

1 On May 9, 2017, the court issued an order for Plaintiff to respond in writing within ten
2 days, either (1) indicating that he intends to litigate this case, or (2) filing a Notice of Voluntary
3 Dismissal of this case. (ECF No. 97.) More than six weeks have passed, and Plaintiff has not
4 submitted any response to the court's order.¹

5 In determining whether to dismiss this action for failure to comply with the directives
6 set forth in its order, "the Court must weigh the following factors: (1) the public's interest in
7 expeditious resolution of litigation; (2) the court's need to manage its docket; (3) the risk of
8 prejudice to defendants/respondents; (4) the availability of less drastic alternatives; and (5) the
9 public policy favoring disposition of cases on their merits." Pagtalunan v. Galaza, 291 F.3d
10 639, 642 (9th Cir. 2002) (citing Ferdik v. Bonzelet, 963 F.2d 1258, 1260-61 (9th Cir. 1992)).

11 "The public's interest in expeditious resolution of litigation always favors dismissal,"
12 id. (quoting Yourish v. California Amplifier, 191 F.3d 983, 990 (9th Cir. 1999)), and here, the
13 action has been pending since June 12, 2012. Plaintiff's failure to litigate this case may reflect
14 Plaintiff's disinterest in prosecuting this case. In such an instance, the court cannot continue to
15 expend its scarce resources assisting a litigant who will not respond to court orders. Thus, both
16 the first and second factors weigh in favor of dismissal.

17 Turning to the risk of prejudice, "pendency of a lawsuit is not sufficiently prejudicial in
18 and of itself to warrant dismissal." Id. (citing Yourish at 991). However, "delay inherently
19 increases the risk that witnesses' memories will fade and evidence will become stale," id., and
20 it is Plaintiff's failure to respond to the court's order that is causing delay. Therefore, the third
21 factor weighs in favor of dismissal.

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24 ¹ On May 9, 2017, the court served Plaintiff with the order at his address of record with the court, 18801
25 Wyandotte St., Reseda, CA 91335. (ECF No. 39.) The United States Postal Service returned the order to the court
26 on May 15, 2017, as undeliverable. (Court Record.) A notation on the envelope indicated that the forwarding
27 time for plaintiff's mail had expired, and his new address was 5619 Lankershim Blvd., N. Hollywood, CA 91601-
28 1723. Id. On May 16, 2017, and again on June 9, 2017, the court re-served Plaintiff with the order at the N.
Hollywood address given on the returned mail. (Court Record.) On May 30, 2017, and June 20, 2017, the United
States Postal Service returned the orders to the court as undeliverable, with notations "RTS-Unable to Forward"
and "Return to Sender, Not Deliverable as Addressed." Id. Plaintiff has not notified the court of any recent
change in his address. Absent such notice, service at a party's prior address is fully effective. Local Rule 182(f).

1 As for the availability of lesser sanctions, at this stage in the proceedings there is little
2 available to the court which would constitute a satisfactory lesser sanction while protecting the
3 court from further unnecessary expenditure of its scarce resources. Given that Plaintiff is a
4 former prisoner proceeding pro se and in forma pauperis with this action, the court finds
5 monetary sanctions of little use, and given the early stage of these proceedings, the preclusion
6 of evidence or witnesses is not available. However, inasmuch as the dismissal being
7 considered in this case is without prejudice, the court is stopping short of issuing the harshest
8 possible sanction of dismissal with prejudice.

9 Finally, because public policy favors disposition on the merits, this factor will always
10 weigh against dismissal. Id. at 643.

11 Accordingly, the court **HEREBY RECOMMENDS** that this action be dismissed based
12 on Plaintiff's failure to obey the court's order of May 9, 2017. These findings and
13 recommendations are submitted to the United States District Judge assigned to the case,
14 pursuant to the provisions of Title 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1). Within fourteen (14) days after the
15 date of service of these findings and recommendations, any party may file written objections
16 with the court. Such a document should be captioned "Objections to Magistrate Judge's
17 Findings and Recommendations." Any reply to the objections shall be served and filed within
18 seven days after the date the objections are filed. The parties are advised that failure to file
19 objections within the specified time may result in the waiver of rights on appeal. Wilkerson v.
20 Wheeler, 772 F.3d 834, 838-39 (9th Cir. 2014) (citing Baxter v. Sullivan, 923 F.2d 1391, 1394
21 (9th Cir. 1991)).

22
23 IT IS SO ORDERED.

24 Dated: June 28, 2017

/s/ Gary S. Austin
25 UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE