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Electronically  
**FILED**  
by Superior Court of California, County of San Mateo  
ON 2/21/2023  
By /s/ Vanessa Jimenez  
Deputy Clerk

5 Attorneys for Plaintiffs and Petitioners  
6  
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8 **SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA**  
9 **COUNTY OF SAN MATEO**

11 BRAD BARUH, KATHY BARUH,  
12 CHARLES BOLTON, ELDRIDGE GRAY,  
13 JOHN LOCKTON, DAVID MARQUARDT,  
14 PAUL ROCHESTER, ARTHUR  
15 STROMBERG, CHARLES SYERS,  
individually and on behalf of all others  
similarly situated,

16 Plaintiffs and Petitioners,

17 v.

18 TOWN OF HILLSBOROUGH and DOES 1-  
19 100, inclusive,

20 Defendants and Respondents.

Case No. 16CIV02284

**DECLARATION OF CHARLES SYERS  
IN SUPPORT OF PLAINTIFFS' MOTION  
FOR ATTORNEYS' FEES,  
REIMBURSEMENT OF EXPENSES, AND  
SERVICE AWARD**

**Date:** ~~March 20, 2023~~ 8/14/2023  
**Time:** 3:00 p.m.  
**Dept.:** Hon. V. Raymond Swope  
**Dept. 23**

21 I, Charles Syers, hereby declare:

22 1. I am an adult, over 18 years old. I am a named plaintiff and an appointed class  
23 representative in the above-entitled action. I have firsthand knowledge of the information set forth  
24 in this declaration, and if called to testify I can and will do so.

25 2. Bringing this case and pursuing it for almost six years was not an easy undertaking  
26 and it involved a great deal of effort and stress. Both prior to and after being appointed a class  
27 representative by the Court, I have pursued this action with the best interests of the class in mind.  
28

1 I have given a significant amount of my time in pursuit of this lawsuit, and I believe that our work  
2 has reaped a real benefit to the class.

3           3.       My work for this lawsuit began even prior to its inception, as my efforts to  
4 understand the Town of Hillsborough's water rates and to speak against them to the Town Council  
5 formed the impetus for this lawsuit. To this end, I spent a significant amount of time learning  
6 about and coming to understand the Town's methods of water distribution and water billings  
7 methods. I spent additional time visiting representatives of the water department for casual  
8 conversations. I also attended over 12 Town Council meetings, and at each meeting spoke out  
9 about my concerns over the Town's water billing methods and the reports it was getting from its  
10 consultants. After each meeting, I conducted further factual investigations to better understand the  
11 Town's water billing practices and their problematic nature. I also arranged a personal meeting  
12 with the mayor of the Town, in which I presented to him my clear understanding of why our water  
13 department had made serious mistakes that required correction. The preparation for this meeting  
14 took many hours, and it was at this time that I began to speak with other residents about my  
15 concerns in order to build momentum for our cause and our case.

16           4.       Every meeting and every discussion, required preparation, thought, and  
17 understanding of the unfounded methods being used to overcharge and limit water for the  
18 residents of Hillsborough. And each meeting also made me realize that the only avenue for  
19 transparency and legal compliance was reliance on our legal system to "help fight City Hall".

20           5.       After the lawsuit was filed, I devoted time to frequent in-person, phone, and Zoom  
21 meetings with my attorneys and the other plaintiffs in this action to discuss the case, its progress,  
22 and our strategy. I also attended the mandatory settlement conference, mediation, several  
23 hearings, and I helped prepare for all of these events by reviewing documents and sharing my  
24 thoughts with counsel. I also diligently reviewed the drafts of the various motions and briefs that  
25 were shared by counsel, as well as the papers filed by the other side, in order to keep up to date  
26 with the case, ensure we were being adequately represented, and assist where I could. Over the  
27 years, I estimate that I have dedicated well over 100 hours of my own time in pursuit of this case.  
28 This does not include the dozens of conversations I have had with members of our class and

1 residents who contacted me about our case.

2           6.       This case has received publicity, including an article in the local newspaper that  
3 listed my name. I was approached by many neighbors and other residents about it. Several of  
4 them pointed their finger at me and were even disrespectful of my decision to continue forward as  
5 a named representative of our class. Episodes like this caused me a significant amount of stress,  
6 but did not deter me in my efforts to seek the best result possible for the class.

7           I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the  
8 foregoing is true.

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10 Dated: Feb 14, 2023

11 By: *Charles S. Syers*  
charles s syers (Feb 14, 2023 15:07 PST)  
Charles Syers

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# Hillsborough Case - Syers Declaration

Final Audit Report

2023-02-14

Created:	2023-02-13
By:	Beau Burbidge (beau@burbidgemitchell.com)
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## "Hillsborough Case - Syers Declaration" History

-  Document created by Beau Burbidge (beau@burbidgemitchell.com)  
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-  Document e-signed by charles s syers (legaldent@aol.com)  
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**PROOF OF SERVICE**

***Baruh, et al. v Town of Hillsborough***  
San Mateo County Superior Court Case No. 16CIV02284

My business address is 50 Francisco Street, Suite 460, San Francisco, California 94133. I am employed in the County of San Francisco, where this mailing occurs. I am over the age of 18 years and not a party to the within cause. On the date set forth below, I served the foregoing document(s) described as:

**DECLARATION OF CHARLES SYERS IN SUPPORT OF PLAINTIFFS' MOTION FOR ATTORNEYS' FEES, REIMBURSEMENT OF EXPENSES, AND SERVICE AWARD**

on the following person(s) in this action by placing a true copy thereof enclosed in a sealed envelope addressed as listed below.

**[X] [X] BY ELECTRONIC SERVICE – E-MAIL** On **February 21, 2023**, based on an agreement or stipulation of the parties to accept electronic service and/or CCP §1010.6(e), I caused said document(s) to be sent via electronic mail to the email addresses listed below from my email address: [serena@whk-law.com](mailto:serena@whk-law.com).

Harriet A. Steiner, Esq. James Gilpin, Esq. Christopher Diaz, Esq. BEST BEST & KRIEGER LLP 500 Capitol Mall, Suite 1700 Sacramento, CA 95814 Tel: (916) 325-4000 Fax: (916) 325-4010 <b><i>Attorneys for Defendant Town of Hillsborough</i></b>	<a href="mailto:harriet.steiner@bbklaw.com">harriet.steiner@bbklaw.com</a> <a href="mailto:James.Gilpin@bbklaw.com">James.Gilpin@bbklaw.com</a> <a href="mailto:Christopher.Diaz@bbklaw.com">Christopher.Diaz@bbklaw.com</a> <a href="mailto:Jannine.South@bbklaw.com">Jannine.South@bbklaw.com</a>
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I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct, and that this declaration was executed on **February 21, 2023** at San Francisco, California.

By: [Serena L. Broussard](#)  
Serena L. Broussard