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DECLARATION OF MANUEL ORTIZ

I, MANUEL ORTIZ, hereby declare:

1 I am one of the plaintiffs in this action. I make this declaration based on my own
2 personal knowledge and, if called to testify as a witness, I could and would do so competently as
3 follows:

2. I am a senior at Watsonville High School in Watsonville, California.

3. There aren't enough textbooks at my school. In my economics and Spanish classes we
4 only have class sets of books and we can't take them home to study. In government class we have one
5 class set of thirty five books for all my teacher's government classes to share, but my class has about
6 forty students so we don't ever have enough for all the students in my class to use without sharing. If
7 we have a test and we want to take the book home it's first come first served with all the students in all
8 my teacher's government classes competing to take the same thirty five books home. Because we share
9 the set with other classes, I rarely get a book to take home. It really bothers me because I need to have
10 a book at home to study for the tests. In my U.S. history class last year, we didn't have any books to
11 use at all, not even to use in class. The teacher had a book and we just took notes off what the teacher
12 said in class. Sometimes the teacher handed out photocopies from the book and gave us handouts for
13 homework. It would have been easier to learn the history if we had books we could read ourselves.

4. The Spanish books we used in class last year were all torn up and were missing pages
14 Sometimes the teacher would tell us to turn to a particular page and that page wouldn't be in the book.
15 We could take home one of the Spanish books for homework, but we didn't have enough of the second
16 book we used in class for us to be able to take that book home, too. It would have helped to have been
17 able to take home the other book, too, because that book had little stories and questions and activities
18 to work on in it. I would have liked to have been able to study from that book, too.

5. My school is really overcrowded, so it does not have enough classrooms for the teachers.
19 Because of the classroom shortage, the school recently installed new portable classrooms but there are
20 some problems with the electricity and some outlets and lights don't work. Last year (when I was a
21 junior), three of my seven teachers moved from classroom to classroom to teach their classes because
22 the school didn't have enough classrooms for them to have permanent classrooms of their own. My

1 world civilizations teacher had a shopping cart that he used to carry the history books around to the
2 classrooms he used. My life science teacher had a regular cart he used to move his materials around.
3 The history teacher also moved from classroom to classrooms. Watching my teachers push their papers
4 and books around on carts between classes made me see how cheap the school is not to have classrooms
5 for my teachers.

6 6. My geometry class last year didn't have a classroom until close to Christmas vacation.
7 We met in the middle of the library, and other students came in to use the library at the same time that
8 we were in there having our class. The other students using the library disrupted our class because they
9 would talk to the librarian, which would mess with our concentration. Also, our teacher couldn't talk
10 very loud because we were in the library so we were supposed to be quiet. It was really hard to
11 concentrate and learn when we met in the library. I don't have class in the library this year and I know
12 ~~that some other classes do.~~

13 7. At the end of the school year, after my geometry class had moved out of the library and
14 into a classroom, we couldn't hear the teacher in the geometry class because of all the construction
15 going on outside. The school started doing construction to build new portables, and the builders were
16 working during the school day. They were drilling and hammering and they had tractors going outside.
17 We closed the doors to our classroom, but we could still hear the construction sounds outside. I couldn't
18 concentrate in class with all the noise. The construction was going on for almost the whole last month
19 of school, so my class pretty much lost that whole month of learning
20 geometry.

21 8. My classes are really crowded. In my biology class we didn't have enough desks and
22 chairs when the class started. We recently received additional desks and chairs for all the students to
23 sit in my biology class but it is still crowded and we are all sitting really close to each other. Last year
24 my science class was really crowded too. We mostly worked in groups because we didn't have enough
25 room in the class for each of us to do our own projects. And during my freshman year, we had 40 or
26 45 students in my PE class almost the whole year. I know the PE classes are still too crowded, but this
27 year I have zero period PE, so my class is not too crowded.

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