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E-FILED - 3/25/10

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

DAVID E. PATTERSON,)	No. C 10-0063 RMW (PR)
)	
Petitioner,)	ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE
)	
vs.)	
)	
C. NOLL, Warden,)	
)	
Respondent.)	
_____)	

Petitioner, a state prisoner proceeding pro se, seeks a writ of habeas corpus pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2254 challenging a decision by the California Board of Parole Hearings (“Board”) in 2009 finding him unsuitable for parole. Petitioner has paid the filing fee. The court orders respondent to show cause why the petition should not be granted.

BACKGROUND

On January 7, 1983, petitioner was sentenced to a term of 25 years-to-life in state prison after his conviction for first degree murder in Los Angeles County Superior Court. At his parole suitability hearing in 2009, the Board found petitioner to be unsuitable for parole. Petitioner challenged this decision unsuccessfully in habeas petitions filed in all three levels of the California courts. Petitioner thereafter filed the instant petition.

1 **DISCUSSION**

2 A. Standard of Review

3 This court may entertain a petition for writ of habeas corpus “in behalf of a person in
4 custody pursuant to the judgment of a state court only on the ground that he is in custody in
5 violation of the Constitution or laws or treaties of the United States.” 28 U.S.C. § 2254(a); Rose
6 v. Hodges, 423 U.S. 19, 21 (1975).

7 A district court 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 that the
9 applicant or person detained is not entitled thereto.” 28 U.S.C. § 2243.

10 B. Petitioner’s Claims

11 As grounds for federal habeas relief, petitioner claims that he has a liberty interest in
12 parole and should be released because there is insufficient evidence that he is currently a danger
13 to society. Petitioner further claims that the Board violated his right to due process by relying on
14 the immutable fact of his commitment offense and ignoring his efforts at rehabilitation.
15 Liberally construed, petitioner’s claims are cognizable on federal habeas review. The court
16 orders respondent to show cause why the petition should not be granted.

17 **CONCLUSION**

18 1. The clerk shall serve by mail a copy of this order and the petition
19 and all attachments thereto upon the respondent and the respondent’s attorney, the Attorney
20 General of the State of California. The clerk shall also serve a copy of this order on petitioner.

21 2. Respondent shall file with the court and serve on petitioner, within **ninety days** of
22 the date this order is filed, an answer conforming in all respects to Rule 5 of the Rules Governing
23 Section 2254 Cases, showing cause why a writ of habeas corpus should not be granted.

24 Respondent shall file with the answer and serve on petitioner a copy of all portions of the
25 underlying state criminal record that have been transcribed previously and that are relevant to a
26 determination of the issues presented by the petition.

27 If petitioner wishes to respond to the answer, he shall do so by filing a traverse with the
28 court and serving it on respondent within **thirty days** of the date the answer is filed.

1 3. Respondent may file a motion to dismiss on procedural grounds in lieu of an
2 answer, as set forth in the Advisory Committee Notes to Rule 4 of the Rules Governing Section
3 2254 Cases within **ninety days** of the date this order is filed. If respondent files such a motion,
4 petitioner shall file with the court and serve on respondent an opposition or statement of non-
5 opposition within **thirty days** of the date the motion is filed, and respondent shall file with the
6 court and serve on petitioner a reply within **fifteen days** of the date the opposition is filed.

7 4. It is petitioner's responsibility to prosecute this case. Petitioner is reminded that
8 all communications with the court must be served on respondent by mailing a true copy of the
9 document to respondent's counsel. Petitioner must keep the court and all parties informed of any
10 change of address by filing a separate paper captioned "Notice of Change of Address." He must
11 comply with the court's orders in a timely fashion. Failure to do so may result in the dismissal
12 of this action for failure to prosecute pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 41(b).

13 IT IS SO ORDERED.

14 DATED: 3/25/10


RONALD M. WHYTE
United States District Judge