

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF
CALIFORNIA

Kuldip Singh v. Commissioner of Social Security

Singh · No. 1:24-cv-00533 · Decided January 8, 2026

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Eastern District of California adopted the magistrate judge’s Findings and Recommendations in full. The court denied Kuldip Singh’s motion for summary judgment, affirmed the Commissioner of Social Security’s denial of supplemental security income, directed entry of judgment for the Commissioner, and closed the case.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Eastern District of California
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Eastern District of California
DECIDED	January 8, 2026
DOCKET	1:24-cv-00533
DISPOSITION	affirmed
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Plaintiff sought judicial review of the Commissioner's final decision denying supplemental security income. The district court reviewed the magistrate judge's Findings and Recommendations de novo after Plaintiff filed objections.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	De novo review of the magistrate judge's Findings and Recommendations under 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1)(C); substantial-evidence review of the Commissioner's decision.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	nonprecedential
PARTIES	Kuldip Singh v. Commissioner of Social Security

TOPICS

- judicial review of agency action
- summary judgment
- administrative law
- civil procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

- Social Security
- administrative law
- civil procedure

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the ALJ complied with the prior stipulated remand order and the law-of-the-case and rule-of-the-mandate doctrines.
2. Whether the ALJ properly considered and explained the rejection of Dr. Alam's medical opinion.
3. Whether substantial evidence supported the Commissioner's denial of supplemental security income.

HOLDINGS

1. The ALJ complied with the prior stipulated remand order by reevaluating the medical evidence, including the relevant medical-source opinion evidence; neither the Appeals Council nor the ALJ violated the law of the case or the rule of the mandate.
2. The ALJ properly considered the medical records and multiple medical opinions, found the record contradicted Dr. Alam's assessment, and explained the reasons for that finding.
3. The Commissioner's decision was supported by substantial evidence, and the denial of supplemental security income was affirmed.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“In short, more than a “scintilla of evidence” supports the ALJ’s decision, which is all the “substantial evidence” standard demands.” (at 2)

“Plaintiff’s Motion for Summary Judgment (Doc. 18) and his appeal from the administrative decision of the Commissioner of Social Security is DENIED and the agency’s determination to deny benefits is AFFIRMED.” (at 3)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Kuldip Singh sought supplemental security income under Title XVI of the Social Security Act. The ALJ reevaluated the medical evidence after a stipulated remand order, including the opinions of treating physician Dr. Naveen Alam. The ALJ found that the record contradicted Dr. Alam's assessment and explained the basis for the decision.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Singh applied for supplemental security income under Title XVI of the Social Security Act. After a prior stipulated remand in Case No. 1:20-cv-01798 SAB, the Appeals Council directed the ALJ to reevaluate the medical evidence, including medical-source opinion evidence. The magistrate judge recommended denying Singh's motion for summary judgment, affirming the agency's decision, and entering judgment for the Commissioner. The district court overruled Singh's objections, adopted the Findings and Recommendations in full, affirmed the denial of benefits, and directed entry of judgment for the Commissioner.

DISPOSITION

affirmed

CASES CITED

- Richardson v. Perales, 402 U.S. 389, 402 (1971)
- Martinez v. Comm’r of Soc. Sec., No. 1:20-cv-00728 CDB, 2024 WL 2786748, at *15 (E.D. Cal. May 30, 2024)

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