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8	IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
9	FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
10	CESARE REDMOND,
11	Petitioner, No. CIV S-12-0169 GEB DAD
12	VS.
13	G. SWARTHOUT, Warden, <u>FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS</u>
14	Respondent.
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16	Petitioner is a state prisoner proceeding pro se with a petition for a writ of habeas
17	corpus pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2254. By this action, petitioner challenges a judgment of
18	conviction entered against him in the Sacramento County Superior Court in 2007. This matter is
19	now before the court on respondent's motion to dismiss the action as barred by the applicable
20	statute of limitations.
21	BACKGROUND
22	On September 29, 1997, petitioner was convicted in the Sacramento County
23	Superior Court on two counts of assault with an assault rifle, two counts of assault with a semi-
24	automatic firearm, unlawful possession of an assault rifle, two counts of being a felon in
25	possession of a firearm, and possession of marijuana for sale. (Lodged Doc. No. 1.) Thereafter,
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	Dealer

he was sentenced to a determinate state prison term of thirty-five years and four months.¹ On
 June 28, 2001, the California Court of Appeal for the Third Appellate District affirmed the
 judgment of conviction. (Lodged Doc. No. 2.) On September 26, 2001, the California Supreme
 Court denied a petition for review. (Lodged Doc. No. 4.)

5 Petitioner subsequently filed three state habeas petitions collaterally attacking his conviction. On December 13, 2002, he filed a petition for writ of habeas corpus in the 6 7 Sacramento County Superior Court. (Lodged Doc. No. 5.) That petition was denied by order dated January 16, 2003. (Lodged. Doc. No. 6.) On August 20, 2007, petitioner filed a petition 8 9 for writ of habeas corpus in the California Supreme Court. (Lodged. Doc. No. 7.) On February 13, 2008, that petition was denied as untimely. (Lodged. Doc. No. 8.) On June 24, 2011, 10 11 petitioner filed another petition for writ of habeas corpus in the California Supreme Court, for the first time claiming that newly discovered evidence established his actual innocence of the crimes 12 13 for which he was convicted. (Lodged. Doc. No. 9.) On November 16, 2011, that petition was also denied on untimeliness grounds, with the California Supreme Court citing the decisions in In 14 15 re Robbins, 18 Cal. 4th 770, 780 (1998) and In re Miller, 17 Cal. 2d 734, 735 (1941). (Lodged. 16 Doc. No. 10.)

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On January 23, 2012, the instant federal habeas petition was filed in this court. (Docket No. 1.) Therein, it appears that petitioner seeks federal habeas relief on the basis of all claims he presented to the California Supreme Court in 2007 as well as on his actual innocence claim presented to and rejected by the California Supreme Court in 2011. (<u>Id</u>. at 4.)

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ARGUMENTS OF THE PARTIES

In moving to dismiss, respondent argues that the instant petition is time-barred. Specifically, respondent argues that even taking into account tolling stemming from petitioner's

As noted by the California Court of Appeal, petitioner's abstract of judgement (Lodged Doc. No. 1) incorrectly reflected a state prison sentence of 35 years, 8 months imposed. The state appellate court directed the trial court to correct the error. (Lodged Doc. No. 2, n. 1.)

filing of his first state habeas petition, the statute of limitations for filing a federal petition
 expired on January 29, 2003. Respondent asserts that petitioner's filing of additional habeas
 petitions in state court thereafter did not act to revive the already expired federal statute of
 limitations. (Resp't's Mot. to Dism. (Docket No. 15) at 2-5.)

5 Respondent also argues that petitioner is not entitled to equitable tolling under the "fundamental miscarriage of justice" doctrine announced in Schlup v. Delo, 513 U.S. 298 (1995), 6 7 because petitioner has not presented a viable claim of actual innocence. Specifically, respondent asserts that the evidence petitioner "claims demonstrates his innocence is neither newly 8 9 discovered nor clearly exculpatory." (Resp't's Mot. to Dism. (Docket No. 15) at 9.) Respondent 10 also argues that petitioner's claim of entitlement to equitable tolling of the statute of limitations 11 "fails because his proffered evidence merely seeks to undercut incriminating evidence presented at trial; it falls short of fundamentally calling into question the reliability of his conviction." (Id.) 12

13 In opposition to the pending motion to dismiss, petitioner does not argue that his petition was filed within the applicable statute of limitations. Rather, petitioner contends that he 14 15 is entitled to equitable tolling of that limitations period. He argues that the court should reach the 16 merits of his petition because the supporting declarations he has submitted from Anthony 17 Edwards, Angela Cofield, Kati M. Redmond, and himself establish his actual innocence, under 18 Schlup², with respect to the charges upon which he was convicted. Petitioner also asserts that 19 the truth of those declarations must be presumed for purposes of determining whether his petition 20 is time-barred. (Docket No. 18 at 8-9.)

In reply respondent reiterates his argument that petitioner has failed to offer newly discovered evidence establishing his actual innocence. Respondent asserts that the declarations offered by petitioner do not refute the evidence introduced at his trial and do not establish that it is more likely than not that no reasonable juror would have found petitioner guilty beyond a

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² <u>Schlup v. Delo</u>, 513 U.S. 298 (1995).

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reasonable doubt had that new evidence been presented at his trial. (Docket No. 19.)

LEGAL STANDARDS

3 I.

AEDPA Statute of Limitations

4 Under the Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act of 1996 ("AEDPA"), a 5 one-year period of limitation applies to a petition for writ of habeas corpus filed in federal court by a person in custody pursuant to the judgment of a state court. 28 U.S.C. \S 2244(d)(1). The 6 7 statute of limitations applies to all federal habeas petitions filed after the statute was enacted on April 24, 1996. Lindh v. Murphy, 521 U.S. 320, 322-23 (1997). Under § 2244(d)(1)(A), the 8 9 time for petitioner to file a federal habeas petition began running when his judgment of 10 conviction became final. In this regard, on September 26, 2001, the California Supreme Court 11 denied review of petitioner's case. (Lodged Doc. No. 4.) His conviction became final ninety days thereafter, on December 25, 2001, when the time for him to file a petition for certiorari with 12 13 the United States Supreme Court expired. See Bowen v. Roe, 1888 F3d 1157, 1158-59 (9th Cir. 2001). The one-year limitations period for his seeking of federal habeas relief started the next 14 15 day, December 26, 2001, and, absent any tolling, expired on December 26, 2002. See Patterson 16 v. Stewart, 251 F.3d 1243, 1246 (9th Cir. 2001).

17 The AEDPA statute of limitations is tolled during the pendency of any "properly filed" state collateral attack on the judgment. Nino v. Galaza, 183 F.3d 1003, 1006-07 (9th Cir. 18 19 1999). Furthermore, the intervals between stages of California's "unusual system of collateral 20 review" will toll the federal limitations period as long as the intervals are each of reasonable 21 duration. Banjo v. Ayers, 614 F.3d 964, 968 (9th Cir. 2010). Petitioner did not file his first state 22 habeas petition in the Sacramento County Superior Court until December 13, 2002. Therefore, 23 352 days of the one-year limitations period for petitioner's seeking of federal habeas relief had expired before being tolled upon the filing of that petition. The Sacramento County Superior 24 25 Court denied that first state petition on January 16, 2003, causing the limitations period for the 26 filing of a federal petition to begin running again the next day. Given this thirty-five day period

of statutory tolling, petitioner then had until January 29, 2003 to seek federal habeas relief.

2 Over four and half years later, on August 20, 2007, petitioner filed a petition for 3 writ of habeas corpus in the California Supreme Court. (Lodged. Doc. No. 7.)³ By then the 4 statute of limitations for the seeking of federal habeas relief had long-since expired. The same is 5 true with respect to the third state habeas corpus petition filed by petitioner in the California Supreme Court on June 24, 2011. (Lodged. Doc. No. 9.) This is so because the filing of a new 6 7 state habeas petition cannot reinitiate or revive the limitations period once it has expired. See 8 Ferguson v. Palmateer, 321 F.3d 820, 823 (9th Cir. 2003); see also Jiminez v. Rice, 276 F.3d 9 478, 481 (9th Cir. 2001). Thus, petitioner's federal habeas corpus petition filed in this court on 10 January 19, 2012, was submitted almost nine years after the one-year statute of limitations for 11 doing so had expired. Petitioner must show that he is entitled to statutory or equitable tolling of 12 the statute of limitations set forth by AEDPA, otherwise his claims are time barred.

As noted above, petitioner does not dispute that his pending federal habeas corpus
petition was filed outside the statutory period. Nor does he argue that he is entitled to statutory
tolling. Rather, he asserts only that he has made a sufficient showing of his actual innocence so
as to entitle him to equitable tolling of the AEDPA's statute of limitations.

17 **II.**

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. Equitable Tolling on the Grounds of Actual Innocence

The United States Supreme Court has confirmed that the AEDPA statute of
limitations "is subject to equitable tolling in appropriate cases." Holland v. Florida, __U.S.__,
__,130 S. Ct. 2549, 2560 (2010). See also Doe v. Busby, 661 F.3d 1001, 1011 (9th Cir. 2011);
Lakey v. Hickman, 633 F.3d 782, 784 (9th Cir. 2011); Porter v. Ollison, 620 F.3d 952, 959 (9th
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³ The four-and-a-half year delay in the filing of state habeas petitions was obviously far too lengthy to allow statutory tolling for that period of time. See Stancle v. Clay, 692 F.3d 948, 956 (9th Cir. 2012) (unexplained gap of eighty-two days between denial of first state habeas petition and filing of second state petition was unreasonable and foreclosed statutory tolling); Banjo v. Ayers, 614

F.3d 964, 970 (9th Cir. 2010) (one hundred forty-eight day unexplained delay between denial and new filing found to unreasonable).

Cir. 2010).⁴ Indeed, because § 2244(d) is not jurisdictional, it is "subject to a 'rebuttable presumption' in favor of 'equitable tolling'" Holland, 130 S. Ct. at 2560 (quoting Irwin v. Dep't of Veterans Affairs, 498 U.S. 89, 95-96 (1990)). See also Lee v. Lampert, 653 F.3d 929, 933
(9th Cir. 2011) (en banc). "[A] credible claim of actual innocence constitutes an equitable exception to AEDPA's limitations period, and a petitioner who makes such a showing may pass through the Schlup gateway and have his otherwise time-barred claims heard on the merits."
Lee, 653 F.3d at 932.

Generally a federal habeas petitioner "is 'entitled to equitable tolling' only where 8 9 he shows '(1) that he has been pursuing his rights diligently, and (2) that some extraordinary circumstance stood in his way' and prevented timely filing."⁵ Holland 130 S. Ct. at 2562 10 11 (quoting Pace v. DiGuglielmo, 544 U.S. 408, 418 (2005)). See also Doe, 661 F.3d at 1011; Lakey, 633 F.3d at 784; Porter, 620 F.3d at 959; Harris v. Carter, 515 F.3d 1051, 1054 (9th Cir. 12 13 2008); Stillman v. LaMarque, 319 F.3d 1199, 1202 (9th Cir. 2003). However, neither the Supreme Court nor the Ninth Circuit have held that a showing of diligence is needed to pass 14 through the actual innocence gateway and other courts to address the subject have specifically 15 held that diligence need not be shown in such circumstances. See Lampert, 653 F.3d at 935 n. 9 16 17 ("Because this case does not present the question, we need not-and do not-decide what diligence, if any, a petitioner must demonstrate in order to qualify for the actual innocence exception 18 19 recognized in this opinion."); see also Perkins v. McQuiggin, 670 F.3d 665 (6th Cir. 2012) 20 (holding that reasonable diligence need not be shown when seeking equitable tolling of the 21 statute of limitations due to actual innocence); Lopez v. Trani, 628 F.3d 1228, 1230-31 (10th Cir.

 ⁴ The Ninth Circuit had previously so held. See Ramirez v. Yates, 571 F.3d 993, 997 (9th Cir. 2009); Waldron-Ramsey v. Pacholke, 556 F.3d 1008, 1011 n.2 (9th Cir. 2009); Calderon v. U.S. District Court for the Central District of California (Kelly), 163 F.3d 530, 541 (9th Cir. 1998) (en banc).

 ⁵ "The diligence required for equitable tolling purposes is 'reasonable diligence' . . . not 'maximum feasible diligence." <u>Holland</u>, 130 S. Ct. at 2565.

2010) ("We thus reject the reading of our precedent that would require a habeas petitioner
 seeking equitable tolling on actual innocence grounds to demonstrate that he diligently pursued
 his actual innocence claim."); <u>Souliotes v. Hedgpeth</u>, No. 1:06-cv-0667 AWI MJS HC, 2012
 WL 2684972, at *4 (E.D. Cal. July 6, 2012) ("The court agrees . . . that there is no diligence
 requirement to present an actual innocence claim as to overcome the AEDPA's statute of
 limitations.) Accordingly, the court will not consider whether petitioner has been diligent in
 presenting his actual innocence claim.

To obtain equitable tolling of the AEDPA statute of limitations in order to present
an actual innocence claim based on newly discovered evidence, a petitioner must demonstrate
"that it is more likely than not that no reasonable juror would have found him guilty beyond a
reasonable doubt." Lampert, 653 F.3d at 938.⁶ Moreover, "[a]ctual innocence means factual
innocence, not mere legal insufficiency." Bousley v. United States, 532 U.S. 614, 623 (1998). In
this regard, the Ninth Circuit has observed:

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¹⁵ ⁶ Indeed, it remains an open question whether a freestanding actual innocence claim is even cognizable in a federal habeas proceeding. See District Attorney's Office for Third Judicial Dist. 16 v. Osborne, 557 U.S. 52, 71 (2009) ("Whether such a federal right [to be released upon proof of actual innocence] exists is an open question. We have struggled with it over the years, in some cases 17 assuming, arguendo, that it exists while also noting the difficult questions such a right would pose and the high standard any claimant would have to meet."); House v. Bell, 547 U.S. 518, 554-55 (2006). Even assuming, that a freestanding actual innocence claim provides a basis for federal 18 habeas relief and would constitute constitutional error within the meaning of 28 U.S.C. § 19 2244(b)(2)(B), relief on such a claim could be granted only based upon convincing new evidence which left the federal habeas court persuaded that the petitioner's actual innocence was 20 unquestionably established. Morales v. Ornoski, 439 F.3d 529, 533 (9th Cir. 2006) ("As explained in Schlup v. Delo, 513 U.S. 298, 327 (1995), a substantive "Herrera-type claim" - i.e., a claim based 21 on factual innocence - "would have to fail unless the federal habeas court is itself convinced that th[e] new facts unquestionably establish [Morales's] innocence."); see also House, 547 U.S. at 555 22 ("Herrera requires more convincing proof of innocence than Schlup.") Finally, and as noted above, to the extent that such a claim were instead characterized as a procedural "gateway" claim under the 23 "miscarriage of justice" exception addressed in Schlup, petitioner would have to show by clear and convincing evidence that no reasonable jury would have convicted him. Calderon v. Thompson, 523 24 U.S. 538, 559-60 (1998); Sawyer v. Whitley, 505 U.S. 333, 348 (1992); Morales, 439 F.3d at 533, n. 4; Paradis v. Arave, 130 F.3d 385, 396 (9th Cir. 1997). The exception therefore provides a "very 25 narrow" window. Sawyer, 505 U.S. at 341. Obviously, "[t]his standard is not easy to meet. Gandarela v. Johnson, 286 F.3d 1080, 1086 (9th Cir. 2002). See also King v. Trujillo, 638 F.3d 726, 26 730 (9th Cir. 2011).

1	Schlup requires a petitioner "to support his allegations of
2	constitutional error with new reliable evidence — whether it be
	exculpatory scientific evidence, trustworthy eyewitness accounts, or critical physical evidence — that was not presented at trial."
3	Schlup, 513 U.S. at 324, 115 S. Ct. 851. The habeas court then "consider[s] all the evidence, old and new, incriminating and event active and the set trial or not. Hauss 547 U.S. at 528
4 5	exculpatory," admissible at trial or not. <u>House</u> , 547 U.S. at 538, 126 S. Ct. 2064 (internal quotation marks omitted); <u>Carriger [v.</u>
	Stewart], 132 F.3d [463,] 477–78 [(9th Cir. 1997)]. On this complete record, the court makes a "'probabilistic determination about what reasonable, properly instructed increases would do '"
6 7	about what reasonable, properly instructed jurors would do.' " <u>House</u> , 547 U.S. at 538, 126 S. Ct. 2064 (quoting <u>Schlup</u> , 513 U.S. at 329, 115 S. Ct. 851).
8	Lampert, 653 F.3d at 938. The court "must assess the probative force of the newly presented
9	evidence in connection with the evidence of guilt adduced at trial," and "may consider how the
10	timing of the submission and the likely credibility of the affiants bears on the probable reliability
11	of that evidence." <u>Schlup</u> , 513 U.S. at 332.
12	Below, after providing a summary of the evidence introduced at petitioner's trial
13	which resulted in his conviction, the court will apply these legal standards to the arguments of the
14	parties in determining whether petitioner's actual innocence claim is credible enough to entitle
15	him to equitable tolling of the AEDPA statute of limitations.
16	ANALYSIS
17	I. Summary of Evidence Introduced at Petitioner's Trial
18	Neither petitioner nor respondent dispute the statement of facts as set forth by the
19	California Court of Appeal in its opinion affirming petitioner's judgment of conviction. That
20	court recounted the evidence as follows:
21	This case involves a series of shooting incidents between
22	members of two rival gangs in the Valley Hi area of Sacramento: the Valley Hi Crips and the Valley Hi Pirus. (The Pirus are
23	affiliated with a gang known as the Bloods, the traditional rivals of the Crips.) Defendant was a member of the Crips.
24	At about 4:30 p.m., February 19, 1997, Priscilla Lopez was
25	at the front door of her apartment in the Country Wood Village Apartments. She noticed a man and woman outside arguing.
26	Lopez recognized the woman as a resident of the complex. The man and woman were later identified as defendant and his wife,
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Kati Redmond. Lopez then heard four shots fired, and saw defendant run past her apartment. He was holding a pistol. Lopez saw defendant turn and fire one shot as he ran through the complex's parking stalls. She saw Kati Redmond return to her building. Lopez returned to her apartment and called the police.

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In the late night and early morning hours of February 20 and 21, respectively, four members of the Valley Hi Pirus were sitting in a car parked at the Country Wood Village Apartments drinking beer and smoking marijuana. Two men walked by the car, both wearing hoods over their heads. The men stopped; then began firing shots into the car. One of the victims estimated 15 shots were fired. Two of the passengers, Ray Jedkins and Jessie Wright, were wounded in the attack. Police later collected 15 .45 caliber shell casings from the area.

Late on February 24, 1997, Leonard Feltus; his wife; two stepsons, Andre and Laun; and a foster child were in their home at 4093 Sea Meadow Way, near the intersection of Franklin and Valley Hi Roads. A friend of Andre's, Lynne Jones, a member of the Valley Hi Pirus, also lived with Feltus's family. Near midnight, the doorbell rang. Feltus went to the door and, without opening it, asked who was there. Someone on the other side of the door said they wanted to see Andre. The voice sounded like an adult male. Feltus said no one comes in or leaves his house at that hour of the night. He told the person to come back the next day.

Approximately 15 minutes later, shots were fired into Feltus's home and garage, injuring Feltus. The bullets also ruined Feltus's car, and left about 20 holes in various parts of the house. Police later found eight 9 millimeter shell casings on the front porch, and eight 7.62 x 39 millimeter shell casings on the driveway.

On the evening of February 25, 1997, the police arrested Nakeyo Butler, Andre Cunningham and Anthony Edwards for an unrelated robbery. At that time, Butler was found to be carrying a Glock 9 millimeter handgun. At defendant's trial, a criminalist testified the Glock handgun had fired the eight 9 millimeter shell casings found on Feltus's front porch at 4093 Sea Meadow Way.

Police took Edwards into custody and interviewed him. Edwards admitted he was a Crip and identified the defendant as a Crip. He told the police the defendant had spoken with him about a shooting in which the defendant had participated. The defendant told Edwards he (the defendant) had fired an assault weapon into the garage door of a house in the Valley Hi area while Butler fired a 9 millimeter gun into the home's front door.

Defendant told Edwards the attack was in retaliation for a shooting incident which occurred earlier that evening of February

1 2	24. At that earlier incident, defendant, Edwards, and one Robert Rhinehart were in defendant's car at the intersection of Valley Hi and Valley Green when people in a passing brown car fired shots,
3	hitting defendant's car in the front quarter panel. Defendant returned fire with a .45 caliber semiautomatic pistol, and Rhinehart
4	fired a 9 millimeter pistol. At defendant's trial, a resident of the neighborhood testified he heard shots at about 8:00 p.m., February 24. The next morning, the resident collected eleven 9 millimeter
5	shell casings from the area of the intersection.
6	Edwards also told the police he had, within a week of the interview, seen assault weapons at the home of defendant's mother.
7	He also told police he had seen defendant in possession of a .45 caliber pistol while at the defendant's girlfriend's house.
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9	In the early morning hours of February 28, 1997, police officers executed a search warrant at the home of defendant's circleriond. Bishells Luce. Defendent was present at the time and
10	girlfriend, Richelle Lugo. Defendant was present at the time and was taken into custody. The police found two pages of a diary or planner on the floor near where officers had seated the defendant.
11	The pages were apparently torn out of its book, and were for the dates of February 13 through February 26, 1997. Entries on those
12	pages were written by defendant's wife. Her entries indicated defendant had been a victim of a gang attack on February 19, and
13	he had retaliated on February 20.
14	Officers located defendant's vehicle parked in the garage at his girlfriend's residence. A bullet had damaged the car's right
15	front quarter panel. Inside the car, officers found a spent .45 caliber casing. Inside the car's trunk, officers found a SKS assault
16	rifle and magazine loaded with 7.62 x 39 millimeter ammunition. This particular magazine held 30 rounds of ammunition. At the
17	time of its discovery, the assault rifle had one round in its chamber and 22 rounds in the magazine, eight rounds short of a fully loaded
18	magazine.
19	Officers also found in the car's trunk two partially full boxes of 7.62×39 millimeter ammunition and a store receipt from
20	Big 5 Sporting Goods dated February 19 for the purchase of two boxes of 7.62 x 39 millimeter ammunition. In addition, two boxes
21	of .38 caliber ammunition and four boxes of .45 caliber ammunition were found in the trunk. Officer also found a .45
22	caliber automatic pistol with one live round and .45 caliber magazines and ammunition inside the garage.
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24	At defendant's trial, a criminalist testified he determined the fifteen .45 caliber shell casings found in the parking lot of the Country Wood Village Apartments on the morning of February 21
25	had been fired from the .45 caliber pistol found in the garage at
26	defendant's girlfriend's home. The criminalist also testified he determined the eight spent 7.62 x 39 shell casings found in Feltus's
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1	driveway on February 25 had been fired from the assault rifle found in the trunk of defendant's car.
2 3	Also at defendant's trial, Leah Zamora, an employee of Big 5 Sporting Goods, identified defendant as the person who
4	purchased two boxes of 7.62 x 39 millimeter bullets from her store on February 19, 1997.
5	* * *
6	Edwards testified at defendant's preliminary hearing. Edwards's testimony, however, was evasive and inconsistent with
7	the statements he had made to Robinson and Lopez following his arrest. Specifically, Edwards testified he did not recall telling
8	Robinson that defendant had informed Edwards of his role in the Feltus shooting or that he had seen weapons at defendant's
9	mother's house or on defendant's possession.
10	Defendant's preliminary hearing counsel, an attorney different than defendant's trial attorney, was provided an
11	opportunity to cross-examine Edwards at the preliminary hearing. However, counsel asked no questions of Edwards.
12	The prosecution subsequently called Robinson to the stand.
13	Robinson testified of the statements made by Edwards during their unrecorded interview at the sheriff's department.
14	At trial, the prosecution called Edwards as a witness, but
15 16	Edwards asserted his Fifth Amendment rights and refused to testify. The trial court allowed the prosecution to read Edwards preliminary hearing testimony into the record.
17	Over defendant's continuing hearsay objection, the trial
18	court thereafter allowed Robinson to testify as to the statements Edwards made during the unrecorded interview. Superior Court
19	Judge Peter Mering admitted the testimony
20	(Lodged Doc. No. 2 (Opinion) at 4-8, 20-22.)
21	II. Newly Presented Evidence
22	As noted above, in the petition pending before this court petitioner claims that
23	newly discovered evidence establishes his actual innocence on the charges upon which he was
24	convicted. In support of that claim, and in turn in support of his argument for equitable tolling of
25	the applicable one-year statute of limitations, he offers the sworn declarations of himself,
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Anthony Edwards⁷, Robert Rhinehart, Angela Cofield, and Kati M. Redmond.⁸ All of the
declarations were signed by the declarants at least ten years after the commission of crimes for
which petitioner was convicted. Petitioner argues that these declarations establish that he was
not involved in the two separate shooting incidents that partially resulted in his convictions. The
first such shooting occurred in the late night and early morning hours of February 20 and 21,
1997, at the Country Wood Village Apartments. The second such shooting occurred late on
February 24, 1997, at the residence of Leonard Feltus.

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A. <u>Petitioner's Declaration⁹</u>

9 In his own declaration, petitioner declares as follows. He was not present at either 10 the Country Wood Village Apartments shooting or the Feltus residence shooting. (Docket No. 1, 11 Ex. A, 95.) He was friends with the Country Wood Village Apartments shooting victims, Wright and Jedkins, implying that he would not have harmed them. (Id. at 96.) He attended school with 12 Jedkins and knew him since the mid-1980's and knew Wright from the Country Wood Village 13 Apartments since 1996, when petitioner moved there with his wife and children. (Id.) On 14 February 24, 1997, from 10:00 to 11:00 p.m he was "in his car after picking up his cousin Robert 15 Rhinehart . . . and his cousin's friend Anthony Edwards . . ., and Andre Cunningham" (Id.) 16 17 Petitioner received a page from his wife at about 11:00 p.m. indicating it was an emergency and 18

⁸ The various declarations submitted by petitioner in support of his actual innocence claim appear in multiple documents submitted in this habeas action. The Petition (Docket No. 1) is the only document to include all pertinent declarations, with one exception. See footnote 9, below. Attached to the petition are 183-pages of Exhibits and Declarations. As it appears on the court's electronic docket "Document #1" of the petition contains the 10-page petition itself as well as the 111-page Exhibit A to the petition. "Attachment #1" or "part 2" of the petition contains Exhibits B-F, totaling 72 pages. In the interest of clarity, and due to the fact that "Attachment #1" is a continuation ("part 2") of "Document #1," the declarations will be cited according to their corresponding Exhibit with the page numbers citations to the page number reflected on the court's CM/ECF system and not to page numbers assigned by the parties.

 ⁷ In fact, Anthony Edwards has executed three such declarations, each bearing a different date.

 ⁹ Petitioner's declaration is not dated, but was presumably drafted in 2007. (Docket No. 1,
 26 Ex. A at 95.)

prompting him to go to James Hampton's house to contact her. (Id. at 96-97.) Rhinehart, 1 2 Edwards, and Cunningham waited in petitioner's car outside the Hampton residence. (Id. at 97.) Fifteen minutes later, after speaking with his wife, petitioner told those waiting in his car that his 3 4 apartment had been burglarized and that he had to go meet his wife, causing Rhinehart, Edwards, 5 and Cunningham to go "their separate ways from Petitioner." (Id.) Petitioner remained at the Hampton residence until 12:00 a.m., talking on the phone with his wife and their neighbor, 6 7 Tammy Jones. (Id.) At 12:00 a.m petitioner met has wife at his mother's house where they stayed for about an hour. (Id. at 98.) Petitioner, along with his wife and children, stayed in a 8 9 motel that evening due to the break-in at their apartment. (Id.)

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B.

Anthony Edwards' Declarations

Petitioner offers three declarations from Anthony Edwards, dated June 7, 2007,
March 7, 2011¹⁰, and November 4, 2011. (Docket No. 1, Ex. A at 105; (part 2) Ex. B at 30; (part
2) Ex. E at 60.)¹¹ Each of the declarations from Edwards are somewhat different. However, in
each Edwards states that petitioner was not involved in either the Country Wood Village
Apartments shooting or the Feltus residence shooting and that he, Edwards, misled or lied to the
police regarding petitioner's involvement in these crimes when he was initially questioned.

Specifically, in his declaration dated June 7, 2007, Edwards states as follows. He
lied to the police in telling them that "Rhinehart informed [him] that he[, Rhinehart,] and
Redmond[, the petitioner,] were responsible for the shooting at the Country Wood Village
Apartments." (Docket No. 1, Ex. A at 107.) Edwards knew "Redmond was in possession of a
.45 caliber semi-automatic and an assault rifle (S.K.), after the shooting, and that it would appear

 ¹⁰ The Edward's declaration dated March 7, 2011, attached to the petition before this court (Docket No. 1 (part 2), Ex. B at 30) is missing page two. This declaration can be found in its entirety at Lodged Doc. No. 9, Ex. A.

 ¹¹ In his latter two declarations, Edwards also refers to a declaration sent to him by petitioner in 2002 that he purportedly also signed. However, this 2002 declaration is not a part of the record before this court and is not referred to by petitioner.

as if Redmond had been the shooter . . . because I swap (sic) weapons to thwart the police from
locating same." (Id.)¹² Edwards was with petitioner on the night of February 24, 1997, and they
did stop at the Hampton residence so petitioner could call his wife and shortly thereafter parted
ways, with petitioner going "to his wife's house and [he] left for [his] house which was right
around the corner." (Id. at 108.)

In his next declaration, dated March 7, 2011, Edwards declared as follows.
Edwards asked petitioner to "pick up guns that [he and some friends] had used in two recent
shootings." (Lodged Doc. No. 9, Ex. A at 2.) Edwards "heard that Petitioner had been shot at"
so he and Rhinehart "shot at the guys in the car" because he "did not want the Pirus to think they
could go around shooting at people without repercussions." (Id.) Edwards concedes that at
petitioner's preliminary hearing he (Edwards) "testified that [he]... only told them that they
could find the guns at" petitioner's house or residence. (Id.)

The later November 4, 2011 declaration from Edwards is substantially similar to
his March 7, 2011 declaration. However, in the November 4, 2011 declaration Edwards does
specifically state that he asked petitioner "to pick up the assault rifle that [he and some friends]
had used in two recent house shootings." (Docket No. 1 (part 2), Ex. E at 60) (emphasis added).
Edwards also again states that he and Rhinehart were responsible for the Country Wood Village
Apartments shooting and adds that he "previously had an altercation with" the "guys in the car."
(Id. at 61.)

In each of his declarations Edwards contends that he was responsible for the
shooting at the Feltus residence late on February 24, 1997. In his two most recent declarations
Edwards states that he was shot at by Lyn Jones within two days of the Country Wood Village
Apartments shooting. In his November 4, 2011 declaration, Edwards states that during this
incident he returned fire with an assault rifle but does not indicate whether it was the same

¹² Edwards, however, took no responsibility for the Country Wood Village Apartments 26 shooting himself in this declaration.

assault rifle used in the shooting at the Feltus residence. (Id. at 61.) In his two most recent 1 2 declarations Edwards also states that he later retaliated by shooting at the Feltus residence, where he knew Jones lived. (Docket No. 1 (part 2), Ex. B at 30; Ex. E at 61.) Edwards asserts that he 3 4 and an unnamed "friend" went to the Feltus residence, retrieved weapons from "the car," and 5 fired at the house. (Id.) Edwards declares that it was his unnamed "friend" who was firing the assault weapon at the residence. (Id.) In his November 4, 2011 declaration, Edwards at least 6 7 suggests that he gave petitioner the assault rifle which Edwards' friend used to fire at the Feltus 8 residence after that shooting occurred. (Docket No. 1 (part 2), Ex. E at 60.)

9

C. Robert Rhinehart's Declaration

10 Rhinehart's declaration was signed on November 17, 2006. (Docket No. 1, Ex. A 11 at 111.) Therein, Rhinehart for the most part relates only what his cousin, Nakeyo Butler, allegedly told him. (Id. at 112-14.) However, Rhinehart also states that he "was not with 12 13 Petitioner on February 20/21, 1997." (Id. at 113.) On the morning of February 25, 1997, Rhinehart witnessed Butler obtaining a "nine millimeter glock" from Edwards. (Id.) Butler was 14 15 arrested for possession of the same weapon later the same day. (Id.) Rhinehart was arrested "for 16 suspicion of being involved in" the Country Wood Village Apartments shooting but was later 17 released. (Id.) Nowhere in his declaration does Rhinehart admit having any role in that shooting.

18

D. Angela Cofield's Declaration

Angela Cofield is petitioner's mother and her declaration on petitioner's behalf was signed on November 20, 2006. (Docket No. 1, Ex. A at 117.) Therein she declares only that on February 24, 1997, at approximately 11:50 p.m., her son arrived at her home to meet his wife and children because their home had been robbed earlier that evening and that her son left at approximately 12:40 to 12:50 a.m. to go to a hotel with his wife and children. (Id. at 118.)

24

E.

Kati M. Redmond's Declaration

Kati M. Redmond is petitioner's wife. Her declaration submitted in support of
petitioner's actual innocence claim was executed on June 28, 2011. (Docket No. 1 (part 2), Ex. F

at 65.) Therein, petitioner's wife declares as follows. The information noted in her diary or day 1 2 planner that was seized by police was received by her "from a young lady of African American descent (sixteen or seventeen years of age) who was a neighbor in the apartment complex at the 3 4 time." (Id. at 66.) Redmond paged petitioner at or around 11:00 p.m. on the night in question to 5 inform him of the robbery at their home, that he immediately answered the "page and called back," and that he explained to her that she needed to call the police, who arrived "shortly after 6 7 11:00 p.m." (Id. at 67-68.) Petitioner was on the phone with Redmond or her neighbor until the 8 police left, at which time she left to meet petitioner at his mothers house. (Id. at 68.) Redmond 9 arrived at her petitioner's mother's house "at or around 12 midnight," and she and petitioner 10 stayed the night together, with their children, in a motel. (Id. at 69.)

11 III. The Probative Force of Petitioner's New Evidence Relative to the Evidence Introduced at His Trial 12

Petitioner's contention is, in essence, that the declarations he now offers constitute reliable and trustworthy eyewitness accounts that were not presented at his trial which, had they been presented, make it more likely than not that no reasonable jury would have found him guilty of the offenses for which he was convicted beyond a reasonable doubt. This is because, according to petitioner, the new evidence he has now come forward with over a decade after his trial establishes that he was not present at either the Country Wood Village Apartments or the Feltus residence shootings.

20Of course, one's actual innocence is not established merely by coming forward21with relevant new evidence. Rather, as discussed above a petitioner must support his claim with22reliable new evidence "— whether it be exculpatory scientific evidence, trustworthy eyewitness23accounts, or critical physical evidence — that was not presented at trial." Lampert, 653 F.3d at24938 (quoting Schlup, 513 U.S. at 324). Even when a petitioner does so, the habeas court must25then "consider all the evidence, old and new, incriminating and exculpatory," admissible at trial26or not. Lampert, 653 F.3d at 938 (quoting House, 547 U.S. at 538 and Carriger, 132 F.3d at

1 477–78.) After considering all of this evidence and on a complete record, the court makes a 2 " 'probabilistic determination about what reasonable, properly instructed jurors would do.'" 3 Lampert, 653 F.3d at 938 (quoting House, 547 U.S. at 538) (in turn quoting Schlup, 513 U.S. at 329). Thus, the habeas court "must assess the probative force of the newly presented evidence in 4 5 connection with the evidence of guilt adduced at trial," and "may consider how the timing of the submission and the likely credibility of the affiants bears on the probable reliability of that 6 evidence." Schlup, 513 U.S. at 332.¹³ Below, the court will conduct the required inquiry with 7 8 respect to both of the shootings that petitioner was convicted in connection with.

9

A.

Evidence Concerning the Country Wood Village Apartments Shooting

The only new eyewitness evidence that petitioner offers in support of his actual innocence claim in connection with the Country Wood Village Apartments shooting comes in the form of declarations by Anthony Edwards. Based upon the record before this court, however, Edwards' reliability and trustworthiness are highly suspect. Based upon the evidence introduced at petitioner's trial and the various inconsistencies in Edwards' previous testimony and his multiple declarations, the court concludes that his most recent declarations do not constitute reliable new evidence.

Although Edwards consistently asserts in his most recent declarations that he
misled or lied to the police during his initial interrogation in which he implicated petitioner, this
court must consider all the evidence, old and new, admissible at trial or not. Lampert, 653 F.3d
at 938. Police officers testified at petitioner's trial that Edwards informed them that petitioner
was involved in the shootings. Moreover, in his June 7, 2007 declaration submitted by petitioner
here, Edwards admits telling the police that petitioner was involved in the Country Wood Village
Apartments shooting. At petitioner's preliminary hearing in state court Edwards testified that he

Petitioner argues that "it must be presumed the affidavits to be true for purposes of determining whether Petitioner is procedurally barred." (Docket. No. 18 at 8.) Petitioner cites no authority in support of this argument and the court finds it unpersuasive as inconsistent with the authorities discussed in these findings and recommendations.

"only told [the police] that they could find the guns at Petitioner's" house or residence. Thus,
 Edwards' preliminary hearing testimony contradicted both the police officers' trial testimony as
 well his own later admission that he informed the police that petitioner was involved in the
 Country Wood Village Apartments shooting.

5 In his second and third declarations, Edwards swore that it was he and Rhinehart, not petitioner, who took part in the Country Wood Village Apartments shooting. On the other 6 7 hand, Rhinehart in his declaration submitted by petitioner in these habeas proceedings makes no admission that he participated in that shooting. Rather, Rhinehart states only that he was not 8 9 with petitioner on either February 20 or 21 in 1997. Although Edwards claimed that he swapped 10 guns with petitioner, there is no clear assertion by Edwards that he gave petitioner the .45 caliber 11 automatic pistol after it was used by him in this shooting. Moreover, petitioner in his own declaration has failed to address how and when he acquired the weapon which was found in his 12 13 possession by police.¹⁴

14 Moreover, there was ample evidence of petitioner's guilt in connection with the 15 Country Wood Village Apartments shooting introduced at his trial. Priscilla Lopez, a woman 16 living in the same apartment complex as petitioner, testified at trial that on February 19, 1997, 17 she witnessed petitioner in an altercation at the complex in which he possessed and fired a weapon. Later, the police found a note written by petitioner's wife indicating that he had been a 18 19 victim of a gang attack on February 19, and that he had retaliated on February 20, the night of the 20 Country Wood Village Apartments shooting. In addition, police officers testified that Edwards 21 had informed them of an altercation occurring on February 24, 1997, the night of the Feltus 22 residence shooting, in which petitioner, Rhinehart, and Edwards were in petitioner's car when people in a passing car fired shots, hitting petitioner's car in the front quarter panel. Edwards 23

 ¹⁴ The court also notes that petitioner has come forward with no alibi evidence relating to the evening of the Country Wood Village Apartments shooting. He merely states that he was a friend of the victims of that shooting and did not take part in the event.

1 told police that petitioner returned fire with a .45 caliber semiautomatic pistol. Officers testified 2 that when they located petitioner's vehicle parked in the garage at his girlfriend's residence, the 3 car's right front quarter panel had in fact been damaged by a bullet. Inside the car, officers found a spent .45 caliber casing. Inside the car's trunk, officers found four boxes of .45 caliber 4 5 ammunition. Elsewhere in the garage, officers found a .45 caliber automatic pistol with one live round, .45 caliber magazines, and more ammunition. At petitioner's trial, a criminalist testified 6 7 he determined the fifteen .45 caliber shell casings found in the parking lot of the Country Wood Village Apartments on the morning of February 21, 1997, had been fired from the .45 caliber 8 9 pistol found in the garage. Finally, at trial Edwards' preliminary hearing testimony, to the effect 10 that he did not recall telling the police that petitioner had admitted his role in one of the assaults, 11 was read into the record. Thus, the jury was well aware that Edwards either disputed, or at least had waffled on, the police account that he had implicated petitioner in the shooting. Nonetheless, 12 13 having the opportunity to weigh all of the evidence the jury found petitioner guilty of the charged offenses beyond a reasonable doubt. 14

In light of Edwards' lack of credibility and reliability, the court finds that
petitioner has failed to present any reliable new evidence concerning the Country Wood Village
Apartments shooting. Petitioner has not even approached making the showing that would be
required to proceed through the <u>Schlup</u> gateway on an actual innocence claim with respect to this
shooting. <u>See Lampert</u>, 653 F.3d at 938.

20 21

B. Evidence Concerning the Feltus Residence Shooting

In support of his actual innocence claim with respect to the Feltus residence
shooting, petitioner again offers the declaration of Anthony Edwards and those of two witnesses
(his mother and his wife) whom provide petitioner with an alibi at the time of this shooting. For
the reasons noted above, Edwards' reliability and trustworthiness are highly suspect. Moreover,
petitioner's remaining new evidence bears little probative value.

26 /////

In addressing the Feltus residence shooting in his declarations, Edwards 1 2 consistently asserts that he participated in the shooting with an unnamed "friend" other than 3 petitioner and that this "friend" fired the assault weapon at the residence. Edwards alleges that 4 the shooting was in retaliation for a previous incident in which he was shot at by a resident of the 5 Feltus home. Edwards also contends that he gave petitioner the assault weapon used after the shooting at the residence. As also noted above, however, Edwards had originally told police that 6 7 petitioner admitted to participating in the Feltus residence shooting and that petitioner fired an 8 assault weapon into the garage door of a house in retaliation for an incident in which the front 9 quarter panel of petitioner's car had been damaged by gun shots. Moreover, Edwards' original statement to the police was corroborated in this regard by the fact that thereafter when 10 11 petitioner's car was found, the front quarter panel of the car reflected bullet damage.¹⁵

At petitioner's trial additional significant and persuasive evidence was introduced implicating petitioner to the Feltus residence shooting. Police officers found an SKS assault rifle and magazine loaded with 7.62 x 39 millimeter ammunition in petitioner's car. This particular magazine held 30 rounds of ammunition. At the time of its discovery, the assault rifle had one round in its chamber and 22 rounds in the magazine, eight rounds short of a fully loaded magazine. There were eight spent 7.62 x 39 shell casings found in Feltus's driveway on February 25, 1997.

Officers also found in the trunk of petitioner's car two partially full boxes of 7.62
x 39 millimeter ammunition and a store receipt from Big 5 Sporting Goods dated February 19,
1997, for the purchase of two boxes of 7.62 x 39 millimeter ammunition. A police criminalist
testified at trial that he had determined that the spent 7.62 x 39 shell casings found in Feltus's

In addition, although Edwards states that the weapons used in the Feltus residence shooting were removed from a car, he never states who accompanied him during the shooting or whose car the weapons were retrieved from. As discussed herein, the assault rifle used in the shooting was found in petitioner's car by police. Thus, the declarations connect petitioner and his car to Edwards, an admitted participant in the shooting, near the time the shooting occurred.

driveway had been fired from the assault rifle found in the trunk of defendant's car. Also at
 petitioner's trial, Leah Zamora, an employee of Big 5 Sporting Goods, identified petitioner as the
 person who purchased two boxes of 7.62 x 39 millimeter bullets from her on February 19, 1997.

4 Regarding petitioner's newly-claimed alibi for the time of the shooting, he asserts 5 that he was at the Hampton residence on the night of February 24, 1997 from 11:00 p.m. to midnight. Petitioner and his wife declare that petitioner was on the phone with either Redmond 6 7 or their neighbor during this time. They also contend that he was at his mother's house from 12:00 a.m. until about 12:45 a.m. on February 25, 1997, a contention that is supported by the 8 9 declaration of petitioner's mother. However, the evidence introduced at his trial was that the 10 Feltus residence shooting occurred "late on February 24, 1997." Thus, the statements by 11 petitioner, his wife, and his mother concerning the early morning hours of February 25, 1997, bear little value to petitioner's alleged alibi or his actual innocence claim.¹⁶ 12

The new evidence presented by petitioner with respect to the Feltus residence shooting bears little probative value due either to the declarants' lack of credibility, potential bias or the lack of clear relevance. In assessing this new evidence in connection to the evidence linking petitioner to the Feltus residence shooting, this court finds that this is not a case where in considering all of the evidence, both new and old, "it is more likely than not that no reasonable juror would have found him guilty beyond a reasonable doubt" had they heard the newly presented evidence. Lampert, 653 F.3d at 938.

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Petitioner's wife's declaration provides the only alibi for petitioner's whereabouts "late on February 24, 2007," and yet in that regard she states only that she was on the phone with petitioner for some of the time between 11:15 p.m. and 12:00 a.m. that evening. Also, Redmond's declaration was signed over fourteen years after the events in question, calling into question its reliability. See Schlup, 513 U.S. at 332 ("The timing of the submission and the likely credibility of the affiants bears on the probable reliability of that evidence."); see also Herrera, 506 U.S. at 423 (O'Connor, J., concurring) (Affidavits "produced . . . at the 11th hour with no reasonable explanation for the nearly decade-long delay" are "suspect."). It cannot be said under these circumstances that the account of these events in Redmond's declaration is either reliable or trustworthy.

CONCLUSION

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3	required in connection with
4	newly discovered evidence.
5	petitioner is not entitled to
6	claim that he is actually inn
7	federal habeas action is tim
8	Pursuant to 1
9	States District Courts, "[t]h
10	it enters a final order advers
11	appealability may issue und
12	showing of the denial of a c
13	issue a certificate of appeal
14	state the reasons why such a
15	is dismissed on procedural
16	show: (1) 'that jurists of re
17	its procedural ruling'; and (
18	states a valid claim of the d
19	780 (9th Cir. 2000) (quoting
20	For the reaso
21	reason would find it debata
22	appealability should issue.
23	IT IS HERE
24	1. Responde
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The evidence on which petitioner now relies does not meet the exacting standard required in connection with the untimely presentation of an actual innocence claim based on newly discovered evidence. <u>See Lee</u>, 653 F.3d at 938. Accordingly, this court finds that petitioner is not entitled to equitable tolling of the AEDPA statute of limitations based on his claim that he is actually innocent of the crimes for which he was convicted. Because petitioner's federal habeas action is time-barred, respondents' motion to dismiss should be granted.

Pursuant to Rule 11 of the Rules Governing Section 2254 Cases in the United States District Courts, "[t]he district court must issue or a deny a certificate of appealability when it enters a final order adverse to the applicant." Rule 11, 28 U.S.C. foll. § 2254. A certificate of appealability may issue under 28 U.S.C. § 2253 "only if the applicant has made a substantial showing of the denial of a constitutional right." 28 U.S.C. § 2253(c)(2). The court must either issue a certificate of appealability indicating which issues satisfy the required showing or must state the reasons why such a certificate should not issue. Fed. R. App. P. 22(b). Where a petition is dismissed on procedural grounds, a certificate of appealability "should issue if the prisoner can show: (1) 'that jurists of reason would find it debatable whether the district court was correct in its procedural ruling'; and (2) 'that jurists of reason would find it debatable whether the petition states a valid claim of the denial of a constitutional right." <u>Morris v. Woodford</u>, 229 F.3d 775, 780 (9th Cir. 2000) (quoting <u>Slack v. McDaniel</u>, 529 U.S. 473, 484 (2000)).

For the reasons set forth in these findings and recommendations, no jurist of
 reason would find it debatable whether this action is time-barred. Accordingly, no certificate of
 appealability should issue.

Γ IS HEREBY RECOMMENDED that

1. Respondent's June 7, 2012 motion to dismiss (Docket No. 15) be granted;

- 2. This action be dismissed as barred by the statute of limitations; and
- 3. The district court decline to issue a certificate of appealability.

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 fourteen
3	days after being served with these findings and recommendations, any party may file written
4	objections with the court and serve a copy on all parties. Such a document should be captioned
5	"Objections to Magistrate Judge's Findings and Recommendations." Any response to the
6	objections shall be filed and served within seven days after service of the objections. The parties
7	are advised that failure to file objections within the specified time may waive the right to appeal
8	the District Court's order. Martinez v. Ylst, 951 F.2d 1153 (9th Cir. 1991).
9	DATED: February 19, 2013.
10	2
11	Dale A. Dright
12	DALE A. DROZD UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE
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