1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT 9 FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA 10 11 PILAR CASTANEDA, No. 2:12-cv-0524-MCE-KJN PS 12 Plaintiff. 13 v. **ORDER** 14 AMTRAK, 15 Defendant. 16 Plaintiff Pilar Castaneda, proceeding without counsel, commenced this action on February 17 28, 2012. (ECF No. 1.)¹ On August 21, 2013, defendant Amtrak filed a motion for summary 18 19 judgment pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 56. (ECF No. 26.) The motion was 20 noticed for hearing on September 19, 2013. (Id.) Pursuant to this court's Local Rules, plaintiff 21 was obligated to file and serve a written opposition or statement of non-opposition to the pending 22 motion at least fourteen (14) days prior to the hearing date, i.e., by September 5, 2013. See E.D. Cal. L.R. 230(c). Although that deadline has now passed, the court's docket reveals that plaintiff 23 24 ¹ This case presently proceeds before the undersigned pursuant to E.D. Cal. L.R. 302(c)(21) and 25 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1). On September 5, 2013, Amtrak filed a consent to proceed before a United States magistrate judge for all purposes pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 636(c), which means that all 26 parties have now so consented. (ECF Nos. 8, 31.) If the district judge elects to refer the case to the undersigned for all purposes, an order to that effect will be issued separately. 27 ² More specifically, Eastern District Local Rule 230(c) provides: 28

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failed to file a written opposition or statement of non-opposition with respect to the motion for summary judgment.

Eastern District Local Rule 110 provides that "[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."

Moreover, Eastern District Local Rule 183(a) provides, in part:

Any individual representing himself or herself without an attorney is bound by the Federal Rules of Civil or Criminal Procedure, these Rules, and all other applicable law. All obligations placed on "counsel" by these Rules apply to individuals appearing in propria persona. Failure to comply therewith may be ground for dismissal, judgment by default, or any other sanction appropriate under these Rules.

See also King v. Atiyeh, 814 F.2d 565, 567 (9th Cir. 1987) ("Pro se litigants must follow the same rules of procedure that govern other litigants") (overruled on other grounds). Case law is in accord that a district court may impose sanctions, including involuntary dismissal of a plaintiff's case pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 41(b), where that plaintiff fails to prosecute his or her case or fails to comply with the court's orders, the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, or the court's local rules. See Chambers v. NASCO, Inc., 501 U.S. 32, 44 (1991) (recognizing that a court "may act sua sponte to dismiss a suit for failure to prosecute"); Hells Canyon Preservation Council v. U.S. Forest Serv., 403 F.3d 683, 689 (9th Cir. 2005) (stating that courts may dismiss an action pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 41(b) sua sponte for a plaintiff's failure to prosecute or comply with the rules of civil procedure or the court's orders); Ghazali v. Moran, 46 F.3d 52, 53 (9th Cir. 1995) (per curiam) ("Failure to follow a district court's local rules is a

(c) Opposition and Non-Opposition. Opposition, if any, to the granting of the motion shall be in writing and shall be filed and served not less than fourteen (14) days preceding the noticed (or continued) hearing date. A responding party who has no opposition to the granting of the motion shall serve and file a statement to that effect, specifically designating the motion in question. No party will be entitled to be heard in opposition to a motion at oral arguments if opposition to the motion has not been timely filed by that party. . . .

proper ground for dismissal"); <u>Ferdik v. Bonzelet</u>, 963 F.2d 1258, 1260 (9th Cir. 1992) ("Pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 41(b), the district court may dismiss an action for failure to comply with any order of the court"); <u>Thompson v. Housing Auth. of City of L.A.</u>, 782 F.2d 829, 831 (9th Cir. 1986) (per curiam) (stating that district courts have inherent power to control their dockets and may impose sanctions including dismissal or default).

In light of plaintiff's pro se status and the court's desire to resolve plaintiff's claims on the merits, the court finds it appropriate to provide plaintiff with one final additional opportunity to oppose defendant Amtrak's motion for summary judgment, if plaintiff intends to do so. The court will also modify the August 10, 2012 pretrial scheduling order (ECF No. 17) and extend the law and motion completion deadline, which is presently set for September 19, 2013, for the *limited* purpose of permitting a continued hearing and briefing schedule on Amtrak's pending motion for summary judgment. All other deadlines in the August 10, 2012 pretrial scheduling order will remain unchanged, subject to any further order of the court.

If plaintiff elects to oppose the motion for summary judgment, plaintiff shall file his opposition and supporting materials in compliance with Local Rule 260. In particular, Local Rule 260(b) provides, in part, that:

Any party opposing a motion for summary judgment or summary adjudication shall reproduce the itemized facts in the Statement of Undisputed Facts and admit those facts that are undisputed and deny those that are disputed, including with each denial a citation to the particular portions of any pleading, affidavit, deposition, interrogatory answer, admission, or other document relied upon in support of that denial. The opposing party may also file a concise "Statement of Disputed Facts," and the source thereof in the record, of all additional material facts as to which there is a genuine issue precluding summary judgment or adjudication. The opposing party shall be responsible for the filing of all evidentiary documents cited in the opposing papers. See L.R. 133(j).

E.D. Cal. L.R. 260(b).³ Failure to comply with these provisions may result in any appropriate sanctions, including that defendant Amtrak's proposed undisputed facts be deemed undisputed for purposes of the motion for summary judgment.

³ A copy of the court's Local Rules can be obtained from the Clerk's Office or on the court's website at http://www.caed.uscourts.gov.

1	Accordingly, for the
2	1. The September 1
3	judgment is VAC
4	a.m. in Courtrooi
5	2. Plaintiff shall file
6	Civil Procedure,
7	plaintiff may file
8	no later than Octo
9	3. Defendant Amtra
10	October 24, 2013
11	4. The law and mo
12	2013, is extended
13	continued hearing
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15	remain unchange
16	5. Plaintiff is cautio
17	statement of non-
18	statement of non-
19	action with preju
20	IT IS SO ORDERED
21	Dated: September 9, 2013
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reasons outlined above, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that:

- 19, 2013 hearing on defendant Amtrak's motion for summary CATED and CONTINUED to Thursday November 7, 2013 at 10:00 m No. 25 before the undersigned.
- e any opposition in accordance with this order, the Federal Rules of and the Local Rules no later than October 10, 2013. Alternatively, a statement of non-opposition to the motion for summary judgment ober 10, 2013.
- ak may file a reply brief to plaintiff's opposition, if any, no later than 3. No further briefing will be permitted, unless requested by the court.
- tion completion deadline, which is presently set for September 19, d to November 7, 2013 for the *limited purpose* of permitting a g and briefing schedule on Amtrak's pending motion for summary ther deadlines in the August 10, 2012 pretrial scheduling order will ed, subject to any further order of the court.
- oned that failure to file a timely and compliant opposition or opposition to the motion for summary judgment will be deemed a opposition to the motion, and may result in dismissal of the entire dice pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 41(b).

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UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE