## Declaration of Norma Garcia

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- I make this declaration based on my own personal knowledge and if called to 1. testify I could and would do so competently as follows:
- 2. I am the mother of David Garcia who is a sixth grade student at Gage Middle School.

1, Norma Garcia, hereby declare:

- 3. Gage Middle School has 2,500 students on its campus at any one time and a total of 3,550 students who use the campus throughout the year. Gage is very overcrowded to the point that is has been turned into a Concept 6 multi-track school. I worry about the fact that my children are on a multi-track schedule because they are only in school for such short periods of time. It seems that the children really lose what they have learned between tracks.
- 4. Because of the overcrowding there are teachers at Gage who don't have their own classrooms but instead must travel from class to class throughout the school day. I know this because I have been in the office when administrators and teachers were talking about how certain teachers must travel around the school to different locations. I am really concerned that the teachers have a difficult time setting up their classes and really being prepared to teach when they have to spend so much time traveling from place to place.
- 5. During the school day only two bathrooms for the girls and two bathrooms for the boys are open. The rest of the bathrooms are locked. There are approximately 2,500 student on our campus every day and the lines for the bathroom are long, sometimes students are unable to use the bathrooms because of the wait or because the bathrooms are too far away from their next class. There is only a six minute window between classes and students just can't get to the bathrooms that are open and get to class on time. The traffic in the bathrooms is heavy all day long and so the bathrooms get really disgusting and they sometimes don't have basic supplies, like toilet paper and paper towels.
- Gage Middle School is very dingy, ugly, and sad looking. When I was growing 6. up my school did not look or feel like this. The paint in some places is peeling off and there are lots of patches of different colored paint where graffiti has been painted over. We haven't had a

Huntington Park, California.

grass field for the students to play on for at least four years. Students in P.E. classes play their games on a cement area where people are walking and classes held in bungalows are in session. I have even seen students trying to play soccer next to the only small patch of grass in the school under a tree. I have gone in many classes that are dirty, run down, and really just feel depressing. I think it is extremely important for the students to have a positive, clean, and upbeat school environment, and I know there are schools, like Southgate, where the campus is clean and bright. There is grass, the walls are painted, and it feels how a school should feel. Gage just isn't like that and it makes me mad.

I declare under penalty of perjury of the laws of the State of California and the United

States that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed this \_\_\_\_ st day of November, 2001 in

Morma Garcia