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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
AT SEATTLE

ROGELIO CARPIO,

Petitioner,

v.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Respondent.

CASE NO. C16-0647JLR

ORDER GRANTING PETITION

I. INTRODUCTION

Before the court is Petitioner Rogelio Carpio’s petition under 28 U.S.C. § 2255 to vacate, set aside, or correct his 70-month prison sentence in the wake of the Supreme Court’s decision in *Johnson v. United States*, --- U.S. ---, 135 S. Ct. 2551 (2015). (Pet. (Dkt. # 1).) The court has considered Mr. Carpio’s petition, the United States of America’s (“the Government”) answer to Mr. Carpio’s petition (Answer (Dkt. # 10)), Mr. Carpio’s reply in support of his petition (Reply (Dkt. # 12)), the relevant portions of the

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1 record, and the applicable law. Considering itself fully advised,¹ the court GRANTS Mr.
2 Carpio’s Section 2255 habeas petition and DIRECTS the Clerk to schedule a
3 resentencing for Mr. Carpio as set forth below.

4 II. BACKGROUND

5 A. Legal Background

6 In *Johnson*, the Supreme Court concluded that the Armed Career Criminal Act’s
7 (“ACCA”) residual clause, which defines a “violent felony” to include any felony that
8 “involves conduct that presents a serious potential risk of physical injury to another,” 18
9 U.S.C. § 924(e)(2)(B), is unconstitutionally vague.² 135 S. Ct. at 2557. The Supreme
10 Court held that “the indeterminacy of the wide-ranging inquiry required by the residual
11 clause both denies fair notice and invites arbitrary enforcement by judges,” *id.*, and
12 “[i]ncreasing a defendant’s sentence under the clause denies due process of law,” *id.* at
13 2563. The Supreme Court subsequently announced that the rule in *Johnson* was “a new
14 substantive rule that has retroactive effect in cases on collateral review.” *Welch*, 136 S.
15 Ct. at 1268.

16 Under the United States Sentencing Guidelines (“the Guidelines”), a defendant’s
17 base offense level is enhanced if the defendant has “at least two felony convictions of
18 either a crime of violence or a controlled substance offense.” U.S.S.G. § 2K2.1(a)(2). At

19 ¹ Neither party requested oral argument, and the court determines that oral argument
20 would not be helpful here. *See* Local Rules W.D. Wash. LCR 7(d).

21 ² “The void-for-vagueness doctrine prohibits the government from imposing sanctions
22 ‘under a criminal law so vague that it fails to give ordinary people fair notice of the conduct it
punishes, or so standardless that it invites arbitrary enforcement.’” *Welch v. United States*,
--- U.S. ---, 136 S. Ct. 1257, 1262 (2016) (quoting *Johnson*, 135 S. Ct. at 2556).

1 the time of Mr. Carpio’s sentencing, the Guidelines defined a “crime of violence” as “any
2 offense under federal, state, or local law punishable by imprisonment for a term
3 exceeding one year, that—(1) has as an element the use, attempted use, or threatened use
4 of physical force against the person or another, or (2) is burglary of a dwelling, arson, or
5 extortion, involves use of explosives, or otherwise involves conduct that presents a
6 serious potential risk of physical injury to another.”³ U.S.S.G. § 4B1.2(a). The “crime of
7 violence” definition was comprised of three parts: (1) the elements clause, (2) the
8 enumerated offenses clause, and (3) the residual clause. *See United States v. Ladwig*, ---
9 F. Supp. 3d ---, 2016 WL 3619640, at *2 (E.D. Wash. June 28, 2016) (describing
10 identical language in the ACCA as the elements clause, the enumerated offenses clause,
11 and the residual clause).

12 The Guidelines’ former residual clause is at issue in Mr. Carpio’s petition. (*See*
13 *generally* Pet.) The residual clause allowed a court to enhance a person’s sentence if the
14 person has at least two prior convictions for a felony that “otherwise involves conduct
15 that presents a serious potential risk of physical injury to another.” U.S.S.G.
16 § 4B1.2(a)(2). The Guidelines’ residual clause was identical to the ACCA’s

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20 ³ The Sentencing Commission has adopted an amendment to the definition of “crime of
21 violence” in the Guidelines, effective August 1, 2016, which deletes the residual clause in
22 § 4B1.2(a)(2). *See United States v. Grant*, No. 09-CR-01035-PJH-1, 2016 WL 3648639, at *1
(N.D. Cal. July 8, 2016); UNITED STATES SENTENCING COMM’N, *Supplement to the 2015*
Guidelines Manual § 4B1.2(a)(2) (Aug. 2016). Unless otherwise stated, all references herein to
U.S.S.G. § 4B1.1 and its subsections are to the former U.S.S.G. § 4B1.2 (Nov. 2015).

1 unconstitutional residual clause.⁴ Compare 18 U.S.C. § 924(e)(2)(B), with U.S.S.G.
2 § 4B1.2(a)(2); see *Johnson*, 135 S. Ct. at 2557.

3 **B. Factual Background**

4 On February 8, 2012, Mr. Carpio pled guilty to one count of felon in possession of
5 a firearm, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 922(g)(1). *United States v. Carpio*, No.

6 CR11-0405MJP, Dkt. ## 17 (Change of Plea Hearing), 19 (Plea Agreement). Mr.

7 Carpio, the Government, and the United States Probation Office (“Probation”) agreed

8 that Mr. Carpio had two prior crimes of violence under the Guidelines. *Id.* Dkt. ## 19

9 (Plea Agreement), 22 (Gov’t Sentencing Memo.), 23 (Carpio Sentencing Memo.).

10 Accordingly, all of the parties agreed that Mr. Carpio’s total offense level was 25 and

11 corresponded to a Guidelines range of 70 to 87 months. *Id.* Dkt. ## 19 (Plea Agreement),

12 22 (Gov’t Sentencing Memo.). On May 4, 2012, the court sentenced Mr. Carpio to 70

13 ⁴ The Supreme Court has granted *certiorari* in *Beckles v. United States*, No. 15-8544,
14 regarding the application of *Johnson* to the residual clause in U.S.S.G. § 4B1.2(a)(2). See *United*
15 *States v. Trujillo*, No. CR 10-00605 WHA, 2016 WL 3844325, at *1 (N.D. Cal. July 15, 2016)
16 (citing *Beckles*, No. 15-8544). Specifically, the Supreme Court has granted *certiorari* to
17 determine, in pertinent part, (1) whether *Johnson*’s holding applies to the residual clause in
18 U.S.S.G. § 4B1.2(a)(2), thereby rendering challenges to sentences enhanced under it cognizable
on collateral review, and (2) whether *Johnson* applies retroactively to collateral cases
challenging federal sentences enhanced under the residual clause in U.S.S.G. § 4B1.2(a)(2). See
id. The Supreme Court also granted *certiorari* in *Beckles* to determine whether mere possession
of a sawed-off shotgun, an offense listed as a “crime of violence” only in the commentary to
U.S.S.G. § 4B1.2, remains a “crime of violence” after *Johnson*. *Id.*

19 The court finds that there is no good reason to delay ruling on Mr. Carpio’s petition, even
20 in light of *Beckles*. In the context of habeas proceedings, there are “special considerations that
21 place unique limits on a district court’s authority to stay a case in the interests of judicial
22 economy.” *Yong v. Immigration & Naturalization Serv.*, 208 F.3d 1116, 1120 (9th Cir. 2000).
“[A]lthough considerations of judicial economy are appropriate, they cannot justify [an]
indefinite, and potentially lengthy, stay,” particularly where the habeas petitioner would suffer
“substantial prejudice” from the delay. *Id.* at 1120-21. Here, Mr. Carpio would suffer
substantial prejudice from any delay because he contends that he has served a sentence longer
than what is constitutionally permissible. (*See* Pet. at 2.)

1 months' imprisonment. (Pet. at 32 (Sentencing Tr. at 14:8-13).) The court adopted the
2 finding in the presentence report that Mr. Carpio's prior convictions for Washington
3 second-degree robbery and California Rape by Drugs were "crimes of violence" under
4 the Guidelines. (*Id.* at 32 (Sentencing Tr. at 14:4-7).) The court made no finding on the
5 record, however, as to which part of the Guidelines' definition of crime of violence the
6 court relied on in imposing Mr. Carpio's sentence. (*See id.* at 19-40 (Sentencing Tr.).)
7 The plea agreement stated that Mr. Carpio waived his right to directly appeal and
8 collaterally attack his sentence. (Answer at 6.)

9 On May 5, 2016, Mr. Carpio filed a petition under 28 U.S.C. § 2255 to vacate, set
10 aside, or correct this sentence. (*See Pet.*) He contends that the residual clause in the
11 Guidelines suffers the same constitutional flaw as the identically worded clause at issue
12 in *Johnson* and is likewise void for vagueness. (Pet. at 4.) Mr. Carpio further argues that
13 his two previous convictions, upon which his 70-month sentence is based, were "crimes
14 of violence" at the time of his sentencing only under the residual clause. (*Id.*)
15 Accordingly, he argues that "[t]his unconstitutional conclusion subjected him to a
16 Guidelines range of 70 to 87 months, nearly four years higher than his true Guidelines
17 range of 24 to 30 months." (*Id.* at 2.) Mr. Carpio argues that if he had not been
18 unconstitutionally sentenced under the Guidelines' residual clause, "he would have been
19 released from prison more than a year ago." (*Id.*)

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1 **III. ANALYSIS**

2 **A. Legal Standard**

3 A prisoner in federal custody may collaterally challenge his sentence under 28
4 U.S.C. § 2255 on “the ground that the sentence was imposed in violation of the
5 Constitution or laws of the United States, or that the court was without jurisdiction to
6 impose such sentence, or that the sentence was in excess of the maximum authorized by
7 law” 28 U.S.C. § 2255(a). A prisoner seeking such relief must generally bring his
8 Section 2255 petition within one year of “the date on which the judgment of conviction
9 becomes final.” 28 U.S.C. § 2255(f)(1). However, a prisoner may also seek habeas relief
10 within one year of “the date on which the right asserted was initially recognized by the
11 Supreme Court, if that right has been newly recognized by the Supreme Court and made
12 retroactively applicable to cases on collateral review.” 28 U.S.C. § 2255(f)(3). To
13 determine whether the court imposed an unconstitutional sentence pursuant to the
14 residual clause in the Guidelines and whether Mr. Carpio’s petition is timely, the court
15 must first determine whether *Johnson* applies to the Guidelines and if it does, whether it
16 applies retroactively to cases on collateral review.

17 **B. *Johnson* and the Guidelines**

18 The court must decide two threshold questions: (1) whether the holding in
19 *Johnson*—that the ACCA’s residual clause is unconstitutionally vague—applies to the
20 identically worded residual clause in the Guidelines; and (2) if so, whether *Johnson*

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1 applies retroactively to cases on collateral review.⁵ Judges in the Western District of
2 Washington have uniformly concluded that the residual clause in the Guidelines is
3 unconstitutionally vague under *Johnson* and that the decision applies retroactively to the
4 Guidelines. *See Gilbert v. United States*, No. C15-1855JCC, 2016 WL 3443898 (W.D.
5 Wash. June 23, 2016); *Pressley v. United States*, --- F. Supp. 3d ---, 2016 WL 4440672
6 (W.D. Wash. Aug. 11, 2016); *Jennings v. United States*, No. C16-0616MJP, 2016 WL
7 4376778 (W.D. Wash. Aug. 17, 2016); *Dietrick v. United States*, No. C16-0705MJP,
8 2016 WL 4399589 (W.D. Wash. Aug. 18, 2016); *Parker v. United States*, No. C16-
9 0534RSM, 2016 WL 4418007 (W.D. Wash. Aug. 19, 2016); *Beyer v. United States*, No.
10 C16-5282BHS, 2016 WL 41611547 (W.D. Wash. Sept. 6, 2016); *Acoba v. United States*,
11 No. C16-0531BHS, 2016 WL 4611546 (W.D. Wash. Sept. 6, 2016); *see also Ladwig*,
12 2016 WL 3619640; *United States v. Dean*, 169 F. Supp. 3d 1097 (D. Or. 2016); *United*
13 *States v. Hoopes*, --- F. Supp. 3d ---, 2016 WL 3638114 (D. Or. July 5, 2016). The
14 undersigned judge sees no reason to deviate from these well-reasoned decisions and
15 reaches the same conclusion.

16 1. *Johnson's* Applicability to the Guidelines' Residual Clause

17 The court agrees with Mr. Carpio that *Johnson's* holding applies with equal force
18 to the identically worded residual clause in the Guidelines. (*See* Pet. at 14-15.) Before
19 the Supreme Court decided *Johnson*, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals had allowed

21 ⁵ The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals has “decline[d] to decide whether *Johnson's*
22 reasoning extends to the Sentencing Guidelines” *United States v. Lee*, 821 F.3d 1124, 1127
n.2 (9th Cir. 2016).

1 | vagueness challenges to the Guidelines. *See United States v. Johnson*, 130 F.3d 1352,
2 | 1354 (9th Cir. 1997). The Ninth Circuit also makes “no distinction between the terms
3 | ‘violent felony’ [in the ACCA] and ‘crime of violence [in the Guidelines] for purposes of
4 | interpreting the residual clause.” *United States v. Spencer*, 724 F.3d 1133, 1138 (9th Cir.
5 | 2013). The court concludes that the Ninth Circuit’s identical treatment of the two
6 | residual clauses dictates that *Johnson*’s vagueness holding applies to the Guidelines. *See*,
7 | *e.g.*, *Gilbert*, 2016 WL 3443898, at *1; *Pressley*, 2016 WL 4440672, at *1; *Jennings*,
8 | 2016 WL 4376778, at *1; *Parker*, 2016 WL 4418007, at *2. In addition, the Government
9 | “agrees that *Johnson*[’s] vagueness holding applies to the Career Offender Guideline[s]’
10 | residual clause.” (Answer at 10, 14.) For all of these reasons, the court concludes that
11 | the Guidelines’ residual clause is unconstitutionally vague.⁶

12 | 2. Retroactivity of *Johnson* as to the Guidelines

13 | For Mr. Carpio to benefit from *Johnson*, however, the rule must apply
14 | retroactively to cases on collateral review. The Government argues that *Johnson* does not
15 | apply retroactively to petitioners challenging an advisory Guidelines calculation, even
16 | though the Supreme Court held that *Johnson* applied retroactively to collateral attacks on
17 | sentences imposed under the ACCA’s residual clause. (*Id.* at 15); *see also Welch*, 136 S.
18 | Ct. at 1262. Specifically, the Government contends that *Johnson*’s holding as applied to

19 | ⁶ Some courts have suggested that because *Beckles* is pending before the Supreme Court,
20 | petitioners seeking a resentencing under the Guidelines do not yet have a ripe claim. *See, e.g.*,
21 | *United States v. Dunlap*, No. CR 10-00400 WHA, 2016 WL 3844324, at *2 (N.D. Cal. July 15,
22 | 2016). The Government also makes this argument in its answer. (Answer at 21-23.) However,
“to apply *Johnson* to this case, this [c]ourt need only recognize that *Johnson* created a new
substantive rule that invalidates the Guidelines residual clause. No additional new rule need be
recognized.” *Gilbert*, 2016 WL 3443898, at *6. Accordingly, Mr. Carpio’s claim is ripe.

1 the Guidelines is a new procedural rule, not a new substantive rule. (Answer at 4.) Mr.
2 Carpio counters that “[t]he fact that *Welch* arose in the context of the ACCA is of no
3 effect [because] [t]he Court did not limit its holding to ACCA cases.” (Pet. at 15.) Mr.
4 Carpio argues that the same rationale that led the *Welch* Court to hold that *Johnson*
5 applies retroactively to the ACCA should lead this court to hold that *Johnson* applies
6 retroactively to the Guidelines. (*Id.*)

7 *Teague v. Lane*, 489 U.S. 288 (1989) provides the framework for assessing
8 whether a new rule is retroactive in cases on federal collateral review.⁷ *See Montgomery*
9 *v. Louisiana*, --- U.S. ---, 136 S. Ct. 718, 728 (2016). *Teague* bars new procedural rules
10 from applying retroactively. *Id.* Accordingly, “[t]he threshold questions for *Teague*
11 application are whether the articulated rule is (1) a new constitutional rule and (2)
12 procedural or substantive.” *Reina-Rodriguez*, 655 F.3d at 1188. Under *Teague*, “a case
13 announces a new rule if the result was not *dictated* by precedent existing at the time the
14 defendant’s conviction became final.” 489 U.S. at 301. The second inquiry
15 “depends . . . on whether the new rule itself has a procedural function or a substantive
16 function—that is, whether it alters only the procedures used to obtain the conviction, or
17 alters instead the range of conduct or class of persons that the law punishes.” *Welch*, 136
18 S. Ct. at 1266. Substantive rules “include[] . . . constitutional determinations that place

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⁷ The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals has “squarely held that *Teague* applie[s] to federal
prisoner petitioners,” although it has also noted that there is some question as to whether that is
accurate, given *Teague*’s concern with the finality of state convictions. *Reina-Rodriguez v.*
United States, 655 F.3d 1182, 1190 (9th Cir. 2011). For purposes of this petition, however, the
court adheres to this Ninth Circuit precedent applying *Teague* to federal prisoner petitioners.

1 particular conduct or persons covered by the statute beyond the State’s power to punish.”
2 *Id.* at 1265 (quoting *Schriro*, 542 U.S. at 353). On the other hand, procedural rules ““are
3 designed to enhance the accuracy of a conviction or sentence by regulating the manner of
4 determining the defendant’s culpability.” *Montgomery*, 136 S. Ct. at 730 (quoting
5 *Schriro v. Summerling*, 542 U.S. 348, 353 (2004) (emphasis omitted)). Generally,
6 substantive rules and “new watershed rules of criminal procedure” are retroactive. *Id.* at
7 1264 (citing *Schriro*, 542 U.S. at 351 (2004)).

8 The *Welch* court held that the new rule announced in *Johnson*—that the ACCA’s
9 residual clause is unconstitutional—applies retroactively because it is a substantive rule
10 that “alters the range of conduct or the class of persons that the law punishes.” 136 S. Ct.
11 at 1265. The *Welch* court determined that *Johnson* was not a procedural rule because
12 “*Johnson* had nothing to do with the range of permissible methods a court might use to
13 determine whether a defendant should be sentenced under the Armed Career Criminal
14 Act.” *Id.* at 1265. The rule in *Johnson* did not, for example, allocate decisionmaking
15 authority between judge and jury or regulate the evidence that the court could consider in
16 making its decisions.” *Id.* Rather, “[b]y striking down the residual clause as void for
17 vagueness, *Johnson* changed the substantive reach of the [ACCA], altering ‘the range of
18 conduct or the class of persons that the [ACCA] punishes.’” *Id.* (quoting *Schriro*, at
19 353).

20 The Government argues that whether the new *Johnson* “rule is substantive or
21 procedural depends on the ‘function of the rule at issue.’” (Answer at 15 (quoting *Welch*,
22 136 S. Ct. at 1266).) Because of this distinction, the Government argues that, even

1 | though the rule is substantive as applied in the ACCA context, it is procedural as applied
2 | in the Guidelines context. (*See id.* at 15-16.) The Government argues that the rule is
3 | procedural in the Guidelines context because it “regulate[s] only the manner of
4 | determining the defendant’s culpability.” *Id.* at 16 (quoting *Welch*, 136 S. Ct. at 1265).
5 | Although courts across the country have split on this issue, judges in this District have
6 | uniformly rejected the Government’s position. *Gilbert*, 2016 WL 3443898, at *5;
7 | *Pressley*, 2016 WL 4440672, at *2; *Dietrick*, 2016 WL 4399589, at *3; *Parker*, 2016 WL
8 | 4418007, at *6; *Beyer*, 2016 WL 41611547, at *1; *contra, e.g., Richardson v. United*
9 | *States*, 623 F. App’x 841, 842 (8th Cir. 2015); *Frazier v. United States*, No. 1:09-CR-
10 | 188-CLC-SKL-1, 2016 WL 885082, at *6 (E.D. Tenn. Mar. 8, 2016), *appeal filed* No.
11 | 16-5299 (6th Cir. Mar. 15, 2016).

12 | Although the Guidelines are advisory, they are “the lodestone of sentencing.”
13 | *Peugh v. United States*, --- U.S. ---, 133 S. Ct. 2072, 2084 (2013). District courts must
14 | consult the Guidelines, use them as a starting point, and remain cognizant of them when
15 | imposing a sentence. *See Molina-Martinez v. United States*, --- U.S. ---, 136 S. Ct. 1338,
16 | 1342 (2016). “[W]hen a Guidelines range moves up or down, offenders’ sentences move
17 | with it.” *Peugh*, 133 S. Ct. at 2084. Thus, the residual clause in the Guidelines alters the
18 | range of conduct or class of persons that may be punished, *see Reina-Rodriguez*, 655
19 | F.3d at 1189 (determining that a new rule was substantive because it “altered the
20 | punishment that can be imposed on federal defendants” under the Guidelines), because
21 | “*Johnson* substantively changes the conduct by which federal courts may enhance the
22 | sentence of a defendant under the Guidelines,” *Dean*, 169 F. Supp. 3d at 1119. Although

1 the ACCA dictates a mandatory minimum sentence, the Guidelines’ residual clause
2 nevertheless subjects a prisoner “to higher advisory Guidelines ranges.” *United States v.*
3 *Walker*, No. CR 12-0430 CW, 2016 WL 5921257, at *5 (N.D. Cal. Oct. 5, 2016). The
4 court is persuaded that “a rule declaring the Guidelines’ Residual Clause
5 unconstitutionally vague . . . alters the class of persons subject to career offender-
6 enhanced sentences.” *Parker*, 2016 WL 4418007, at *5 (internal quotations omitted); *see*
7 *also Gilbert*, 2016 WL 3443898, at *5 (“[*Johnson*] substantively changes the conduct by
8 which federal courts may enhance the sentence of a defendant under the Guidelines.”
9 (internal quotations omitted)). Accordingly, the rule announced in *Johnson* is substantive
10 in the Guidelines context and applies retroactively.⁸

11 Ninth Circuit precedent further steers the court to reject the Government’s
12 proposed “as-applied analysis.” *Dean*, 169 F. Supp. 3d at 1118. In *Reina-Rodriguez*, the
13 Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals determined that a rule that applied retroactively in the
14 ACCA context also applied retroactively in the Guidelines context. 655 F.3d at 1189.
15 The Ninth Circuit held that the earlier-announced rule “altered the conduct that
16 substantively qualifies as burglary under the categorical approach” pursuant to the
17 Guidelines as well. *Id.* Under the rationale of *Reina-Rodriguez*, “when a new rule is

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21 ⁸ Mr. Carpio’s petition is therefore timely because he brings the petition within one year
22 of “the date on which the right asserted was initially recognized by the Supreme Court, if that
right has been newly recognized by the Supreme Court and made retroactively applicable to
cases on collateral review.” 28 U.S.C. § 2255(f)(3).

1 substantive as applied to the ACCA, it is also substantive as applied to the Guidelines.”⁹
2 *Gilbert*, 2016 WL 3443898, at *5. The Government “acknowledges [that its proposed
3 approach] is in tension with *Reina-Rodriguez*” (Answer at 19), and the court sees no
4 reason to create a distinction here where precedent indicates otherwise.¹⁰ Accordingly,
5 the court declines to find that the *Johnson* rule is procedural as applied to the Guidelines.

6 **C. The Court’s Reliance on the Residual Clause in Sentencing**

7 The court must next determine whether the sentencing court relied on the
8 Guidelines’ residual clause when it imposed Mr. Carpio’s sentence. If it did not and
9 instead relied on the elements clause or the enumerated offenses clause, Mr. Carpio is not
10 entitled to the relief he seeks. For the reasons set forth below, the court concludes that at
11 least one of Mr. Carpio’s prior convictions could not have been considered a crime of
12 violence without reference to the residual clause.

13 Even though the sentencing record is silent on the issue, Mr. Carpio contends that
14 the court necessarily sentenced him under the residual clause because neither of his prior
15 convictions qualify as crimes of violence under the elements or enumerated offenses

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17 ⁹ The Government argues that the *Reina-Rodriguez* court did not specifically decide the
18 issue of whether a substantive rule in the ACCA context is necessarily a substantive rule in the
19 Guidelines context. (Answer at 20.) The court nevertheless finds that the Ninth Circuit’s
analysis in holding that a rule substantive in the ACCA context was also substantive in the
Guidelines context strongly suggests that a similar outcome is warranted here. *See Reina-*
Rodriguez, 655 F.3d at 1189.

20 ¹⁰ The Government also acknowledges that “[i]n pre-*Johnson* . . . litigation, the
21 [G]overnment took the position that new statutory rules narrowing eligibility for a sentencing
22 enhancement are substantive and retroactive to cases on collateral review regardless of whether
the enhancement arose under [the] ACCA or the Guidelines.” (Answer at 19 n.12.) The
Government contends that its “prior contrary concessions obviously do not bind this
[c]ourt . . . [or] confer any rights upon defendants.” (*Id.*)

1 clauses. (Pet. at 5.) First, Mr. Carpio asserts that “California Penal Code § 261(a)(3)
2 [Rape by Drugs] lacks a force element” such that the conviction cannot fall within the
3 elements clause, and that rape is not an enumerated offense. (*Id.* at 6.) Mr. Carpio next
4 argues that his conviction for Washington second-degree robbery does not qualify as a
5 crime of violence except under the residual clause because it does not require violent
6 force, “it criminalizes the taking of property by fear of injury or constructive force,” and
7 “it allows the force element to be met by fear of injury to property rather than a person.”
8 (*Id.* at 8.) Mr. Carpio contends that “the standard applicable to constitutional errors
9 introduced at trial or sentencing is the *Brecht v. Abrahamson*[, 507 U.S. 619 (1993),]
10 harmless-error analysis, not the preponderance of the evidence standard discussed in
11 *Simmons* [*v. Blodgett*, 110 F.3d 39 (9th Cir. 1997)], which is the standard for evidentiary
12 proceedings aimed at uncovering extrajudicial facts.” (*Id.* at 14.)

13 The Government counters that Mr. Carpio cannot show that the court “actually
14 relied on the residual clause of USSG § 4B1.2(a)(2) to find these convictions qualified as
15 crimes of violence” when the court sentenced Mr. Carpio. (Answer at 8.) According to
16 the Government, “[t]he burden is on the [28 U.S.C.] § 2255 movant to prove, by a
17 preponderance of the evidence, the existence of an error rendering his conviction or
18 sentence unlawful.”¹¹ (*Id.* at 24 (citing *Simmons*, 110 F.3d at 42).) The Government

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¹¹ The Government provided the court with supplemental authority from the Seventh
Circuit Court of Appeals as further support for the court’s adoption of the burden the
Government contends Mr. Carpio must meet. (*See* Dkt. # 11); *Stanley v. United States*, 827 F.3d
562 (7th Cir. 2016). The court determines that *Stanley* does not impact the court’s analysis that
Mr. Carpio’s prior conviction for Rape by Drugs was a crime of violence only under the residual

1 contends that Mr. Carpio’s prior robbery and Rape by Drugs convictions “were most
2 likely treated as . . . crime[s] of violence because the parties agreed they were, not
3 because the [c]ourt decided these convictions qualified under the Career Offender
4 Guideline[s’] residual clause.” (*Id.* at 25.) Mr. Carpio notes that at least two District
5 Courts in Washington have rejected the Government’s proposed burden of proof.¹²
6 (Reply at 13); *see also Ladwig*, 2016 WL 3619640, at *2-3 (holding that “[i]n the context
7 of a potential deprivation of such a [due process] right, a showing that the sentencing
8 court might have relied on an unconstitutional alternative ought to be enough to trigger
9 inquiry into whether the sentencing court’s consideration of that alternative was
10 harmless”); *Gibson*, 2016 WL 3349350, at *1-2.

11 1. Prior Rape by Drugs Conviction

12 The court need not decide the exact showing Mr. Carpio must make, however,
13 because the court finds that, under either standard, Mr. Carpio’s prior conviction for Rape
14 by Drugs could only have qualified as a crime of violence under the unconstitutional
15 residual clause. The Government agrees with Mr. Carpio that this crime lacks a force
16 element and is not a crime of violence under the elements clause. (Answer at 24, n.14
17 (citing *United States v. Beltran-Munguia*, 489 F.3d 1042, 1046 (9th Cir. 2007) (holding

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19 clause. *See infra* § III.C. In *Stanley*, the petitioner ignored that the sentencing court had found
20 that one of his prior convictions was a drug conviction and that “the district court counted” one
21 of his other prior convictions “under the elements clause.” *Id.* at 565. That situation is not
22 present here.

¹² Indeed, several courts have determined that Section 2255 petitioners need not meet the
burden the Government proposes. *See Ladwig*, 2016 WL 3619640, at *4-5; *Gibson*, 2016 WL
3349350, at *1-2; *Dietrick*, 2016 WL 4399589, at *3.

1 that a sex offense committed by “surreptitiously adding to [the] victim’s drink a drug”
2 was not a crime of violence under the identically worded elements clause in U.S.S.G.
3 § 2L1.2(b)(1)(A)(ii), 11 (“[W]hen [Mr.] Carpio was sentenced in 2012 [his] conviction
4 [for Rape by Drugs] qualified under § 4B1.2(a)’s residual clause.” (citing *United States v.*
5 *Riley*, 183 F.3d 1155, 1159-61 (9th Cir. 1999)).) The Government concedes that
6 “[b]ecause this crime does not involve any force apart from that inherent in sexual
7 intercourse . . . , it does not have as an element the use, attempted use, or threatened use of
8 physical force a[s] required by USSG § 4B1.2(a)(1).” (Answer at 24, n.14.)

9 The Government does not appear to argue that rape is an enumerated offense
10 under the Guidelines. (*See id.* at 6, 24-27.) However, in asserting that Mr. Carpio’s
11 prior robbery conviction qualifies as a crime of violence under the enumerated offenses
12 clause, the Government argues that a conviction can qualify “if the conviction matches
13 the generic definition of an offense listed in Application Note 1 of the Commentary to
14 this Guideline.” (*Id.* at 28.) Application Note 1 states that the definition of “[c]rime of
15 violence’ includes . . . forcible sex offenses” U.S.S.G. § 4B1.2, appl. n.1. Although
16 courts have noted that it is unsettled whether offenses listed in Application Note 1
17 constitute enumerated offenses or examples of offenses that fall within the residual
18 clause, *see United States v. Bacon*, No. CR10-0025JLQ, 2016 WL 6069980, at *4 (E.D.
19 Wash. Oct. 14, 2016), the Government concedes that the Rape by Drugs offense “does
20 not involve any force apart from that inherent in sexual intercourse” (Answer at 24, n.14).
21 Accordingly, the court finds that Mr. Carpio’s Rape by Drugs conviction also could not

22 //

1 have fallen within the enumerated offenses clause, even assuming that Application Note
2 1 lists enumerated offenses rather than examples of offenses within the residual clause.

3 Thus, even though the record is silent, in order for Mr. Carpio to have been given
4 an enhanced sentence under the Guidelines, the court must have relied on the residual
5 clause. Regardless of whether Mr. Carpio must show that the court sentenced him under
6 the residual clause by a preponderance of the evidence or that any error in his sentencing
7 was not harmless, the court concludes that Mr. Carpio has met his burden of
8 demonstrating that his prior Rape by Drugs conviction was a crime of violence only
9 under the residual clause.

10 2. Prior Second-Degree Robbery Conviction

11 Mr. Carpio makes the same argument about his prior robbery conviction. He
12 states that second-degree robbery in Washington “is not an enumerated offense nor does
13 it meet the requirement that it ‘has as an element the use, attempted use, or threatened use
14 of physical force against the person or property of another.’” (Pet. at 6 (quoting U.S.S.G.
15 § 924(e)(2)(B)(i)-(ii)).) The Government counters that “implicit” in this argument “is a
16 claim that Washington’s robbery statute is indivisible within the meaning of *Descamps v.*
17 *United States*, 133 S. Ct. 2276 (2013)” and overbroad under *Johnson v. United States*,
18 559 U.S. 133 (2010) (“*Johnson I*”). (Answer at 2.) The Government contends Mr.
19 Carpio “disguise[s] these *Descamps*-based arguments” as *Johnson* claims, and his claims
20 are therefore untimely. (Answer at 4.)

21 Without deciding the issue, the court notes that there is a split of authority on
22 whether a petitioner raising an ostensible *Johnson* claim may rely on *Descamps* or

1 | *Johnson I* in arguing that his prior offenses were crimes of violence only under the
2 | residual clause. *Compare, e.g., Ladwig*, 2016 WL 3619640, at *4-5; *Gibson*, 2016 WL
3 | 3349350, at *1-2; *Dietrick*, 2016 WL 4399589, at *3, with *Williams v. United States*,
4 | C16-0939RSM, 2016 WL 5920083 (W.D. Wash. Oct. 11, 2016).¹³ Here, because the
5 | court has determined that Mr. Carpio’s prior conviction for Rape by Drugs was a crime of
6 | violence only under the residual clause, the court need not evaluate Mr. Carpio’s robbery
7 | conviction to determine whether Mr. Carpio is entitled to resentencing. *See* U.S.S.G.
8 | § 2K2.1(a)(2) (stating that a defendant’s base offense level is enhanced if the defendant
9 | has “at least two felony convictions of . . . a crime of violence”); U.S.S.G.
10 | § 4B1.2(c)(1) (“The term ‘two prior felony convictions’ means . . . the defendant
11 | committed the instant offense of conviction subsequent to sustaining at least two felony
12 | convictions of either a crime of violence or a controlled substance offense (i.e., two
13 | felony convictions of a crime of violence, two felony convictions of a controlled

14 |
15 | ¹³ The Government provided the court the *Williams* decision as supplemental authority
16 | and argues that the decision provides support for the Government’s position that the petitioner
17 | must show that the court actually relied on the residual clause in sentencing the petitioner. (*See*
18 | Dkt. # 19.) The *Williams* court addressed the arguments that the Government makes as to Mr.
19 | Carpio’s prior second-degree robbery conviction—that Mr. Carpio relies on timebarred claims
20 | under *Descamps* and *Johnson I* to show that the conviction does not fall within a clause other
21 | than the residual clause. *See Williams*, 2016 WL 5920083, at *4. The court there “agree[d] with
22 | the Government that Petitioner [could not] show that the Court actually relied on the residual
clause of USSG § 4B1.2(a)(2) to find his harassment conviction qualified as a crime of violence,
and even if the Court did rely on that clause when evaluating his armed robbery conviction, any
such mistake was harmless.” *Id.* The court finds *Williams* distinguishable as to Mr. Carpio’s
prior conviction for Rape by Drugs, however, because the Government concedes that this
conviction does not fall within the elements clause. (*See Answer* at 24 n.14.) That concession,
as well as the fact that Rape by Drugs is not an enumerated offense, demonstrates that Mr.
Carpio does not rely on a rule subsequent to his sentencing but prior to *Johnson* to challenge his
sentence. His claim is not timebarred for this reason.

1 substance offense, or one felony conviction of a crime of violence and one felony
2 conviction of a controlled substance offense . . .”). To the extent the categorization of
3 Mr. Carpio’s second-degree robbery conviction impacts Mr. Carpio’s resentencing, the
4 parties will have the opportunity to address the issue in the resentencing proceedings.

5 Accordingly, the Court grants Mr. Carpio’s motion and determines that Mr. Carpio
6 is entitled to resentencing because the court imposed his sentence “in violation of the
7 Constitution.” 28 U.S.C. § 2255(a).

8 **D. Procedural Default and Cause**

9 Mr. Carpio did not raise his claims on direct appeal or argue at any other point that
10 the Guidelines’ residual clause was unconstitutionally vague. (*See* Pet.; Answer at 10-
11 14); *United States v. Ratigan*, 351 F.3d 957, 962 (9th Cir. 2003). To overcome this
12 procedural default, Mr. Carpio must demonstrate both (1) “cause” and (2) “actual
13 prejudice resulting from the errors of which he complains.” *United States v. Frady*, 456
14 U.S. 152, 168 (1982). He may demonstrate “cause” by showing “that the procedural
15 default is due to an objective factor that is external to [him] and that cannot be fairly
16 attributed to him.” *Manning v. Foster*, 224 F.3d 1129, 1133 (9th Cir. 2000) (internal
17 quotations omitted). The petitioner can make this showing when “the factual or legal
18 basis for a claim was not reasonably available to counsel” at the time of direct appeal.
19 *Murray v. Carrier*, 477 U.S. 478, 488 (1986). To demonstrate “prejudice” as to a
20 Guidelines error, the petitioner “must *at least* show that the error affected the outcome of
21 his sentencing proceeding.” *Dean*, 169 F. Supp. 3d at 1109. Put another way,
22 “[p]rejudice is shown when ‘there is a reasonable probability’ that the result of a

1 petitioner’s sentencing would have been different without the error to which the
2 petitioner failed to object.” *Gilbert*, 2016 WL 3443898, at *3 (quoting *Strickler v.*
3 *Greene*, 527 U.S. 263, 289 (1999)); *see also Murray*, 477 U.S. at 493-94 (The level of
4 prejudice required to overcome procedural default is “significantly greater than that
5 necessary under the more vague inquiry suggested by the words ‘plain error.’”).

6 Mr. Carpio has overcome the procedural default in this case. Mr. Carpio argues
7 that he could not have reasonably challenged the Guidelines’ residual clause as
8 unconstitutional at the time of his sentencing. (Reply at 32-33.) Prior to Mr. Carpio’s
9 sentencing, the Supreme Court had upheld the ACCA residual clause against multiple
10 vagueness challenges. *See James v. United States*, 550 U.S. 192 (2007) (upholding
11 ACCA’s residual clause on constitutional vagueness challenge); *Sykes v. United States*,
12 564 U.S. 1 (2011) (same); *see also Johnson*, 135 S. Ct. at 2563 (“Our contrary holdings
13 in *James* and *Sykes* are overruled.”). The Government’s argument that “[t]he rule
14 announced in *Johnson* . . . has been forecast since Justice Scalia raised this possibility in
15 the first case rebuffing a vagueness challenge to ACCA’s residual clause” (Answer at 12)
16 does not change the fact that at the time of Mr. Carpio’s sentencing the Supreme Court
17 had twice rejected a constitutional challenge to the residual clause. The law does not
18 require Mr. Carpio to raise futile arguments at his sentencing to be entitled to relief from
19 an unconstitutional sentence. *See English v. United States*, 42 F.3d 473, 479 (9th Cir.
20 1994). The court concludes that this argument—that the Guidelines’ residual clause was
21 unconstitutionally vague—was not reasonably available to Mr. Carpio when the court
22 sentenced him.

1 Further, for the reasons discussed above, the sentencing error affected the outcome
2 of Mr. Carpio's sentence. The determination that Mr. Carpio's prior conviction for Rape
3 by Drugs was a crime of violence impacted Mr. Carpio's sentence—it constituted one of
4 the two prior crimes of violence upon which the court enhanced his sentence. *See supra*
5 § III.C.1. Accordingly, Mr. Carpio has demonstrated cause and prejudice, and procedural
6 default does not bar his claim.

7 **E. Collateral Review Waiver**

8 At Mr. Carpio's sentencing, the Government represented to the court that the plea
9 agreement did not contain a collateral review waiver, when in fact the agreement did.
10 (*See* Pet. at 38 (Sentencing Tr. at 20:2-3).) However, the Government concedes that the
11 collateral review waiver is void because of the Government's representation at
12 sentencing.¹⁴ (Answer at 7-8.) The court therefore concludes that Mr. Carpio has not
13 waived his right to seek collateral review.

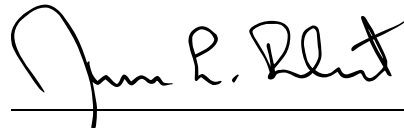
14 **IV. CONCLUSION**

15 Based on the foregoing, the court GRANTS Mr. Carpio's motion to vacate,
16 correct, or set aside his sentence (Dkt. # 1) pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2255. The court
17 VACATES and SETS ASIDE the sentence in No. CR11-00405MJP (W.D. Wash.). The
18 court will resentence Mr. Carpio, permit him to submit objections to his Presentence
19 Report pursuant to Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 32(i)(1)(D), and allow both Mr.

20
21 ¹⁴ A collateral review waiver will also be invalid where a court imposes an "illegal
22 sentence" that "violates the Constitution." *United States v. Bibler*, 495 F.3d 621, 624 (9th Cir.
2007). Given the parties' agreement, the court does not address this ground for invalidating a
collateral review waiver.

1 | Carpio and the Government to argue for an appropriate and lawful sentence. The parties
2 | shall contact the court's Courtroom Deputy to provide their recommendations and
3 | availability for an appropriate sentencing date for the court's consideration. The court
4 | further DIRECTS the Clerk of Court to forward a copy of this order to Mr. Carpio and all
5 | counsel of record.

6 | Dated this 28th day of October, 2016.

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10 | JAMES L. ROBART
11 | United States District Judge

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