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9 *ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFFS*
APRIL JAMES, EUNICE SWEARINGER, STEVE BRITTON
10 *AND ROUND VALLEY INDIAN TRIBES*

11
12 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**
13 **NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

14 APRIL JAMES, EUNICE SWEARINGER,
15 STEVE BRITTON, and ROUND VALLEY
16 INDIAN TRIBES,

17 Plaintiffs,

18 v.

19 MATTHEW KENDALL, Sheriff of
Mendocino County; COUNTY OF
20 MENDOCINO; WILLIAM HONSAL,
21 Sheriff of Humboldt County; JUSTIN
22 PRYOR, deputy of Humboldt County
23 Sheriff's Office; COUNTY OF
24 HUMBOLDT; SEAN DURYEE,
Commissioner of the California Highway
Patrol; CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL;
and DOES 1 through 50,

25 Defendants.
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Case No. 1:25-cv-03736-RMI

**DECLARATION OF STEVE
BRITTON IN SUPPORT OF
PLAINTIFFS' MOTION FOR
PARTIAL SUMMARY JUDGMENT**

Date: August 19, 2025

Time: 11:00 a.m.

Crtrm: 1

Before: Honorable Robert M. Illman

DECLARATION OF STEVE BRITTON

Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746, I, Steve Britton, hereby declare as follows:

1. I am an enrolled member of the Round Valley Indian Tribes and I occupy my granddaughter's trust allotment 601 with my wife within the historic Round Valley Indian Reservation in Covelo, California. I make this declaration of my own personal knowledge and am competent to testify to the facts stated herein. I am fully competent to make this declaration and I have personal knowledge of the facts stated in this declaration.

2. This declaration is submitted in support of the instant Motion for Partial Summary Judgment.

3. On July 23, 2024, I heard that Sheriff's deputies were raiding trust allotment 601. When I went to the property with my son, I encountered armed Sheriff's deputies who said they had a search warrant and could search any building on the property. I told them they had no right to be there and that the cultivation was legal under the Tribe's law. They just laughed and told me and my son to leave the property while they searched our trailer and two Conex storage containers.

4. There was no probable cause for the search and they never provided a search warrant.

5. After searching trust allotment 601, deputies destroyed cannabis plants, cultivation structures and equipment, fencing and an electric gate on the property.

6. The two-day raid frightened me and my family and caused us emotional distress. I feared for my safety and the safety of my family when armed officers invaded our property.

7. At no point during either day did any officer present a warrant or explain the legal authority for these searches and seizures.

8. I have never been charged with any offense arising out of the events of July 22–23, 2024.

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

Executed on July 10, 2025

/s/ Steve Britton

STEVE BRITTON, Declarant

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I am employed in the County of Mendocino, State of California. I am over the age of 18 years and not a party to the within action; my business address is that of Rapport & Marston, 405 West Perkins Street, Ukiah, California 95482.

I hereby certify that I electronically filed the foregoing:

**DECLARATION OF STEVE BRITTON IN SUPPORT OF PLAINTIFFS’
MOTION FOR PARTIAL SUMMARY JUDGMENT**

with the Clerk of the United States District Court for the Northern District of California by using the CM/ECF system on July 11, 2025, which generated and transmitted a notice of electronic filing to CM/ECF registrants.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct; executed on July 11, 2025, at Ukiah, California.

/s/ Ericka Duncan

ERICKA DUNCAN