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9 Attorneys for Plaintiffs

10 FRIENDS OF YOSEMITE VALLEY and
11 MARIPOSANS FOR THE ENVIRONMENT
12 AND RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT

13 IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

14 FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

15 FRIENDS OF YOSEMITE VALLEY, a non-
16 profit corporation; and Mariposans for the
Environment and Responsible Government
17 (“MERC”), a non-profit corporation,

18
19
20 Plaintiffs,

v.

21 GALE NORTON, *et al.*,

22 Defendants.
23
24

) Case No. 00-6191 AWI DLB

)
) DECLARATION OF KATHY MEDINA IN
) SUPPORT OF PLAINTIFFS’ REPLY
) MEMORANDUM ON REQUEST FOR
) RELIEF

) DATE: 10/16/06
) TIME: 1:30 p.m
) COURTROOM: 3

1 I, Kathy Medina, declare as follows:

2 1. I am 50 years old and competent to testify.

3
4 2. I was born in Fresno, California, and the eldest child of three children. I am the
5 daughter of Joseph Rhoan Sr. and Louise Rhoan. My dad was born and raised in Yosemite
6 Valley; raised in the Indian Village west of the Camp 4 area. My mother raised in Usona,
7 California.

8
9 3. I am the granddaughter of Alvin Rhoan (deceased) who was a descendant of the
10 Awahneechees who made Yosemite their home many years ago; and, Amy Rhoan who is 96
11 years old and a Mono Lake Paiute elder.

12
13 4. I am a lineal descendant of Chief Tenieya on both my mother's side and my
14 father's side; and, Bridgeport Tom and Captain Sam on my father's side. I am currently a
15 recognized tribal member with the Walker River Paiutes in Schurz, Nevada.

16
17 5. I have spent time in both Wawona and Yosemite Valley as a young child and an
18 adult. My dad shared his childhood stories of growing up in the Valley and being Indian. He
19 described how he played the drum, sang songs, and danced for the tourists with Chris Brown also
20 known as Chief Lee Mee. As a small child, he took me through Indian Caves and told me about
21 the Indian people using the small dark crevasses to hide in. He talked about the pounding rocks
22 used to make acorn in the Valley, and t hat certain rocks you did not touch because they belonged
23 to specific Indian women in the village. I remember visiting the old Indian Village as a small
24 child and hearing the sounds of a cry or Indians mourning. My dad also talked about how his dad
25 continually warned him to stay away from Curry Village because the park rangers did not like the
26 Indian people.
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1 harm and permanent destruction. In reviewing the Categorical Exclusion (CatEx) document for
2 this project, it was determined that "no potential...environmental impacts, including impacts to
3 cultural landscapes or archeological resources" exist. I am no excavation expert, however, this
4 demolition project is being conducted in an area that has already proven itself to be weak and
5 currently unable to adequately sustain the cultural items including human remains beneath the
6 surface. Cultural items i.e., beads as well as human teeth have surfaced in previous years proving
7 the area is not stable or firm enough to keeps these items where they belong. I suspect that heavy
8 equipment e.g., backhoe, will be used to remove the structures. If the ground cannot sustain any
9 cultural item, it will not support heavy equipment.
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12 11. Further, I believe the Indian people are not being given a true assessment of how
13 deep the excavation will be. The tribal chair for the Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation indicated at a
14 meeting in Mono Lake that the excavation of this area would be 8 inches deep. In documents
15 sent to the Friends of Yosemite Valley, the Park Service has indicated the excavation will be 3
16 feet deep. The park service needs to provide more accurate information as to how deep the
17 excavation will occur. The park-affiliated tribes may request additional consultation as a result
18 of this difference.
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21 12. I believe this ancient site is no different than a cemetery and it needs to be
22 protected and preserved with dignity and respect; it is, after all, the final resting place of Indian
23 people that includes Paiute remains.
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25 13. The spirituality or the medicine that is contained in this area holds great
26 significance to the descendants and, therefore, should not be disturbed or desecrated.
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Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1746, I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States that the foregoing is true and correct and that this declaration was executed on October 3, 2006 in Fresno, California.

_____/s/ Kathy Medina

Kathy Medina