
3	have established a "credible threat" the challenged ordinances will be enforced.		
4 5	2. The "Mere Existence" of the Ordinances Is Sufficient to Confer Standing in Cases, Like This, Wherein <i>Constitutionally Protected</i> <i>Conduct Is "Chilled"</i>		
6	Even if criminal prosecution were unlikely, the mere existence of the ordinance <i>is itself</i> a		
7	basis for standing to challenge them, because they are laws capable of "chilling" constitutionally		
8	protected conduct. ⁸ In <i>Epperson v. Arkansas</i> , for example, a teacher had standing to challenge the		
9	Arkansas "anti-evolution" statute even though she never faced any threat of prosecution under the		
10	law, which had been on the books for nearly forty years without any history of enforcement, and		
11	where the statute was "more of a curiosity than a vital fact of life." 393 U.S. at 98-102.		
12	Similarly, in California Pro-Life Council, Inc. v. Getman, the Ninth Circuit cited with		
13	approval a Seventh Circuit case holding the following:		
14	A plaintiff who mounts a pre-enforcement challenge to a statute that he claims violates his freedom of speech[⁹] need not show that the authorities have		
15 16 17	threatened to prosecute him; <i>the threat is latent in the existence of the statute</i> . Not if it clearly fails to cover his conduct, of course. But if it arguably covers it, and so may deter constitutionally protected expression because most people are frightened of violating criminal statutes especially when the gains are slight, there is standing.		
18	328 F.3d, 1088, 1095 (9th Cir. 2003) (citing Majors v. Abell, 317 F.3d 719, 721 (7th Cir. 2001))		
19	(emphasis added). Ultimately, the Ninth Circuit limited its earlier ruling in <i>Thomas v. Anchorage</i>		
20	Equal Rights Commission, 220 F.3d 1134 (1999), and reaffirmed the "validity of pre-		
21	enforcement challenges to statutes infringing upon constitutional rights." Cal. Pro-Life Council,		
22			
23	⁸ Defendants rely on <i>Stoianoff v. Montana</i> , 695 F.2d 1214, 1223 (9th Cir. 1983) for the rule that		
24	" 'The mere existence of a statute, which may or may not ever be applied to plaintiffs, is not sufficient to create a case or controversy with [sic] the meaning of Article III.' "(Defs.' Mot. 9		
25	(quoting Stoianoff, 695 F.2d at 1223).) This case is distinguishable, however, because no		
26	fundamental right was implicated by the challenged statute, and the exercise of constitutionally protected conduct was not abandoned.		
27 28	⁹ For a discussion on applying First Amendment analysis of pre-enforcement standing to a Second Amendment challenge, see page 20, <i>infra</i> .		
	Plaintiffs' Opposition to Defendants' Motion to Dismiss 17		

Inc., 328 F.3d at 1094. The court recognized that particularly, *but not exclusively*, in the First
 Amendment context, "the Supreme Court has dispensed with rigid standing requirements," and
 found standing to challenge a law whose very existence "chilled" constitutionally protected
 conduct, inflicting the harm of self-censorship. *Id.* at 1094-95.

5 In fact, a long line of cases uphold pre-enforcement review of First Amendment challenges to criminal statutes by plaintiffs with bases for standing no different than those 6 7 asserted by Plaintiffs here. For example, in American Booksellers, plaintiffs brought a suit 8 challenging the constitutionality of a newly enacted Virginia statute criminalizing the display for 9 commercial purposes of certain sexually explicit visual and/or written material. 484 U.S. at 387-10 88. The Commonwealth of Virginia claimed plaintiffs lacked standing because they had not yet 11 been threatened with prosecution under the statute, which had not yet taken effect. Id. at 392. The 12 Supreme Court, "not troubled by the pre-enforcement nature of th[e] suit," concluded that 13 "plaintiffs ha[d] alleged an actual and well-founded fear that the law [would] be enforced against 14 them" because the "state ha[d] not suggested that the ... law [would] not be enforced" and 15 because the there was no reason to assume that it would not be. Id. at 393.

There is no distinction between *American Booksellers* and the case at bar, except that
Plaintiffs have clearly alleged that law enforcement officers and high-profile city officials have
explicitly expressed their intentions to enforce the challenged ordinances (Am. Compl. ¶¶ 52-53,
65), providing even more support that Plaintiffs have a well-founded fear the ordinances will be
enforced against them. And especially as to section 4512, having been enacted only four years
ago,¹⁰ it would be wholly unreasonable to believe the San Francisco Board of Supervisors so
recently enacted laws it had no intention to see enforced.

23

24

- 25
- ¹⁰ See Bland v. Fessler, 88 F.3d 729, 737 (standing to bring a pre-enforcement challenge even though the law had never been enforced against *anyone* because the court found no reason to assume it would not be enforced— the Attorney General had not stated he would not enforce the statute and it had only been on the books for six years, so it had "not fallen into desuetude").

Plaintiffs' Opposition to Defendants' Motion to Dismiss

Defendants attempt to limit the application of the relaxed standards of pre-enforcement

standing-particularly the idea that a statute's "chilling effect" alone may confer standing-to the

First Amendment context. (Defs.' Mot. 9 n.3, 12.) Claiming that Plaintiffs must show that they 1 2 are "actually being prosecuted" or have "received a personalized threat of imminent prosecution 3 under the challenged law," Defendants relegate to a mere footnote the important fact that the 4 Supreme Court has relaxed this standard in cases implicating First Amendment and privacy 5 rights and casts aside the notion that Second Amendment challenges deserve similar deference. (Defs' Mot. 9 n.3.) Citing Reno, Defendants instead suggest that, "[u]nder controlling Ninth 6 7 Circuit precedent, [the stricter standard] is stringently applied to other types of constitutional 8 claims" not rooted in the First Amendment. (Defs.' Mot. 9 n.3. (emphasis added).) Defendants 9 then assert that *Reno* "is so similar to the case at bar that it directly controls this lawsuit,"–a gross 10 overstatement of its bearing on this case.

11 First, Defendants fail to mention that *Reno* is not a Second Amendment opinion; *Reno* 12 specifically rejected plaintiff's Second Amendment claim on the merits, not for lack of 13 jurisdiction to bring that claim. Id. at 1124-25 (citing Hickman v. Block, 81 F.3d 98, 101 (9th Cir. 1996), abrogation recognized, Nordvke v. King, 563 F.3d 439, 444 (9th Cir. 2009)). The court 14 15 similarly rejected the plaintiffs' Ninth Amendment challenge, finding ultimately that the Ninth 16 Amendment (which does not exist as an independent source of rights) does not confer an 17 individual, fundamental right to keep and bear arms-again rejecting plaintiffs' claims on the 18 merits rather than standing. Id. at 1125. Thus, the court limited its analysis to the plaintiff's 19 standing to raise a Commerce Clause challenge. Id. at 1125-26, 1125 n.2. And the Commerce 20 Clause empowers Congress to enact legislation affecting certain types of commerce; it neither proclaims nor recognizes the *rights of individual citizens*.¹¹ In stark contrast, the Second 21 22 Amendment protects individual, fundamental rights of the People. See Heller, 554 U.S. at 595. It 23 should thus come as no surprise that a court might exercise its discretion under the Declaratory 24 Relief Act to entertain a Second Amendment challenge to a local ordinance that infringes upon 25 an individual's fundamental right to armed self-defense, while declining to adjudicate a challenge 26

- 27
- ¹¹ "The Congress shall have power . . . To regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among
 28 the several states, and with the Indian tribes." U.S. Const. art. I § 8.

to a federal statute because it allegedly infringes upon the freedom to engage in commerce 1 concerning semiautomatic "assault weapons." 2

3	Moreover, Reno was handed down in a pre-Heller/McDonald world-a world in which		
4	fundamental rights protected by the Second Amendment were not yet recognized. It is thus		
5	hardly surprising the Reno court so easily dismissed the Second Amendment challenge and		
6	refused to apply the relaxed rules of pre-enforcement standing previously reserved for First		
7	Amendment and privacy cases. But the United States Supreme Court's rulings in Heller and		
8	McDonald confirm that Second Amendment rights are indeed fundamental to our system of		
9	ordered liberty and should be afforded protections similar to those of the First Amendment. The		
10	Supreme Court has emphatically rejected attempts to deprive the Second Amendment of the		
11	dignity afforded other fundamental rights and explained the Second Amendment is no different		
12	from the First, <i>id.</i> at 634-35, implying that First Amendment doctrine should inform Second		
13	Amendment analyses. In fact, several post-Heller decisions have applied First Amendment		
14	analysis in the Second Amendment context. ¹² This court should now do the same in considering		
15	Plaintiffs' standing to bring this challenge to vindicate Plaintiffs' fundamental rights.		
16	Applying the principles often used in First Amendment pre-enforcement challenges to		
17	this context, the Court should relax the "rigid standing requirements" and recognize Plaintiffs'		
18	standing because the "mere existence" of the challenged ordinances has and continues to "chill"		
19	conduct protected by the Second Amendment.		
20 21	C. Plaintiffs Have Standing to Challenge Section 613.10(g) As They Assert Their Own Rights, Not the Rights of Third Party Ammunition Retailers Plaintiffs raise two constitutional challenges to section 613.10(g); namely, that it		
22	impermissibly infringes upon Plaintiffs' Second Amendment right to keep and bear arms, and		
23	that the terms of the ordinance are unconstitutionally vague. Because Plaintiffs assert their own		
24			
25	¹² United States v. Marzzarella, 614 F.3d 85, 89 n.4, 96-97 (3d Cir. 2010); United States v.		
26	<i>Chester</i> , 628 F.3d 673, 682 (4th Cir. 2010) ("[g]iven <i>Heller's</i> focus on 'core' Second Amendment conduct and the Court's frequent references to First Amendment doctrine we agree with those who		
27 28	advocate looking to the First Amendment as a guide in developing a standard of review for the Second Amendment"); <i>United States</i> v. <i>Huet</i> , No. 08-0215, 2010 WL 4853847, * 10-11 (W.D. Pa. Nov. 22, 2010).		
20	Plaintiffs' Opposition to Defendants' Motion to Dismiss 20		

rights, rather than the rights of third party ammunition retailers, and because they themselves
 have suffered an injury-in-fact by the enactment and enforcement of section 613.10(g), Plaintiffs
 have standing to raise both claims.

4 In Doe v. Bolton, 410 U.S. 179 (1973), a woman had standing to challenge an abortion 5 statute, claiming the law was unconstitutionally vague because it "deterred hospitals and doctors from performing abortions. She sued 'on her own behalf and on behalf of all others similarly 6 7 situated." "Id. at 186. In that case, she claimed that her own right to procure an abortion was 8 infringed by the existence of a law that restricted the circumstances under which a physician 9 could perform the procedure. She was personally under no threat of prosecution under the 10 arguably vague statute because it operated not against women seeking abortions, but against the 11 healthcare providers who sought to perform them. However, because her access to the 12 constitutionally protected procedure was limited by the challenged law's enforcement against 13 physicians, she indeed suffered an injury-in-fact sufficient to confer standing. Id.

The standing issue plays out similarly in this case. Here, Plaintiffs raise Second 14 15 Amendment and vagueness challenges to section 613.10(g), San Francisco's ordinance 16 prohibiting the transfer or sale of ammunition that "serves no sporting purpose" or is designed to 17 expand or fragment upon impact. As Defendants correctly note, section 613.10(g) "applies to 18 licensed San Francisco firearms dealers, and plaintiffs do not allege that they hold such permits 19 or intend to apply for them." (Defs.' Mot. 5.) From there, however, Defendants miss the point. 20 The harm Plaintiffs suffer is not the prosecution of retailers under section 613.10(g), but the 21 infringement of their own fundamental rights. As such, Plaintiffs are suing on their own behalf, 22 and not, as Defendants suggest, to vindicate the rights of gun dealers and ammunition retailers.

Plaintiffs' Second Amendment claim rests on the argument that prohibiting the sale of
this ammunition ultimately prohibits "law-abiding residents from using the type of ammunition
best suited for self-defense" and violates "Plaintiffs' right to self-defense, which is at the core of
the Second Amendment right to keep and bear arms." (Am. Compl. ¶ 60.) In other words, while
Plaintiffs are under no threat of prosecution under section 613.10(g), the threat of its enforcement
against gun dealers significantly limits Plaintiffs' access to the ammunition best suited for self-Plaintiffs' Opposition to Defendants' Motion to Dismiss

defense in violation of the Second Amendment. The existence and enforcement of the ordinance
 effectively limit not only the ability of ammunition retailers to sell the ammunition, *but the right* of *Plaintiffs to access it. See Andrews v. State*, 50 Tenn. 165, 178, 8 A. Rep. 8, 13 (1871). And
 that is the harm Plaintiffs seek to vindicate.

Examination of the issue in the context of firearms is also revealing. Consider, for
example, a law banning the sale of handguns by retailers. Although residents would be denied the
ability to access handguns for self-defense, as Defendants would have it, Plaintiffs would be
barred from challenging the government's denial of their Second Amendment rights because they
aren't "retailers." And though Defendants might argue that the ability to access certain types of
ammunition is not encompassed by the Second Amendment, that is an issue for the court to
consider on the *merits*, not on a motion to dismiss for lack of standing.

12 Plaintiffs' vagueness challenge similarly hinges on the issue of access. Plaintiffs allege 13 that "the provisions, in particular the undefined phrase, 'serves no sporting purpose,' inevitably 14 leads citizens-both sellers and buyers of ammunition-to steer far wider of the 'unlawful zone' of 15 conduct than if the boundaries of the forbidden areas were clearly marked." (Am. Compl. ¶ 71.) 16 The result is that retailers, unsure of what constitutes ammunition that "serves no sporting 17 purpose," halt transfers of far more types of ammunition out of fear that they may be regulated by 18 the law. As the vagueness of the statute challenged in *Doe* arguably discouraged physicians from 19 performing abortions, section 613.10(g) similarly discourages ammunition retailers from selling 20 ammunition necessary for the full and meaningful exercise of Plaintiffs' Second Amendment 21 rights. Plaintiffs are thus harmed not only by denial of access to ammunition that is *actually* 22 banned by section 613.10(g) (whatever that may be), but by their inability to acquire ammunition 23 that doesn't actually fall within the scope of the ordinance–but which they nonetheless are unable 24 to purchase because 613.10(g)'s vagueness causes retailers to forego the sale of ammunition 25 beyond the intended scope of the law. 26 Much like Plaintiffs' Second Amendment claims, whatever Defendants' stance regarding

27 Plaintiffs' vagueness claim might be, that is an issue appropriate for resolution on the
28 merits. Because Plaintiffs have pled in general terms that they will be harmed by being denied Plaintiffs' Opposition to Defendants' Motion to Dismiss

access to ammunition in excess of what is actually prohibited, thus denying them access to 1 2 constitutionally protected components of a functional firearm, dismissal of Plaintiffs' claims at 3 this stage of the litigation is unwarranted. 4 III. PLAINTIFFS' CLAIMS ARE RIPE BECAUSE PLAINTIFFS HAVE SUFFERED AN INJURY-IN-FACT, NOTHING WILL BRING MORE CLARITY TO THE 5 **ISSUES. AND PLAINTIFFS WILL CONTINUE TO SUFFER GREAT** HARDSHIP ABSENT REVIEW OF THEIR CLAIMS The ripeness doctrine is "drawn both from Article III limitation on judicial power and 6 7 from prudential reasons for refusing to exercise jurisdiction." Nat'l Park Hospitality Ass'n v. 8 Dep't of Interior, 538 U.S. 803 (2003). While Article III ripeness, like Article III standing, is 9 jurisdictional and mandatory, "[p]rudential considerations of ripeness are discretionary" 10 Thomas 220 F.3d at 1142. Under both ripeness tests, this case is ready for judicial review. 11 Having Established Sufficient Injury to Confer Article III Standing, Α. Plaintiffs Meet the Requirement of Constitutional Ripeness 12 "Sorting out where standing ends and ripeness begins is not an easy task." Thomas, 220 13 F.3d at 1138. The Ninth Circuit has noted that "the ripeness inquiry contains both a constitutional 14 and a prudential component . . . and that the constitutional component of ripeness is synonymous 15 with the injury-in-fact prong of the standing inquiry." Cal. Pro-Life Council, 328 F.3d at 1094 16 n.2 (citations omitted). Because Plaintiffs have established sufficient injury to confer standing, 17 their claims are necessarily ripe for review. See Ariz. Right to Life, 320 F.3d at 1007 n.6 (noting 18 that a finding that plaintiff has suffered a harm "dispenses with any ripeness concerns"). 19 В. Plaintiffs Meet the Further Requirement of Prudential Ripeness Because No Further Factual Development Will Make the Issues More Clear and Their 20 **Constitutional Rights Are Undermined Every Second the Court Delays Review of Their Člaims** 21 Often "when a court declares that a case is not prudentially ripe, it means that the case 22 will be better decided later and that the parties will not have constitutional rights undermined by 23 the delay." Simmonds v. INS, 326 F.3d 351, 357 (2d Cir. 2003) (emphasis added). Prudential 24 ripeness thus turns on two considerations: (1) whether an issue is presently fit for judicial 25 decision and (2) whether and to what extent the parties will endure hardship if a decision is 26 withheld. See Abbott Labs. v. Gardner, 387 U.S. 136, 148-49 (1967). Because no additional fact 27 would make this case better fit for review–even absent prosecution, Plaintiffs' injury is immediate and very real-and because Plaintiffs' Second Amendment rights are continuously 28 Plaintiffs' Opposition to Defendants' Motion to Dismiss

undermined by the existence of the challenged ordinances, Plaintiffs' claims are ripe for review. 1 2 1. Plaintiffs' Challenge Is Fit for Judicial Review Because No Further **Factual Context Is Required to Clarify the Issues** 3 The first prong of the ripeness doctrine tests whether the issues are "fit" for judicial 4 consideration. To be so fit, the issues should be sufficiently focused to permit judicial resolution 5 without further factual development. See Clinton v. Acequia, Inc., 94 F.3d 568, 572 (9th Cir. 1992). In contrast, ripeness is less likely when the factual record does not permit a necessary 6 7 assessment of the effect of the challenged law on the plaintiff's conduct, see Socialist Party v. 8 Gilligan, 406 U.S. 583 (972), or where the outcome "hangs on future contingencies that may or may not occur," Stormans, Inc. v. Selecky, 586 F.3d 1109, 1125 (9th Cir. 2009). Contrary to 9 10 Defendants' assertions, this is not such a case. 11 Here, no further factual record is necessary to clarify the impact of the challenged 12 ordinances on Plaintiffs' conduct, as the injury invited upon Plaintiffs by Defendants' 13 enforcement of those laws is already apparent and very real. The harm lies in the fact that 14 Plaintiffs have surrendered their constitutional rights out of reasonable fear of criminal liability 15 and commendable respect for the law. That harm exists even absent an actual or imminent 16 prosecution. And for purposes of defeating a motion to dismiss, Plaintiffs have sufficiently 17 alleged facts that, if accepted as true, establish this injury. As such, prosecution of Plaintiffs 18 under the ordinances would not add anything to the record necessary for the Court to pass upon 19 the constitutionality of the challenged ordinances. 20 2. Plaintiffs Presently Suffer Great Hardship by the Infringement of Their Constitutional Rights and They Will Continue to so Suffer 21 Unless and Until This Court Grants Review of Their Claims 22 In general, the greater the potential hardship from denying review, the greater the chance 23 the case is ripe. Significant hardship is often found in cases in which the plaintiff faces a decision 24 whether to comply with a statute or regulation and surrender their fundamental rights or not to 25 comply and face criminal or civil penalties. In such cases, the plaintiff need not wait to be 26 prosecuted and challenge the law as a defense. See Steffel, 415 U.S. 452; U.S. Civil Service 27 Comm'n v. Nat'l Ass'n of Letter Carriers, 413 U.S. 548 (1973). As with standing, the question in these pre-enforcement review cases generally turns on the degree of certainty that the affected 28 Plaintiffs' Opposition to Defendants' Motion to Dismiss

party intends to engage in the proscribed conduct and the likelihood of prosecution if it does. The
 certainty of enforcement is informed by whether prosecuting authorities have warned of
 enforcement or have disclaimed an intent to enforce the challenged laws. And, as noted above,
 this analysis shifts in favor of petitioners when fundamental rights are denied by arguably
 unconstitutional laws that coerce law-abiding citizens to forego such rights or violate the law.

6 The harm inflicted on Plaintiffs in this case, which has been detailed extensively above, is
7 clear; as is Plaintiffs' intention to engage in constitutionally protected conduct, but for the
8 enforcement of the challenged ordinances. (Am. Compl. ¶¶ 23-25, 37-39.) And enforcement of
9 these laws is highly probable as both law enforcement officers and public officials have indicated
10 their intention to enforce them, and they have not disavowed any intention to continue so doing.
11 (Am. Compl. ¶¶ 52-55, 61-62, 65-67.)

Because Plaintiffs' constitutional rights are infringed every minute the challenged
ordinances are allowed to stand, forcing Plaintiffs to forego protected conduct or risk criminal
prosecution, the harm imposed from denying review is severe, tilting the balance of the
prudential ripeness analysis strongly in Plaintiffs' favor. Viewed together with the fact that little
factual development is required before the Court can properly consider this case, Plaintiffs'
claims are now ripe for review. Accordingly, the Court should exercise its jurisdiction over this
case and refuse to exercise its discretion to dismiss on ripeness grounds at this stage.

CONCLUSION

Based on the reasons set forth above, and in light of the fact that motions to dismiss for
lack of jurisdiction on fact-dependant bases are generally disfavored, Plaintiffs have alleged facts
sufficient to establish both standing and ripeness. Plaintiffs thus respectfully request that
Defendants' motion to dismiss be denied in full. Alternatively, should this Court grant the
motion, Plaintiffs request leave to amend.

25 Date: March 23, 2011

19

26

27

28

MICHEL & ASSOCIATES, PC

/S/ C. D. Michel Attorney for Plaintiffs

1	IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT	
2	FOR THE NORTHERN	DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
3	SAN FRAN	CISCO DIVISION
4	ESPANOLA JACKSON, PAUL COLVIN,) CASE NO.: CV-09-2143-RS	
5	THOMAS BOYER, LARRY BARSETTI, DAVID GOLDEN,))) CEDTIFICATE OF SEDVICE
6	NOEMI MARGARET ROBINSON, NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION OF) CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE
7	AMERICA, INC. SAN FRANCISCO VETERAN POLICE OFFICERS	
8	ASSOCIATION,	
9	Plaintiffs	
10	vs.	
11	CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO, MAYOR GAVIN	
12	NEWSOM, IN HIS OFFICIAL CAPACITY; POLICE CHIEF GEORGE GASCÓN, in his	
13	official capacity, and Does 1-10,	
14	Defendants.	
15	IT IS HEREBY CERTIFIED THAT:	
16	It is flexeb recentriced fifted fifter. I, the undersigned, am a citizen of the United States and am at least eighteen years of age.	
17	My business address is 180 E. Ocean Blvd., Suite 200, Long Beach, California, 90802.	
18	I am not a party to the above-entitled ac	tion. I have caused service of:
19	PLAINTIFFS' OPPOSITION TO	DEFENDANTS' MOTION TO DISMISS
20	on the following party by electronically filing using its ECF System, which electronically no	the foregoing with the Clerk of the District Court of them.
21	Wayne Snodgrass, Deputy City Attorney	
22	Sherri Sokeland Kaiser, Deputy City Attorne	ЕУ
23	City and County of San Francisco Office of the City Attorney	
24	City Hall 1 Drive Carlton B. San Francisco, CA 94102	
25	I declare under penalty of perjury that the Executed on March 23, 2011.	
26	/S/ <u>C. D. Michel</u>	
27	Attorney for Plaintiffs'	
28		Defendents' Mation to Dismiss
	Plaintiffs' Opposition to Defendants' Motion to Dismiss 26	