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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

OSHAY JOHNSON,  
Plaintiff,  
v.  
J. JOHNSTON, et al.,  
Defendants.

No. 2:13-cv-1730 KJN P

ORDER AND FINDINGS AND  
RECOMMENDATIONS

Plaintiff is a state prisoner, proceeding without counsel, with a civil rights complaint. Plaintiff's amended complaint is before the court. After careful review of the amended complaint, as well as plaintiff's other filings in the Eastern District of California, plaintiff's amended complaint should be dismissed without leave to amend.

Screening Standards

The court is required to screen complaints brought by prisoners seeking relief against a governmental entity or officer or employee of a governmental entity. 28 U.S.C. § 1915A(a). The court must dismiss a complaint or portion thereof if the prisoner has raised claims that are legally "frivolous or malicious," that fail to state a claim upon which relief may be granted, or that seek monetary relief from a defendant who is immune from such relief. 28 U.S.C. § 1915A(b)(1),(2).

A claim is legally frivolous when it lacks an arguable basis either in law or in fact. Neitzke v. Williams, 490 U.S. 319, 325 (1989); Franklin v. Murphy, 745 F.2d 1221, 1227-28 (9th

1 Cir. 1984). The court may, therefore, dismiss a claim as frivolous when it is based on an  
2 indisputably meritless legal theory or where the factual contentions are clearly baseless. Neitzke,  
3 490 U.S. at 327. The critical inquiry is whether a constitutional claim, however inartfully  
4 pleaded, has an arguable legal and factual basis. See Jackson v. Arizona, 885 F.2d 639, 640 (9th  
5 Cir. 1989), superseded by statute as stated in Lopez v. Smith, 203 F.3d 1122, 1130-31 (9th Cir.  
6 2000) (“a judge may dismiss [in forma pauperis] claims which are based on indisputably  
7 meritless legal theories or whose factual contentions are clearly baseless.”); Franklin, 745 F.2d at  
8 1227.

9 Rule 8(a)(2) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure “requires only ‘a short and plain  
10 statement of the claim showing that the pleader is entitled to relief,’ in order to ‘give the  
11 defendant fair notice of what the . . . claim is and the grounds upon which it rests.’” Bell Atlantic  
12 Corp. v. Twombly, 550 U.S. 544, 555 (2007) (quoting Conley v. Gibson, 355 U.S. 41, 47 (1957)).  
13 In order to survive dismissal for failure to state a claim, a complaint must contain more than “a  
14 formulaic recitation of the elements of a cause of action;” it must contain factual allegations  
15 sufficient “to raise a right to relief above the speculative level.” Bell Atlantic, 550 U.S. at 555.  
16 However, “[s]pecific facts are not necessary; the statement [of facts] need only ‘give the  
17 defendant fair notice of what the . . . claim is and the grounds upon which it rests.’” Erickson v.  
18 Pardus, 551 U.S. 89, 93 (2007) (quoting Bell Atlantic, 550 U.S. at 555, citations and internal  
19 quotations marks omitted). In reviewing a complaint under this standard, the court must accept as  
20 true the allegations of the complaint in question, Erickson, 551 U.S. at 93, and construe the  
21 pleading in the light most favorable to the plaintiff. Scheuer v. Rhodes, 416 U.S. 232, 236  
22 (1974), overruled on other grounds, Davis v. Scherer, 468 U.S. 183 (1984).

### 23 Plaintiff’s Allegations

24 In his amended complaint, plaintiff names 18 individuals as defendants: the current and  
25 former wardens of the California Medical Facility (“CMF”); various correctional case managers  
26 or records managers, and correctional staff who reviewed administrative appeals; a medical  
27 doctor, psychiatrist, and two psychologists; and nine members of the Board of Prison Hearings

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1 (“BPH”). Plaintiff also names the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation  
2 (“CDCR”) as a defendant.

3 In his first claim for relief, plaintiff contends that his attempted premeditated murder  
4 conviction does not carry a term of 15 years to life, and that defendants applied a 2000 CDCR  
5 memorandum to increase his prison sentence to 23 years to life, retroactively in violation of the  
6 Ex Post Facto Clause. The 2000 memorandum provided sentencing instructions pursuant to  
7 People v. Jefferson, 86 Cal. Rptr. 2d 893 (1999), which found “that the minimum term for a ‘life’  
8 term under P.C. Section 186.22 is 15 calendar years.” (ECF No. 10 at 45.) Specifically, the  
9 memo instructed that inmates sentenced to a life term, when it was charged and proven that the  
10 offense was committed for the benefit of, at the direction of, or in association with any criminal  
11 street gang, and with the specific intent to promote, further, or assist in any criminal street gang  
12 activity, “shall not be paroled until a minimum of 15 calendar years have been served.” (ECF No.  
13 10 at 45.) Plaintiff contends that the memo does not provide for retroactive application of such  
14 new instructions, and resulted in the unconstitutional delay of plaintiff’s parole hearings and a  
15 wrongful change to plaintiff’s MEPD.<sup>1</sup>

16 In his second claim for relief, plaintiff contends that he was denied parole on June 3, 2009,  
17 “partly due to a psychiatric report which diagnosed him with an antisocial personality disorder  
18 (“ASPD”).” (ECF No. 10 at 9.) Plaintiff argues that despite Dr. Starrett’s report diagnosing  
19 plaintiff with ASPD, prison officials refuse to provide plaintiff with mental health treatment so  
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21 <sup>1</sup> Plaintiff also claims that he filed a state tort action alleging that the BPH and CDCR failed in  
22 their duties, and argues that the state court agreed, citing a tentative ruling issued on August 4,  
23 2011. (ECF No. 10 at 8, citing Pl.’s Ex. D [ECF No. 10 at 40-42].) However, the Sacramento  
24 County Superior Court did not find in plaintiff’s favor on the merits of his claim; rather, the  
25 superior court denied the state defendants’ motion for judgment on the pleadings. (ECF No. 10 at  
26 41.) The state defendants argued that they did not have authority to alter plaintiff’s sentence, but  
27 the superior court found that the “duty to follow administrative procedures is distinct from the  
28 question of authority to alter an inmate’s sentence.” Id. Thus, the superior court found plaintiff  
had pled sufficient facts to allege that the state defendants breached duties owed to plaintiff,  
which meant that plaintiff’s claim could proceed to trial. However, plaintiff was granted leave to  
file an amended complaint, and plaintiff provided no further documentation as to the ultimate  
resolution of this claim in state court.

1 that he can become eligible for parole.<sup>2</sup> Plaintiff notes that other mental health professionals  
2 opine that plaintiff does not have symptoms of ASPD and thus no treatment is required. Plaintiff  
3 claims the doctors had a duty to treat him, and that despite their failure to treat him, continue to  
4 use Dr. Starrett's report to deny plaintiff parole.

5 In his third claim for relief, plaintiff alleges that he has been unsuccessful in his efforts to  
6 correct his sentence for attempted premeditated murder and the minimum eligible parole date  
7 ("MEPD") in prison records used by the BPH in determining whether plaintiff is eligible for  
8 parole. Plaintiff claims he received an amended abstract of judgment prepared by records  
9 manager K. Fox, but that there is still an error. Plaintiff contends that during the 2009 hearing,  
10 the BPH conceded that plaintiff's hearing was approximately seven years too late, and that  
11 plaintiff had missed at least three hearings. Plaintiff claims that the BPH then applied Marsy's  
12 Law retroactively, and denied plaintiff parole for another five years.

13 Plaintiff seeks only injunctive relief. Plaintiff asks the court to bar the BPH from using  
14 the psychological evaluation that found plaintiff suffers from ASPD, bar the CDCR and BPH  
15 from applying the 2000 memorandum retroactively to plaintiff's sentence, and to record  
16 plaintiff's sentence and term as 8 years consecutive to the straight life term, where plaintiff is to  
17 serve half time on the 8 years being completed in 1996, and plaintiff is to serve 7 years on the  
18 straight life term becoming eligible in 2002, one year before the completion of the 7th year, with  
19 instructions that plaintiff could not be paroled until the completion of 15 calendar years which  
20 was completed in 2007. (ECF No. 10 at 15.) Plaintiff contends he has no adequate remedy at  
21 law, and is in danger of suffering irreparable injury unless the court issues the requested  
22 injunction. (Id.)

### 23 Background

24 On May 7, 1993, plaintiff was sentenced to a term of fifteen years, eight months in prison  
25 followed by a term of fifteen years to life with the possibility of parole. Johnson v. Sisto, Case

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27 <sup>2</sup> As plaintiff was previously informed, plaintiff does not have a due process right to be  
28 rehabilitated so that he may be paroled. Johnson v. Singh, Case No. 2:12-cv-2230 (E.D. Cal.)  
(ECF No. 5 at 6:19-20.)

1 No. 2:08-cv-0496 MCE KJM P (E.D. Cal.) (ECF No. 38 at 5.) The original abstract of judgment  
2 provided that the indeterminate term was to be served consecutively to the determinate term. Id.  
3 (ECF No. 38 at 5-6.) Plaintiff filed habeas petitions in the state court raising various sentencing  
4 issues, and the California Supreme Court asked the Attorney General to file an informal reply,  
5 addressing the conflict between the superior court's oral pronouncement of judgment and the  
6 abstract of judgment. Id. (ECF No. 38 at 7.) On August 8, 2007, the respondent notified the  
7 court that CDCR's Legal Processing Unit sent a letter to the superior court, asking whether the  
8 determinate portion of plaintiff's sentence was to be served consecutively or concurrently to the  
9 indeterminate portion, a decision which could have an impact on plaintiff's minimum eligible  
10 parole date ("MEPD"). Id. The California Supreme Court denied plaintiff's habeas petition on  
11 October 10, 2007. Id.

12 On August 16, 2007, the Sacramento County Superior Court issued an amended abstract  
13 of judgment showing a total determinate term of fifteen years, eight months, and an indeterminate  
14 term of fifteen years to life concurrent to the determinate sentence. Id.

15 The amended abstract for the determinate term is signed on  
16 "8/15/07 nunc pro tunc to 5/27/93"; the amended abstract for the  
17 indeterminate term is signed on "8/14/07 nunc pro tunc to 7/29/93."  
The document is identified as an "amended abstract of judgment"  
and lists the date the judgment was imposed as May 7, 1993.

18 Id. The district court found that plaintiff had not been re-sentenced in 2007; rather, the amended  
19 abstracts recorded the sentence as announced by the trial court in 1993:

20 At the original sentencing proceeding, the court sentenced  
21 petitioner to two life terms for attempted murder and mayhem, but  
22 stayed the term for the mayhem. The court noted that because of the  
23 gang allegations under California Penal Code § 186.22(b)(2),  
petitioner must serve a minimum of fifteen calendar years of his life  
term before being eligible for parole. It also sentenced petitioner to  
a total determinate term of fifteen years, eight months to be served  
concurrently with the life term.

24 Johnson v. Sisto, Case No. 2:08-cv-0496 MCE KJM P (ECF No. 38 at 10-11.) The district court  
25 ultimately dismissed plaintiff's habeas petition as barred by the statute of limitations. Id. (ECF  
26 No. 41.)

27 Moreover, plaintiff has filed additional challenges, many of which raise issues similar to  
28 those alleged in plaintiff's amended complaint:

1           In Johnson v. Yates, Case No. 1:09-cv-1355 OWW SMS (Fresno Div., E.D. Cal.),  
2 plaintiff filed a petition for writ of habeas corpus, claiming that the CDCR and BPH allegedly  
3 misinterpreted the trial court’s sentence and improperly denied an initial parole hearing until  
4 2015. Id. (ECF No. 19 at 4-5.) The court found plaintiff’s claims were barred by the statute of  
5 limitations, and that plaintiff failed to state a cognizable federal claim because plaintiff only  
6 alleged violations of state law. Id. (ECF Nos. 19 at 5-6; 24 at 2.)

7           In Johnson v. Dickinson, Case No. 2:10-cv-1841 MCE EFB (E.D. Cal.), plaintiff filed a  
8 petition for writ of habeas corpus, challenging, *inter alia*, the BPH’s delay of plaintiff’s initial  
9 parole consideration hearing by seven years. Id. (ECF No. 23 at 2-3.) The court granted  
10 respondent’s motion to dismiss, finding plaintiff’s petition was second or successive, id. (ECF  
11 Nos. 19 at 5-6; 27), based on plaintiff’s Case No. 1:09-cv-1355 OWW SMS.

12           In Johnson v. Board of Parole Hearings, Case No. 2:11-cv-2748 GGH (E.D. Cal.),  
13 plaintiff filed another habeas petition raising a due process challenge to the 2009 BPH decision,  
14 which the court found unavailing because the transcript reflected plaintiff was present and  
15 represented by counsel, and that both counsel and petitioner presented “many, many arguments to  
16 the Board and responded to the Board’s questions,” thus satisfying the minimum due process  
17 requirements of Swarthout v. Cooke, 131 S. Ct. 859, 861 (2011).

18           In Johnson v. Singh, Case No. 2:12-cv-2230 (E.D. Cal.), plaintiff filed a habeas petition  
19 raising a due process challenge based on the prison’s refusal to provide treatment for plaintiff’s  
20 “antisocial personal disorder,” allegedly resulting in the denial of parole. Id. (ECF No. 6 at 1-2.)  
21 The magistrate judge found that plaintiff does not have a right protected by the Due Process  
22 Clause to be rehabilitated so that he may be paroled and the fact that he was not receiving  
23 treatment for the “personality disorder” did not otherwise render his confinement  
24 unconstitutional. Id. (ECF No. 6 at 2.) Because plaintiff failed to present a valid challenge to the  
25 fact or duration of his confinement, the petition was dismissed. Id. (ECF No. 10.)

26           Finally, in Johnson v. Unknown, Case No. 13-cv-0878 (E.D. Cal.), plaintiff filed a habeas  
27 petition challenging his 1993 conviction, which was dismissed because the petition was a second  
28 or successive petition. Id. (ECF No. 6 at 2.)

1 Legal Standards

2 The Due Process Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment prohibits state action that deprives  
3 a person of life, liberty, or property without due process of law. A litigant alleging a due process  
4 violation must first demonstrate that he was deprived of a liberty or property interest protected by  
5 the Due Process Clause and then show that the procedures attendant upon the deprivation were  
6 not constitutionally sufficient. Kentucky Dep't of Corrections v. Thompson, 490 U.S. 454, 459-  
7 60 (1989).

8 California's parole scheme gives rise to a liberty interest in parole protected by the federal  
9 Due Process Clause. McQuillion v. Duncan, 306 F.3d 895, 902 (9th Cir. 2002), overruled on  
10 other grounds by Swarthout v. Cooke, 131 S. Ct. 859, 861-62 (2011) (finding the Ninth Circuit's  
11 holding in this regard to be a reasonable application of Supreme Court authority); Pearson v.  
12 Muntz, 2011 WL 1238007, at \*4 (9th Cir. Apr.5, 2011) (“[Swarthout v.] Cooke did not disturb  
13 our precedent that California law creates a liberty interest in parole.”) In California, a prisoner is  
14 entitled to release on parole unless there is “some evidence” of his or her current dangerousness.  
15 In re Lawrence, 44 Cal.4th 1181, 1205-06, 1210 (2008); In re Rosenkrantz, 29 Cal. 4th 616, 651-  
16 53 (2002).<sup>3</sup>

17 There are two distinct components to the standing inquiry when a plaintiff requests  
18 prospective injunctive relief. First, in order to satisfy the constitutional requirements for standing,  
19 the plaintiff must demonstrate a credible threat of future injury which is sufficiently concrete and  
20 particularized to meet the “case or controversy” requirement of Article III. Lujan v. Defenders of  
21 Wildlife, 504 U.S. 555, 560-61 (1992). Second, to establish an entitlement to injunctive relief,  
22 the plaintiff must allege not only a likelihood of future injury, but also show an imminent threat  
23 of irreparable harm. City of Los Angeles v. Lyons, 461 U.S. 95, 111 (1983).

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25 <sup>3</sup> However, under Cooke, federal district courts court may not review whether California’s “some  
26 evidence” standard was correctly applied. 131 S. Ct. at 862-63; see also Miller v. Oregon Bd. of  
27 Parole and Post-Prison Supervision, 642 F.3d 711, 716 (9th Cir. 2011) (In Cooke, “The Supreme  
28 Court held . . . that in the context of parole eligibility decisions the due process right is  
procedural, and entitles a prisoner to nothing more than a fair hearing and a statement of reasons  
for a parole board's decision.”).

1           The imminent threat showing is a separate jurisdictional requirement, arising  
2 independently from Article III, that is grounded in the traditional limitations on the court's power  
3 to grant injunctive relief. Lyons, 461 U.S. at 111 (the preconditions for equitable relief, including  
4 the requirement that the plaintiff face a real and immediate risk of personal harm, should not be  
5 slighted); Hodgers-Durgin v. de la Vina, 199 F.3d 1037, 1042 (9th Cir. 1999) (the court may not  
6 exercise jurisdiction over a suit for equitable relief unless the plaintiff demonstrates a likelihood  
7 of imminent and irreparable injury, a necessary prerequisite for such relief). Although a past  
8 injury presumably affords a plaintiff standing to claim damages, it “does nothing to establish a  
9 real and immediate threat that he would again suffer similar injury in the future.” Adarand  
10 Constructors, Inc. v. Pena, 515 U.S. 200, 210-11 (1995). “[A]bsent a threat of immediate  
11 irreparable harm, the federal courts should not enjoin a state to conduct its business in a particular  
12 way.” Hodgers-Durgin, 199 F.3d 1037, 1042 (9th Cir. 1999). A plaintiff must demonstrate that  
13 the threat of recurrence is real, rather than a “speculative possibility.” Lyons, 461 U.S. at 109.

#### 14 Analysis

15           Initially, the court is required to consider whether it has jurisdiction over this action.  
16 Here, that question turns on the nature of the relief that plaintiff seeks and an assessment of  
17 whether the challenge necessarily implies the invalidity of plaintiff’s conviction and his  
18 continuing confinement.

19           In Preiser v. Rodriguez, the Supreme Court held that a habeas action, rather than a suit  
20 under § 1983, is the proper vehicle for a state prisoner to challenge “the fact or duration of his  
21 confinement.” 411 U.S. 475, 489 (1973). Actions under § 1983 are not cognizable when the  
22 prisoner seeks “immediate release from prison” or a shortening of the term of confinement. Id. at  
23 482. The Court expanded on this principle in Heck v. Humphrey, explaining that even when a  
24 plaintiff seeks monetary damages rather than a speedier release, federal courts may not consider  
25 § 1983 claims that impugn the lawfulness of confinement. See Heck, 512 U.S. 477, 485 (1994).  
26 When a state prisoner's challenge “necessarily impl[ies] . . . the invalidity of” a prison  
27 disciplinary, the action must be pursued through a petition for a writ of habeas corpus. See  
28 Edwards v. Balisok, 520 U.S. 641, 648 (1997); see also Butterfield v. Bail, 120 F.3d 1023, 1024-



1 25 (9th Cir. 1997) (holding that § 1983 action against parole board defendants who considered  
2 false information in denying parole was not cognizable because “the remedy [plaintiff] ultimately  
3 seeks is parole”); Crow v. Penry, 102 F.3d 1086, 1087 (10th Cir. 1996) (same).<sup>4</sup>

4 In 2005, the Supreme Court clarified that § 1983 actions remain available to state  
5 prisoners whose claims “would not necessarily” imply the invalidity of their confinement or  
6 “spell immediate or speedier release.” Wilkinson v. Dotson, 544 U.S. 74, 81 (2005). The Court  
7 explained that § 1983 claims are cognizable when “[s]uccess for [the plaintiff] does not mean  
8 immediate release from confinement or a shorter stay in prison,” but “means at most new  
9 eligibility review, which at most will speed *consideration* of a new parole application.” Id. at 82  
10 Thus, the prisoner may not seek “an injunction ordering his immediate or speedier release into the  
11 community.” Id.

#### 12 Improper Sentence

13 Here, the gravamen of plaintiff’s first and third claims is that he has been improperly  
14 sentenced. While plaintiff’s characterization of his claim does not necessarily challenge the  
15 length of his confinement or the fact of his guilt, his sentencing claims ultimately call into  
16 question the duration of his confinement, and, if successful, would require this court to vacate a  
17 state court judgment. Plaintiff’s allegations, and this court’s records, reflect that plaintiff’s 1993  
18 conviction and sentence have not been invalidated. Thus, plaintiff’s sentencing claims are barred  
19 by Heck. Moreover, as plaintiff was previously informed:

20 A federal court has no basis for disputing a state’s interpretation of  
21 its own law. Clemons v. Mississippi, 494 U.S. 738, 739-40 (1990).  
22 “[T]he availability of a claim under state law does not of itself  
23 establish that a claim was available under the United States  
24 Constitution.” Sawyer v. Smith, 497 U.S. 227, 239 (1990), quoting,  
Dugger v. Adams, 489 U.S. 401, 409 (1989).

24 Johnson v. Yates, 1:09-cv-1355 OWW SMS (E.D. Cal. December 17, 2009) (ECF No. 19 at 5-6.)

25 \_\_\_\_\_  
26 <sup>4</sup> In Balisok, the Court was careful to note that a claim for prospective injunctive relief that  
27 would bar future unconstitutional procedures may be properly brought pursuant to § 1983.  
28 Balisok, 520 U.S. at 648 (“Ordinarily, a prayer for such prospective relief will not ‘necessarily  
imply’ the invalidity of a previous loss of good-time credits, and so may properly be brought  
under § 1983.”).

1 Therefore, to the extent plaintiff contends he is sentenced in error, plaintiff must seek appropriate  
2 relief from the state courts. Plaintiff's sentencing claims should be dismissed.

### 3 Missed Parole Hearings

4 To the extent plaintiff seeks injunctive relief related to those parole hearings he allegedly  
5 missed, such a claim is unavailing. While plaintiff may seek damages based on a past injury,  
6 such past injuries do not establish a threat of immediate irreparable harm, and thus plaintiff  
7 cannot seek injunctive relief based on missed parole hearings.

### 8 Calculation of the MEPD

9 In his May 29, 2008 administrative grievance, plaintiff claimed that his MEPD should be  
10 January 18, 1998, and not September 2, 2008. (ECF No. 10 at 29.) His grievance was partially  
11 granted, and his MEPD was re-calculated to April 7, 2004. (ECF No. 10 at 30.) In the December  
12 29, 2011 third level appeal decision, plaintiff's MEPD was noted as March 22, 2012. (ECF No.  
13 10 at 24.) Plaintiff argues that his MEPD is still inaccurately calculated. The BPH has the power  
14 and authority to grant paroles, but the CDCR sets a prisoner's MEPD. See In re Dayan, 231 Cal.  
15 App. 3d 184 (1991). Therefore, even assuming defendants failed to properly calculate plaintiff's  
16 MEPD, the only relief the court could order would be a recalculation of plaintiff's MEPD.  
17 Because plaintiff has already passed his MEPD, and has had his initial parole consideration  
18 hearing, the court cannot order injunctive relief as to such a claim. Plaintiff's claims concerning  
19 his MEPD should be dismissed.

### 20 Marsy's Law/Ex Post Facto Claim

21 To the extent plaintiff is again attempting to raise a Marsy's Law claim, or Ex Post Facto  
22 claim based on the application of Marsy's Law, such claim is barred because plaintiff is a  
23 member of the Gilman class action. (ECF No. 5 at 8.) Moreover, in Gilman, the Ninth Circuit  
24 overturned a district court decision in Gilman v. Davis, 690 F.Supp.2d 1105 (E.D. Cal. 2010),  
25 granting preliminary injunctive relief to plaintiffs in a class action seeking to prevent the BPH  
26 from enforcing the increased deferral periods established by a recent amendment to Cal. Penal  
27 Code § 3041.5. Gilman v. Schwarzenegger, 2011 WL 198435 (9th Cir. Jan.24, 2011). The Ninth  
28 Circuit concluded that plaintiffs had failed to demonstrate a significant risk that their

1 incarceration would be prolonged by application of Marsy's Law, and thus found that plaintiffs  
2 had not established a likelihood of success on the merits of their ex post facto claim. Id. In  
3 reversing, the Ninth Circuit found that the availability of expedited hearings by the BPH removes  
4 any possibility of harm to prisoners who experience changes in circumstances between hearings.  
5 Gilman, 638 F.3d at 1109.

#### 6 Due Process/Administrative Appeals

7 Plaintiff names as defendants correctional staff who reviewed plaintiff's administrative  
8 appeals. However, prisoners have no stand-alone due process rights related to the administrative  
9 grievance process. See Mann v. Adams, 855 F.2d 639, 640 (9th Cir. 1988); see also Ramirez v.  
10 Galaza, 334 F.3d 850, 860 (9th Cir. 2003) (holding that there is no liberty interest entitling  
11 inmates to a specific grievance process). Put another way, prison officials are not required under  
12 federal law to process inmate grievances in a specific way or to respond to them in a favorable  
13 manner. Because there is no right to any particular grievance process, plaintiff cannot state a  
14 cognizable civil rights claim for a violation of his due process rights based on allegations that  
15 prison officials denied or failed to properly process grievances. See, e.g., Wright v. Shannon,  
16 2010 WL 445203 at \*5 (E.D. Cal. Feb.2, 2010) (plaintiff's allegations that prison officials denied  
17 or ignored his inmate appeals failed to state a cognizable claim under the First Amendment);  
18 Williams v. Cate, 2009 WL 3789597 at \*6 (E.D. Cal. Nov.10, 2009) ("Plaintiff has no protected  
19 liberty interest in the vindication of his administrative claims."). Plaintiff's claims based on  
20 defendants' role in the administrative appeal process should also be dismissed.

#### 21 Medical Professional Defendants

22 Plaintiff names a medical doctor and three mental health professionals as defendants.  
23 Such medical professionals cannot provide plaintiff with the requested injunctive relief. These  
24 medical professionals cannot control whether or when plaintiff is scheduled for a parole hearing  
25 or what evidence the BPH considers at his parole hearings, or remove and/or redact his report  
26 from all BPH and prison files. Therefore, plaintiff fails to state a claim for injunctive relief  
27 against Dr. Bick, C. Herndon, Ph.D., R. Helot, Psy. D., or K. Alexander, Ph.D.

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1           Dr. Starrett's Report

2           In his second claim, plaintiff seeks a court order barring the BPH from considering Dr.  
3 Starrett's report that diagnosed plaintiff with ASPD, based on his allegation that mental health  
4 professionals refuse to treat plaintiff for ASPD. However, as plaintiff was previously informed,  
5 plaintiff does not have a right protected by the Due Process Clause to be rehabilitated so  
6 that he may be paroled, and the fact that he is not receiving treatment for ASPD does not  
7 otherwise render his being confined unconstitutional. Johnson v. Singh, Case No. 2:12-cv-2230  
8 CKD (E.D. Cal. Oct. 15, 2012) (ECF No. 6 at 2.) Because plaintiff does not have a due process  
9 right to be treated so that he may parole, there is no basis for injunctive relief on his claim for  
10 medical care in this context.

11           In addition, plaintiff fails to explain how the BPH's use of Dr. Starrett's report violated  
12 plaintiff's rights arising under federal law. See Reece v. Smith, 2010 WL 5317440, \*2 (E.D. Cal.  
13 Dec. 20, 2010) (claim for injunctive relief failed to state a claim upon which relief can be granted  
14 because plaintiff failed "to point to any federal law indicating that defendant, by drafting a false  
15 psychological evaluation for use at a parole hearing, violated plaintiff's rights arising under  
16 federal law and the court is not aware of any such law.") Plaintiff's claim for injunctive relief  
17 based on Dr. Starrett's report, and defendants' failure to provide plaintiff mental health treatment  
18 for ASPD, should also be dismissed.

19           Conclusion

20           For all of the above reasons, the court finds that plaintiff fails to state a claim upon which  
21 relief can be granted, and this case should be closed.

22           In accordance with the above, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the Clerk of the Court is  
23 directed to assign a district judge to this case; and

24           IT IS RECOMMENDED that:

- 25           1. Plaintiff's amended complaint be dismissed; and  
26           2. This case be closed.

27           These findings and recommendations are submitted to the United States District Judge  
28 assigned to the case, pursuant to the provisions of 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1). Within fourteen days

1 after being served with these findings and recommendations, plaintiff may file written objections  
2 with the court and serve a copy on all parties. Such a document should be captioned  
3 “Objections to Magistrate Judge’s Findings and Recommendations.” Plaintiff is advised that  
4 failure to file objections within the specified time may waive the right to appeal the District  
5 Court’s order. Martinez v. Ylst, 951 F.2d 1153 (9th Cir. 1991).

6 Dated: December 20, 2013

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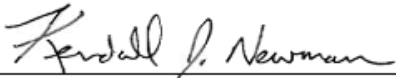
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KENDALL J. NEWMAN  
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE