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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

WILLIAM M. BRYSON, JR.,

Plaintiff,

v.

SUSAN B. GERSON, et al.,

Defendants.

CASE NO. 1:13-cv-1979-LJO-MJS (PC)

**ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE WHY ACTION  
SHOULD NOT BE DISMISSED WITH  
PREJUDICE FOR FAILURE TO OBEY A  
COURT ORDER AND FAILURE TO  
PROSECUTE**

**(ECF No. 14)**

**FOURTEEN (14) DAY DEADLINE**

Plaintiff is a federal prisoner proceeding pro se and in forma pauperis in this action under the Freedom of Information Act (“FOIA”), 5 U.S.C. § 552. (ECF Nos. 4 & 9.) On December 16, 2014, Plaintiff was ordered to submit, within thirty days, documents for service of the first amended complaint on Defendant Executive Office for United States Attorneys. (ECF No. 14.) The thirty-day deadline passed without Plaintiff either submitting his service documents or seeking an extension of time to do so.

Local Rule 110 provides that “failure of counsel or of a party to comply with these Rules or with any order of the Court may be grounds for imposition by the Court of any and all sanctions . . . within the inherent power of the Court.” District courts have the inherent power to control their dockets and “in the exercise of that power, they may

1 impose sanctions including, where appropriate . . . dismissal of a case.” Thompson v.  
2 Housing Auth., 782 F.2d 829, 831 (9th Cir. 1986). A court may dismiss an action, with  
3 prejudice, based on a party’s failure to prosecute, failure to obey a court order, or failure  
4 to comply with local rules. See, e.g., Ghazali v. Moran, 46 F.3d 52, 53-54 (9th Cir. 1995)  
5 (dismissal for noncompliance with local rule); Ferdik v. Bonzelet, 963 F.2d 1258, 1260-  
6 61 (9th Cir. 1992) (dismissal for failure to comply with an order requiring amendment of a  
7 complaint); Carey v. King, 856 F.2d 1439, 1440-41 (9th Cir. 1988) (dismissal for failure  
8 to comply with local rule requiring pro se plaintiffs to keep court apprised of address);  
9 Malone v. U.S. Postal Service, 833 F.2d 128, 130 (9th Cir. 1987) (dismissal for failure to  
10 comply with a court order); Henderson v. Duncan, 779 F.2d 1421, 1424 (9th Cir. 1986)  
11 (dismissal for lack of prosecution and failure to comply with local rules).

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

19 In the instant case, the public’s interest in expeditiously resolving this litigation  
20 and the Court’s interest in managing its docket weigh in favor of dismissal. The third  
21 factor, risk of prejudice to Defendants, also weighs in favor of dismissal, since a  
22 presumption of injury arises from the occurrence of unreasonable delay in prosecuting  
23 this action. Anderson v. Air West, 542 F.2d 522, 524 (9th Cir. 1976). The fourth factor --  
24 public policy favoring disposition of cases on their merits -- is greatly outweighed by the  
25 factors in favor of dismissal discussed herein. Finally, as for the availability of lesser  
26 sanctions, at this stage in the proceedings there is little available which would constitute  
27 a satisfactory lesser sanction while preserving scarce Court resources. Plaintiff has not  
28 paid the filing fee for this action and is likely unable to pay, making monetary sanctions

1 of little use.

2 Accordingly, it is HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

3 1. Within fourteen (14) days of service of this Order, Plaintiff shall either show  
4 cause as to why this action should not be dismissed with prejudice for  
5 failure to comply with the Court's order (ECF No. 14) and failure to  
6 prosecute, or submit his service documents, and

7 2. If Plaintiff fails to show cause or submit service documents, the  
8 undersigned will recommend that this action be dismissed, with prejudice  
9 for failure to obey a court order and failure to prosecute.

10 IT IS SO ORDERED.  
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12 Dated: January 28, 2015

*/s/ Michael J. Seng*  
13 UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE  
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