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 18 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
 NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
 19 OAKLAND DIVISION

20 RESOURCE RENEWAL INSTITUTE,
 21 CENTER FOR BIOLOGICAL
 DIVERSITY, and WESTERN
 22 WATERSHEDS PROJECT,

23 Plaintiffs,

24 v.

25 NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, a federal
 agency, and CICELY MULDOON, in her
 26 official capacity as Superintendent of Point
 Reyes National Seashore,

27 Defendants.

Case No. 4:16-cv-00688-SBA (KAW)

**DECLARATION OF CRAIG KENKEL
 IN SUPPORT OF DEFENDANTS'
 MOTION FOR EXTENSION OF
 DEADLINE**

1 I, Craig Kenkel, declare as follows:

- 2 1. I am the Superintendent of Point Reyes National Seashore (Point Reyes or Park), located in
3 Marin County, California. I was appointed as Superintendent on January 17, 2021. Prior to
4 assuming the superintendency at Point Reyes, I was superintendent of Cuyahoga Valley
5 National Park in Ohio from 2014 through 2020 and superintendent of San Francisco Maritime
6 National Historical Park from 2010 into 2014. I have been an employee of the National Park
7 Service (NPS) for more than 38 years.
- 8 2. Since arriving at Point Reyes, I have been working diligently with Park staff and members of
9 the NPS planning team to complete the General Management Plan Amendment (GMPA or
10 plan). The Settlement Agreement in the *Resource Renewal Institute* litigation calls for
11 completion of the GMPA planning process by July 14, 2021.
- 12 3. Our timeline for completing the GMPA was delayed by complications associated with
13 scheduling a hearing on the plan with the California Coastal Commission, which had
14 transitioned to virtual hearings as a result of the pandemic. Working with Commission staff,
15 we were finally able to schedule the hearing for a special date that was added to the
16 Commission's calendar. The hearing was held on April 22, 2021. Completion of our
17 consultation requirements with the Commission under the federal Coastal Zone Management
18 Act was required before we could finalize the GMPA.
- 19 4. Another delay that we have recently encountered relates to the transition to the new
20 administration. Plans with the scope and complexity of the General Management Plan
21 Amendment raise issues of high public importance and must be reviewed and approved by
22 officials in the Department of the Interior prior to being finalized. Lower level briefings for
23 officials in the National Park Service regional office and Washington, D.C. office are also
24 required.
- 25 5. After the Coastal Commission hearing process concluded, we began preparing briefing
26 materials on the GMPA for officials in the National Park Service and Department of the
27 Interior. We also worked to schedule times to brief these officials.
- 28 6. With regard to briefing officials in the Department of the Interior, a key official is the
Assistant Secretary, Fish, Wildlife and Parks. The new administration's appointee to this

1 position, Shannon Esterno, was only recently confirmed by the Senate to the Assistant
2 Secretary position on June 24, 2021.

- 3 7. To date, we have had two preliminary briefings for Ms. Esterno on the GMPA. Ms. Esterno
4 and her staff have additional questions about matters covered by the GMPA and have asked
5 for additional briefings. In order to address their questions, the NPS needs time to review
6 matters addressed in the GMPA and prepare additional briefing materials.
- 7 8. Once the new administration provides its approval, the NPS must then draft a Record of
8 Decision and a Non-Impairment Determination. These are complex documents that require
9 multiple levels of review before being approved.
- 10 9. Based on my long career with NPS and involvement in controversial planning projects, I
11 estimate that we will need an additional 60 days to conduct these briefings, draft the Record of
12 Decision and Non-Impairment Determination and then complete the GMPA.

13 Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746, I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct
14 to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief.

15 Executed July 13, 2021

16 By:

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18 Craig Kenkel
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