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IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

WILLIE PRITCHETT,

Plaintiff,

No. 2:94-cv-1010 GEB DAD P

vs.

ANA M. OLIVAREZ,

Defendant.

FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

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This action is one of several actions filed in this court challenging the quality of water at Deuel Vocational Institution (DVI). By order filed February 10, 1995, this action was stayed and administratively closed pending resolution of related claims in another action. By order filed October 23, 2012, plaintiff was granted fourteen days in which to file either a request for voluntary dismissal of this action or a motion to lift the stay. Order filed October 23, 2012 (Doc. No. 23), at 2. In that same order, plaintiff was advised that failure to respond to the order would result in a recommendation that this action be dismissed with prejudice pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 41(b). The fourteen day period has now expired and plaintiff has not responded to the

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1 court's order in any way.<sup>1</sup>

2           “Pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 41(b), the district court may dismiss  
3 an action for failure to comply with any order of the court.” Ferdik v. Bonzelet, 963 F.2d 1258,  
4 1260 (9th Cir. 1992). “In determining whether to dismiss a case for failure to comply with a  
5 court order the district court must weigh five factors including: ‘(1) the public’s interest in  
6 expeditious resolution of litigation; (2) the court’s need to manage its docket; (3) the risk of  
7 prejudice to the defendants; (4) the public policy favoring disposition of cases on their merits;  
8 and (5) the availability of less drastic alternatives.’” Ferdik, 963 F.2d at 1260-61 (quoting  
9 Thompson v. Housing Auth., 782 F.2d 829, 831 (9th Cir. 1986)); see also Ghazali v. Moran, 46  
10 F.3d 52, 53 (9th Cir. 1995).

11           In determining to recommend that this action be dismissed, the court has  
12 considered the five factors set forth in Ferdik. Here, as in Ferdik, the first two factors strongly  
13 support dismissal of this action. The action was filed over eighteen years ago. Plaintiff’s failure  
14 to comply with the Local Rules and the court’s October 23, 2012, order suggests that he has  
15 abandoned this action and that further time spent by the court thereon will consume scarce  
16 judicial resources in addressing litigation which plaintiff demonstrates no intention to pursue.

17           The fifth factor also favors dismissal. The court has advised plaintiff of the  
18 consequences of failing to respond to this order, and plaintiff has not responded in any way. The  
19 court finds no suitable alternative to dismissal of this action.

20           The third factor, prejudice to defendants from plaintiff’s failure to respond to the  
21 court’s order, also favors dismissal. Plaintiff’s failure to respond to the order does not put  
22 defendants at any disadvantage in this action. See Ferdik, 963 F.2d at 1262. Indeed, defendants  
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24           <sup>1</sup> Although it appears from the file that plaintiff’s copy of the October 23, 2012 order was  
25 returned to the court as undeliverable, plaintiff was properly served at his address of record. It is  
26 the plaintiff’s responsibility to keep the court apprised of his current address at all times. L.R.  
182(f). Pursuant to Local Rule 182(f), service of documents at the record address of the party is  
fully effective.

1 would only be “disadvantaged” by a decision by the court to continue an action plaintiff has  
2 abandoned. The fourth factor, public policy favoring disposition of cases on their merits, does  
3 not mitigate against dismissal of this action. The court reached the merits of the claims presented  
4 by plaintiff in this action concerning water quality at Deuel Vocational Institution (DVI) in the  
5 lead case to which this case was related. See Yellen v. Olivarez, No. 2:94-cv-1298 GEB DAD P  
6 (Doc. Nos. 297 and 302).

7           Accordingly, for the foregoing reasons, IT IS HEREBY RECOMMENDED that  
8 this action be dismissed pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 41(b).

9           These findings and recommendations are submitted to the United States District  
10 Judge assigned to the case, pursuant to the provisions of 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1). Within fourteen  
11 days after being served with these findings and recommendations, any party may file written  
12 objections with the court and serve a copy on all parties. Such a document should be captioned  
13 “Objections to Magistrate Judge’s Findings and Recommendations.” Any response to the  
14 objections shall be filed and served within fourteen days after service of the objections. The  
15 parties are advised that failure to file objections within the specified time may waive the right to  
16 appeal the District Court’s order. Martinez v. Ylst, 951 F.2d 1153 (9th Cir. 1991).

17 DATED: November 14, 2012.

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21 DALE A. DROZD  
22 UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE  
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