

1
2
3 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**

4 EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

5 CURTIS L. MARTIN,

CASE NO. 1:09-CV-00755-DLB PC

6 Plaintiff,

ORDER DISMISSING ACTION FOR
7 FAILURE TO OBEY A COURT ORDER
AND FAILURE TO STATE A CLAIM

8 v.

9 PLEASANT VALLEY STATE PRISON,
et al.,

(DOC. 30)

10 Defendants.

DISMISSAL COUNTS AS STRIKE
11 PURSUANT TO 28 U.S.C. § 1915(G)
/12 Plaintiff Curtis L. Martin (“Plaintiff”) is a California state prisoner proceeding pro se and
13 in forma pauperis in this civil rights action pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983. On July 14, 2010, the
14 Court issued an order granting Plaintiff an extension of time to respond to the Court’s Order to
15 Show Cause. (Doc. 30.) Plaintiff has failed to comply or otherwise respond to this order.16 Local Rule 110 provides that “failure of counsel or of a party to comply with these Local
17 Rules or with any order of the Court may be grounds for the imposition by the Court of any and
18 all sanctions . . . within the inherent power of the Court.” District courts have the inherent power
19 to control their dockets and “in the exercise of that power, they may impose sanctions including,
20 where appropriate . . . dismissal of a case.” *Thompson v. Housing Auth.*, 782 F.2d 829, 831 (9th
21 Cir. 1986). A court may dismiss an action, with prejudice, based on a party’s failure to prosecute
22 an action, failure to obey a court order, or failure to comply with local rules. *See, e.g., Ghazali v.*
23 *Moran*, 46 F.3d 52, 53-54 (9th Cir. 1995) (dismissal for noncompliance with local rule); *Ferdik*
24 *v. Bonzelet*, 963 F.2d 1258, 1260-61 (9th Cir. 1992) (dismissal for failure to comply with an
25 order requiring amendment of complaint); *Carey v. King*, 856 F.2d 1439, 1440-41 (9th Cir.
26 1988) (dismissal for failure to comply with local rule requiring pro se plaintiffs to keep court
27 apprised of address); *Malone v. U.S. Postal Service*, 833 F.2d 128, 130 (9th Cir. 1987) (dismissal
28 for failure to comply with court order); *Henderson v. Duncan*, 779 F.2d 1421, 1424 (9th Cir.

1 1986) (dismissal for failure to lack of prosecution and failure to comply with local rules). In
2 determining whether to dismiss an action for lack of prosecution, failure to obey a court order, or
3 failure to comply with local rules, the Court must consider several factors: (1) the public's
4 interest in expeditious resolution of litigation; (2) the Court's need to manage its docket; (3) the
5 risk of prejudice to the defendants; (4) the public policy favoring disposition of cases on their
6 merits; and (5) the availability of less drastic alternatives. *Thompson*, 782 F.2d at 831;
7 *Henderson*, 779 F.2d at 1423-24; *Malone*, 833 F.2d at 130; *Ferdik*, 963 F.2d at 1260-61;
8 *Ghazali*, 46 F.3d at 53.

9 In the instant case, the Court finds that the public's interest in expeditiously resolving this
10 litigation and the Court's interest in managing the docket weigh in favor of dismissal. Plaintiff
11 was provided numerous opportunities to obey the Court's order and file an amended complaint,
12 but failed to comply. The third factor, risk of prejudice to defendants, also weighs in favor of
13 dismissal, since a presumption of injury arises from the occurrence of unreasonable delay in
14 prosecuting an action. *Anderson v. Air West*, 542 F.2d 522, 524 (9th Cir. 1976). The fourth
15 factor -- public policy favoring disposition of cases on their merits -- is greatly outweighed by the
16 factors in favor of dismissal discussed herein. Finally, a court's warning to a party that his failure
17 to obey the court's order will result in dismissal satisfies the "consideration of alternatives"
18 requirement. *Ferdik*, 963 F.2d at 1262; *Malone*, 833 F.2d at 132-33; *Henderson*, 779 F.2d at
19 1424. Plaintiff was warned that "failure to respond will result in dismissal of this action for
20 failure to obey a court order and failure to state a claim." This constitutes sufficient
21 consideration of alternatives.

22 Accordingly, the Court HEREBY ORDERS that this action is DISMISSED based on
23 Plaintiff's failure to obey the Court's order of July 14, 2010, and for failure to state a claim. This
24 dismissal counts as a strike pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1915(g).

25 IT IS SO ORDERED.

26 Dated: August 30, 2010

27 /s/ Dennis L. Beck
28 UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE