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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

BENNY G. JOHNSTON, JR.,
Plaintiff,
v.
COOLEY, et al.,
Defendants.

CASE NO. 1:14-cv-00979-MJS (PC)
**ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE WHY ACTION
SHOULD NOT BE DISMISSED WITH
PREJUDICE FOR FAILURE TO STATE A
CLAIM, FAILURE TO OBEY A COURT
ORDER, AND FAILURE TO PROSECUTE
(ECF No. 16)
FOURTEEN (14) DAY DEADLINE**

Plaintiff is a state prisoner proceeding pro se and in forma pauperis in this civil rights action brought pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983.

On October 31, 2014, the Court dismissed Plaintiff's first amended complaint for failure to state a claim but gave leave to amend. (ECF No. 12.) Plaintiff sought and received two extensions of time, to and including June 4, 2015, in which to file his second amended complaint. (ECF Nos. 14 & 16.) The June 4, 2015 deadline passed without Plaintiff either filing an amended pleading 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

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

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

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

1 paid the filing fee for this action and is likely unable to pay, making monetary sanctions
2 of little use.

3 Accordingly, it is HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

4 1. Within fourteen (14) days of service of this Order, Plaintiff shall either file
5 an amended complaint or show cause as to why this action should not be
6 dismissed with prejudice for failure to state a claim, failure to prosecute,
7 and failure to comply with the Court's order (ECF No. 16); and

8 2. If Plaintiff fails to show cause or file an amended complaint, the action will
9 be dismissed, with prejudice, subject to the "three strikes" provision set
10 forth in 28 U.S.C. § 1915(g).

11 IT IS SO ORDERED.

12 Dated: June 16, 2015

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

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