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**OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE LAW
FOR THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

In re:
Suction Dredging: Use of Vacuum and Suction
Dredge Equipment

OAL File No. 2013-0618-02E
**DECLARATION OF RITA MANLEY
KING**

Rita Manley King declares:

1. I reside near Happy Camp, California. I have ownership interests in six rental units in Happy Camp, as well as the Happy Camp Mall and Bigfoot Trailer Park. I am very familiar with the economic circumstances of the Happy Camp community, and serve on two Siskiyou County economic communities.

2. Prior to the 2009 moratorium on issuing suction dredging permits, we were experiencing substantial business success. The rental business was hot, and if one tenant moved out, we didn't have to run an ad. Word of mouth would have several people clamoring to move in. There were numerous applicants for the units.

3. The real estate market in the Klamath River corridor was beginning to turn up. A strong base of small-scale miners was the cornerstone of a growing tourist industry. Many suction dredge miners loved to come and play in the waters of the Klamath River during the summer. Other local miners supported their families from the gold dredging. More serious commercial miners

1 were moving to town and buying second homes. Rundown properties left over from the lumber
2 industry boom and busts were being renovated. The old Evans Mercantile Building was purchased
3 by new owners, who added hardware and gardening sections to meet the remodeling needs of new
4 residents.

5 4. Our first season with the Trailer Park was 2008. The neighboring motel manager
6 helped us get started as she was completely full and wanted help with her overflow so she didn't
7 have to turn away guests. We had a really healthy first season, and miners were 75% of our guests.
8 As gold prices rose, so did our numbers.

9 5. The summer of 2009 began well, but then the moratorium hit. The week it came
10 into effect, our park was filled to capacity. On the day it went into effect we literally lost all of our
11 RVers. This fateful day was the beginning of a very rapid decline in our financial world. There
12 was very little business. Property improvements stopped. Advertising stopped. We had to release
13 our help.

14 6. With the local miners' incomes destroyed, service businesses in town began to
15 suffer. The hardware store eventually went out of business. The rising economy for the Klamath
16 River corridor dwindled to almost nothing.

17 7. Community members wrote letters and attended meetings, attempting to educate
18 State officials without success. People became more desperate for income. Locals started growing
19 marijuana. Methamphetamine use began to increase. Crime and domestic violence rose.

20 8. We had to short sell our family home, empty our retirement accounts, and continue
21 cutting expenses, doing all work ourselves. In the meantime, the park tax, insurance, water, sewer
22 and electric rates all went up. We had some success replacing the miners with retired folks fleeing
23 from urban areas they could not longer afford, but they could not pay the Park rates charged to
24 visiting miners. We have worked very hard to sell the area as a tourist destination without success.

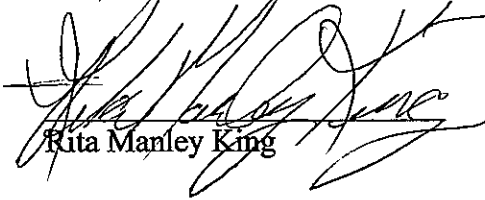
25 9. I took a second job out of town caregiving elders for less than minimum wage. After
26 three years of hard work trying to stay afloat since the moratorium, we still don't have enough

1 money to pay the bills, and are living on credit cards. If my husband and I didn't work second jobs
2 to supplement our business, we wouldn't eat.

3 10. Finally, this spring, things began to turn around, as more miners began to appear.
4 Now we are told that the Department of Fish and Wildlife is claiming that the miners are creating an
5 emergency posing serious harm to the public peace, health, safety or general welfare, and that they
6 are proposing further restrictions on the miners. This is preposterous. The only emergency here is
7 an economic one caused by politically-motivated regulation that is destroying our country's
8 economy. For the love of God, please, just give us a season to start to get back on our feet.

9 I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

10 Executed at Happy Camp, this 25th day of June, 2013.

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13 Rita Manley King
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