

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF
CALIFORNIA

Paeng See v. Commissioner of Social Security

No. 1:24-cv-01516-JLT-GSA (E.D. Cal. Jan. 16, 2026) · No. 1:24-cv-01516 JLT GSA · Decided January 16, 2026

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Eastern District of California adopted the magistrate judge’s findings and recommendations in a Social Security appeal. The court granted Plaintiff Paeng See’s motion for summary judgment, denied the Commissioner’s request to affirm the administrative decision, and remanded the matter for further proceedings under sentence four of 42 U.S.C. § 405(g).

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Eastern District of California
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Jennifer L. Thurston
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Eastern District of California
DECIDED	January 16, 2026
DOCKET	1:24-cv-01516 JLT GSA
DISPOSITION	remanded
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Plaintiff sought judicial review of the denial of her application for supplemental security income under Title XVI of the Social Security Act. After the magistrate judge recommended granting Plaintiff's motion for summary judgment and remanding the matter, neither party objected. The district court conducted de novo review, adopted the Findings and Recommendations, granted Plaintiff's motion, denied the Commissioner's request to affirm, and remanded under sentence four of 42 U.S.C. § 405(g).
STANDARD OF REVIEW	The district court conducted de novo review under 28 U.S.C. § 636(b) (1) and reviewed the administrative decision for the issues addressed in the Findings and Recommendations, including whether the ALJ's mental residual functional capacity determination was supported by substantial evidence.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Unknown

PARTIES

Paeng See v. Commissioner of Social Security

TOPICS

judicial review of agency action

agency adjudication

summary judgment

administrative law

remedies

PRACTICE AREAS

Social Security

administrative law

civil procedure

judicial review

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the ALJ's mental residual functional capacity determination was supported by substantial evidence in light of the medical-opinion evidence and Plaintiff's later ileostomy.
2. Whether the matter should be remanded under sentence four of 42 U.S.C. § 405(g) for further administrative proceedings.

HOLDINGS

1. The ALJ erred in evaluating the medical evidence supporting Plaintiff's mental residual functional capacity determination, and the administrative decision could not be affirmed on the record reviewed by the court.
2. Sentence-four remand was appropriate for the ALJ to conduct a new hearing, issue a new decision, develop the record as necessary, and conduct further proceedings consistent with the court's findings.

KEY QUOTATIONS

"The matter is REMANDED for further proceedings pursuant to sentence four of 42 U.S.C. § 405(g), consistent with the Court's findings." (at 2)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Paeng See applied for supplemental security income under Title XVI of the Social Security Act. The ALJ evaluated her mental residual functional capacity using non-examining assessments from Drs. Bergmann-Harms and Virk and an examining opinion from Tania Shertock, Ph.D., which the ALJ found not persuasive. All three medical opinions predated Plaintiff's September 2022 ileostomy, which the magistrate judge identified as a significant development associated with worsening depression and pain.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

An administrative law judge denied Plaintiff's application for supplemental security income after evaluating her mental residual functional capacity. Plaintiff filed this action for judicial review and challenged the ALJ's evaluation of the medical-opinion evidence. The magistrate judge found error in the ALJ's evaluation of the opinions and recommended summary judgment for Plaintiff and remand. The district court adopted those recommendations in full and directed entry of judgment for Plaintiff.

DISPOSITION

remanded

REMAND INSTRUCTIONS

The ALJ must conduct a new hearing, issue a new decision, develop the record as necessary, and otherwise conduct further proceedings consistent with the court's findings.

CASES CITED

- Wilkerson v. Wheeler, 772 F.3d 834, 838-39 (9th Cir. 2014)

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