

United States District Court
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

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
SAN JOSE DIVISION

SIKHS FOR JUSTICE “SFJ”, INC.,
Plaintiff,
v.
FACEBOOK, INC.,
Defendant.

Case No. 15-CV-02442-LHK

**ORDER GRANTING DEFENDANT’S
MOTION TO DISMISS AND DENYING
AS MOOT DEFENDANT’S MOTION
TO STRIKE AND FOR ATTORNEY’S
FEES AND COSTS**

Re: Dkt. No. 13

Plaintiff Sikhs for Justice Inc. alleges that Defendant Facebook, Inc. violated federal and state law by blocking access to Plaintiff’s Facebook page (the “SFJ Page”) in India. ECF No. 1 (“Compl.”). Before the Court is Defendant’s motion to dismiss. ECF No. 13. Defendant also moves to strike Plaintiff’s state law claims and for attorney’s fees and costs pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure § 425.16, California’s “anti-SLAPP statute.” *Id.* Having considered the submissions of the parties, the relevant law, and the record in this case, the Court hereby GRANTS Defendant’s motion to dismiss Plaintiff’s federal law claim with prejudice and Plaintiff’s state law claims without prejudice. The Court DENIES as moot Defendant’s anti-SLAPP motion to strike and for attorney’s fees and costs.

1 **I. BACKGROUND**

2 **A. Factual Background**

3 Plaintiff is a New York non-profit organization dedicated to human rights advocacy.
4 Compl. at 6. Specifically, Plaintiff focuses on the “plight of religious minorities of India and their
5 treatment by successive Indian Governments” and promotes independence for Sikhs in the Indian
6 state of Punjab. *Id.* The complaint alleges that Defendant is a Delaware corporation with a
7 principal place of business in Palo Alto, California. *Id.* Defendant runs a web-based social media
8 service called Facebook. *Id.*

9 As part of Plaintiff’s human rights advocacy, Plaintiff runs the SFJ Page at
10 www.Facebook.com/sikhsforjusticepage. *Id.* at 1. To run the SFJ Page, Plaintiff allegedly “had a
11 contract” with Defendant “for the use of Defendant’s internet-based and physically-office-centered
12 social networking site.” *Id.* at 13. Through the SFJ Page, Plaintiff has organized a number of
13 political and human rights advocacy campaigns, including promoting the right to self-
14 determination for the Sikh people in Punjab and opposing the forced conversions of religious
15 minorities to Hinduism that have allegedly taken place in India since the election of Prime
16 Minister Narendra Modi in May 2014. *Id.* at 2, 11.

17 On or about May 1, 2015, Defendant blocked access to the SFJ Page in India without prior
18 notice or an explanation to Plaintiff. *Id.* at 7-8. According to Plaintiff, Defendant acted “on its
19 own or on the behest of the Government of India,” because of discrimination against Plaintiff and
20 Plaintiff’s members on the grounds of race, religion, ancestry, and national origin. *Id.* at 3, 9-12.
21 On May 15, 2015 and May 29, 2015, Plaintiff requested that Defendant restore access to the SFJ
22 Page in India and explain why Defendant had restricted access. *Id.* at 8. Defendant did not
23 substantively respond to Plaintiff’s requests and did not restore access to the SFJ Page in India.
24 *Id.* As a result of the loss of content in India, Plaintiff allegedly sustained damages.

25 **B. Procedural History**

26 Plaintiff filed the complaint on June 2, 2015. ECF No. 1. The complaint alleges that
27 Defendant violated one federal statute, Title II of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (“Title II”), 42

1 U.S.C. § 2000a. *Id.* ¶¶ 1-13. Plaintiff asserts two causes of action under Title II: a “first cause of
2 action” seeking a permanent injunction, and a “second cause of action” seeking damages. *Id.*
3 However, it appears that these two causes of action are based on the same violation of Title II. *See*
4 *id.* Moreover, injunctive relief is a remedy, not an independent cause of action. *See Free Kick*
5 *Master LLC v. Apple Inc.*, No. 15-CV-03403-PJH, 2015 WL 6123058, at *9 n.1 (N.D. Cal. Oct.
6 19, 2015) (citing *Rosenfeld v. JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A.*, 732 F. Supp. 2d 952, 975 (N.D. Cal.
7 2010)). Thus, the Court addresses the first two causes of action as one claim seeking both
8 injunctive relief and damages. *See Rosenfeld*, 732 F. Supp. 2d at 975 (dismissing cause of action
9 for injunctive relief but noting that the plaintiff’s remaining causes of action may warrant
10 injunctive relief).

11 The complaint also alleges three state law claims: (1) violation of the California Unruh
12 Civil Rights Act (the “Unruh Act”), Cal. Civ. Code §§ 51-51.3; (2) breach of contract; and (3)
13 breach of the implied covenant of good faith and fair dealing. Compl. ¶¶ 14-26. The complaint
14 seeks a permanent injunction requiring Defendant to stop blocking access to the SFJ Page in India,
15 as well as compensatory and punitive damages, costs, attorney’s fees, and the production of any
16 communications between Defendant and the government of India related to the SFJ Page. *Id.* at
17 14-15.

18 On July 24, 2015, Defendant filed a motion to dismiss, a special motion to strike and for
19 attorney’s fees pursuant to California’s anti-SLAPP statute, and a request for judicial notice. ECF
20 Nos. 13 (“Mot”); 13-2.¹ Plaintiff opposed the motion to dismiss, the anti-SLAPP motion to strike
21

22 ¹ The Court DENIES as moot Defendant’s request for judicial notice. ECF No. 13-2. Under the
23 doctrine of incorporation by reference, the Court may consider on a Rule 12(b)(6) motion not only
24 documents attached to the complaint, but also documents whose contents are alleged in the
25 complaint, provided the complaint “necessarily relies” on the documents or contents thereof, the
26 document’s authenticity is uncontested, and the document’s relevance is uncontested. *Coto*
27 *Settlement v. Eisenberg*, 593 F.3d 1031, 1038 (9th Cir. 2010); *see Lee v. City of Los Angeles*, 250
F.3d 668, 688-89 (9th Cir. 2001), *overruled on other grounds by Galbraith v. Cnty. of Santa*
Clara, 307 F.3d 1119, 1125-26 (9th Cir. 2002). The Court may also take notice of facts not subject
to reasonable dispute that are “capable of accurate and ready determination by resort to sources
whose accuracy cannot reasonably be questioned.” Fed. R. Evid. 201(b). Defendant requests
judicial notice of Defendant’s Statement of Rights and Responsibilities (“SRR”) and Defendant’s

1 and for attorney's fees and costs, and the request for judicial notice on August 4, 2015. ECF No.
2 17 ("Opp."). Defendant replied on August 14, 2015. ECF No. 18 ("Reply").

3 **II. LEGAL STANDARD**

4 **A. Rule 12(b)(6) Motion to Dismiss**

5 Rule 8(a)(2) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure requires a complaint to include "a
6 short and plain statement of the claim showing that the pleader is entitled to relief." A complaint
7 that fails to meet this standard may be dismissed pursuant to Rule 12(b)(6). Rule 8(a) requires a
8 plaintiff to plead "enough facts to state a claim to relief that is plausible on its face." *Bell Atl.*
9 *Corp. v. Twombly*, 550 U.S. 544, 570 (2007). "A claim has facial plausibility when the plaintiff
10 pleads factual content that allows the court to draw the reasonable inference that the defendant is
11 liable for the misconduct alleged." *Ashcroft v. Iqbal*, 556 U.S. 662, 678 (2009). "The plausibility
12 standard is not akin to a probability requirement, but it asks for more than a sheer possibility that a
13 defendant has acted unlawfully." *Id.*

14 For purposes of ruling on a Rule 12(b)(6) motion, the Court "accept[s] factual allegations
15 in the complaint as true and construe[s] the pleadings in the light most favorable to the nonmoving
16 party." *Manzarek v. St. Paul Fire & Marine Ins. Co.*, 519 F.3d 1025, 1031 (9th Cir. 2008). The
17 Court, however, need not accept as true allegations contradicted by judicially noticeable facts, *see*
18 *Shwarz v. United States*, 234 F.3d 428, 435 (9th Cir. 2000), and it "may look beyond the plaintiff's
19 complaint to matters of public record" without converting the Rule 12(b)(6) motion into a motion
20 for summary judgment, *Shaw v. Hahn*, 56 F.3d 1128, 1129 n.1 (9th Cir. 1995). Nor must the
21 Court "assume the truth of legal conclusions merely because they are cast in the form of factual
22 allegations." *Fayer v. Vaughn*, 649 F.3d 1061, 1064 (9th Cir. 2011) (per curiam). Mere
23 "conclusory allegations of law and unwarranted inferences are insufficient to defeat a motion to
24

25 Community Standards. ECF No. 13-2. The parties dispute whether these documents are
26 incorporated by reference in the complaint. Because the Court does not rely on the SRR or the
27 Community Standards in ruling on the instant motions, the Court denies as moot Defendant's
28 request for judicial notice.

1 dismiss.” *Adams v. Johnson*, 355 F.3d 1179, 1183 (9th Cir. 2004).

2 **B. Leave to Amend**

3 If the court concludes that the complaint should be dismissed, it must then decide whether
4 to grant leave to amend. Under Rule 15(a) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, leave to
5 amend “shall be freely given when justice so requires,” bearing in mind “the underlying purpose
6 of Rule 15 . . . [is] to facilitate decision on the merits, rather than on the pleadings or
7 technicalities.” *Lopez v. Smith*, 203 F.3d 1122, 1127 (9th Cir. 2000) (en banc) (citation omitted).
8 Nonetheless, a district court may deny leave to amend a complaint due to “undue delay, bad faith
9 or dilatory motive on the part of the movant, repeated failure to cure deficiencies by amendments
10 previously allowed, undue prejudice to the opposing party by virtue of allowance of the
11 amendment, [and] futility of amendment.” *See Leadsinger, Inc. v. BMG Music Publ’g*, 512 F.3d
12 522, 532 (9th Cir. 2008).

13 **III. DISCUSSION**

14 Defendant contends that all of Plaintiff’s claims are barred by the federal Communications
15 Decency Act (“CDA”), 47 U.S.C. § 230, and the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. Mot.
16 at 5-9. Defendant further contends that Plaintiff’s claims fail to state claims for relief under Rule
17 12(b)(6). *Id.* at 10-17. Lastly, Defendant moves to strike Plaintiff’s state law claims and for
18 attorney’s fees and costs under California’s anti-SLAPP statute. *Id.* at 17-20. Because Plaintiff
19 brings the instant case under the Court’s federal question jurisdiction, 28 U.S.C. § 1331, the Court
20 begins by examining whether Plaintiff can state a federal claim for relief. The Court then turns to
21 Defendant’s motion to dismiss Plaintiff’s state law claims. Finally, the Court addresses
22 Defendant’s anti-SLAPP motion to strike and for attorney’s fees and costs.

23 **A. Plaintiff’s Title II Claim**

24 In the instant case, Plaintiff asserts one federal claim: discrimination under Title II.
25 Defendant moves to dismiss this claim on the grounds that (1) the CDA bars Plaintiff’s claim; (2)
26 the First Amendment bars Plaintiff’s claim; (3) Defendant does not offer a “public
27

1 accommodation” as required by Title II; and (4) Title II does not apply extraterritorially, to
 2 discrimination occurring in India. Mot. at 5-12. As the Court finds below that Plaintiff’s Title II
 3 claim is barred by the CDA, the Court need not address Defendant’s remaining arguments.

4 Defendant invokes § 230 of the CDA, which “immunizes providers of interactive computer
 5 services against liability arising from content created by third parties.” *Perkins v. LinkedIn Corp.*,
 6 53 F. Supp. 3d 1222, 1246 (N.D. Cal. 2014) (quoting *Fair Hous. Council of San Fernando Valley*
 7 *v. Roommates.Com, LLC* (“*Roommates*”), 521 F.3d 1157, 1162 (9th Cir. 2008) (en banc)).
 8 Specifically, § 230(c)(1) provides that “[n]o provider or user of an interactive computer service
 9 shall be treated as the publisher or speaker of any information provided by another information
 10 content provider.” 47 U.S.C. § 230(c)(1); *see also Roommates*, 521 F.3d 1157 (holding CDA
 11 protection extends to federal causes of action). Thus, the CDA bars Plaintiff’s Title II claim if: (1)
 12 Defendant is a “provider or user of an interactive computer service;” (2) the information for which
 13 Plaintiff seeks to hold Defendant liable is “information provided by another information content
 14 provider;” and (3) Plaintiff’s claim seeks to hold Defendant liable as the “publisher or speaker” of
 15 that information. *See* 47 U.S.C. § 230(c)(1); *see also Klayman v. Zuckerberg*, 753 F.3d 1354,
 16 1357 (D.C. Cir. 2014).

17 Defendant contends that this case satisfies the three requirements for CDA immunity
 18 because, according to Defendant, (1) Defendant is an “interactive computer service;” (2) Plaintiff
 19 is solely responsible for the content of the SFJ Page; and (3) Plaintiff’s Title II claim seeks to hold
 20 Defendant liable for Defendant’s decision to block the SFJ Page in India, a quintessential
 21 publisher activity.² The Court addresses these three requirements in turn.

22
 23 _____
 24 ² Although the CDA does not “declare[] a general immunity from liability deriving from third-
 25 party content,” *see Barnes v. Yahoo!, Inc.*, 570 F.3d 1096, 1100 (9th Cir. 2009), “courts
 26 consistently have used the term ‘immunity’ to describe the effect of the CDA’s provisions,”
 27 *Goddard v. Google, Inc.*, 640 F. Supp. 2d 1193, 1195 n.1 (N.D. Cal. 2009) (citing, e.g.,
Roommates, 521 F.3d at 1161-75; *Carafano v. Metrosplash.com Inc.*, 339 F.3d 1119, 1122 (9th
 Cir. 2003); *Zeran v. Am. Online, Inc.*, 129 F.3d 327, 330 (4th Cir. 1997)). Moreover, immunity is
 defined as an “exemption from . . . liability,” Black’s Law Dictionary (10th ed. 2014), and “that is
 what § 230(c) provides, albeit not in every case,” *Goddard*, 640 F. Supp. 2d at 1195 n.1. With the
 recognition that cases involving the application of § 230 require a “careful exegesis of the

1 **1. Interactive Computer Service**

2 Plaintiff does not dispute that Defendant is an “interactive computer service.” *See* Opp. at
3 3. The Court also agrees that Defendant “provides or enables computer access by multiple users
4 to a computer service” as required by § 230. *See* 47 U.S.C. § 230(f)(2) (defining interactive
5 computer service); *see also Fraley v. Facebook, Inc.*, 830 F. Supp. 2d 785, 801-02 (N.D. Cal.
6 2011) (finding that Facebook acts as an interactive computer service).

7 **2. Information Provided by Another Information Content Provider**

8 Plaintiff argues that the SFJ Page is not “information provided by another information
9 content provider.” Plaintiff acknowledges that the CDA immunizes a website operator “for the
10 removal of ‘third-party content,’” but argues that there is no “third-party content” in this case
11 because Plaintiff created the SFJ Page. Opp. at 3. Although Plaintiff’s theory is not entirely clear,
12 it appears that Plaintiff denies the existence of “third-party content” because there are only two
13 parties in this litigation, Plaintiff and Defendant. *See id.*

14 However, Plaintiff misunderstands the CDA. By its terms, the CDA precludes publisher
15 liability against an interactive computer service for content created by “another information
16 content provider.” 47 U.S.C. § 230(c)(1). An “information content provider” is defined as “any
17 person or entity that is responsible, in whole or in part, for the creation or development of
18 information provided through the Internet or any other interactive computer service.” *Id.*
19 § 230(f)(3). “The reference to ‘another information content provider’ . . . distinguishes the
20 circumstance in which the interactive computer service itself meets the definition of ‘information
21 content provider’ with respect to the information in question.” *Batzel v. Smith*, 333 F.3d 1018,
22 1031 (9th Cir. 2003); *see also Perkins*, 53 F. Supp. 3d at 1246 (noting that § 230’s “grant of
23 immunity only applies if the interactive computer service provider is not also an ‘information
24 content provider’” (quoting *Roommates*, 521 F.3d at 1162)). In other words, the CDA immunizes
25

26 statutory language,” *Barnes*, 570 F.3d at 1100, the Court will maintain consistent usage and refer
27 to the CDA’s protections as “immunity.” *See Goddard*, 640 F. Supp. 2d at 1195 n.1.

1 an interactive computer service provider that “passively displays content that is created entirely by
 2 third parties,” but not an interactive computer service provider that acts as an information content
 3 provider by creating or developing the content at issue. *Roommates*, 521 F.3d at 1162. Put
 4 another way, “third-party content” is used to refer to content created entirely by individuals or
 5 entities other than the interactive computer service provider. *See id.* By contrast, the number of
 6 parties in a given litigation is irrelevant to CDA immunity.

7 In this case, the complaint asserts that the SFJ Page was provided by Plaintiff, not
 8 Defendant. Compl. at 1, 7. Additionally, the complaint details the various political campaigns
 9 “run and launched by the plaintiff” on the SFJ Page. *Id.* at 2-3. By contrast, the complaint
 10 nowhere alleges that Defendant provided, created, or developed any portion or content of the SFJ
 11 Page. *See generally id.*; *see also Batzel*, 333 F.3d at 1031 (“The pertinent question therefore
 12 becomes whether Smith was the sole content provider of his email, or whether [the defendant] can
 13 also be considered to have ‘creat[ed]’ or ‘develop[ed]’ Smith’s email message forwarded to the
 14 listserv.”). Instead, Plaintiff argues that “the content belongs to SFJ and was put on Defendant’s
 15 online platform.” Opp. at 3. Accordingly, only Plaintiff, not Defendant, acts as an information
 16 content provider in this case. As a result, the SFJ Page, which was created entirely by Plaintiff, is
 17 “information provided by another information content provider” within the meaning of § 230. *See*
 18 *Roommates*, 521 F.3d at 1162.

19 **3. Treatment as a Publisher**

20 Defendant contends that Plaintiff’s Title II claim arises from Defendant’s decision to block
 21 access to—or, in other words, to refuse to publish—the SFJ Page in India, which Defendant
 22 asserts “is clearly publisher conduct” immunized by the CDA. Mot. at 8. Although Plaintiff does
 23 not respond to this argument, the Court will examine Plaintiff’s claim to determine whether it is
 24 appropriate to apply the CDA’s protection from liability. *Cf. Barnes*, 570 F.3d at 1109 (noting
 25 CDA immunity is an affirmative defense).

26 To determine whether a plaintiff’s theory of liability treats a defendant as a publisher,
 27

1 “what matters is not the name of the cause of action.” *Barnes*, 570 F.3d at 1101. Instead, “what
2 matters is whether the cause of action inherently requires the court to treat the defendant as the
3 ‘publisher or speaker’ of content provided by another.” *Id.* Consequently, “courts must ask
4 whether the duty that the plaintiff alleges the defendant violated derives from the defendant’s
5 status or conduct as a ‘publisher or speaker.’ If it does, section 230(c)(1) precludes liability.” *Id.*
6 at 1102.

7 “[P]ublication involves reviewing, editing, and deciding whether to publish or to withdraw
8 from publication third-party content.” *Id.* at 1102 (citing *Roommates*, 521 F.3d at 1170-71).
9 Thus, “a publisher . . . decides whether to publish” material submitted for publication.” *Id.* It is
10 “immaterial whether this decision comes in the form of deciding what to publish in the first place
11 or what to remove among the published material.” *Id.* at 1102 n.8 (citing *Batzel*, 333 F.3d at
12 1032); *see also Roommates*, 521 F.3d at 1163 (“Congress sought to immunize the *removal* of user-
13 generated content, not the creation of content . . .”). In other words, “any activity that can be
14 boiled down to deciding whether to exclude material that third parties seek to post online is
15 perforce immune under section 230.” *Roommates*, 521 F.3d at 1170-71.

16 Here, Plaintiff’s Title II claim alleges that Defendant engaged in “blatant discriminatory
17 conduct by blocking Plaintiff’s content in the entire India.” Compl. at 9-12. Plaintiff additionally
18 avers that Defendant denied Plaintiff “full and equal enjoyment of the goods, services, facilities,
19 privileges, advantages, and accommodations” of Defendant’s social media site by removing the
20 SFJ Page in India based on Plaintiff’s race, religion, ancestry, and national origin. *Id.* at 10, 12;
21 *see also* 42 U.S.C. § 2000a(a) (“All persons shall be entitled to the full and equal enjoyment of the
22 goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages, and accommodations of any place of public
23 accommodation . . . without discrimination or segregation on the ground of race, color, religion, or
24 national origin.”). Defendant argues that this claim is entirely based on Defendant’s blocking of
25 the SFJ Page in India, which is publisher conduct immunized by the CDA.

26 The Court agrees with Defendant. The Court is guided by *Barnes*, in which the Ninth
27

1 Circuit addressed whether Yahoo enjoyed immunity against the plaintiff’s claim that Yahoo was
2 negligent in undertaking to remove offensive and unauthorized content posted about the plaintiff
3 by her ex-boyfriend on one of Yahoo’s public profile pages. *Barnes*, 570 F.3d at 1098-99. The
4 Ninth Circuit found that the CDA barred the plaintiff’s claim because the claim labeled as a
5 “negligent undertaking” an action “that is quintessentially that of a publisher.” *Id.* at 1103. As the
6 Ninth Circuit explained, “one does not merely undertake; one undertakes *to do* something. And
7 what is the undertaking that Barnes alleges Yahoo failed to perform with due care? The removal
8 of the indecent profiles” posted on Yahoo’s website. *Id.* Consequently, the Ninth Circuit found
9 that the “duty that [the plaintiff] claims Yahoo violated derives from Yahoo’s conduct as a
10 publisher” and thus the CDA barred the plaintiff’s claim. *Id.*

11 Similarly, in *Riggs v. MySpace, Inc.*, the Ninth Circuit found the plaintiff’s negligence and
12 gross negligence claims were barred by the CDA because the claims arose out of MySpace’s
13 “decisions to delete [the plaintiff’s] user profiles on its social networking website yet not delete
14 other profiles [the plaintiff] alleged were created by celebrity imposters.” *Riggs v. MySpace, Inc.*,
15 444 Fed. App’x 986, 987 (9th Cir. 2011); *see also Levitt v. Yelp!, Inc.*, Nos. C-10-1321 EMC, C-
16 10-1351 EMC, 2011 WL 5079526, at *6 (N.D. Cal. Oct. 26, 2011) (holding that the CDA
17 immunized Yelp from allegations of extortion based on Yelp’s “removing certain reviews and
18 publishing others or changing their order of appearance”).

19 As in *Barnes*, *Riggs*, and *Levitt*, Plaintiff seeks to hold Defendant liable for Defendant’s
20 decision “whether to publish” third-party content. *See Barnes*, 570 F.3d at 1102. In the instant
21 case, Plaintiff argues that Defendant had a duty under Title II not to discriminate against Plaintiff.
22 Compl. at 9-12; *see also Opp.* at 11 (“[Defendant’s] conduct was motivated solely by unlawful
23 discrimination against the national identity of India and the minority religion of Sikhs in India.”).
24 However, the act that Defendant allegedly conducted in a discriminatory manner is the removal of
25 the SFJ Page in India. *See Barnes*, 570 F.3d at 1103 (examining the conduct underlying the
26 plaintiff’s claim of negligent undertaking). “But removing content is something publishers do,
27

United States District Court
Northern District of California

1 and to impose liability on the basis of such conduct necessarily involves treating the liable party as
2 a publisher.” *See id.*

3 Plaintiff responds that it merely seeks an explanation for why Defendant blocked the SFJ
4 Page in India. However, Plaintiff cites no authority requiring such relief. Rather, the CDA bars
5 all claims that seek to hold an interactive computer service liable as a publisher of third-party
6 content. *See id.*; 47 U.S.C. § 203(c)(1). Indeed, “[i]t is because such conduct is *publishing*
7 *conduct* that we have insisted that section 230 protects from liability ‘any activity that can be
8 boiled down to deciding whether to exclude material that third parties seek to post online.’”
9 *Barnes*, 570 F.3d at 1103 (quoting *Roommates*, 521 F.3d at 1170-71). Further, Plaintiff seeks not
10 just an explanation for Defendant’s action, but damages and an injunction requiring Defendant to
11 restore access to the SFJ Page in India. *See Compl.* at 14-15. Accordingly, the Court finds that
12 the CDA precludes Plaintiff’s Title II claim. *See Barnes*, 570 F.3d at 1102-03.

13 The Court concludes that granting leave to amend would be futile because this claim is
14 barred as a matter of law. *See Bonin v. Calderon*, 59 F.3d 815, 845 (9th Cir. 1995) (“Futility of
15 amendment can, by itself, justify the denial of a motion for leave to amend.”); *see also Lopez*, 203
16 F.3d at 1130 (court may dismiss claim without leave to amend where “pleading could not possibly
17 be cured by the allegation of other facts”). Further, the CDA “must be interpreted to protect
18 websites not merely from ultimate liability, but from having to fight costly and protracted legal
19 battles.” *Roommates*, 521 F.3d at 1175. Accordingly, the Court GRANTS Defendant’s motion to
20 dismiss Plaintiff’s Title II claim with prejudice. *See Bonin*, 59 F.3d at 845.

21 **B. Plaintiff’s State Law Claims**

22 Based on the Title II claim, Plaintiff brings this case under the Court’s federal question
23 jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1331. *See Compl.* at 7; *see also* 28 U.S.C. § 1331 (“The
24 district courts shall have original jurisdiction of all civil actions arising under the Constitution,
25 laws, or treaties of the United States”). Also based on the Title II claim, Plaintiff invokes the
26 Court’s supplemental jurisdiction over Plaintiff’s state law claims pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1367.

27
28

1 See Compl. at 7; 28 U.S.C. § 1367 (“[I]n any civil action of which the district courts have original
2 jurisdiction, the district courts shall have supplemental jurisdiction over all other claims that are so
3 related to claims in the action within such original jurisdiction that they form part of the same case
4 or controversy under Article III of the United States Constitution.”).

5 However, “[w]here a district court has dismissed all claims over which it has original
6 jurisdiction, it may sua sponte decline to exercise supplemental jurisdiction over remaining state
7 law claims” under 28 U.S.C. § 1367(c). *Nardico v. JP Morgan Chase & Co.*, No. C 12-4891 PJH,
8 2013 WL 1856683, at *7 (N.D. Cal. May 2, 2013) (citing 28 U.S.C. § 1367(c)(3); *United Mine
9 Workers of Am. v. Gibbs*, 383 U.S. 715, 726 (1966)). In determining whether to decline
10 supplemental jurisdiction, courts consider whether the exercise of supplemental jurisdiction is the
11 interests of economy, convenience, fairness, and comity. *Carnegie-Mellon Univ. v. Cohill*, 484
12 U.S. 343, 350 n. 7 (1988). Moreover, “in the usual case in which all federal-law claims are
13 eliminated before trial, the balance of factors to be considered under the pendent jurisdiction
14 doctrine . . . will point toward declining to exercise jurisdiction over the remaining state-law
15 claims.” *Id.*; see also *Wren v. Sletten Const. Co.*, 654 F.2d 529, 536 (9th Cir. 1981) (“When the
16 state issues apparently predominate and all federal claims are dismissed before trial, the proper
17 exercise of discretion requires dismissal of the state claim.”).

18 By dismissing Plaintiff’s Title II claim, the Court is dismissing the only claim over which
19 the Court exercises original jurisdiction. The balance of factors in this case points in favor of also
20 dismissing Plaintiff’s remaining state law claims. Specifically, this case has yet to proceed
21 beyond the pleadings, and there has been no discovery conducted to date. Few judicial resources
22 are wasted by dismissing the case at this stage, and dismissal promotes comity by allowing the
23 California courts to interpret state law in the first instance. See *Pasillas v. Deutsche Bank Nat’l
24 Trust Co.*, 12-CV-04123-LHK, 2013 WL 5225982, at *5 (N.D. Cal. Sept. 17, 2013) (discussing
25 balance of factors). Accordingly, the Court declines to exercise supplemental jurisdiction over
26 Plaintiff’s state law claims and GRANTS Defendant’s motion to dismiss Plaintiff’s state law
27

United States District Court
Northern District of California

1 claims without prejudice. *See Miller v. Cal. Dep't of Corrections*, No. 2:10-cv-02850-GEB-
2 DAD, 2011 WL 4433165, at *4 (E.D. Cal. Sept. 21, 2011) (dismissing without prejudice the
3 claims over which the district court declined to exercise supplemental jurisdiction).

4 As a result, the Court need not reach the merits of, and thus DENIES as moot, Defendant's
5 anti-SLAPP motion to strike and for attorney's fees and costs. *See Fotinos v. Sills*, No. C 12-3828
6 MEJ, 2012 WL 5870681, at *5 n.9 (N.D. Cal. Nov. 19, 2012) (denying anti-SLAPP motion as
7 moot upon dismissal of state law claims under 28 U.S.C. § 1367(c)); *Ravet v. Solomon, Ward,*
8 *Seidenwurm & Smith, LLP*, No. 07 CV 0031 JM(CAB), 2007 WL 2088381, at *7 (S.D. Cal. July
9 17, 2007) (same).

10 **IV. CONCLUSION**

11 For the foregoing reasons, the Court GRANTS Defendant's motion to dismiss Plaintiff's
12 Title II claim with prejudice and Plaintiff's state law claims without prejudice. The Court
13 DENIES as moot Defendant's motion to strike and for attorney's fees and costs. The Clerk shall
14 close the case file.

15 **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

16
17 Dated: November 13, 2015

18 
19 _____
LUCY H. KOH
United States District Judge