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

BENJAMIN ADKINS,

Petitioner,

No. CIV S-05-1501 JAM CHS P

vs.

TOM L. CAREY, et al.,

Respondents.

ORDER VACATING FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

_____ /

Petitioner Atkins is a state prisoner proceeding pro se with a petition for a writ of habeas corpus pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2254. Petitioner challenges a March 6, 2002 decision of the state parole authority that he was not suitable for parole. On July 29, 2010, findings and recommendations issued herein, recommending that the petition be denied because the parole authority’s decision was supported by some evidence in the record.

Previously, the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit had directed “courts in this circuit [to] decide whether the California judicial decision approving the governor’s decision rejecting parole was an ‘unreasonable application’ of the California ‘some evidence’ requirement, or was ‘based on an unreasonable determination of the facts in light of the evidence.’” *Hayward v. Marshall*, 603 F.3d 546, 562-63 (9th Cir. 2010) (citations omitted).

1 Subsequent to the filing of the pending findings and recommendations, however, the United
2 States Supreme Court held in *Swarthout v. Cooke*, No. 10-333, slip op. at 4-5 (U.S. January 24,
3 2011), that a federal court's inquiry into whether an inmate in California received due process in
4 the parole suitability hearing context does not include review of California's "some evidence"
5 requirement. Rather, in the parole suitability context, "the only federal right at issue is
6 procedural." *Id.* at 6. Thus, this court may only review a parole board's procedures to see that an
7 inmate received an opportunity to be heard and a decision informing him of the reasons he did
8 not qualify for parole. *See Swarthout*, slip op. at 4-5 (citing *Greenholtz*, 442 U.S. at 16).

9 In light of this new controlling Supreme Court authority, IT IS HEREBY
10 ORDERED THAT the findings and recommendations signed on July 28, 2010 and filed on July
11 29, 2010, are VACATED. New findings and recommendations will issue.

12 DATED: January 27, 2011

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14 CHARLENE H. SORRENTINO
15 UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE
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