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10 Attorneys for Plaintiffs

11 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
12 EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
13 FRESNO DIVISION

15 PETER STAVRIANOUDAKIS; KATHERINE
16 STAVRIANOUDAKIS; SCOTT TIMMONS;
ERIC ARIYOSHI; **and** AMERICAN FALCONRY
17 CONSERVANCY,

18 Plaintiffs,

19 v.

20 UNITED STATES FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE;
21 CHARLTON H. BONHAM, in his official capacity
as Director of California Department of Fish and
22 Wildlife; **and** MARGARET EVERSON, in her
official capacity as Principal Deputy Director
23 Exercising the Authority of the Director of United
States Fish & Wildlife Service,

24 Defendants.

No. 1:18-cv-01505-LJO-BAM

**DECLARATION OF
KATHERINE STAVRIANOUDAKIS**

28 *Licensed to practice law in Arizona and Colorado. Not licensed to practice law in California.

1 I, Katherine Stavrianoudakis, declare:

2 1. The facts set forth in this declaration are based on my knowledge and, if called as a
3 witness, I can competently testify to their truthfulness under oath.

4 2. I am a Service Coordinator for Valley Mountain Regional Center, a nonprofit that
5 provides services for the adult developmentally disabled. My position is focused on advocating on
6 behalf of my clients, setting up essential support services to ensure their independence, and to
7 achieve their personal goals. This includes work with the public defender's office, as well as
8 planning end of life and funeral services. I am the point person in helping my clients get any help
9 that they may need in their lives or after their deaths. I have been in this field of work for 26 years.

10 3. I first learned about the warrantless search rules applicable to falconers' homes and
11 property when Peter acquired his current bird, "Ares," in 2015 shortly before we were married.
12 Specifically, I learned about the impact that the rules would have on me and my constitutional
13 rights. I realized I would be forced to give up my Fourth Amendment rights. I was shocked to
14 discover that at any moment armed California Fish and Wildlife officers could barge right into my
15 house and have full rein over my home without having permission to come in.

16 4. Upon learning about these rules, I became extremely upset and angry. I thought,
17 "How dare they think they have the ability to come into my home without a warrant, just because
18 I happen to be married to a falconer." I did not sign anything like a falconry license, and yet I am
19 assumed to have given up my constitutional rights.

20 5. My main job as a Service Coordinator is to advocate on behalf of my clients, and
21 here I am being told that I am giving up my own rights. I decided that if California Fish and Wildlife
22 officers ever came to my door I was not going to let them violate my rights by coming inside.

23 6. Since that time, my initial anger has been replaced by fear. Especially after hearing
24 what happened to Peter in 1983, to Fred Seaman in 2017, and to other falconers who I have met
25 and spoken to on several occasions. Fred's property and home were searched by armed Fish and
26 Wildlife agents without a warrant over his protests in 2017, just a couple years after I learned that
27 California Fish and Wildlife officers could do the same to my home.

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1 7. This fear has only increased since this lawsuit was filed. I am afraid of retaliation
2 by California Fish and Wildlife officers. I am anxious that I am now a known entity who could be
3 specifically targeted. They may come to my home to harass me just to prove a point and there is
4 nothing I could do to stop them.

5 8. Specifically, I am concerned with the officers being heavily armed and wearing
6 bullet proof vests when these searches are conducted. It is a powerful statement and power play. I
7 am afraid that if I refuse entry to these officers, who are prepared for violence, that violence could
8 be the result. Will they knock down my door, pin me down, and put me in handcuffs because I do
9 not want to cooperate with my rights being violated? All because I love and am married to a
10 falconer?

11 9. I suffer with anxiety often as a result of this situation. I wonder what might happen
12 if officers show up on my property demanding entry into my home. I am a law-abiding citizen that
13 plays by the rules. I have done nothing wrong and feel that I should not have been put in this
14 position because the Department of Fish and Wildlife refuses to recognize that these rules are
15 unconstitutional.

16 10. Privacy is extremely important to me. My home is my sanctuary. My home is my
17 safe place. I often even limit phone calls coming to the house because my time at home is my quiet
18 time. Now I have to worry about armed government agents showing up unannounced and entering
19 my home without permission.

20 11. These fears are only increased because I know that Peter's ability to keep Ares and
21 continue to practice falconry is dependent on me giving up my rights. I feel like Peter's license is
22 being held hostage—as is our relationship with Ares.

23 12. Ares is part of our family. He lives with us inside our home. He is a sweet little bird
24 that I love and enjoy having in our home. He is an integral part of our lives. Losing Ares would be
25 a tremendous and devastating loss.

26 13. Though I think falconry is a beautiful sport, I do not currently, have never, and have
27 no plans to hold a falconry license.

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1 I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct, to the best of my
2 knowledge, and that this declaration was executed the 22 day of January, 2019, in Hilmar,
3 California.

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5 Katherine Stavrianoudakis

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