

IN THE COURT OF APPEAL OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
FOURTH APPELLATE DISTRICT
DIVISION TWO

E064087
IN RE SUCTION DREDGE MINING CASES

THE NEW 49'ERS, INC., *et al.*; BEN KIMBLE, *et al.*; and
PUBLIC LANDS FOR THE PEOPLE, INC. *et al.*

Plaintiffs and Appellants,

v.

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH & WILDLIFE, *et al.*

Defendants and Respondents.

Appeal from the Superior Court of San Bernardino County
Hon. Gilbert Ochoa, Department R-9
Coordinated Proceeding JCPDS4720
SCCVCV1200482 (Siskiyou County); CIVDS1012922 (San Bernardino County);
CIVDS1203849 (San Bernardino County)

DECLARATION OF WILLIAM P. CHRISTENSEN

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August 5, 2015

William P. Christensen declares:

1. I am a member of The New 49ers, Inc., which is a plaintiff in Siskiyou County Case No. SCCVCV 1200482, one of the three coordinated cases prosecuting this appeal. I make this Declaration in support of appellants' motion for calendar preference, insofar as I am over 70 years of age and my health is such that a preference is necessary to avoid prejudicing my interest in this litigation.

2. Specifically, I am a disabled American veteran living on Social Security and VA benefits. I am 72 years old. I moved to Happy Camp, California 5 years ago to pursue my life-long dream of becoming a successful gold prospector. I joined The New 49'ers because the organization provides assistance and makes so much property available along the Klamath River in northern California. I have a substantial interest in this appeal because only if it is resolved in favor of appellants will I be able to engage in suction dredge mining.

3. Mining gold for me is really not about the money, though that is important, also. For me, it is the deep feelings of joy that I experience by finding Mother Nature's most valuable hidden treasure. The experience, at least for me, is something close to a religious experience. These moments help to balance a lifetime of hard work; and to a large degree, lots of painful sacrifice and memories.

4. I have been following prospecting most of my adult life, just waiting for the day when I could finally retire and experience my own "American Dream."

5. There was no dredging moratorium in place when I initially made my plans to move to Happy Camp. Since arriving here, I have long been waiting patiently for the moratorium to end.

6. This is because while I do recover some gold while pick and shovel mining on the banks, it really is not enough to make the effort worthwhile. I know that the real treasures are down the bottom of the river. The problem is, that no

matter how hard the mining industry tries, it seems like this dredging moratorium will never come to an end. I'm not getting any younger, and I fear that by the time this appeal is resolved in the ordinary course of events, my health will no longer permit me to engage in suction dredging.

7. I certify under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed at Happy Camp, California on August 5, 2015.


William P. Christensen