Neither the permissive language of the Rule—which merely authorizes a motion by the defendant—nor its policy requires us to conclude that it was the purpose of the Rule to abrogate the power of courts, acting on their own initiative, to clear their calendars of cases that have remained dormant because of the inaction or dilatoriness of the parties seeking relief. The authority of a court to dismiss sua sponte for lack of prosecution has generally been considered an 'inherent power,' governed not by rule or statute but by the control necessarily vested in courts to manage their own affairs so as to achieve the orderly and expeditious disposition of cases.

Link v. Wabash R. Co., 370 U.S. 626, 630–31 (1962).

The Supreme Court specifically affirmed "the power of courts, acting on their own initiative, to clear their calendars of cases that have remained dormant because of the inaction or dilatoriness of the parties seeking relief." Id. at 630. Thus, Rule 41(b) authorizes district courts to sua sponte dismiss actions for failure to prosecute or to comply with court orders or the Rules. Pagtalunan v. Galaza, 291 F.3d 639, 640–43 (9th Cir. 2002);

This power is also codified in this court's local rules. Local Rule 41-1 provides that "[a]ll civil actions that have been pending in this court for more than 270 days without any proceeding of record having been taken may, after notice, be dismissed for want of prosecution by the court sua sponte or on the motion of an attorney or pro se party." LR 41-1.

Accordingly,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, ADJUDGED, and DECREED that SFR shall file a dispositive motion or other appropriate filing on or before January 17, 2020.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that if SFR fails to prosecute its cross-claim against the McCoys on or before January 17, 2020, the court will dismiss the cross-claim.

allus C. Mahan

UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

JAMES C. MAHAN

DATED THIS 8th day of January 2020.

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