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

11 MATTHEW JAMES DURY,) 1:13-cv-00116-LJO-GSA-PC
12 Plaintiff,) FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO
13 vs.) DISMISS CASE FOR FAILURE TO OBEY A
14 PAUL COPENHAVER, et al.,) COURT ORDER
15 Defendants.) (Doc. 8.)
) OBJECTIONS, IF ANY, DUE IN THIRTY
) DAYS

17 On February 11, 2013, in response to plaintiff's motion to amend the complaint, the court issued
18 an order for plaintiff to file an amended complaint within thirty days. (Doc. 8.) The thirty (30) day
19 period has now expired, and plaintiff has not filed an amended complaint or otherwise responded to the
20 court's order.

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

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1 ““The public’s interest in expeditious resolution of litigation always favors dismissal,”” id.
2 (quoting Yourish v. California Amplifier, 191 F.3d 983, 990 (9th Cir. 1999)), and here, the action has
3 been pending since January 25, 2013. Plaintiff’s failure to respond to the Court’s order may reflect
4 Plaintiff’s disinterest in prosecuting this case. In such an instance, the Court cannot continue to expend
5 its scarce resources assisting a litigant who will not act on his own request to amend the complaint to
6 remove defendants who “have no culpability in this action.” (M to amend, Doc. 5 at 1 ¶1.) Thus, both
7 the first and second factors weigh in favor of dismissal.

8 Turning to the risk of prejudice, “pendency of a lawsuit is not sufficiently prejudicial in and of
9 itself to warrant dismissal.” Id. (citing Yourish at 991). However, “delay inherently increases the risk
10 that witnesses’ memories will fade and evidence will become stale,” id., and it is Plaintiff’s failure to set
11 forth clear claims in the first instance and to respond to the Court’s order in the second instance that is
12 causing delay. Therefore, the third factor weighs in favor of dismissal.

13 As for the availability of lesser sanctions, at this stage in the proceedings there is little available
14 to the Court which would constitute a satisfactory lesser sanction while protecting the Court from further
15 unnecessary expenditure of its scarce resources. Plaintiff is proceeding in forma pauperis in this action,
16 making monetary sanctions of little use, and given the early stage of these proceedings, the preclusion
17 of evidence or witnesses is not available. However, inasmuch as the dismissal being considered in this
18 case is without prejudice, the Court is stopping short of issuing the harshest possible sanction of
19 dismissal with prejudice.

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

22 Accordingly, the court HEREBY RECOMMENDS that this action be dismissed based on
23 plaintiff’s failure to obey the court’s order of February 11, 2013.

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

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4 IT IS SO ORDERED.

5 Dated: March 22, 2013

6 /s/ Gary S. Austin
7 UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

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