Simmons v. Grounds Doc. 7

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

MICHAEL A. SIMMONS, E-70748,)
Petitioner,	No. C 10-3002 CRB (PR)
vs. R. GROUNDS, Acting Warden, Respondent(s).	ORDER DISMISSING PETITION FOR A WRIT OF HABEAS CORPUS (Docket # 6)

Petitioner seeks a writ of habeas corpus under 28 U.S.C. § 2254 challenging the Governor of California's decision reversing the California Board of Parole Hearings' (BPH) October 2, 2008 decision granting him parole. Petitioner specifically claims that the Governor's decision does not comport with due process because it is not supported by some evidence demonstrating that he poses a current unreasonable threat to the public.

In the context of parole, a prisoner subject to a parole statute similar to California's receives adequate process when he is allowed an opportunity to be heard and is provided with a statement of the reasons why parole was denied. Swarthout v. Cooke, 131 S. Ct. 859, 862 (2011). The attachments to the petition show petitioner received at least this amount of process. The Constitution does not require more. Id.

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Whether the Governor's decision was supported by some evidence of current dangerousness is irrelevant in federal habeas. The Supreme Court has made clear that "it is no federal concern . . . whether California's 'some evidence' rule of judicial review (a procedure beyond what the Constitution demands) was correctly applied." <u>Id.</u> at 863.

For the foregoing reasons, the petition for a writ of habeas corpus is DISMISSED. And pursuant to Rule 11 of the Rules Governing Section 2254 Cases, a certificate of appealability (COA) under 28 U.S.C. § 2253(c) is DENIED because it cannot be said that "reasonable jurists would find the district court's assessment of the constitutional claims debatable or wrong." Slack v. McDaniel, 529 U.S. 473, 484 (2000).

The clerk shall enter judgment in accordance with this order, terminate all pending motions as moot (see docket # 6) and close the file.

SO ORDERED.

DATED: <u>Feb. 26, 2011</u>

United States District Judge