

FILED IN THE
U.S. DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON

Dec 03, 2018

SEAN F. McAVOY, CLERK

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON

LISA S., O/B/O,
R.S., A MINOR CHILD,

Plaintiff,

v.

COMMISSIONER OF SOCIAL
SECURITY,

Defendant.

No. 4:18-CV-05039-RHW

**ORDER GRANTING PLAINTIFF'S
MOTION FOR SUMMARY
JUDGMENT IN PART AND
REMANDING FOR FURTHER
PROCEEDINGS**

Before the Court are the parties' cross-motions for summary judgment, ECF Nos. 14, 15. Plaintiff brings this action on behalf of her minor child, R.S., seeking judicial review, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 405(g), of the Commissioner's final decision, which denied R.S.'s application for Supplemental Security Income under Title XVI of the Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C §§ 1381-1383F. After reviewing the administrative record and briefs filed by the parties, the Court is now fully informed. For the reasons set forth below, the Court **GRANTS** Plaintiff's Motion

**ORDER GRANTING PLAINTIFF'S MOTION FOR SUMMARY
JUDGMENT IN PART AND REMANDING FOR FURTHER
PROCEEDINGS ~ 1**

1 for Summary Judgment in part and remands for additional proceedings consistent
2 with this order.

3 **I. Jurisdiction**

4 Plaintiff filed an application for Supplemental Security Income on behalf of
5 her minor child R.S., on October 15, 2013, AR 201-10, alleging onset of disability
6 on November 1, 2008. AR 201. The application was initially denied on March 10,
7 2014, AR 116-18, and on reconsideration on July 8, 2014, AR 124-30. A hearing
8 with Administrative Law Judge (“ALJ”) Moira Ausems, was held on February 10,
9 2016. AR 66-95. On November 2, 2016, the ALJ issued a decision finding R.S.
10 ineligible for disability benefits. AR 18-36. The Appeals Council denied Plaintiff’s
11 request for review on January 5, 2018, AR 1-3, making the ALJ’s ruling the “final
12 decision” of the Commissioner. Plaintiff timely filed the present action challenging
13 the denial of benefits, on March 9, 2018. ECF No. 1. Accordingly, R.S.’s claims
14 are properly before this Court pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 405(g).

15 **II. Sequential Evaluation Process**

16 The Social Security Administration has established a three-step sequential
17 evaluation process to determine whether a child (an individual under the age of 18)
18 qualifies for disability benefits. 20 C.F.R. § 416.924(a).

19 Step one inquires whether the claimant is presently engaged in “substantial
20 gainful activity.” 20 C.F.R. § 416.972(a). Substantial gainful activity is defined as

1 significant physical or mental activities done or usually done for profit. 20 C.F.R. §
2 416.972. If the claimant is engaged in substantial activity, he or she is not entitled
3 to disability benefits. 20 C.F.R. § 416.924(b). If not, the ALJ proceeds to step two.

4 Step two asks whether the claimant has a medically determinable
5 impairment that is severe, or combination of impairments that is severe. 20 C.F.R.
6 § 416.924(a). A severe impairment is one that has lasted or is expected to last for at
7 least twelve months, and must be proven by objective medical evidence. 20 C.F.R.
8 §§ 404.1508-09 & 416.908-09. For an individual who has not attained age 18, a
9 medically determinable impairment or combinations of impairments is not severe
10 if it is a slight abnormality or a combination of slight abnormalities that causes no
11 more than minimal functional limitations. 20 C.F.R. § 416.924(c). If the claimant
12 does not have a severe impairment, or combination of impairments, the disability
13 claim is denied, and no further evaluation is required. Otherwise, the evaluation
14 proceeds to the third step.

15 Step three involves a determination of whether the claimant has an
16 impairment or combination of impairments that “meets, medically equals, or
17 functionally equals” one of the listed impairments acknowledged by the
18 Commissioner to be sufficiently severe. 20 C.F.R. § 416.924(a). In making this
19 determination, the ALJ must consider the combined effect of all medically
20 determinable impairments, even those that are not severe. 20 C.F.R. §§ 416.923;

1 416.924a(b)(4); 416.926a(a),(c). If the impairment or combination of impairments
2 meets or equals, or functionally equals one of the listed impairments, and it has
3 lasted or is expected to last for a continuous period of at least 12 months, the
4 claimant is presumed disabled and qualifies for benefits. 20 C.F.R. § 416.924(d). If
5 not, the claimant is not disabled and does not qualify for benefits. *Id.*

6 In determining whether a claimant’s combination of impairments
7 functionally equals the listings requires an assessment of the claimant’s limitations
8 in six broad areas of functioning called domains. 20 C.F.R. § 416.926a(b)(1). The
9 six domains for children are: (1) “Acquiring and Using Information,” (2)
10 “Attending and Completing Tasks,” (3) “Interacting and Relating with Others,” (4)
11 “Moving About and Manipulating Objects,” (5) “Caring for Yourself,” and (6)
12 “Health and Physical Well-being.” 20 C.F.R. § 416.926a(b)(1)(i-vi). In making this
13 assessment, the ALJ must compare how appropriately, effectively, and
14 independently the claimant performs activities compared to the performance of
15 other children of the same age who do not have impairments. 20 C.F.R. §
16 416.926a(b). The claimant’s combination of impairments will be found to
17 functionally equal the listings if the claimant has “marked” limitations in at least
18 two of the domains or if the claimant has “extreme” limitations in any one of the
19 six domains. 20 C.F.R. § 416.926a(d).

1 The claimant will be found to have “marked” limitations when his
2 combination of impairments seriously interferes with the claimant’s ability to
3 independently initiate, sustain, or complete activities. 20 C.F.R. § 416.926a(e)(2).
4 The claimant’s “day-to-day functioning may be seriously limited when [the
5 claimant’s] impairment(s) limit only one activity or when the interactive and
6 cumulative effects of [the claimant’s] impairment(s) limit several activities.” *Id.* A
7 “marked” limitation implies a limitation that is “more than moderate” but “less
8 than extreme.” *Id.*

9 The claimant will be found to have an “extreme” limitation when his
10 combination of impairments very seriously interferes with his ability to
11 independently initiate, sustain, or complete activities. 20 C.F.R. § 416.926a(e)(3).
12 The claimant’s “day-to-day functioning may be very seriously limited when [the
13 claimant’s] impairment(s) limit only one activity or when the interactive and
14 cumulative effects of [the claimant’s] impairment(s) limit several activities.” *Id.*
15 An “extreme” limitation means a limitation that is “more than marked.” An
16 “extreme” limitation is given to the worst limitations. *Id.* “However, ‘extreme
17 limitation’ does not necessarily mean a total lack or loss of ability to function.” *Id.*

18 **III. Standard of Review**

19 A district court's review of a final decision of the Commissioner is governed
20 by 42 U.S.C. § 405(g). The scope of review under § 405(g) is limited, and the

1 Commissioner's decision will be disturbed “only if it is not supported by
2 substantial evidence or is based on legal error.” *Hill v. Astrue*, 698 F.3d 1144,
3 1158-59 (9th Cir. 2012) (citing § 405(g)). Substantial evidence means “more than a
4 mere scintilla but less than a preponderance; it is such relevant evidence as a
5 reasonable mind might accept as adequate to support a conclusion.” *Sandgathe v.*
6 *Chater*, 108 F.3d 978, 980 (9th Cir.1997) (quoting *Andrews v. Shalala*, 53 F.3d
7 1035, 1039 (9th Cir. 1995)) (internal quotation marks omitted). In determining
8 whether the Commissioner’s findings are supported by substantial evidence, “a
9 reviewing court must consider the entire record as a whole and may not affirm
10 simply by isolating a specific quantum of supporting evidence.” *Robbins v. Soc.*
11 *Sec. Admin.*, 466 F.3d 880, 882 (9th Cir. 2006) (quoting *Hammock v. Bowen*, 879
12 F.2d 498, 501 (9th Cir. 1989)).

13 In reviewing a denial of benefits, a district court may not substitute its
14 judgment for that of the ALJ. *Matney v. Sullivan*, 981 F.2d 1016, 1019 (9th Cir.
15 1992). If the evidence in the record “is susceptible to more than one rational
16 interpretation, [the court] must uphold the ALJ's findings if they are supported by
17 inferences reasonably drawn from the record.” *Molina v. Astrue*, 674 F.3d 1104,
18 1111 (9th Cir. 2012); *see also Thomas v. Barnhart*, 278 F.3d 947, 954 (9th Cir.
19 2002) (if the “evidence is susceptible to more than one rational interpretation, one
20 of which supports the ALJ’s decision, the conclusion must be upheld”). Moreover,

1 a district court “may not reverse an ALJ's decision on account of an error that is
2 harmless.” *Molina*, 674 F.3d at 1111. An error is harmless “where it is
3 inconsequential to the [ALJ's] ultimate nondisability determination.” *Id.* at 1115.
4 The burden of showing that an error is harmful generally falls upon the party
5 appealing the ALJ's decision. *Shinseki v. Sanders*, 556 U.S. 396, 409–10 (2009).

6 **IV. Statement of Facts**

7 The facts of the case are set forth in detail in the transcript of proceedings,
8 and accordingly, are only briefly summarized here. R.S. was 13 years old on the
9 date of the application. AR 21, 96, 201. He was considered an adolescent on the
10 date of the application and the date of the ALJ’s decision. AR 21.

11 **V. The ALJ’s Findings**

12 The ALJ determined that R.S. was not disabled under the Social Security
13 Act from October 15, 2013, the date of his application, and denied his application
14 for benefits. AR 19, 35.

15 **At step one**, the ALJ found that R.S. had not engaged in substantial gainful
16 activity since October 15, 2013, the application date (citing 20 C.F.R. §§
17 416.924(b) and 416.971 *et seq.*). AR 21.

18 **At step two**, the ALJ found R.S. had the following severe impairments:
19 attention deficit-hyperactivity disorder, unspecified learning disorder, mood
20

1 disorder, and expressive and receptive communication disorders (citing 20 C.F.R.
2 § 416.924(c)). AR 21.

3 **At step three**, the ALJ found that R.S. did not have an impairment or
4 combination of impairments that meets or medically equals the severity of one of
5 the listed impairments in 20 C.F.R. Part 404, Subpt. P, App. 1 (citing 20 C.F.R. §§
6 416.924, 416.925, and 416.926). AR 22-35

7 **VI. Issues for Review**

8 Plaintiff argues that the Commissioner's decision is not free of legal error
9 and not supported by substantial evidence. Specifically, Plaintiff argues the ALJ
10 erred by: (1) not finding R.S. to have a medically determinable, severe anxiety
11 disorder; (2) improperly evaluating the medical and lay opinion evidence; (3)
12 improperly determining that R.S.'s combination of impairments does not
13 functionally equal the listings; and (4) improperly assessing the Domains and
14 finding R.S. not disabled under the Child Disability Guidelines.

15 **VII. Discussion**

16 **A. The ALJ did not err by not finding R.S. to have a medically** 17 **determinable, severe anxiety disorder.**

18 Plaintiff contends that the ALJ erred by not finding R.S. to have a medically
19 determinable, severe anxiety disorder. ECF No. 14 at 3-5.

1 At step two in the five-step sequential evaluation for Social Security cases,
2 the ALJ must determine whether a claimant has a medically severe impairment or
3 combination of impairments. An impairment is found to be not severe “when
4 medical evidence establishes only a slight abnormality or a combination of slight
5 abnormalities which would have no more than a minimal effect on an individual’s
6 ability to work.” *Yuckert v. Bowen*, 841 F.2d 303, 306 (9th Cir. 1988) (quoting
7 SSR 85-28). Step two is generally “a de minimis screening device [used] to
8 dispose of groundless claims.” *Webb v. Barnhart*, 433 F. 683, 687 (9th Cir. 2005)
9 (quoting *Smolen v. Chater*, 80 F.3d 1273, 1290 (9th Cir.1996)).

10 Under step two, an impairment is not severe if it does not significantly limit
11 a claimant’s ability to perform basic work activities. *Edlund v. Massanari*, 253
12 F.3d 1152, 1159 (9th Cir. 2001) (citing 20 C.F.R. § 404.1521(a)(b)). A diagnosis
13 from an “acceptable medical source,” such as a licensed physician or certified
14 psychologist, is necessary to establish a medically determinable impairment. 20
15 C.F.R. § 404.1513(d). Importantly however, a diagnosis itself does not equate to a
16 finding of severity. *Edlund*, 253 F.3d at 1159-60 (plaintiff has the burden of
17 proving this impairment or their symptoms affect her ability to perform basic work
18 activities); *see also Mcleod v. Astrue*, 640 F.3d 881, 885 (9th Cir. 2011). An
19 alleged impairment must result from anatomical, physiological, or psychological
20 abnormalities that can be shown by medically acceptable clinical and laboratory

1 diagnostic techniques and must be established by medical evidence not only by a
2 plaintiff's statements regarding his symptoms. 20 C.F.R. §§ 404.1508, 416.908.

3 Plaintiff contends that the ALJ should have found anxiety disorder to be a
4 medically determinable, severe impairment. However, Plaintiff points to no
5 diagnosis from an acceptable medical source of anxiety disorder. Medical expert,
6 Dr. Rozenfeld, testified at the hearing that there is no diagnosis of anxiety disorder
7 from an acceptable medical source in the record and Plaintiff's mother also denied
8 that he had ever been diagnosed with anxiety. AR 79-80, 561. As noted above, a
9 diagnosis from an "acceptable medical source," such as a licensed physician or
10 certified psychologist, is necessary to establish a medically determinable
11 impairment. 20 C.F.R. § 404.1513(d); 20 C.F.R. § 416.913(a). "[U]nder no
12 circumstances may the existence of an impairment be established on the basis of
13 symptoms alone," rather, a claimant must provide a diagnosis from an acceptable
14 medical source to establish the existence of a medically determinable impairment.
15 *Ukolov v. Barnhart*, 420 F.3d 1002, 1005-06 (9th Cir. 2005). As there is no
16 diagnosis of anxiety disorder from an acceptable medical source, the ALJ did not
17 err by not including anxiety disorder as a medically determinable, severe
18 impairment as step two.

19 Furthermore, because R.S. was found to have at least one severe impairment,
20 this case was not resolved at step two. Thus, any error in the ALJ's finding at step

1 two is harmless, if all impairments, severe and non-severe, were considered in the
2 determination Plaintiff’s residual functional capacity. *See Lewis v. Astrue*, 498
3 F.3d 909, 910 (9th Cir. 2007) (holding that a failure to consider an impairment in
4 step two is harmless error where the ALJ includes the limitations of that
5 impairment in the determination of the residual functional capacity). Here, the ALJ
6 specifically noted that she considered all symptoms and impairments in assessing
7 the residual functional capacity. AR 20, 25. Accordingly, the Court finds the ALJ
8 did not err in the step two analysis, and if any error did occur it was harmless.

9 **B. The ALJ erred in evaluating some of the opinion evidence.**

10 **a. Legal Standard.**

11 The Ninth Circuit has distinguished between three classes of medical
12 providers in defining the weight to be given to their opinions: (1) treating
13 providers, those who actually treat the claimant; (2) examining providers, those
14 who examine but do not treat the claimant; and (3) non-examining providers, those
15 who neither treat nor examine the claimant. *Lester v. Chater*, 81 F.3d 821, 830 (9th
16 Cir. 1996) (as amended).

17 A treating provider’s opinion is given the most weight, followed by an
18 examining provider, and finally a non-examining provider. *Id.* at 830-31. In the
19 absence of a contrary opinion, a treating or examining provider’s opinion may not
20 be rejected unless “clear and convincing” reasons are provided. *Id.* at 830. If a

1 treating or examining provider’s opinion is contradicted, it may only be discounted
2 for “specific and legitimate reasons that are supported by substantial evidence in
3 the record.” *Id.* at 830-31.

4 The ALJ may meet the specific and legitimate standard by “setting out a
5 detailed and thorough summary of the facts and conflicting clinical evidence,
6 stating his interpretation thereof, and making findings.” *Magallanes v. Bowen*, 881
7 F.2d 747, 751 (9th Cir. 1989) (internal citation omitted). When rejecting a treating
8 provider’s opinion on a psychological impairment, the ALJ must offer more than
9 his or his own conclusions and explain why he or she, as opposed to the provider,
10 is correct. *Embrey v. Bowen*, 849 F.2d 418, 421-22 (9th Cir. 1988).

11 Additionally, “other sources” for opinions include nurse practitioners,
12 physicians' assistants, therapists, teachers, social workers, spouses, and other non-
13 medical sources. 20 C.F.R. §§ 404.1513(d), 416.913(d). An ALJ is required to
14 “consider observations by non-medical sources as to how an impairment affects a
15 claimant's ability to work.” *Sprague v. Bowen*, 812 F.2d 1226, 1232 (9th Cir.1987).
16 Non-medical testimony can never establish a diagnosis or disability absent
17 corroborating competent medical evidence. *Nguyen v. Chater*, 100 F.3d 1462, 1467
18 (9th Cir.1996). An ALJ is obligated to give reasons germane to “other source”
19 testimony before discounting it. *Dodrill v. Shalala*, 12 F.3d 915 (9th Cir.1993).

1 **b. Helen Tatunay, M.D.; Jay M. Toews, Ed.D.; and January Pietila.**

2 Dr. Tatunay is a treating doctor who completed a “Domain Statement for
3 Child” in January 2016. AR 426-28. Dr. Tatunay opined that R.S. has marked
4 limitations in attending and completing tasks as well as possibly in interacting and
5 relating with others; R.S. has less than marked limitations in caring for himself;
6 and R.S. has no limitations in acquiring and using information, moving about and
7 manipulating objects, and health and physical well-being. *Id.*

8 The ALJ did not completely reject Dr. Tatunay’s opinion, and afforded the
9 opinion some weight. AR 28. The ALJ discounted Dr. Tatunay’s opinion that R.S.
10 has marked limitations in attending and completing tasks and that R.S. has less
11 than marked limitations in caring for himself because these opinions are
12 inconsistent with the overall medical record and the limitations associated with
13 these opinions are well controlled with medication. AR 28-29. These reasons are
14 supported by the record. *See* AR 26, 80, 366, 371, 375, 379, 383, 408, 411, 419,
15 468, 539-44, 561, 564. An ALJ may reject a doctor’s opinion when it is
16 inconsistent with other evidence in the record. *See Morgan v. Comm’r of the Soc.*
17 *Sec. Admin.*, 169 F.3d 595, 600 (9th Cir. 1999). Additionally, Impairments that can
18 be controlled with treatment are not disabling. *See Warre ex rel. E.T. IV v. Comm’r*
19 *of Soc. Sec. Admin.*, 439 F.3d 1001, 1006 (9th Cir. 2006).

1 The ALJ did not err with regard to the weight assigned to the majority of the
2 opinion as the ALJ's determination is supported by the record. However, the ALJ
3 failed to address one significant portion of the opinion. While difficult to read, Dr.
4 Tatumay opined that R.S. has either marked or less than marked limitations in
5 interacting and relating with others. AR 427. This portion of the opinion was not
6 addressed by the ALJ. *See* AR 28-29. As noted above, an ALJ may reject an
7 opinion that is contradicted by another doctor's opinion only "by providing specific
8 and legitimate reasons that are supported by substantial evidence." *Garrison v.*
9 *Colvin*, 759 F.3d 995, 1012 (9th Cir. 2014). Here, the ALJ gave no reasons for not
10 mentioning essentially one sixth of Dr. Tatumay's opinion. That was error. *See id.*
11 ("Where an ALJ does not explicitly reject a medical opinion ... he errs.").

12 Dr. Toews tested and examined R.S. in February 2014 and provided a
13 "Psychological Evaluation Report" addressing the testing and examination
14 performed. AR 404-10. Dr. Toews provided diagnostic impressions, descriptions
15 of the tests and R.S.'s results and actions throughout testing, and opinion
16 statements regarding R.S.'s functional abilities. *Id.*

17 The ALJ assigned significant weight to the testing and stated that it showed
18 R.S. has less than marked limitations in acquiring and using information and
19 attending and completing tasks. AR 28. The ALJ assigned some weight to the
20 diagnostic impressions because they were inconsistent with other medical evidence

1 and not substantiated by the record. *Id.* However, the ALJ did not address or
2 evaluate Dr. Toews' statements regarding R.S.'s abilities and limitations. *See Id.*
3 The evaluation report includes Dr. Toews' opinion statements such as: R.S.'s
4 verbal intellectual abilities are in the borderline range; low scores in vocabulary
5 and information suggest he would have difficulties with concept formation and
6 ability to verbalize concepts essential to understanding and expressing thoughts
7 and ideas; R.S.'s score profile and poor vocabulary affecting comprehension and
8 expression concepts would have a severe negative impact on ability to learn and
9 perform academically; R.S.'s results indicate a school adjustment profile in the
10 normal range; psychopathological and inattentiveness and hyperactivity are in the
11 normal range; and R.S. is likely to have some level of appreciation of the
12 difficulties he has learning. AR 407-408. Again, the ALJ gave no reasons for not
13 mentioning Dr. Toews' opinion statements. This was again error because the ALJ
14 must give "specific and legitimate reasons" for rejecting a doctor's opinions.
15 *Garrison*, 759 F.3d at 1012 ("Where an ALJ does not explicitly reject a medical
16 opinion ... he errs.").

17 January Pietila was R.S.'s 4th grade science and math teacher who
18 completed a "Vanderbilt" assessment in October 2011. AR 310-11. Ms. Pietila
19 opined that R.S. "very often" had difficulties in sustaining attention, following
20 instructions, organizing tasks and activities, and performing tasks requiring

1 sustained mental effort; he “often” lost things necessary for tasks or activities, was
2 easily distracted, and forgetful; he was “problematic” in assignment completion; he
3 had “somewhat of a problem” in following directions; and he occasionally or never
4 displayed the remaining characteristics in the assessment. *Id.* The opinion of Ms.
5 Pietila falls under the category of “other sources,” and the ALJ must give germane
6 reasons for discounting it. *Dodrill v. Shalala*, 12 F.3d 915 (9th Cir.1993).

7 The ALJ gave no reasons for not mentioning the lay opinion of Ms. Pietila.
8 Defendant contends that the ALJ did not err by not addressing this opinion because
9 it is prior to the alleged onset date and prior to R.S.’s ADHD medications. ECF
10 No. 15 at 17-19. While Defendant is correct that Ms. Pietila’s opinion was created
11 prior to R.S.’s ADHD medication regimen, Defendant is incorrect with respect to
12 the argument that this opinion, written in October 2011, is prior to the alleged
13 onset date, of November 1, 2008. Because the ALJ must give germane reasons for
14 discounting a lay witness opinion, the ALJ erred by failing to mention Ms. Pietila’s
15 opinion. *See Dodrill*, 12 F.3d at 915.

16 All three of the above ignored opinions potentially affect the remaining
17 contested evidence of record, including the testimony of R.S.’s mother, the
18 applicable Listings, and the limiting effects of R.S.’s impairments. Thus, it is error
19 for these opinions to not receive consideration. “[A] reviewing court cannot
20 consider [] error harmless unless it can confidently conclude that no reasonable

1 ALJ, when fully crediting the testimony, could have reached a different disability
2 determination.” *Stout v. Comm’r, Soc. Sec. Admin.*, 454 F.3d 1050, 1056 (9th Cir.
3 2006). However, the extent of the effect of these opinions is not immediately clear
4 and further administrative proceedings are necessary.

5 Because the unaddressed opinions can negatively impact the ALJ’s decision
6 and have not been properly considered, remand to the ALJ for further
7 consideration is in order to allow the Commissioner to evaluate the opinions and to
8 reconsider its decision in light of this opinion evidence.

9 **C. Remedy.**

10 The Court has the discretion to remand the case for additional evidence and
11 findings or to award benefits. *Smolen*, 80 F.3d at 1292. The Court may award
12 benefits if the record is fully developed and further administrative proceedings
13 would serve no useful purpose. *Id.* Remand is appropriate when additional
14 administrative proceedings could remedy defects. *Rodriguez v. Bowen*, 876 F.2d
15 759, 763 (9th Cir. 1989). In this case, the Court finds that further proceedings are
16 necessary for a proper determination to be made.

17 As the Court finds that remand for additional findings is appropriate, the
18 Court need not address Plaintiff’s additional allegations of error. *Taylor v. Comm’r*
19 *of Soc. Sec. Admin.*, 659 F.3d 1228, 1235 (9th Cir. 2011) (“Remand for further
20 proceedings is appropriate where there are outstanding issues that must be resolved

1 before a disability determination can be made, and it is not clear from the record
2 that the ALJ would be required to find the claimant disabled if all the evidence
3 were properly evaluated.”). Further, Plaintiff’s request for an immediate award of
4 benefits is denied as further proceedings are necessary to develop the record.

5 On remand, the ALJ will issue a new decision that is consistent with the
6 applicable law set forth in this Order. The ALJ will, formally consider the
7 unaddressed opinions and the limitations set forth within. The ALJ shall then
8 evaluate the applicable Listings and the Domains in the new decision issued.

9 **VIII. Conclusion**

10 Having reviewed the record and the ALJ’s findings, the Court finds the
11 ALJ’s decision is not supported by substantial evidence and contains legal error.

12 Accordingly, **IT IS ORDERED:**

13 1. Plaintiff’s Motion for Summary Judgment, **ECF No. 14**, is **GRANTED**
14 **in part.**

15 2. Defendant’s Motion for Summary Judgment, **ECF No. 15**, is **DENIED.**

16 3. The District Court Executive is directed to enter judgment in favor of
17 Plaintiff and against Defendant.

18 ///

19 ///

20 ///

1 4. This matter is **REMANDED** to the Commissioner for further proceedings
2 consistent with this Order.

3 **IT IS SO ORDERED.** The District Court Executive is directed to enter this Order,
4 forward copies to counsel and **close the file**.

5 **DATED** this 3rd day of December 2018.

6 *s/Robert H. Whaley*
7 **ROBERT H. WHALEY**
8 Senior United States District Judge
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20