I, Julian Mendoza, hereby declare:

 1. I make this declaration based on my own personal knowledge and if called to testify I could and would do so competently as follows:

Declaration of Julian Mendoza

2. I am a student at Oxnard High School in Oxnard, California. I just graduated from the ninth grade at Oxnard in June of 2001. I will be returning to the school for my sophomore year in the fall of 2001.

In my integrated science class during the 2000-2001 school year the books in my

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class were old, many of the pages were missing, and there was graffiti all over them. I often had to share books with the student who sat next to me because my teacher would tell us to turn to a page and mine would be missing or the writing in my book would cover the words. I could bring my book home but often when I tried to do my homework I was unable to read the assignment, and so I had to call my friend who had a better book if I want to finish my homework. In my

native Spanish speakers class some of the front covers of the books were ripped off. In my English class my literature and grammar books had pages missing and so at times it was difficult

to complete my assignment in class or for homework..

4. The wiring at Oxnard High School is damaged and so the air conditioning does not work at the school. This means that in most of my classes it is extremely hot during the months closest to summer — September, October, April, May, and June. In my integrated science class during the 2000-2001 school year the seats were really close together in that class and so even in the morning we would open up the windows because the classroom was overheated. It was really stuffy and it made me tired. It was hard to pay attention because of the heat. In my interactive math program class it was also really hot because again we had no air conditioning in our school. My teacher would try to open up the windows but they don't open up very far and so the air was really hot and sometimes the students had a really hard time concentrating. People got really sweaty in that class and it would smell terrible. In my English and geography classes it was also really, really hot because again the air conditioning at our school did not work. In both of those classes it was also really overcrowded and so everyone was hot and smelly, and it felt

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dehydrated. I cannot concentrate very well on what is happening in class when I feel so uncomfortable. 5. During the 2000-2001 school year I saw two rats in two different classrooms.

stuffy in the classroom. It is really hard to learn when you feel uncomfortable, sweaty, and

- First I saw a rat in my integrated science classroom, and then I saw a rat in my math classroom. In both classes the rats ran across the classroom floor while our classes were in session. It was really disgusting and several students screamed. It made we think that the administrators really don't take care of our school. We should not have rats running across the floor during our classes. Rats are really dirty and they carry diseases. I also saw a rat in the school's locker room during my P.E. class.
- 6. In my integrated science class during the 2000-2001 school year some of our desks were broken-up and they were very uncomfortable.
- It is really overcrowded at Oxnard High School. In my English class during the 7. 2000-2001 school year two of the students had to share a desk, and two students had to sit at the teacher's desk because there was not enough space for the students to have their own desks. When I say that two students had to share a desk I mean that one student had to pull a chair up to another students small desk and share the desk space with them because we could not fit any more desks in our classroom. There were approximately 40 students in our classroom, and so the teacher had a difficult time helping all of the students who need help and it took longer for us to get through our lessons. When I would try to move around the classroom I had to walk sideways down the aisles and I would often bump into another student's desk or their book bag. In my geography class the room was really overcrowded. The seats were all bunched up together and the room smelled pretty bad because we were packed in and there was no air conditioning. When it is crowded like that it is difficult for the teacher to teach and it is hard for the students to concentrate on the classroom because it is so uncomfortable. When I go to lunch I have to wait in line sometimes for ten minutes or more just to get my food because the school is so overcrowded. At times the school runs out of food for the students, and so the students have to go off campus or they just have to wait until they get home from school to eat.

- 8. The restrooms at Oxnard High School are really disgusting, and there are not enough bathrooms open for all of the students to use. There is urine on the toilets and the floors. Often there is no toilet paper, soap, or paper towels in the bathrooms. Only three of the bathrooms out of eight bathrooms in the school are open during the school day. That means we only have three boys and three girls bathrooms for about 3,500 students. Often during our nutrition and lunch period the restrooms are really crowded. There are lines for the bathroom that wind around the building during lunch and nutrition and sometimes it takes up to 15 minutes just to use the bathroom. During our lunch period sometimes only 2 boys bathrooms are open and then the overcrowding problem is even worse. When everyone has to wait in line to go to the bathroom this leaves very little time to eat you lunch or your snack. Also, the bathrooms get really disgusting when there are so many students using them in one day. It makes me angry that we do not have more bathrooms, and that are bathrooms are so gross inside.
- 9. There are not enough counselors at Oxnard High School. The two times that I have tried to go see my counselor because of a mistake in my schedule I had to wait in a long line just to get in the counselor's door. When I registered for summer school classes I had to wait two hours before I could see my counselor. There are only 6 counselors at the school for some 3,500 students. That means every counselor is responsible for almost 600 students. The counselors don't even know our names. If you want to go see a counselor and it is not related to a schedule change at the start of a new school session then you have to put in a request at the counseling office and it can take up to two weeks for a counselor to see you. I know this because one of my friends tried to see a counselor this year and it took about two weeks for them to get into see the counselor.
- 10. Our school is really overcrowded and there are not enough buses to take all of the students to school. Sometimes students have to sit on each others laps on the bus because there are not enough seats on the bus for everyone. There are about 80 students from my neighborhood that take our bus, but there are only about 60 seats on the bus. If I don't take the bus I have to walk about five miles to school. One time last year our bus almost ran into a car and because we were all squished into the bus the students were really afraid that if we had

gotten into an accident we would have gotten really hurt.

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 <u>33</u> day of July, 2001 in Oxnard, California.

<u>Jan Kana</u> Kilian Mendoza