$1 \parallel$ 2 3 4 5 6 7 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT 8 CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA 9 10 11 Case No. ED CV 17-0123 R (JCG) STEVEN WINDUST, 12 Petitioner, ORDER ACCEPTING REPORT AND 13 RECOMMENDATION OF UNITED v. STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE 14 PAT VASQUEZ, Warden, 15 Respondent. 16 17 Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 636, the Court has reviewed the Petition for Writ of 18 Habeas Corpus ("Petition"), the Magistrate Judge's Report and Recommendation 19 ("R&R"), Petitioner's objections to the Report and Recommendation ("Objections"), 20 and the remaining record, and has made a de novo determination. 21 Petitioner's Objections generally reiterate the same arguments made in the 22 Petition, and lack merit for the reasons set forth in the R&R. There are two issues, 23 however, that warrant brief discussion here. 24 25 // 26 27 28

1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |

regarding his case. (Objections at 5-6.)

//

 $_{28}$

In his Objections, Petitioner argues that the limitations period stated in the R&R, (R&R at 3), is "clearly not correct," but fails to explain why. (Objections at 4.) In fact, Petitioner does not claim that he qualifies for a later accrual date, under 28 U.S.C. §§ 2244(d)(1)(B)-(D), and does not allege any facts that would allow for any such accrual. (*See generally* Objections.)

(1) Petitioner could not show, until recently, "his inability to pay [the] [restitution] fine [that his plea agreement required]"; (2) his state habeas proceedings were "severely tainted"; and (3) Petitioner had "not even [] the slightest bit of legal knowledge"

Petitioner also argues that he is entitled to equitable tolling because:

First, equitable tolling is granted in "rare cases" when Petitioner can show that he pursued his rights diligently and an "extraordinary circumstance prevented timely filing," not when Petitioner shows that he cannot endure the sentence imposed. *See Yeh v.* Martel, 751 F.3d 1075, 1077 (9th Cir. 2014).

Second, Petitioner's conclusory assertions regarding "tainted" state habeas proceedings "have no evidentiary support and are manifestly insufficient to warrant equitable tolling." *Oglesby v. Soto*, 2015 WL 4399488, at *1 (C.D. Cal. July 17, 2015).

Third, "a petitioner's *pro se* status and lack of legal knowledge or training are insufficient to warrant the granting of equitable tolling." *George v. McEwen*, 2013 WL 5676202, at *1 (C.D. Cal. Oct. 17, 2013).

As such, Petitioner is not entitled to equitable tolling, and the Petition remains untimely.

Accordingly, IT IS ORDERED THAT:

- 1. The Report and Recommendation is approved and accepted;
- 2. Judgment be entered dismissing this action with prejudice; and
- 3. The Clerk serve copies of this Order on the parties.

Additionally, for the reasons stated in the Report and Recommendation, the Court finds that Petitioner has not made a substantial showing of the denial of a constitutional right. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 2253; Fed. R. App. P. 22(b); *Slack v. McDaniel*, 529 U.S. 473, 484 (2000). Thus, the Court declines to issue a certificate of appealability.¹

DATED: March 6, 2017

HON. MANUEL L. REAL UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

Despite Petitioner's objections to this declination, (Objections at 9), it is well-established that a certificate of appealability is properly denied where a petition is untimely and the petitioner does not qualify for an actual innocence exception. *See Kennedy v. Cates*, 2010 WL 966572 (C.D. Cal. Mar. 11, 2010).