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IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

ROBERT WALKER,

Plaintiff,

1:08 CV 1581 LJO WMW PC

vs.

FINDING S AND RECOMMENDATION

JAMES HARTLEY, et al.,

Defendants.

Plaintiff is a state prisoner proceeding pro se and in forma pauperis in a civil rights actin pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983.

On December 3, 2008, Plaintiff was ordered to complete and return to the court a form regarding request for reassignment. Plaintiff has failed to return the form.

Local Rule 11-110 provides that “failure of counsel or of a party to comply with these Local Rules or with any order of the Court may be grounds for the imposition by the Court of any and all sanctions . . . within the inherent power of the Court.” District courts have the inherent power to control their dockets and “in the exercise of that power, they may impose sanctions including, where appropriate . . . dismissal of a case.” Thompson v. Housing Auth., 782 F.2d 829, 831 (9th Cir. 1986). A court may dismiss an action, with prejudice, based on a party’s failure to prosecute an action, failure to obey a court order, or failure to comply with local rules.

1 See, e.g. Ghazali v. Moran, 46 F.3d 52, 53-54 (9th Cir. 1995)(dismissal for noncompliance with
2 local rule); Ferdik v. Bonzelet, 963 F.2d 1258, 1260-61 (9th Cir. 1992) (dismissal for failure to
3 comply with an order requiring amendment of complaint); Carey v. King, 856 F.2d 1439, 1440-
4 41 (9th Cir. 1988)(dismissal for failure to comply with local rule requiring pro se plaintiffs to
5 keep court apprised of address); Malone v. U.S. Postal Service, 833 F.2d 128, 130 (9th Cir.
6 1987)(dismissal for failure to comply with court order); Henderson v. Duncan, 779 F.2d 1421,
7 1424 (9th Cir. 1986)(dismissal for failure to lack of prosecution and failure to comply with local
8 rules).

9 In determining whether to dismiss an action for lack of prosecution, failure to obey a
10 court order, or failure to comply with local rules, the court must consider several factors: (1) the
11 public's interest in expeditious resolution of litigation; (2) the court's need to manage its docket;
12 (3) the risk of prejudice to the defendants; (4) the public policy favoring disposition of cases on
13 their merits; and (5) the availability of less drastic alternatives. Thompson, 782 F.2d at 831;
14 Henderson, 779 F.2d at 1423-24; Malone, 833 F.2d at 130; Ferdik, 963 F.2d at 1260-61; Ghazali,
15 46 F.3d at 53.

16 In the instant case, the court finds that the public's interest in expeditiously resolving this
17 litigation and the court's interest in managing the docket weigh in favor of dismissal. The third
18 factor, risk of prejudice to defendants, also weighs in favor of dismissal, since a presumption of
19 injury arises from the occurrence of unreasonable delay in prosecuting an action. Anderson v.
20 Air West, 542 F.2d 522, 524 (9th Cir. 1976). The fourth factor -- public policy favoring
21 disposition of cases on their merits -- is greatly outweighed by the factors in favor of dismissal
22 discussed herein. Finally, a court's warning to a party that his failure to obey the court's order
23 will result in dismissal satisfies the "consideration of alternatives" requirement. Ferdik v.
24 Bonzelet, 963 F.2d at 1262; Malone, 833 at 132-33; Henderson, 779 F.2d at 1424.

25 Accordingly, the court HEREBY RECOMMENDS that this action be dismissed for
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1 plaintiff's failure to obey a court order.

2 These findings and recommendations are submitted to the United States District Judge
3 assigned to the case, pursuant to the provisions of Title 28 U.S.C. § 636 (b) (1). Within thirty
4 days after being served with these findings and recommendations, any party may file written
5 objections with the court and serve a copy on all parties. Such a document should be captioned
6 "Objections to Magistrate Judge's Findings and Recommendations." Any reply to the objections
7 shall be served and filed within ten days after service of the objections. The parties are advised
8 that failure to file objections within the specified time may waive the right to appeal the District
9 Court's order. Martinez v. Y1st, 951 F.2d 1153 (9th Cir. 1991).

10
11 IT IS SO ORDERED.

12 **Dated:** April 8, 2009

/s/ William M. Wunderlich
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE