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6 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
7 SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
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9 JUAN FRANCISCO MARTINEZ-
10 PEREZ,

Petitioner,

11 v.

12 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

13 Respondent.
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Civil No.: 3:17-cv-00508-GPC
Criminal No.: 3:14-cr-00106-GPC-1

**ORDER DENYING PETITIONER'S
MOTION TO VACATE, SET ASIDE,
OR CORRECT SENTENCE UNDER
28 U.S.C. § 2255 AND MOTION FOR
REDUCTION OF SENTENCE
UNDER 18 U.S.C. § 3582(c)(2).**

[Dkt. Nos. 47, 51]

19 On November 21, 2014, this Court sentenced Petitioner Juan Francisco Martinez-
20 Perez ("Petitioner") to fifty-seven (57) months imprisonment and three (3) years
21 supervised release based on his guilty plea of knowingly and intentionally attempting to
22 enter the United States without the express consent of the Attorney General in violation
23 of 8 U.S.C. § 1326. Dkt. No. 33; Dkt. No. 19 at 2. Petitioner now brings two motions to
24 vacate, set aside, or correct his sentence under title 28 U.S.C. § 2255 ("§ 2255") and title
25 18 U.S.C. § 3582 ("§ 3582") based on Amendment 802 to the United States Sentencing
26 Guidelines ("U.S.S.G.") § 2L1.2. Dkt. No. 47 at 1-2; Dkt. No. 51 at 1-2. Upon review of
27 the moving papers, the applicable law, and for the following reasons, the Court **DENIES**
28 both motions.

1 **BACKGROUND**

2 On February 18, 2014, Petitioner signed a plea agreement, pleading guilty to
3 attempting to reenter the United States illegally after removal. Dkt. No. 19 at 2.¹ The
4 Presentencing Report recommended a sentence of sixty-three (63) months of
5 imprisonment and three (3) years of supervised release. Dkt. No. 23 at 17. This Court
6 subsequently sentenced Petitioner to fifty-seven (57) months imprisonment and three (3)
7 years of supervised release. Dkt. No. 33.

8 Petitioner previously filed a motion to vacate his sentence under § 2255 on May 7,
9 2015. Dkt. No. 37. This Court denied that motion primarily on the grounds that
10 Petitioner had waived his right to collaterally attack his sentence through his plea
11 agreement. Dkt. No. 43 at 3-4.

12 The instant motions followed. Dkt. No. 47; Dkt. No. 51. The Court construed the
13 first motion, filed on March 14, 2017, as a motion to vacate, set aside, or correct sentence
14 under 28 U.S.C. § 2255 and construed the second motion, filed on March 28, 2017, as a
15 motion for reduction of sentence under 18 U.S.C. § 3582(c)(2). Because the two motions
16 were identical in content, the Court granted Respondent permission to file an omnibus
17 response. Respondent, in turn, filed an opposition on April 25, 2017. Dkt. No. 56.
18 Petitioner did not file a reply.

19 **DISCUSSION**

20 **I. Successive 28 U.S.C. § 2255 motions**

21 “A petitioner is generally limited to one motion under § 2255, and may not bring a
22 ‘second or successive motion’ unless it meets the exacting standards of 28 U.S.C.
23 § 2255(h).” *U.S. v. Washington*, 653 F.3d 1057, 1059 (9th Cir. 2011) (quoting 28 U.S.C.
24 § 2255). Under § 2255(h), a successive motion must contain either “(1) newly
25 discovered evidence that, if proven and viewed in light of the evidence as a whole, would
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28 ¹ Unless otherwise noted, docket entries refer to the criminal docket.

1 be sufficient to establish by clear and convincing evidence that no reasonable factfinder
2 would have found the movant guilty of the offense” or “(2) a new rule of constitutional
3 law, made retroactive to cases on collateral review by the Supreme Court, that was
4 previously unavailable.” 28 U.S.C. § 2255. Before filing a second § 2255 motion, a
5 three-judge panel from the appropriate court of appeals must certify that the motion
6 meets the requirements of § 2255(h) and then issue an order authorizing the district court
7 to consider the application. 28 U.S.C. § 2244(3).

8 Petitioner, here, did not obtain authorization from a court of appeals panel before
9 filing his successive § 2255 motion. *See Washington*, 653 F.3d at 1059; *see also* 28
10 U.S.C. § 2255(h). Accordingly, and to the extent that the Court construed Petitioner’s
11 request as a § 2255 motion, such a request for relief is denied as successive.

12 **II. Applying Amendment 802 retroactively in § 3582 motion**

13 Petitioner can bring a claim to reduce his sentence based on a subsequent
14 amendment pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3582, but only if the amendment can be applied to
15 his sentence retroactively. “Absent an ex post facto problem, the district court must
16 apply the version of the Guidelines in effect at the time of sentencing.” *U.S. v. Cueto*, 9
17 F.3d 1438, 1440 (9th Cir. 1993). However, when sentencing ranges are reduced after a
18 defendant’s sentencing, such a reduction can be applied to that defendant’s sentence
19 retroactively “if such a reduction is consistent with applicable policy statements issued by
20 the Sentencing Commission.” 18 U.S.C. § 3582(c)(2).

21 “[W]hen an amendment is a clarification, rather than an alteration, of existing law,
22 then it should be used in interpreting the provision in question retroactively.” *U.S. v.*
23 *Aquino*, 242 F.3d 859, 865 (9th Cir. 2001). In deciding whether an amendment is a
24 substantive alteration or a clarification, the Ninth Circuit looks to “(1) whether the
25 amendment is included on the list of retroactive amendments found in U.S.S.G. § 1B1.10;
26 (2) whether the Commission itself characterized the amendment as a clarification; and (3)
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1 whether the amendment resolves a circuit conflict.” *See U.S. v. Van Alstyne*, 584 F.3d
2 803, 818 (9th Cir. 2009).²

3 Other circuits have declined to apply Amendment 802 retroactively because it is
4 not listed in U.S.S.G. § 1B1.10(d) as a retroactive amendment. *See Paulino*, 678 F.
5 App’x at 58; *U.S. v. Gonzalez-Ramos*, — F. App’x —, 2017 WL 2533359, at *1 (10th
6 Cir. 2017).

7 The reasoning of the Third and Tenth Circuits likewise dictates the outcome here.
8 Because Amendment 802 is not listed in U.S.S.G. § 1B1.10(d), the first factor of the *Van*
9 *Alstyne* test cuts against retroactivity. *See Van Alstyne*, 584 F.3d at 818. The second and
10 third factors are similarly missing. Petitioner states that his sentence was assessed based
11 upon U.S.S.G. § 2L1.2(a), which previously stated that the base offense for “Unlawfully
12 Entering or Remaining in the United States” was a level sixteen (16) and currently states
13 that the base offense level is eight (8). Dkt. No. 51 at 1. Yet because Amendment 802
14 substantively altered the content of the sentencing range, it is not a “clarification” of
15 existing law and thus cannot apply retroactively.³ *See Aquino*, 242 F.3d at 865.

16 In sum, because Amendment 802 reduced the sentencing range available under
17 § 21B.1, the amendment should apply retroactively only if retroactivity is consistent with
18 a policy statement issued by the Sentencing Commission. 18 U.S.C. § 3582(c)(2).
19 Amendment 802, however, is specifically omitted from U.S.S.G. § 1B1.10(d), the
20 provision listing retroactive amendments. Accordingly, the Court concludes that
21 Amendment 802 is not retroactive under 18 U.S.C. § 3582(c)(2).

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25 ² The *Van Alstyne* test specifically states that courts should look to the “list of retroactive amendments
26 found in U.S.S.G. § 1B1.10(c).” *Id.* The Court observes, however, that the list of retroactive
27 amendments is currently found in U.S.S.G. § 1B1.10(d). *See U.S. v. Paulino*, 678 F. App’x 57, 58 (3d
28 Cir. 2017) (“an amendment cannot be applied retroactively if it is not listed in former § 1B1.10(c), now
§ 1B1.10(d).”). Accordingly, the Court looks to § 1B1.10(d).

³ Petitioner cites to no authority indicating that there is a circuit split concerning the retroactivity of
Amendment 802 of the U.S.S.G.

1 **III. Evidentiary Hearing**

2 “Unless the motion and the files and records of the case conclusively show that the
3 prisoner is entitled to no relief,” the Court must hold an evidentiary hearing on the merits
4 of a § 2255 motion. 28 U.S.C. § 2255(b). The Ninth Circuit has explained the “standard
5 essentially is whether the movant has made specific factual allegations that, if true, state a
6 claim on which relief could be granted.” *U.S. v. Schaflander*, 743 F.2d 714, 717 (9th Cir.
7 1984) (per curiam). Therefore, an evidentiary hearing is unnecessary if the allegations,
8 “when viewed against the record, do not state a claim for relief or are so palpably
9 incredible or patently frivolous as to warrant summary dismissal.” *U.S. v. Leonti*, 326
10 F.3d 1111, 1116 (9th Cir. 2003) (internal quotation marks omitted).

11 Petitioner cannot allege a § 2255 claim because he has previously filed another
12 § 2255 motion and has not obtained authorization from the appropriate court of appeals to
13 bring another. Furthermore, Petitioner did not state a § 3582 claim because Amendment
14 802 is a clarifying amendment, and thus cannot be applied retroactively. Accordingly,
15 Petitioner’s claims do not merit holding an evidentiary hearing.

16 **IV. Certificate of Appealability**

17 Under AEDPA, a prisoner seeking to appeal a district court’s denial of a habeas
18 petition must obtain a certificate of appealability. 28 U.S.C. § 2253(c)(1)(A). The
19 district court may issue a certificate of appealability “only if the applicant has made a
20 substantial showing of the denial of a constitutional right.” 28 U.S.C. § 2253(c)(2). To
21 satisfy this standard, a petitioner must show that “reasonable jurists would find the
22 district court’s assessment of the constitutional claims debatable or wrong.” *Slack v.*
23 *McDaniel*, 529 U.S. 473, 484 (2000).

24 For the reasons stated above, Petitioner has not made a substantial showing of the
25 denial of a constitutional right. Accordingly, this Court *sua sponte* **DENIES** granting
26 Petitioner a certificate of appealability.

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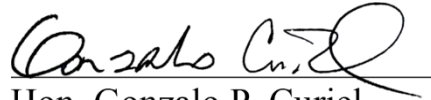
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1 **CONCLUSION**

2 For the foregoing reasons, this Court **DENIES** Petitioner's motion to vacate, set
3 aside, or correct sentence under 28 U.S.C. § 2255 and Petitioner's motion for reduction of
4 sentence under 18 U.S.C. § 3582(c)(2).

5 **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

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7 Dated: September 5, 2017

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9 Hon. Gonzalo P. Curiel
United States District Judge

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