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11 Attorneys for Petitioner and Plaintiff

12 SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
13 FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO

14 CHRISTINA LOPEZ-BURTON, an
15 individual, on behalf of herself and all others
16 similarly situated,

17 Petitioner and Plaintiff,

18 v.

19 TOWN OF APPLE VALLEY, a general law
20 city; and DOES 1-10,

21 Respondents and Defendants.

Case No.: CIVDS1725027

*Assigned for all purposes to Hon. David S.
Cohn*

**DECLARATION OF PLAINTIFF
CHRISTINA LOPEZ-BURTON IN
SUPPORT OF MOTION FOR
ATTORNEY'S FEES, REIMBURSEMENT
OF EXPENSES AND SERVICE AWARD**

Petition/Complaint Filed: December 20, 2017

DATE: October 16, 2019
TIME: 8:30 a.m.
DEPT: S26

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24 I, Christina Lopez-Burton, declare as follows:

25 1. I am the Petitioner and Plaintiff in the above-entitled action. I have personal
26 knowledge of all of the facts stated below and if called upon, I could and would testify competently
27 thereto.
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1 2. I am an activist both at the local and state level. I have been following the activities
2 of the Town of Apple Valley since 2006. I often attend Town Council meetings and read various
3 reports and Council agenda items. I feel it is the responsibility of citizens to hold elected official
4 accountable for the decisions they make.

5 3. I filed this case in 2017 because I felt that the Town was taking advantage of its
6 solid waste ratepayers. Prior to filing, I reviewed two government claims submitted to the Town
7 (prepared by my attorneys) and the Petition and Complaint which I verified. Since the filing of
8 the Petition and Complaint, I have closely monitored the progress of the case. In addition to
9 regularly speaking to my attorney Eric Benink and exchanging emails with him about the status
10 of the case, I have reviewed discovery responses and documents provided by the Town,
11 deposition transcripts, our mediation brief and the voluminous briefs and supporting evidence
12 prepared by my attorneys and the Town in response. I also assisted my attorneys in the
13 preparation of responses to discovery that the Town propounded to me and gathered documents to
14 produce to the Town.

15 4. This case has been, at times, stressful for me because during the past year I was
16 frequently traveling to Colorado for extended periods to take care of my elderly mother who was
17 ill. She passed away in January 2019. In February 2019, I ended up in the hospital with
18 Pneumonia and Hypoxia due to the stress. I wanted to attend the first mediation on February 28,
19 2019, but I was still recovering from Pneumonia. I attended the mediation by telephone and spoke
20 to Mr. Benink and the mediator Justice King (Ret.) throughout the day. I was feeling much better
21 by the second mediation on March 22, 2019 and drove from Apple Valley to Ontario to attend in
22 person. I participated throughout the entire mediation.

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5. I estimate that I have spent 50 hours working on this case.

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

Executed on September 5, 2019 in Apple Valley, CA.


Christian Lopez-Burton