

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

3 MELVIN DUKES,

No. C 10-03320 SBA (PR)

4 Plaintiff,

**ORDER OF DISMISSAL**

5 v.

6 A. HEDGEPEETH, et al.,

7 Defendants.  
8 \_\_\_\_\_/

9 Plaintiff, a state prisoner, filed this pro se civil rights action under 42 U.S.C. § 1983 in the  
10 United States District Court for the Eastern District of California. In an Order dated July 22, 2010,  
11 Magistrate Judge Kimberly J. Mueller of the Eastern District ordered it transferred to this Court on  
12 venue grounds.

13 On July 29, 2010, the instant case was received by this Court. On that same date, the Clerk  
14 of the Court sent Plaintiff a notice that this case had been transferred to this Court. The Clerk notice  
15 returned as undeliverable with a notation: "Return to Sender -- Inmate Refused."

16 In an Order dated August 25, 2010, the Court directed Plaintiff to inform the Court of his  
17 continued intent to prosecute this action. The Court informed Plaintiff that if he failed to do so  
18 within thirty days, this action would be dismissed without prejudice for failure to prosecute. The  
19 Order was sent to Plaintiff at his last known address, Salinas Valley State Prison, and it was not  
20 returned as undeliverable.

21 More than thirty days have passed, and Plaintiff has filed no response to the Court's August  
22 25, 2010 Order. He has failed to communicate with the Court since this case has been transferred to  
23 this district. A district court may sua sponte dismiss an action for failure to prosecute or to comply  
24 with a court order pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 41(b). See Link v. Wabash R.R., 370  
25 U.S. 626, 633 (1962); McKeever v. Block, 932 F.2d 795, 797 (9th Cir. 1991). The court should  
26 consider five factors before dismissing an action under Rule 41(b): (1) the public interest in the  
27 expeditious resolution of the litigation; (2) the court's need to manage its docket; (3) the risk of  
28 prejudice to the defendants; (4) the availability of less drastic sanctions; and (5) the public policy

1 favoring the disposition of actions on their merits. See Malone v. United States Postal Serv., 833  
2 F.2d 128, 130 (9th Cir. 1987).<sup>1</sup> The first three factors, above, weigh in favor of dismissal in light of  
3 the fact that Plaintiff has not pursued this matter since it has been transferred to this district. In  
4 addition, he has refused one notice from the Clerk and failed to respond to the Court's August 25,  
5 2010 Order. The fourth factor also weighs in favor of dismissal because less drastic sanctions would  
6 have little impact in light of Plaintiff's apparent lack of interest in this case. Although the fifth factor  
7 appears to weigh against dismissal, dismissal is appropriate in light of the other four factors. See  
8 Pagtalunan v. Galaza, 291 F.3d 639, 643 (9th Cir. 2002) (finding district court did not abuse its  
9 discretion in dismissing petition with prejudice where three of the five factors weighed in favor of  
10 dismissal).

11 In light of the foregoing, this action is hereby DISMISSED for failure to prosecute, pursuant  
12 to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 41(b).

13 The Clerk of the Court shall close the file and terminate any pending motions.

14 IT IS SO ORDERED.

15 DATED: 10/27/10

  
SAUNDRA BROWN ARMSTRONG  
United States District Judge

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27 <sup>1</sup> The court should also afford the litigant prior notice of its intention to dismiss, id. at 133, as  
28 this Court has done.

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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

MELVIN DUKES,

Plaintiff,

v.

A. HEDGEPEETH et al,

Defendant.

Case Number: CV10-03320 SBA

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I, the undersigned, hereby certify that I am an employee in the Office of the Clerk, U.S. District Court, Northern District of California.

That on October 27, 2010, I SERVED a true and correct copy(ies) of the attached, by placing said copy(ies) in a postage paid envelope addressed to the person(s) hereinafter listed, by depositing said envelope in the U.S. Mail, or by placing said copy(ies) into an inter-office delivery receptacle located in the Clerk's office.

Melvin Dukes D-33572  
Salinas Valley State Prison  
P.O. Box 1050  
Soledad, CA 93960-1050

Dated: October 27, 2010

Richard W. Wieking, Clerk  
By: LISA R CLARK, Deputy Clerk