## 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT 8 EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA 9 10 11 TIM JOHN GAINES. Case No.: 1:13-cv-01876 - AWI - JLT 12 FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS Plaintiff, DISMISSING THE ACTION FOR PLAINTIFF'S 13 v. FAILURE TO PROSECUTE AND FAILURE TO **OBEY THE COURT'S ORDERS** 14 CITY OF BAKERSFIELD. 15 Defendant. 16 Tim John Gaines ("Plaintiff") is proceeding pro se and with a civil rights action pursuant to 42 17 U.S.C. § 1983, which he initiated by filing a complaint on November 19, 2013. (Doc. 1). Because 18 19 Plaintiff has failed to prosecute this action and failed to comply with the Court's orders, the Court 20 recommends the action be **DISMISSED**. 21 **Relevant Procedural History** 22 Plaintiff initiated this action, seeking to proceed in forma pauperis. (Doc. 2.) Accordingly, the 23 Court screened Plaintiff's complaint pursuant to 28 U.S.C. 1915(e)(2). (Doc. 6.) The Court determined 24 Plaintiff failed to state a cognizable claim, and dismissed the complaint with leave to amend on December 17, 2013. (Id. at 6.) In addition, the Court advised Plaintiff that "the action may be 25 dismissed for failure to comply with th[e] Order." (Id. at 6, emphasis in original) (citing Ferdik v. 26

Bonzelet, 963 F.2d 1258, 1260-61 (9th Cir. 1992)). However, Plaintiff failed to file an amended

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complaint.

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The Court issued an order to show cause on January 23, 2014, granting Plaintiff another opportunity to file an amended complaint in compliance with the Court's prior order. (Doc. 7.) Again, Plaintiff was cautioned that his failure to file an amended complaint may result in the dismissal of the action for failure to prosecute and failure to comply with the Court's order. (*Id.* at 2.) Therefore, Plaintiff was directed file an amended complaint within fourteen days of the date of service, or no later than February 6, 2014. (*Id.*) To date, Plaintiff has failed to comply with or otherwise respond to the Court's order to show cause.

## **II.** Failure to Prosecute and Obey the Court's Orders

The Local Rules, corresponding with Fed. R. Civ. P. 11, provide: "Failure of counsel or of a party to comply 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." LR 110. "District courts have inherent power to control their dockets," and in exercising that power, a court may impose sanctions including dismissal of an action. *Thompson v. Housing Authority of Los Angeles*, 782 F.2d 829, 831 (9th Cir. 1986). A court may dismiss an action based upon a party's failure to obey a court order, failure to prosecute an action, or failure to comply with local rules. *See, e.g. Ferdik*, 963 F.2d at 1260-61 (dismissal for failure to comply with an order requiring amendment of complaint); *Malone v. U.S. Postal Service*, 833 F.2d 128, 130 (9th Cir. 1987) (dismissal for failure to comply with a court order).

## III. Discussion and Analysis

To determine whether to dismiss an action for failure to prosecute, failure to obey a court order, or failure to comply with the Local Rules, the Court must consider several factors, including: "(1) the public's interest in expeditious resolution of litigation; (2) the court's need to manage its docket; (3) the risk of prejudice to the defendants; (4) the public policy favoring disposition of cases on their merits; and (5) the availability of less drastic sanctions." *Henderson*, 779 F.2d at 1423-24; *see also Ferdik*, 963 F.2d at 1260-61; *Thomspon*, 782 F.2d at 831.

In the case at hand, the public's interest in expeditiously resolving this litigation and the Court's interest in managing the docket weigh in favor of dismissal. The risk of prejudice to the defendant also weighs in favor of dismissal, since a presumption of injury arises from the occurrence of unreasonable delay in prosecution of an action. *See Anderson v. Air West*, 542 F.2d 522, 524 (9th

Cir. 1976). Notably, the Court determined Plaintiff had not stated a cognizable claim against the defendants in the action.

In the Order to Show Cause, the Court warned that it "may dismiss an action with prejudice, based upon a party's failure to prosecute an action or failure to obey a court order . . ." (Doc. 7 at 2). The Court's warnings to Plaintiff that his failure to file an amended complaint would result in dismissal satisfy the requirement that the Court consider less drastic measures. *Ferdik*, 963 F.2d at 1262; *Henderson*, 779 F.2d at 1424. Thus, Plaintiff had adequate warning that dismissal would result from noncompliance with the Court's orders, and his failure to prosecute the action. Given these facts, the policy favoring disposition of cases on their merits is outweighed by the factors in favor of dismissal.

## IV. Findings and Recommendations

Plaintiffs failed to prosecute this action by filing an amended complaint. Further, Plaintiff failed to comply with the Court's Orders dated December 17, 2013 and January 23, 2014. (Docs. 6, 7).

Accordingly, IT IS HEREBY RECOMMENDED: This action be DISMISSED WITH PREJUDICE.

These Findings and Recommendations are submitted to the United States District Judge assigned to the case, pursuant to the provisions of 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1)(B) and Rule 304 of the Local Rules of Practice for the United States District Court, Eastern District of California. Within 14 days after being served with these Findings and Recommendations, Plaintiffs may file written objections with the Court. Such a document should be captioned "Objections to Magistrate Judge's Findings and Recommendations." Plaintiff is advised that failure to file objections within the specified time may waive the right to appeal the District Court's order. *Martinez v. Ylst*, 951 F.2d 1153 (9th Cir. 1991).

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated: **February 13, 2014** 

/s/ Jennifer L. Thurston
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE