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

MARIO MELENDEZ,

1:11-cv-01570-SKO (HC)

Petitioner,

ORDER TRANSFERRING CASE TO
THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF
CALIFORNIA

vs.

TERRI L. GONZALEZ,

Respondent.

_____ /

Petitioner, a state prisoner proceeding pro se, has filed a habeas corpus action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2254, in which he challenges a decision reached by the Board of Prison Terms regarding his suitability for parole. Petitioner has not paid the \$5.00 filing fee or submitted an application to proceed in forma pauperis for this action.

The federal venue statute requires that a civil action, other than one based on diversity jurisdiction, be brought only in “(1) a judicial district where any defendant resides, if all defendants reside in the same state, (2) a judicial district in which a substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to the claim occurred, or a substantial part of the property that is the subject of the action is situated, or (3) a judicial district in which any defendant may be found, if there is no district in which the action may otherwise be brought.” 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b).

In a habeas matter, venue is proper in either the district of conviction or the district of confinement. 28 U.S.C. § 2241(d). Where a petitioner attacks the execution of his sentence, the

1 proper forum in which to review such a claim is the district of confinement. See Dunn v. Henman,
2 875 F.2d 244, 249 (9th Cir. 1989) (stating, in a 28 U.S.C. § 2241 action, that "[t]he proper forum to
3 challenge the execution of a sentence is the district where the prisoner is confined.").

4 In this case, petitioner was sentenced in San Joaquin County Superior Court, which is located
5 within the Eastern District of California. He is currently incarcerated at California Men's Colony, in
6 San Luis Obispo County, which lies within the Central District of California. Because the instant
7 petition is premised on events relating to Petitioner's parole proceedings, the court construes it as a
8 challenge to the execution of petitioner's sentence, as opposed to an attack on the conviction itself.
9 Thus, this matter should be addressed in the forum where petitioner is confined. Therefore, the
10 petition should have been filed in the United States District Court for the Central District of
11 California. In the interest of justice, a federal court may transfer a case filed in the wrong district to
12 the correct district. See 28 U.S.C. § 1406(a); Starnes v. McGuire, 512 F.2d 918, 932 (D.C. Cir.
13 1974).

14 Accordingly, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that this matter is transferred to the United States
15 District Court for the Central District of California.

16 IT IS SO ORDERED.

17 **Dated: September 21, 2011**

/s/ Sheila K. Oberto
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

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