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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

COBBIE CHAPMAN,)	Case No. CV 18-8056 AB(JC)
Plaintiff,)	MEMORANDUM OPINION AND
v.)	ORDER DISMISSING ACTION
COMMISSIONER OF SOCIAL)	
SECURITY,)	
Defendant.)	

On July 16, 2018, plaintiff Cobbie Chapman, who is proceeding *pro se*, filed a Complaint against the Commissioner of Social Security in Los Angeles County Superior Court Case No. BC713738 (“State Action”). On September 17, 2018, defendant the Commissioner of Social Security filed a Notice of Removal, removing the State Action to this Federal Court.

On September 20, 2018, the assigned Magistrate Judge issued a Case Management Order which directed plaintiff to file a motion for summary judgment or remand within 30 days of service of defendant’s Answer. On November 21, 2018, defendant filed and served plaintiff by mail with defendant’s Answer. Accordingly, plaintiff’s motion for summary judgment or remand was due on December 24, 2018.

1 As plaintiff did not file a motion for summary judgment or remand by the
2 foregoing deadline or a request for an extension of time to do so, the Magistrate
3 Judge issued an Order to Show Cause Re Dismissal for Lack of Prosecution
4 (“OSC”) on January 17, 2019. The OSC ordered plaintiff to show cause in writing
5 by no later than January 31, 2019, why this action should not be dismissed for lack
6 of prosecution and/or based upon plaintiff’s failure to comply with the Case
7 Management Order. The OSC advised plaintiff that if plaintiff wished to proceed
8 with this action, plaintiff must also file by no later than January 31, 2019, a motion
9 for summary judgment or remand or a request for an extension of time to do so
10 which is supported by good cause. The OSC also expressly cautioned plaintiff that
11 failure to comply with the OSC and to file the above-referenced documents by
12 January 31, 2019, would result in the dismissal of this action based on plaintiff’s
13 failure to comply with the court’s orders and/or failure to prosecute this action.

14 To date, plaintiff has failed to respond to the OSC and has failed to file a
15 motion for summary judgment or remand or a request for an extension of time to do
16 so.

17 It is well-established that a district court has authority to dismiss a plaintiff’s
18 action because of the plaintiff’s failure to prosecute or to comply with court orders.
19 See Fed. R. Civ. P. 41(b); Link v. Wabash R.R., 370 U.S. 626, 629-30 (1962);
20 Ferdik v. Bonzelet, 963 F.2d 1258, 1260 (9th Cir.), cert. denied, 506 U.S. 915
21 (1992). In determining whether to dismiss an action for failure to prosecute or
22 failure to comply with court orders, a district court must consider several factors:
23 (1) the public’s interest in expeditious resolution of litigation; (2) the court’s need
24 to manage its docket; (3) the risk of prejudice to the defendant; (4) the public policy
25 favoring disposition of cases on their merits; and (5) the availability of less drastic
26 alternatives. See In re Eisen, 31 F.3d 1447, 1451 (9th Cir. 1994) (failure to
27 prosecute); Ferdik, 963 F.2d at 1260-61 (failure to comply with court orders).

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1 This Court finds that the first two factors – the public’s interest in
2 expeditiously resolving this litigation and the Court’s interest in managing the
3 docket, weigh in favor of dismissal since plaintiff has not responded to the OSC,
4 and has not filed either a motion for summary judgment or remand or a request for
5 an extension of time to do so. The Court cannot hold this case in abeyance
6 indefinitely awaiting plaintiff’s response to the Court’s directives. The third factor,
7 risk of prejudice to defendant, also weighs in favor of dismissal since a presumption
8 of injury arises from the occurrence of unreasonable delay in prosecuting an action.
9 Anderson v. Air West, Inc., 542 F.2d 522, 524 (9th Cir. 1976). The fourth factor,
10 the public policy favoring disposition of cases on their merits, is greatly outweighed
11 by the factors in favor of dismissal discussed herein. Finally, as the court has
12 already cautioned plaintiff of the consequences of failing to prosecute this action
13 and afforded plaintiff the opportunity to do so, and as plaintiff has not responded,
14 no sanction lesser than dismissal is feasible.

15 Accordingly, it is ORDERED that this action be dismissed based upon
16 plaintiff’s failure to comply with court orders and failure to prosecute this action,
17 and that judgment be entered accordingly.

18 IT IS SO ORDERED.

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20 DATED: February 13, 2019



23 HONORABLE ANDRE BIROTTE JR.
24 UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE
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