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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

EFRAIN BARAJAS MERAZ,
Petitioner,
v.
CHRISTIE MYER,
Respondent.

Case No. 1:16-cv-01472 JLT (HC)
ORDER DIRECTING CLERK OF COURT
TO ASSIGN DISTRICT JUDGE
FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATION

On October 3, 2016, Petitioner filed a petition for writ of habeas corpus in this Court. The Court subsequently issued new case documents and an order directing Petitioner to notify the Court whether he consents or declines to the jurisdiction of the Magistrate Judge. On October 18, 2016, the documents were returned by the United States Postal Service as undeliverable. Because Petitioner has failed to keep the Court apprised of his address and the Court has no way of communicating with Petitioner, the Court will recommend the petition be dismissed.

DISCUSSION

Local Rule 110 provides that a “[f]ailure 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 authorized by statute or Rule or 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

1 may 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 an action, failure to obey a court order, or
4 failure 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 61 (9th
6 Cir. 1992) (dismissal for failure to comply with an order requiring amendment of complaint);
7 Carey v. King, 856 F.2d 1439, 1440 41 (9th Cir. 1988) (dismissal for failure to comply with local
8 rule requiring pro se plaintiffs to keep court apprised of address); Malone v. U.S. Postal Service,
9 833 F.2d 128, 130 (9th Cir. 1987) (dismissal for failure to comply with court order); Henderson
10 v. Duncan, 779 F.2d 1421, 1424 (9th Cir. 1986) (dismissal for lack of prosecution and failure to
11 comply with local rules). In determining whether to dismiss an action for lack of prosecution,
12 failure to obey a court order, or failure to comply with local rules, the court must consider
13 several factors: (1) the public’s interest in expeditious resolution of litigation; (2) the court’s
14 need to manage its docket; (3) the risk of prejudice to the defendants; (4) the public policy
15 favoring disposition of cases on their merits; and (5) the availability of less drastic alternatives.
16 Ghazali, 46 F.3d at 53; Ferdik, 963 F.2d at 1260 61; Malone, 833 F.2d at 130; Thompson, 782
17 F.2d at 831; Henderson, 779 F.2d at 1423 24.

18 In the instant case, the Court finds that the public’s interest in expeditiously resolving this
19 litigation and the Court’s interest in managing the docket weigh in favor of dismissal because
20 this case has been pending in this Court since October 3, 2016, with no further communication
21 from Petitioner. The third factor, risk of prejudice to defendants, also weighs in favor of
22 dismissal because a presumption of injury arises from any unreasonable delay in prosecuting an
23 action. Anderson v. Air West, 542 F.2d 522, 524 (9th Cir. 1976). The fourth factor, public
24 policy favoring disposition of cases on their merits, is greatly outweighed by the factors in favor
25 of dismissal. Finally, there are no less drastic alternatives since Petitioner has failed to keep the
26 Court apprised of his current address; thus, the Court has no way of communicating with
27 Petitioner.

1 **ORDER**

2 Accordingly, the Court **ORDERS** that the Clerk of Court is **DIRECTED** to assign a
3 District Judge to the case.

4 **RECOMMENDATION**

5 Accordingly, the Court **RECOMMENDS** that this action be **DISMISSED** for Petitioner's
6 failure to comply with a court order and failure to prosecute.

7 This Findings and Recommendation is submitted to the assigned District Court Judge,
8 pursuant to the provisions of 28 U.S.C. § 636 (b)(1)(B) and Rule 304 of the Local Rules of
9 Practice for the United States District Court, Eastern District of California. Within ten days after
10 service of the Findings and Recommendation, Petitioner may file written objections with the
11 Court. Such a document should be captioned "Objections to Magistrate Judge's Findings and
12 Recommendation." The Court will then review the Magistrate Judge's ruling pursuant to 28
13 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1)(C). Petitioner is advised that failure to file objections within the specified
14 time may waive the right to appeal the District Court's order. Martinez v. Ylst, 951 F.2d 1153
15 (9th Cir. 1991).

16 IT IS SO ORDERED.

17 Dated: January 4, 2017

18 /s/ Jennifer L. Thurston
19 UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE