1 Rivera& Associates 2180 Harvard Street, Suite 310 Sacramento, California 95815 3 Tel: 916-922-1200 Fax: 916 922-1303 4 Jesse M. Rivera, CSN 84259 Jonathan B. Paul, CSN 215884 5 Shanan L. Hewitt, CSN 200168 Kelly A. Yokley, CSN 192015 6 7 Attorneys for Defendant, 8 County of Sacramento 9 IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT 10 IN AND FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA 11 **CASE NO.** 2:12-cv-01998-LKK-EFB CONNIE ARNOLD, 12 13 Plaintiff, **DEFENDANT COUNTY OF** SACRAMENTO'S AMENDED ANSWER TO PLAINTIFF CONNIE ARNOLD'S 14 FIRST AMENDED COMPLAINT and VS. 15 DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL 16 COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO, et al. 17 Defendant. 18 19 Defendant COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO (hereinafter "defendant") in answering the 20 allegations of the First Amended Complaint (hereinafter "complaint") hereby admit, deny and allege as follows: 21 22 I. INTRODUCTION 23 1. In response to paragraph 1 of the complaint, defendant COUNTY OF 24 SACRAMENTO admits the Americans with Disabilities Act ("ADA") was enacted in 1990. 25 Answering the remaining allegations contained in the paragraph 1, defendant COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO contends the remaining allegations do not constitute averments of fact to which 26 27 an answer may be required, but insofar as an answer may be deemed required, this answering 28 defendant generally and specifically denies each and every remaining allegations contained in Defendant County of Sacramento's Amended Answer to Plaintiff Connie Arnold's First Amended Complaint

and Demand for Jury Trial

2. In response to paragraph 2, defendant COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO admits that Sylvan Oaks Public Library is located near the corner of Auburn Boulevard and Van Maren Lane in the City of Citrus Heights. In response to the balance of this paragraph, defendant COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO denies both generally and specifically, each and every allegation contained therein; too the extent the allegations are directed to the other defendants, defendant COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO has no information or belief to enable it to answer said allegations, and for that reason and basing its denial on that ground, denies both generally and specifically, each and every allegation contained therein.

3. In response to paragraph 3, defendant COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO generally and specifically denies each and every allegation contained therein and on that basis, denies paragraph 3 in its entirety.

II. JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 4. In response to paragraph 4 of the complaint, defendant COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO contends that said paragraph contain conclusions of law and not averments of fact to which an answer may be required, but insofar as an answer may be deemed required, this answering defendant generally and specifically denies each and every allegation contained in said paragraph, except to admit that this Court has jurisdiction over federal questions under 28 U.S.C. § 1331.
- 5. In response to paragraph 4 of the complaint, defendant COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO contends that said paragraph contain conclusions of law and not averments of fact to which an answer may be required, but insofar as an answer may be deemed required, this answering defendant generally and specifically denies each and every allegation contained in said paragraph, except to admit that venue is proper in the Eastern District of California.

III. PARTIES

6. In response to paragraph 6 of the complaint, defendant COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO is without sufficient information to answer the allegations in paragraph 6 and basing its denial on this ground, this answering defendant generally and specifically denies each

- 7. In response to paragraph 7 of the complaint, defendant COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO admits that it is a public entity. In response to the balance of the allegations in this paragraph, defendant contends that said paragraph contain conclusions of law and not averments of fact to which an answer may be required, but insofar as an answer may be deemed required, this answering defendant generally and specifically denies each and every remaining allegation contained in said paragraph.
- 8. In response to paragraph 8 of the complaint, defendant COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO has no information or belief to enable it to answer said allegations and for that reason and basing its denial on that ground, denies both generally and specifically each and every, all and singular, the allegations contained therein.
- 9. In response to paragraph 9 of the complaint, defendant COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO, admits that it has ownership of the Sylvan Oaks Library located at 6700 Auburn Boulevard, Citrus Heights, California 95621. In response to the balance of the allegations in this paragraph, defendant has no information or belief to enable it to answer said allegations and for that reason and basing its denial on that ground, denies both generally and specifically, each and every, all and singular, the allegations contained therein.
- 10. In response to paragraph 10 of the complaint, defendant COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO has no information or belief to enable it to answer said allegations, and for that reason and basing its denial on that ground, denies both generally and specifically, each and every, all and singular, the allegations contained therein.
- 11. In response to paragraph 11 of the complaint, defendant COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO has no information or belief to enable it to answer said allegations, and for that reason and basing its denial on that ground, denies both generally and specifically, each and every, all and singular, the allegations contained therein.
- 12. In response to paragraph 12 of the complaint, defendant COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO has no information or belief to enable it to answer said allegations, and for that reason and basing its denial on that ground, denies both generally and specifically, each and

every, all and singular, the allegations contained therein.

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IV. GOVERNMENT CLAIM

- 13. In response to paragraph 13, of the complaint, defendant COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO has no information or belief to enable it to answer said allegations, and for that reason and basing its denial on that ground, denies both generally and specifically, each and every, all and singular, the allegations contained therein.
- 14. In response to paragraph 14, of the complaint, defendant COUNTY

 OF SACRAMENTO has no information or belief to enable it to answer said allegations, and for that reason and basing its denial on that ground, denies both generally and specifically, each and every, all and singular, the allegations contained therein.
- 15. In response to paragraph 15 of the complaint, defendant COUNTY
 OF SACRAMENTO admits that plaintiff has waived all damages in this matter by not
 complying with the California Tort Claims Act. In response to the balance of the allegations
 contained in said paragraph, defendant has no information or belief to enable it to answer said
 allegations, and for that reason and basing its denial on that ground, denies both generally and
 specifically, each and every, all and singular, remaining allegations contained therein.

V. FACTS UPON WHICH ALL CLAIMS ARE BASED

- 16. In response to paragraph 16, defendant COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO admits that Sylvan Oaks Public Library is located adjacent to Crosswoods Park. In response to the balance of the allegations contained in said paragraph, defendant has no information or belief to enable it to answer said allegations, and for that reason and basing its denial on that ground, denies both generally and specifically, each and every, all and singular, remaining allegations contained therein.
- 17. In response to paragraph 17, defendant COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO has no information or belief to enable it to answer said allegations, and for that reason and basing its denial on that ground, denies both generally and specifically, each and every, all and singular, allegations contained therein.
 - 18. In response to paragraph 16, defendant COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO has no

and on that basis, denies paragraph 25 in its entirety.

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In response to paragraph 33 of the complaint, defendant COUNTY OF

SACRAMENTO contends said paragraphs contain conclusion of law and not averments of fact

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In response to paragraph 46 of the complaint, defendant COUNTY OF

SACRAMENTO generally and specifically denies each and every allegation contained therein

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1	allegation contained in said paragraph.
2	54. In response to paragraph 54, of the complaint, defendant COUNTY OF
3	SACRAMENTO generally and specifically denies each and every allegation contained therein
4	and on that basis, denies paragraph 54 in its entirety.
5	55. In response to paragraph 55, of the complaint, defendant COUNTY OF
6	SACRAMENTO generally and specifically denies each and every allegation contained therein
7	and on that basis, denies paragraph 55 in its entirety.
8	VIII. PRAYER FOR RELIEF
9	In response to the prayer for relief, set forth at page 18 of the complaint, defendant
10	COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO contends that no response is required; too the extent to which a
11	response is deemed required, defendant denies that plaintiff is entitled to any form of relief
12	whatsoever.
13	AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSES
14	Defendant County of Sacramento alleges the following separate and distinct affirmative
15	defenses to plaintiff's complaint.
16	FIRST AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE
17	As a first affirmative defense, defendant alleges that the complaint in its entirety, through
18	each separately stated Cause of Action, fails to state claims upon which relief can be granted.
19	SECOND AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE
20	As a second affirmative defense, defendant alleges that Plaintiff's complaint does not
21	present a case or controversy.
22	THIRD AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE
23	As a third affirmative defense, defendant alleges all its actions taken were undertaken in
24	good faith and with reasonable belief that said actions were valid, necessary and constitutionally
25	proper; thus, the answering defendant is entitled to qualified immunity.
26	FOURTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE
27	As a fourth affirmative defense, defendant alleges that this claim is barred by the
28	privileges, immunities and limitations set forth in Government Code §800, et seq., Government

1	Code §900, et seq. and C.C.P. §338, et seq.
2	FIFTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE
3	As a fifth affirmative defense, defendant alleges that defendant's acts were privileged
4	under applicable statutes and case law.
5	SIXTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE
6	As a sixth affirmative defense, defendant alleges that defendant did not receive federal
7	funding in association with programs, activities, services and benefits participated in by plaintiff.
8	SEVENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE
9	As a seventh affirmative defense, defendant alleges that plaintiff knew, or in the exercise of
10	ordinary care, should have known of the risks, hazards, illnesses and injuries involved in the
11	undertaking in which plaintiff was engaged; but nevertheless, and with full knowledge of these
12	things did fully and voluntarily consent to assume the risks, hazards, illnesses and injuries
13	involved in the undertaking.
14	EIGHTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE
15	As an eighth affirmative defense, defendant alleges plaintiff failed to exercises ordinary care for
16	her own safety and well-being and that failure to exercise ordinary care proximately caused
17	and/or contributed to the alleged illness and injury plead in the complaint; consequently,
18	defendant is entitled to the full protection of the law.
19	NINTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE
20	As a ninth affirmative defense, defendant alleges plaintiff faces no threat of future irreparable
21	harm; therefore, injunctive relief is not available.
22	TENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE
23	As a tenth affirmative defense, defendant alleges that this claim is barred by the equitable
24	doctrine of estoppel, waiver and laches.
25	ELEVENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE
26	As an eleventh affirmative defense, defendant alleges that if plaintiff sustained the damages
27	alleged in the complaint, which defendant denies, plaintiff's damages were caused in whole or in
28	part by the conduct of third parties for whom defendant is not responsible, by forces over which

1	defendant has no control or through acts or omissions on the part of plaintiff and therefore, an act
2	or omission on the part of defendant was not the proximate cause and/or legal cause of the
3	plaintiff's alleged damages.
4	TWELFTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE
5	As a twelfth affirmative defense, defendant alleges that the injuries and damages plaintiff
6	complains of, if any, resulted from the acts and or omissions of others and without any fault on
7	the part of this answering defendant.
8	THIRTEENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE
9	As a thirteenth affirmative defense, defendant alleges that the complaint is barred in that the
10	relief sought would place an undue financial and administrative burden on this answering
11	defendant.
12	FOURTEENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE
13	As a fourteenth affirmative defense, defendant alleges that the complaint is barred in that the
14	relief sought would require unreasonable modifications to programs and services.
15	FIFTEENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE
16	As a fifteenth affirmative defense, defendant alleges that plaintiff failed to exhaust her
17	administrative and other state remedies.
18	SIXTEENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE
19	As a sixteenth affirmative defense, defendant alleges that the complaint is barred because
20	defendant is not required to make structural changes in existing facilities where other methods
21	are or would be effective to achieve compliance with applicable law.
22	SEVENTEENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE
23	As a seventeenth affirmative defense, defendant alleges that the complaint is barred in that the
24	relief sought would inappropriately mandate the manner in which defendant allocates public
25	funds in relation to existing programs and services.
26	EIGHTEENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE
27	As an eighteenth affirmative defense, defendant alleges that the complaint is barred
28	because plaintiff failed to request either reasonable accommodation or auxiliary aids as required

1	by law.
2	NINETEENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE
3	As a nineteenth affirmative defense, defendant alleges that plaintiff's complaint fails to
4	state facts sufficient to constitute a cause of action against this answering defendant.
5	TWENTIETH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE
6	As a twentieth affirmative defense, defendant alleges that plaintiff has failed to mitigate
7	her damages, and to the extend of this failure to mitigate, any damages awarded to plaintiff
8	should be reduced accordingly.
9	TWENTY-FIRST AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE
10	As a twenty-first affirmative defense, defendant alleges that plaintiff's claim are barred
11	pursuant to the principles of res judicata and collateral estoppel.
12	TWENTY-SECOND AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE
13	As a twenty-second affirmative defense, defendant alleges that any alleged discrimination
14	was not arbitrary or intentional.
15	TWENTY-THIRD AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE
16	As a twenty-third affirmative defense, defendant asserts that its alleged refusal to allow
17	access was not discriminatory, but was caused by the structure of the facility and by the fact that
18	plaintiff's special needs prevented her admission to the facility without construction, alteration or
19	modification that is not otherwise required by law under Civil Code section 51(d) and 52(g).
20	TWENTY-FOURTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE
21	As a twenty-fourth affirmative defense, defendant alleges that plaintiff was not
22	discriminated against based solely on her disability.
23	TWENTY-FIFTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE
24	As a twenty-fifth affirmative defense, defendant alleges that when viewed in its entirety,
25	the subject buildings and facilities are readily accessible to and useable by individuals with
26	disabilities.
27	TWENTY-SIXTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE
28	As a twenty-sixth affirmative defense, defendant alleges that defendant is not required to

1	take any action that would result in a fundamental alteration in the nature of its services,
2	programs or activities, or in undue financial and administrative burdens.
3	TWENTY-SEVENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE
4	As a twenty-seventh affirmative defense, defendant alleges that defendant has insufficient
5	knowledge or information upon which to form a belief as to whether it may have additional, as
6	yet unstated, affirmative defenses. Defendant reserved the right to answer with additional
7	affirmative defenses in the event discovery indicates it would appropriate.
8	WHEREOF, Defendant COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO prays for judgment as follows:
9	1. Plaintiff's action be dismissed;
10	2. Plaintiff's claim for injunctive relief be denied;
11	3. Plaintiff's take nothing by way of complaint;
12	4. Defendant be awarded its costs of suit, including attorney fees; and
13	5. For such other relief as the Court deems proper.
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15	Dated: November 9, 2012 Respectfully submitted,
16	RIVERA & ASSOCIATES
17	/s/ Jonathan B. Paul By:
18	JONATHAN B. PAUL Attorney for County of Sacramento
19	Theories for county of sustainence
20	DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL
21	Defendants, Defendant COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO demand a jury trial as provided
22	for in Rule 38, Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and Local Rule 201.
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24	Dated: November 9, 2012 Respectfully submitted,
25	RIVERA & ASSOCIATES
26	/s/ Jonathan B. Paul By:
27	JONATHAN B. PAUL Attorney for County of Sacramento
28	