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7 IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA  
8 FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO  
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10 THE NEW 49'ERS, INC., a California  
11 corporation, DEREK D. EIMER; STEPHEN  
12 JONES; DAVID GUIDERO; MARVIN GARRY  
LAMPshire II; and DYTON W. GILLILAND,

13 Plaintiffs and Petitioners,

14 v.

15 CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND  
16 WILDLIFE and CHARLTON H. BONHAM, in  
his capacity as Director of the California  
Department of Fish and Wildlife,

17 Defendants and Respondents.  
18

Case No.

**DECLARATION OF WILLIAM P.  
CHRISTENSEN IN SUPPORT OF  
MOTION FOR A TEMPORARY  
RESTRAINING ORDER AND/OR  
PRELIMINARY INJUNCTION**

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20 William P. Christensen declares:

21 1. I am a disabled American veteran living on Social Security and VA benefits. I am  
22 72 years old.

23 2. I moved to Happy Camp, California 5 years ago to pursue my life-long dream of  
24 becoming a successful gold prospector. I joined The New 49'ers because the organization provides  
25 assistance and makes so much property available along the Klamath River in northern California.  
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DECLARATION OF WILLIAM P. CHRISTENSEN IN SUPPORT OF  
28 MOTION FOR A TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER AND/OR  
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Case No.

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

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

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

10          6.       This is because while I do recover some gold while pick and shovel mining on the  
11 banks, it really is not enough to make the effort worthwhile. I know that the real treasures are down  
12 the bottom of the river.

13          7.       The problem is, that no matter how hard the mining industry tries, it seems like this  
14 dredging moratorium will never come to an end. I'm not getting any younger!

15          8.       That's why I was so encouraged when this Court produced an Order a short while  
16 back announcing that the moratorium is unconstitutional and unenforceable by the state of  
17 California.

18          9.       Even after the moratorium was overturned by this Court, I stood back and was  
19 horrified to hear about numerous events where local suction dredgers were being harassed,  
20 criminally cited, and arrested by state officials. How can this happen in America?

21          10.       With all this going on, it seemed like just a step away from the Court providing an  
22 Order to stop the harassment, but that did not happen on the 23rd of June. As a veteran, I feel very  
23 betrayed that state law enforcement officers are being allowed to enforce something that has already  
24 been declared unconstitutional.

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1           11.     I'm in my retirement years, just looking for a little peace and quiet, and perhaps even  
2 some joy of uncovering a golden nugget off the bottom of the Klamath River. I did not serve my  
3 country only to end my days looking over my shoulder for the cops to come and arrest me.

4           12.     This is why I am asking this Court to please reconsider giving us suction dredgers  
5 some limited relief along the Klamath River.

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

7           Executed at Happy Camp, California on July 2, 2015.

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William P. Christensen