

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF
CALIFORNIA**

Rayon Jones v. J. Quiring

No. 2:24-cv-1933-TLN-JDP (P), Findings and Recommendations (E.D. Cal. Dec. 4, 2025) · No. 2:24-cv-1933-TLN-JDP (P) · Decided December 4, 2025

SUMMARY

The document is an order and findings and recommendations in a prisoner civil-rights action against J. Quiring. The magistrate judge denies the plaintiff's request for an in-person settlement conference and recommends denial of preliminary injunctive relief concerning threats by other inmates because the requested relief is unrelated to the complaint, seeks to affect nonparties, and does not satisfy the applicable injunction standards.

OPINION

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT 9 FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF
CALIFORNIA 10 11 RAYON JONES, Case No. 2:24-cv-1933-TLN-JDP (P) 12 Plaintiff, 13 v.
ORDER; FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS 14 J.QUIRING, 15 Defendant. 16 17
Plaintiff, a state inmate proceeding pro se, has filed a motion seeking injunctive relief in 18 the
form of a protective order due to death threats plaintiff has received from other inmates.

ECF 19 No. 30. Plaintiff has also filed a request to have an in-person settlement conference. ECF
No. 33. 20 For the reasons described below, I will deny plaintiff's later motion and recommend
that his 21 motion for injunctive relief be denied. 22 "A preliminary injunction is 'an
extraordinary and drastic remedy, one that should not be 23 granted unless the movant, by a clear
showing, carries the burden of persuasion.'" Lopez v. 24 Brewer, 680 F.3d 1068, 1072 (9th Cir.

2012) (quoting Mazurek v. Armstrong, 520 U.S. 968, 972 25 (1997) (per curiam)); see also Winter
v. Natural Res. Def. Council, Inc., 555 U.S. 7, 24 (2008) 26 (citation omitted) ("[a] preliminary
injunction is an extraordinary remedy never awarded as of 27 right"). Nonetheless, "federal courts
must not shrink from their obligation to enforce the 28 constitutional rights of all persons,
including prisoners," and must not "allow constitutional 1 violations to continue simply because a
remedy would involve intrusion into the realm of prison 2 administration." Porretti v. Dzurenda,
11 F.4th 1037, 1047 (9th Cir.

2021) (citation omitted). 3 A plaintiff seeking a preliminary injunction must show: (1) he is likely
to succeed on the 4 merits; (2) he is likely to suffer irreparable harm in the absence of injunctive
relief; (3) the 5 balance of equities tips in his favor; and (4) an injunction is in the public interest.
Winter, 555 6 U.S. at 20.

The “balance of equities” concerns the burdens or hardships to a prisoner complainant 7 compared with the burden on the government defendants if an injunction is ordered. *Id.* The 8 public interest mostly concerns the injunction’s impact on nonparties. *Id.* (citation omitted). 9 Regardless, “[i]t is always in the public interest to prevent the violation of a party’s constitutional 10 rights.” *Id.* (citation omitted).

11 Where a plaintiff seeks a mandatory injunction, rather than a prohibitory injunction, 12 injunctive relief is “subject to a higher standard” and is “permissible when ‘extreme or very 13 serious damage will result’ that is not ‘capable of compensation in damages,’ and the merits of 14 the case are not ‘doubtful.’” *Hernandez v. Sessions*, 872 F.3d 976, 999 (9th Cir.

2017) (quoting 15 *Marlyn Nutraceuticals, Inc. v. Mucos Pharma GmbH & Co.*, 571 F.3d 873, 879 (9th Cir. 2009)). 16 Further, under the Prison Litigation Reform Act, which applies here, injunctive relief must be 17 narrowly drawn and must be the least intrusive means necessary to correct the harm. 18 U.S.C. 18 § 3626(a)(2); see *Gilmore v. People of the State of Cal.*, 220 F.3d 987, 999 (9th Cir.

2000). 19 Plaintiff’s motion should be denied because he has failed to address the Winter factors. 20 See *Winter*, 555 U.S. at 20 (“A plaintiff seeking a preliminary injunction must establish that he is 21 likely to succeed on the merits, that he is likely to suffer irreparable harm in the absence of 22 preliminary relief, that the balance of equities tips in his favor, and that an injunction is in the 23 public interest.”).

24 While the motion could be denied for that reason alone, denial would be appropriate 25 anyway since it seeks relief that is divorced from the complaint’s allegations. Plaintiff’s 26 complaint seeks relief arising from Quiring’s violation of his Fourteenth Amendment rights 27 during a disciplinary proceeding that occurred in 2022 at Mule Creek State Prison.

ECF No. 15. 28 But here, plaintiff seeks relief relating to alleged threats from unknown inmates at Salinas Valley 1 State Prison. Because plaintiff’s requested relief is disconnected from the claims in his 2 complaint, plaintiff’s motion should be denied. See *Pac. Radiation Oncology, LLC v. Queen’s 3 Med. Ctr.*, 810 F.3d 631, 633 (9th Cir. 2015) (“When a plaintiff seeks injunctive relief based on 4 claims not pled in the complaint, the court does not have the authority to issue an injunction.”).

5 Further, plaintiff’s request would seek to enjoin non-parties—unnamed inmates—to this action, 6 which would be impermissible here. *Zepeda v. U.S. I.N.S.*, 753 F.2d 719, 727 (9th Cir. 1983) (“A 7 federal court may issue an injunction if it has personal jurisdiction over the parties and subject 8 matter jurisdiction over the claim; it may not attempt to determine the rights of persons not before 9 the court.”).

10 Further, courts will not unreasonably interfere with prison operations, which appears to be 11 what plaintiff seeks. See *Turner v. Safley*, 482 U.S. 78, 884-85 (1987); *Bell v. Wolfish*, 441 U.S. 12 520, 562 (1979) (admonishing federal courts to avoid “becom[ing] increasingly enmeshed in the 13 minutiae of prison operations”); *Wylie v. Montana Women’s Prison*, 2014 WL 6685983, at *3 (D.

14 Mont. Nov. 25, 2014) (denying preliminary injunction and declining to “interfere with day-to-day 15 prison administrative decisions”). 16 Plaintiff has failed to meet the especially high burden necessary for an ex parte temporary 17 restraining order. See *Reno Air Racing Ass’n, Inc. v. McCord*, 452 F.3d 1126, 1131 (9th Cir. 18 2006) (noting that a temporary restraining order may issue ex parte only if it clearly appears that 19 immediate and irreparable harm will occur in its absence and emphasizing that “our entire 20 jurisprudence runs counter to the notion of court action taken before reasonable notice and an 21 opportunity to be heard has been granted to both sides of a dispute”).

Accordingly, I recommend 22 that the motion for injunctive relief be denied. 23 Additionally, plaintiff’s motion for an in-person settlement conference is denied. The 24 court set a settlement conference before the Honorable Dennis M. Cota on October 28, 2025. 25 ECF No. 24.

The minutes from the settlement conference show that plaintiff refused to appear at 26 the settlement conference. ECF No. 28. The court provided plaintiff with an opportunity to 27 engage in settlement discussions and plaintiff choose not to attend. 28 1 Accordingly, it is hereby ordered that plaintiff’s motion for an in-person settlement 2 || conference, ECF No. 33, is DENIED.

3 Further, it is hereby RECOMMENDED that plaintiff’s motion for preliminary injunctive 4 | relief, ECF No. 30, be DENIED. 5 These findings and recommendations are submitted to the United States District Judge 6 | assigned to the case, pursuant to the provisions of 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1). Within fourteen days of 7 | service of these findings and recommendations, any party may file written objections with the 8 | court and serve a copy on all parties.

Any such document should be captioned “Objections to 9 | Magistrate Judge’s Findings and Recommendations,” and any response shall be served and filed 10 | within fourteen days of service of the objections. The parties are advised that failure to file 11 | objections within the specified time may waive the right to appeal the District Court’s order. See 12 | *Turner v. Duncan*, 158 F.3d 449, 455 (9th Cir.

1998); *Martinez v. Yist*, 951 F.2d 1153 (9th Cir. 13 1991). 14 1s IT IS SO ORDERED. 16 | q Sty — Dated: _ December 4, 2025 q—— 17 JEREMY D. PETERSON 18 UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28

