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

VERNON McKINZIE, C-94654,)	
)	
Petitioner,)	No. C 10-1894 CRB (PR)
)	
vs.)	ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE
)	
R. GROUNDS, Acting Warden,)	
)	
Respondent(s).)	
_____)	

Petitioner, a state prisoner incarcerated at the Correctional Training Facility in Soledad, California, has filed a pro se petition for a writ of habeas corpus under 28 U.S.C. § 2254 challenging the California Board of Parole Hearings' ("BPH") September 11, 2008 decision to deny him parole.

BACKGROUND

On October 5, 1984, petitioner was sentenced to an indeterminate term of 27 years to life in state prison after a jury in San Bernardino County Superior Court found him guilty of first degree murder with use of a firearm.

Petitioner has been found not suitable for parole each time he has appeared before the BPH. On March 24, 2010, the Supreme Court of California denied his state habeas challenge to the BPH's decision of September 11, 2008.

1 **DISCUSSION**

2 A. Standard of Review

3 This court may entertain a petition for a writ of habeas corpus "in behalf
4 of a person in custody pursuant to the judgment of a State court only on the
5 ground that he is in custody in violation of the Constitution or laws or treaties of
6 the United States." 28 U.S.C. § 2254(a).

7 It shall "award the writ or issue an order directing the respondent to show
8 cause why the writ should not be granted, unless it appears from the application
9 that the applicant or person detained is not entitled thereto." Id. § 2243.

10 B. Legal Claims

11 Petitioner seeks federal habeas corpus relief from the BPH's September
12 11, 2008 decision finding him not suitable for parole on the ground that the
13 decision does not comport with due process because it is not supported by some
14 evidence demonstrating that he poses a current unreasonable threat to the public.
15 Liberally construed, petitioner's claim appears colorable under § 2254 and merits
16 an answer from respondent. See Hayward v. Marshall, 603 F.3d 546, 561-64 (9th
17 Cir. 2010) (en banc) (finding cognizable on federal habeas review claims that
18 California parole denials were made without some evidence of future
19 dangerousness).

20 **CONCLUSION**

21 For the foregoing reasons and for good cause shown,

22 1. The clerk shall serve by certified mail a copy of this order and the
23 petition and all attachments thereto on respondent, the Attorney General of the
24 State of California. The clerk also shall serve a copy of this order on petitioner.

25 2. Respondent shall file with the court and serve on petitioner, within
26 60 days of the issuance of this order, an answer conforming in all respects to Rule
27

1 5 of the Rules Governing Section 2254 Cases, showing cause why a writ of
2 habeas corpus should not be issued. Respondent shall file with the answer and
3 serve on petitioner a copy of all portions of the state trial record that have been
4 transcribed previously and that are relevant to a determination of the issues
5 presented by the petition.

6 3. If petitioner wishes to respond to the answer, he shall do so by
7 filing a traverse with the court and serving it on respondent within 30 days of his
8 receipt of the answer.

9 SO ORDERED.

10 DATED: Sept. 1, 2010

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13 CHARLES R. BREYER
14 United States District Judge
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