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

EDWARD HEWITT,

Plaintiff,

v.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA, et al.,

Defendants.

1:09-cv-00661-OWW-DLB (PC)

FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATION TO
DISMISS CASE FOR FAILURE TO OBEY A
COURT ORDER AND FAILURE TO STATE
A CLAIM

OBJECTIONS, IF ANY, DUE IN **20 DAYS**

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On November 12, 2009, the court issued an order dismissing the complaint with leave to amend, within thirty (30) days. The thirty (30)-day period has now expired, and plaintiff has not filed an amended complaint or otherwise responded to the court's order.

Local Rule 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

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

10 In determining whether to dismiss an action for lack of prosecution, failure to obey a
11 court order, or failure to comply with local rules, the court must consider several factors: (1) the
12 public's interest in expeditious resolution of litigation; (2) the court's need to manage its docket;
13 (3) the risk of prejudice to the defendants; (4) the public policy favoring disposition of cases on
14 their merits; and (5) the availability of less drastic alternatives. Thompson, 782 F.2d at 831;
15 Henderson, 779 F.2d at 1423-24; Malone, 833 F.2d at 130; Ferdik, 963 F.2d at 1260-61; Ghazali,
16 46 F.3d at 53.

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

1 action, with prejudice, for failure to obey a court order and failure to state a claim.” Thus,
2 plaintiff had adequate warning that dismissal would result from his noncompliance with the
3 court’s order.

4 Accordingly, the court HEREBY RECOMMENDS that this action be dismissed based on
5 plaintiff’s failure to obey the court’s order of November 12, 2009 and failure to state a claim.

6 These findings and recommendations are submitted to the United States District Judge
7 assigned to the case, pursuant to the provisions of Title 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1). Within **twenty**
8 **days** after being served with these findings and recommendations, plaintiff may file written
9 objections with the court. Such a document should be captioned "Objections to Magistrate
10 Judge's Findings and Recommendations." The parties are advised that failure to file objections
11 within the specified time may waive the right to appeal the District Court's order. Martinez v.
12 Ylst, 951 F.2d 1153 (9th Cir. 1991).

13 IT IS SO ORDERED.

14 **Dated: December 29, 2009**

/s/ Dennis L. Beck
15 UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE
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