

1 Plaintiffs to show cause why the action should not be dismissed for their failure to pay the filing fee
2 and failure to respond to the Court's order. (Doc. 3) Again, Plaintiffs were advised that the Court may
3 dismiss an action for failure to respond to an order of the Court. (*Id.* at 2) To date, Plaintiffs have
4 failed to respond to the Court's order.

5 **II. Failure to Pay the Filing Fee**

6 As a general rule, all parties instituting any civil action, suit or proceeding in a United States
7 District Court must pay a filing fee. 28 U.S.C § 1914(a). An action may proceed despite a party's
8 failure to pay only if the party is granted leave to proceed in forma pauperis pursuant to 28 U.S.C §
9 1915(a). *See Andrews v. Cervantes*, 492 F.3d 1047, 1051 (9th Cir. 2007); *Rodriguez*, 169 F.3d at 1177.
10 As noted above, Plaintiffs did not pay the filing fee, and the action may not proceed.

11 **III. Failure to obey the Court's Order**

12 The Local Rules, corresponding with Fed. R. Civ. P. 11, provide: "Failure of counsel or of a
13 party to comply with . . . any order of the Court may be grounds for the imposition by the Court of any
14 and all sanctions . . . within the inherent power of the Court." LR 110. "District courts have inherent
15 power to control their dockets," and in exercising that power, a court may impose sanctions including
16 dismissal of an action. *Thompson v. Housing Authority of Los Angeles*, 782 F.2d 829, 831 (9th Cir.
17 1986). A court may dismiss an action with prejudice, based on a party's failure to prosecute an action
18 or failure to obey a court order, or failure to comply with local rules. *See, e.g. Ferdik v. Bonzelet*, 963
19 F.2d 1258, 1260-61 (9th Cir. 1992) (dismissal for failure to comply with an order requiring amendment
20 of complaint); *Malone v. U.S. Postal Service*, 833 F.2d 128, 130 (9th Cir. 1987) (dismissal for failure to
21 comply with a court order).

22 In determining whether to dismiss an action for failure to prosecute, failure to obey a court
23 order, or failure to comply with the Local Rules, the court must consider several factors, including: "(1)
24 the public's interest in expeditious resolution of litigation; (2) the court's need to manage its docket; (3)
25 the risk of prejudice to the defendants; (4) the public policy favoring disposition of cases on their
26 merits; and (5) the availability of less drastic sanctions." *Henderson v. Duncan*, 779 F.2d 1421, 1424
27 (9th Cir. 1986); *see also Ferdik*, 963 F.2d at 1260-61; *Thomson*, 782 F.2d at 831.

28 The public's interest in expeditiously resolving this litigation and the Court's interest in

1 managing the docket weigh in favor of dismissal. *See Yourish v. Cal. Amplifier*, 191 F.3d 983, 990
2 (9th Cir. 1999) (“The public’s interest in expeditious resolution of litigation always favors dismissal”);
3 *Ferdik*, 963 F.2d at 1261 (recognizing that district courts have inherent interest in managing their
4 dockets without being subject to noncompliant litigants). This Court cannot, and will not hold, this
5 case in abeyance based upon Plaintiffs’ failure to comply with the Court’s orders and failure to
6 prosecute in a timely manner. *See Morris v. Morgan Stanley & Co.*, 942 F.2d 648, 652 (9th Cir. 1991)
7 (explaining a plaintiff has the burden “to move toward... disposition at a reasonable pace, and to
8 refrain from dilatory and evasive tactics”).

9 The risk of prejudice also weighs in favor of dismissal, since a presumption of injury arises
10 from the occurrence of unreasonable delay in prosecution of an action. *See Anderson v. Air West*, 542
11 F.2d 522, 524 (9th Cir. 1976).

12 Finally, the Court warned Plaintiffs the action could not proceed without payment of fees.
13 (Doc. 2 at 1; Doc. 3 at 1-2) In addition, Plaintiffs were informed: “Failure to comply with this order
14 may result in dismissal of this action pursuant to Local Rule 110.” (Doc. 2 at 2, emphasis in original)
15 Again in the order to show cause, Plaintiffs were warned that the Court “may dismiss an action with
16 prejudice, based on a party’s failure to prosecute an action or failure to obey a court order, or failure to
17 comply with local rules.” (Doc. 3 at 2) These warnings satisfy the requirement that the Court consider
18 less drastic measures. *See Ferdik*, 963 F.2d at 1262; *Henderson*, 779 F.2d at 1424. Indeed, the Court
19 need only warn a party once that the matter would be dismissed for failure to comply to satisfy the
20 requirements of Rule 41. *Id.*; *see also Titus v. Mercedes Benz of North America*, 695 F.2d 746, 749 n.6
21 (3d Cir. 1982) (identifying a “warning” as an alternative sanction). As the Ninth Circuit explained, “a
22 plaintiff can hardly be surprised” by a sanction of dismissal “in response to willful violation of a
23 pretrial order.” *Malone*, 833 F.2d at 133. Consequently, the policy favoring disposition of cases on
24 their merits is outweighed by the factors in favor of dismissal.

25 **IV. Findings and Recommendations**

26 Plaintiffs have failed to file the requisite filing fee pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1914(a), and as a
27 result, the matter cannot proceed before the Court at this time. Further, Plaintiffs failed to obey the
28 Court’s Orders dated October 21, 2020 (Doc. 2) and November 18, 2020 (Doc. 3). Accordingly, the

1 Court **RECOMMENDS:**

- 2 1. This action be **DISMISSED** without prejudice for Plaintiffs' failure to pay the filing
3 fee and obey the Court's order; and
4 2. The Clerk of Court be **DIRECTED** to close this action, because this order terminates
5 the action in its entirety.

6 These Findings and Recommendations are submitted to the United States District Judge
7 assigned to the case, pursuant to the provisions of 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1)(B) and Rule 304 of the Local
8 Rules of Practice for the United States District Court, Eastern District of California. Within fourteen
9 days after being served with these Findings and Recommendations, Plaintiffs may file written
10 objections with the court. Such a document should be captioned "Objections to Magistrate Judge's
11 Findings and Recommendations." Plaintiffs are advised that failure to file objections within the
12 specified time may waive the right to appeal the District Court's order. *Martinez v. Ylst*, 951 F.2d
13 1153 (9th Cir. 1991); *Wilkerson v. Wheeler*, 772 F.3d 834, 834 (9th Cir. 2014).

14
15 IT IS SO ORDERED.

16 Dated: December 8, 2020

/s/ Jennifer L. Thurston
17 UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE