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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

DEBRA BARNETT,
Plaintiff,
v.
WELLS FARGO HOME MORTGAGE,
Defendant.

No. 2:14-cv-1211 TLN CKD PS

ORDER and FINDINGS AND
RECOMMENDATIONS

This case, in which plaintiff is proceeding pro se, is before the undersigned pursuant to Eastern District of California Local Rule 302(c)(21). See 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1). On May 23, 2014 defendant filed a motion to dismiss. The motion was noticed to be heard on July 9, 2014.

On June 27, 2014, because plaintiff had not filed either an opposition or a statement of non-opposition to the motions, the undersigned continued the hearing on the motion to August 20, 2014 and directed plaintiff to file an opposition to the motion, or a statement of non-opposition thereto, no later than July 30, 2014. Plaintiff was advised that failure to file an opposition would be deemed a statement of non-opposition to the pending motion and would result in a recommendation that this action be dismissed.

Although the deadlines have now passed, the court docket reflects that plaintiff has not filed an opposition to the motion or a statement of non-opposition to the motion. The Federal Rules of Civil Procedure provide for dismissal of actions based on lack of prosecution. Fed. R.

1 Civ. P. 41(b). Pro se litigants are bound by the rules of procedure, even though pleadings are
2 liberally construed in their favor. King v. Atiyeh, 814 F.2d 565, 567 (9th Cir. 1987). In
3 determining whether to dismiss for lack of prosecution, generally the court considers (1) the
4 public's interest in expeditious resolution of litigation, (2) the court's need to manage its docket,
5 (3) the risk of prejudice to the defendants, (4) the public policy favoring disposition of cases on
6 their merits, and (5) the availability of less drastic sanctions. See, e.g., Al-Torki v. Kaempfen, 78
7 F.3d 1381, 1384 (9th Cir. 1996). The court may dismiss a case sua sponte for lack of prosecution
8 by the plaintiff. Hamilton Copper & Steel Corp. v. Primary Steel, Inc., 898 F.2d 1428 (9th Cir.
9 1990). Sua sponte dismissal requires a "close focus" on consideration of "less drastic
10 alternatives" and whether or not there has been a "warning of imminent dismissal of the case."
11 Oliva v. Sullivan, 958 F.2d 272, 274 (9th Cir. 1992).

12 In determining that this action will be dismissed, the court has considered all the factors
13 set forth in Al-Torki. The first two factors on their face favor the imposition of sanctions in this
14 case brought by plaintiff and which has been proceeding forward since plaintiff initiated this
15 action on September 13, 2013 in state court. See Wanderer v. Johnston, 910 F.2d 652, 656 (9th
16 Cir. 1990). Regarding the third factor, defendant already has briefed its motion to dismiss, and
17 would be prejudiced by the need for further litigation of this matter despite plaintiff's non-
18 responsiveness. Moreover, delay itself generally is prejudicial--witness memories fade and
19 evidence becomes stale or undiscoverable. While the fourth factor favors resolution on the
20 merits, in this case plaintiff has declined to oppose the motion to dismiss and thus has precluded
21 the court's evaluation of the potential merits of such an opposition.

22 Focusing on the fifth Al-Torki factor and warning regarding imminent dismissal, as
23 required by Oliva, the court in its order of June 27, 2014 has advised plaintiff that this action is
24 subject to dismissal, directed plaintiff to file opposition, and granted ample additional time to
25 oppose the pending motion after plaintiff failed to timely oppose defendants' motion to dismiss,
26 all to no avail. In light of plaintiff's failures, the court concludes there is no suitable alternative
27 less drastic sanction to dismissal. The undersigned will therefore recommend that this action be

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1 dismissed for failure to prosecute the action and for failure to comply with court orders and Local
2 Rules. See Fed. R. Civ. P. 41(b); L.R. 110.

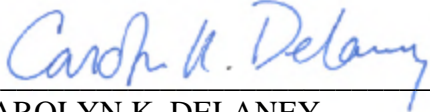
3 Accordingly, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the hearing date of August 20, 2014 on
4 defendant's motion to dismiss is vacated; and

5 IT IS HEREBY RECOMMENDED that:

- 6 1. This action be dismissed with prejudice; and
- 7 2. The Clerk of Court be directed to close this case.

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

15 Dated: August 4, 2014



CAROLYN K. DELANEY
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

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