

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

RICKY HICKS,
Plaintiff,
v.
AUDREY KING, et al.,
Defendant

CASE NO. 1:14-cv-01765-LJO-MJS (PC)

**FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATION TO
DISMISS ACTION WITHOUT PREJUDICE
FOR FAILURE TO OBEY A COURT
ORDER AND FAILURE TO PROSECUTE**

**FOURTEEN (14) DAY OBJECTION
DEADLINE**

Plaintiff is a civil detainee proceeding pro se and in forma pauperis in this civil rights action brought pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983. On March 10, 2015, Plaintiff's complaint was dismissed for failure to state a claim, and he was ordered to file a petition for a writ of habeas corpus or a notice of voluntary dismissal within thirty days. (ECF No. 12.) The thirty-day deadline passed without Plaintiff filing either a habeas petition or notice of voluntary dismissal, 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 impose sanctions including, where appropriate, default or dismissal.” Thompson v. Housing Auth., 782 F.2d 829, 831 (9th Cir. 1986). A court may dismiss an action based

1 on a party's failure to prosecute, failure to obey a court order, or failure to comply with
2 local rules. See, e.g., Ghazali v. Moran, 46 F.3d 52, 53-54 (9th Cir. 1995) (dismissal for
3 noncompliance with local rule); Ferdik v. Bonzelet, 963 F.2d 1258, 1260-61 (9th Cir.
4 1992) (dismissal for failure to comply with an order requiring amendment of a complaint);
5 Carey v. King, 856 F.2d 1439, 1440-41 (9th Cir. 1988) (dismissal for failure to comply
6 with local rule requiring pro se plaintiffs to keep court apprised of address); Malone v.
7 U.S. Postal Service, 833 F.2d 128, 130-31 (9th Cir. 1987) (dismissal for failure to comply
8 with a court order); Henderson v. Duncan, 779 F.2d 1421, 1424-25 (9th Cir. 1986)
9 (dismissal for lack of prosecution and failure to comply with local rules).

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

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

27 Based on the foregoing, it is HEREBY RECOMMENDED that the action be
28 dismissed, without prejudice, for failure to obey a court order and failure to prosecute.

1 These Findings and Recommendations are submitted to the United States District
2 Judge assigned to the case, pursuant to the provisions of 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1). Within
3 fourteen (14) days after being served with these Findings and Recommendations, any
4 party may file written objections with the Court and serve a copy on all parties. Such a
5 document should be captioned “Objections to Magistrate Judge’s Findings and
6 Recommendations.” Any reply to the objections shall be served and filed within fourteen
7 (14) days after service of the objections. The parties are advised that failure to file
8 objections within the specified time may result in the waiver of rights on appeal.
9 Wilkerson v. Wheeler, 772 F.3d 834, 839 (9th Cir. 2014) (citing Baxter v. Sullivan, 923
10 F.2d 1391, 1394 (9th Cir. 1991)).

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12 IT IS SO ORDERED.

13 Dated: April 14, 2015

14 /s/ *Michael J. Leng*
15 UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

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