1 2 3	James A. Quadra (SBN 131084) Email: jquadra@calvoclark.com Rebecca M. Coll (SBN 184468) Email: rcoll@calvoclark.com CALVO & CLARK, LLP One Lombard Street, Second Floor	
4 5	San Francisco, California 94111 Telephone: (415) 374-8370 Facsimile: (415) 374-8373	
6 7 8 9 10 11	Rosemary M. Rivas (SBN 209147) Email: rrivas@finkelsteinthompson.com Tracy Tien (SBN 253930) Email: ttien@finkelsteinthompson.com FINKELSTEIN THOMPSON LLP 100 Bush Street, Suite 1450 San Francisco, California 94115 Telephone: (415) 398-8700 Facsimile: (415) 398-8704 <i>Interim Co-Lead Counsel and Counsel for Plain</i>	James Pizzirusso (<i>Pro hac vice</i>) Email: jpizzirusso@hausfeldllp.com HAUSFELD LLP 1700 K. Street NW, Suite 650 Washington, DC 20006 Telephone: (202) 540-7200 Facsimile: (202) 540-7201
11	[Additional Counsel Listed On Signature Page]	
12		TES DISTRICT COURT
14	FOR THE NORTHERN D	DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
15		ISCO DIVISION
16	SAN FRANC.	
17	IN RE SONY PS3 "OTHER OS"	CASE NO. CV-10-1811-RS (EMC)
18	LITIGATION	PLAINTIFFS' MEMORANDUM OF
19		POINTS AND AUTHORITIES IN OPPOSITION TO DEFENDANT'S
20		REQUEST FOR JUDICIAL NOTICE
21		Date:November 4, 2010Time:1:30 p.m.
22 23		Judge: Honorable Richard Seeborg Courtroom: 3
23 24		
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	PLAINTIFFS' MPA IN OPPOSITION TO	D DEF. REQUEST FOR JUDICIAL NOTICE
		10-1811-RS (EMC)
		Dockets

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1

I. INTRODUCTION

2 Carter Ott is an attorney at DLA Piper LLP and counsel of record in this case for Defendant 3 Sony Computer Entertainment America LLC ("SCEA"). On September 10, 2010, he submitted to 4 this Court a four page declaration "in support of defendant's motions to dismiss and strike." See 5 Docket Entry No. 98 (the "Ott Declaration"). Annexed to the Ott Declaration are twenty-four 6 exhibits, of which SCEA requests that the Court take judicial notice. See id. These exhibits 7 include "true and correct" copies of service terms, licensing and user agreements purportedly 8 obtained from SCEA's website; eight different complaints filed against SCEA in various 9 jurisdictions; and "screenshots" and "copies of excepts of postings from Internet webpages cited in 10 Plaintiffs' Consolidated Class Action Complaint."¹ According to the Ott Declaration, six of the 11 exhibits (C, F, S, T, U, and V) were retrieved "using an Internet archive." Id. at ¶¶ 4, 7, 20-23. 12 Significantly, Exhibit Q is the only document in the Ott Declaration that SCEA claims is "relied 13 on" or "cited in" by Plaintiffs in the amended complaint. Id. at 18; see also SCEA's Request for 14 Judicial Notice in Support of Defendant's Motions to Dismiss and Strike ("RJN") at 3.²

15 The Ott Declaration and accompanying use of these exhibits in SCEA's motion to dismiss 16 brief ("MTD") does far more than simply attach for this Court's review exhibits that were 17 referenced in or integral to the operative Consolidated Class Action Complaint ("Complaint"). 18 Instead, the references to the exhibits in the Ott Declaration are replete with unsupported factual 19 assertions, personal characterizations of documents, and references to several documents and 20exhibits that, in large part, are nowhere mentioned in or annexed to the complaint. Further, SCEA 21 has failed to properly authenticate any of these documents, nor has it demonstrated that any of the 22 documents annexed to the Ott Declaration contain the indicia of reliability required under FED. R. 23 EVID. 201 for this Court to take judicial notice. As such, the exhibits to the Ott Declaration run 24 afoul of controlling Ninth Circuit authority regarding the consideration of matters outside of the 25

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²⁷ $\int See$ Ott Declaration at ¶ 18.

 $28 ||^2$ Docket Entry No. 99.

PLAINTIFFS' MPA IN OPPOSITION TO DEF. REQUEST FOR JUDICIAL NOTICE CASE NO. CV 10-1811-RS (EMC) pleadings, and should therefore not be considered in connection with the disposition of the motion
to dismiss.

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II. ARGUMENT

A. The Applicable Law Regarding a Court's Consideration of Matters Outside of the Pleadings.

6 In deciding a motion to dismiss, a district court must "accept all factual allegations in the 7 complaint as true and construe the pleadings in the light most favorable to the nonmoving party." 8 Hannan v. Maxim Integrated Prods., No. 02-36120, 2010 U.S. App. LEXIS 18606, at *2 (9th Cir. 9 Sept. 3, 2010) (quoting Knievel v. ESPN, 393 F.3d 1068, 1072 (9th Cir. 2005)). Given this 10 standard of review, "[i]n general a court may not consider items outside the pleadings upon 11 deciding a motion to dismiss..." Best Buy Stores, L.P. v. Manteca Lifestyle Ctr., No. 2:10-389, 12 2010 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 47193, at *5 (E.D. Cal. May 12, 2010) (citing Barron v. Reich, 13 F.3d 13 1370, 1377 (9th Cir. 1994)). 14 Subject to limited exceptions which are inapplicable here, relying on evidence that is not 15 alleged by the plaintiff in connection with a FED. R. CIV. P. 12(b)(6) motion to dismiss is also 16 specifically prohibited by Rule 12(d), which provides in pertinent part: 17 18 If, on a motion under Rule 12(b)(6) or 12(c), matters outside the pleadings are 19 presented to and not excluded by the court, the motion must be treated as one for summary judgment under Rule 56. All parties must be given a reasonable 20 opportunity to present all the material that is pertinent to the motion. 21 FED. R. CIV. P. 12(d); see also Cash Energy, Inc. v. Weiner, 768 F.Supp. 892, 896 (D. Mass. 1991) 22 ("A 12(b)(6) motion is ordinarily judged on the pleadings alone.") (citing 5A CHARLES ALAN 23 WRIGHT & ARTHUR R. MILLER, FEDERAL PRACTICE AND PROCEDURE § 1356 (2d ed. 1990)); 24 Sommer v. United States, No. 09cv2093, 2010 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 94292, at *21-22 (S.D. Cal. Sept. 25 10, 2010) ("In order to consider 'matters outside the pleadings,' a court must generally convert a 26 motion to dismiss into a motion for summary judgment and give all parties a reasonable 27 opportunity to present all the material that is pertinent to the motion. At this early stage in the 28 PLAINTIFFS' MPA IN OPPOSITION TO DEF. REQUEST FOR JUDICIAL NOTICE

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proceedings, no discovery has been conducted, and converting the motion to dismiss into a 1 2 summary judgment motion would be inappropriate.") (internal citations omitted). As a general 3 rule, therefore, a defendant cannot submit "matters outside the pleadings" in support of a motion to 4 dismiss pursuant to FED. R. CIV. P. 12(b) unless the district court converts it into one for summary 5 judgment, and provides the plaintiff with an adequate opportunity to conduct the discovery 6 necessary to oppose that motion.³ FED. R. CIV. P. 12(b).

7 There are, however, a handful of "narrow exceptions" to this rule.⁴ Specifically, the Ninth 8 Circuit has explained that "[a] court may consider evidence on which the complaint 'necessarily 9 relies' if: (1) the complaint refers to the document; (2) the document is central to the plaintiff's 10 claim; and (3) no party questions the authenticity of the copy attached to the 12(b)(6) motion." 11 Marder v. Lopez, 450 F.3d 445, 448 (9th Cir. 2006) (citations omitted; emphasis supplied).

12 A district court may also take judicial notice of matters in the public record without 13 converting a motion to dismiss into a motion for summary judgment. See Best Buy Stores, L.P., 14 2010 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 47193, at *5. Under FED. R. EVID. 201(b), "[j]udicial notice may be taken 15 of facts 'not subject to reasonable dispute' because they are either '(1) generally known within the 16 territorial jurisdiction of the trial court or (2) capable of accurate and ready determination by resort 17 to sources whose accuracy cannot reasonably be questioned." Blasko v. Wash. Mut. Bank, No. 18 09cv2376, 2010 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 90020, at *4 (S.D. Cal. Aug. 30, 2010) (quoting FeD. R. EVID. 19 201(b)(1)-(2)). "Courts have tended to apply Rule 201(b) stringently -- and well they might, for 20accepting disputed evidence not tested in the crucible of trial is a sharp departure from standard 21

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A motion to dismiss need not be converted into a motion for summary judgment, however, if the 24 "documents that are not properly subject to judicial notice and that are outside the pleadings" are not considered. Alvarez v. Lake County Bd. of Supervisors, No. 10-1071, 2010 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 25 95109, at *14, n.3 (N.D. Cal. Sept. 13, 2010).

²⁶ ⁴ See, e.g., Stoner v. Santa Clara County Office of Educ., 502 F.3d 1116, 1120 (9th Cir. 2007) ("...the documents at issue do not fall within the narrow exception to the general rule that the 27 scope of this court's review on a motion to dismiss for failure to state a claim is limited to the 28 contents of the complaint...") (emphasis added; citations omitted).

practice." *Lussier v. Runyon*, 50 F.3d 1103, 1113-14 (1st Cir. 1995). As discussed below, these
narrow exceptions are inapplicable here.

3 4

B. The Documents Annexed to the Ott Declaration Are Not Central to Plaintiffs' Claims, and Many of Them are Not Even Referred to in the Complaint.

The documents attached to the Ott Declaration do not fall within the "narrow" categories of materials that can be considered by the Court in addressing a Rule 12(b)(6) motion to dismiss without converting it into a motion for summary judgment, and/or are unnecessary for the Court to review in connection with the resolution of the MTD. Moreover, SCEA has not established that any of these documents contain judicially noticeable facts, nor has it properly authenticated these materials. As such, the Declaration and related exhibits are fundamentally improper and should not be considered based on controlling Ninth Circuit authority.

12

1. The Service Terms and License Agreements.

Exhibits A-G and S-X to the Ott Declaration purportedly consist of five different versions of SCEA's "System Software License Agreement" for the PS3,⁵ seven different versions of the "Terms Of Service And User Agreement" for the "PlayStation® Network,"⁶ and a the single version of the "Limited Hardware Warranty and Liability for the PlayStation®3.⁷ These documents are cited in SCEA's motion to dismiss memorandum as being the "applicable" documents that "authorized SCEA to Issue Firmware Update 3.21." *See* MTD at 3-5.

The Ott Declaration does not – and cannot – contend that any of these documents are cited
 in the operative complaint. To the contrary, the pertinent materials referenced in the complaint are
 SCEA's "advertising, statements, brochures, website information, public statements, owner's
 manuals, and other representations that the functionality of the PS3 would include both the 'Other
 OS' and the various other advertised functions." *See* Complaint ¶ 79. SCEA attempts to
 characterize the documents attached to the Ott Declaration as being the "applicable" agreements

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⁵ See Exhibits B, C, D, S and T

 $27 ||^{6}$ See Exhibits E, F, G, U, V, W, and X.

 $28 ||^7$ See Exhibit A.

PLAINTIFFS' MPA IN OPPOSITION TO DEF. REQUEST FOR JUDICIAL NOTICE CASE NO. CV 10-1811-RS (EMC) and terms of service. *See* MTD at 3. But even SCEA acknowledges, for example, that "[t]here
have been several different versions of the Terms of Service..." *Id.* at 5. As such, it would be
premature and procedurally improper to decide, in connection with the motion to dismiss, that one
(or more) of the documents selected by SCEA are the "applicable" contracts.

5 Nor are these documents sufficiently reliable. As discussed above, the Ott Declaration 6 acknowledges that six of these agreements were obtained using a third-party Internet archive 7 website as opposed to discovery materials from Mr. Ott's client's files. As such, the Court should 8 decline to take judicial notice of these materials. See Best Buy Stores, L.P., 2010 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 9 47193, at *6 (declining to take judicial notice of, inter alia, a computer printouts obtained from a 10 website – and submitted with the motion to dismiss by the defendant – because "they do not satisfy 11 Federal Rule of Evidence 201(b)."). See also, Fant v. Residential Servs. Validated Publ'ns, No. 12 06-CV-00934-SMS, 2007 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 23010, at *11 (E.D. Cal. Mar. 16, 2007) (declining to 13 take judicial notice of "newspaper articles from the internet" because the "facts in the articles in 14 question in the present case are not easily determined facts not subject to reasonable dispute 15 because they are not generally known or capable of accurate and ready determination by resort to 16 sources whose accuracy cannot reasonably be questioned.").

The authorities relied upon by SCEA are readily distinguishable. See RJN at 4, n.7. In In 18 re Samsung Elecs. Am., Inc., the plaintiffs "specifically acknowledge[d] the existence of [the 19 applicable] warranty information in each Player's packaging" in the complaint. No. 08-0663 20(JAG), 2008 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 105199, at *5-6, n.2 (D.N.J. Dec. 31, 2008). Similarly, in 21 Berenblat v. Apple, Inc., there were not multiple versions of a contract presented to the Court, as 22 the pertinent express warranty was referenced in the complaint and at least two of the plaintiffs in 23 had actually "exercised their rights under the express warranty." No. 08-4969 JF, 2009 U.S. Dist. 24 LEXIS 80734, at *2, n.3 (N.D. Cal. Aug. 21, 2009) (emphasis added). And while the Court in 25 Datel Holdings, Ltd. v. Microsoft Corp., an antitrust case, ultimately granted the defendant's 26 request for judicial notice, it did so for the limited purpose of recognizing "the existence and 27 content of these documents, though not of their legal effect." No. 09-5535, 2010 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 28

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PLAINTIFFS' MPA IN OPPOSITION TO DEF. REQUEST FOR JUDICIAL NOTICE CASE NO. CV 10-1811-RS (EMC) 40021, at *20 (N.D.Cal. Apr. 23, 2010). This Court need not and should not take judicial notice of
the multiple versions of agreements attached to the Ott Declaration. Even if it does take judicial
notice, however, the documents cannot serve as the legal basis by which to dismiss Plaintiffs'
Complaint.

5

2. "Screenshots" of Internet Blogs.

6 Exhibits H, Q, R, consist of "excerpts of postings from Internet webpages cited in 7 Plaintiffs' Consolidated Class Action Complaint," an "Open Platform" document obtained from 8 SCEA's website, and a set of "FAQs" from the "PlayStation® Knowledge Center." See Ott 9 Declaration at ¶¶ 9, 18-19. The RJN claims that these extraneous materials should be considered in 10 resolving the motion to dismiss because the complaint "fail[s] to provide actual screenshots of 11 those webpages [where people have commented on the PS3, and Other OS feature], which include 12 other comments made by PS3 users, many of which respond directly to the postings Plaintiffs 13 quote and thereby contradict Plaintiffs' allegations." See RJN at 5.

14 SCEA does not explain, however, how these "screenshots" of other postings somehow 15 "contradict" the allegations in the complaint. Nor does it contend that these other postings are 16 "central" to Plaintiffs' claims. And even if it could do so, it would not make this extraneous 17 material proper for consideration on a motion to dismiss. Indeed, there are numerous motion to 18 dismiss opinions that have cited to and relied upon postings in the complaint that putative class 19 members made on websites – without considering whether there might also be a contradictory 20view also posted on the Internet. See Falk v. GMC, 496 F. Supp. 2d 1088, 1092 (N.D. Cal. 2007) 21 ("In the complaint, plaintiffs present a number of consumer postings on the Internet which detailed 22 consumer problems with GM speedometers."); see also Henderson v. Volvo Cars of N. Am. LLC, 23 No. 09-4146 (DMC), 2010 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 73624, at *3-4 (D.N.J. July 21, 2010) (citing to 24 "widespread complaints...on the internet" cited in the complaint in a motion to dismiss opinion); 25 Contino v. BMW of North Am., LLC, No. 07-5755, 2008 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 59027, at *5 (D.N.J. 26

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July 29, 2008) (same). These additional documents relied upon by SCEA should, therefore, not be
 considered.⁸

3

3. Pleadings filed in Other Courts.

4 Finally, Exhibits H through P to the Ott Declaration are seven complaints recently filed 5 against SCEA related to the same subject matter of this case, as well as a notice of removal in 6 another related case. While Plaintiffs do not contest the authenticity of these documents, the Court 7 should nonetheless decline SCEA's invitation to take judicial notice of them in connection with the 8 MTD. These previously filed complaints have no relevance to this Court's disposition of the 9 motion to dismiss claims in Plaintiffs' operative consolidated complaint. Pursuant to the Case 10 Management Order, to which SCEA agreed, entered by the Court June 30, 2010, this complaint 11 "shall be deemed the operative complaint, superseding all complaints filed in this action, or any of 12 the actions to be consolidated hereunder or in any related cases." See Docket Entry No. 65 at ¶ 11. 13 As such, these previously-filed, superseded complaints are not necessary or proper for this Court's 14 analysis on the MTD. See Alvarez, 2010 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 95109, at *15-16 (declining to take 15 judicial notice of previously filed pleadings); see also Pollstar v. Gigmania Ltd., 170 F. Supp. 2d 16 974, 979 (E.D. Cal. 2000) ("there is no authority for judicial notice of pleadings in an unrelated 17 case..."). 18

19

20

II. CONCLUSION

The materials annexed to the Ott Declaration go far beyond what is needed for the Court to resolve SCEA's pending motion to dismiss. These documents are not "central" to Plaintiffs' claims, many of them are nowhere referenced in the complaint, SCEA has failed to properly authenticate these materials and – with the exception of irrelevant previously filed pleadings – they

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 ²⁶ ⁸ In the alternative event that the Court grants SCEA's motion to take judicial notice of these materials, Plaintiffs respectfully request to have an opportunity to submit additional website postings that contradict those relied on by SCEA. This, in and of itself, illustrates why this exercise is premature to conduct on a motion to dismiss.

PLAINTIFFS' MPA IN OPPOSITION TO DEF. REQUEST FOR JUDICIAL NOTICE CASE NO. CV 10-1811-RS (EMC)

do not contain the indicia of reliability required for the Court to take judicial notice under FED. R.
 EVID. 201. Accordingly, Plaintiffs respectfully request that the Court decline to take judicial
 notice of the exhibits attached to the Ott Declaration.

4	Dated: October 12, 2010	CALVO & CLARK, LLP
5	Dated. 0010001 12, 2010	CALVO & CLARK, LLI
6		/s/ James A. Quadra
7		James A. Quadra
8		Rebecca Coll
		One Lombard Street San Francisco, California 94111
9		Telephone: 415-374-8370
10		Facsimile: 415-374-8373
11	Dated: October 12, 2010	FINKELSTEIN THOMPSON LLP
12		/s/ Rosemary M. Rivas
13		Rosemary M. Rivas
14		Tracy Tien
15		100 Bush Street, Suite 1450
		San Francisco, California 94104
16		Telephone: 415-398-8700
17		Facsimile: 415-398-8704
18	Dated: October 12, 2010	HAUSFELD LLP
19		/s/ James Pizzirusso
20		James Pizzirusso (Pro hac vice)
21		1700 K St., NW, Suite 650
<i>2</i> 1		Washington, DC 20006
22		Telephone: 202-540-7200
23		Facsimile: 202-540-7201
24		Co-Interim Lead Counsel for Plaintiffs
25		Douglas G. Thompson
26		FINKELSTEIN THOMPSON LLP
20		1050 30th Street, NW
27		Washington, DC 20007 Telephone: 202-337-8000
28		Facsimile: 202-337-8090
		8
	PLAINTIFFS' MPA IN OPPOSITIO	N TO DEF. REQUEST FOR JUDICIAL NOTICE
	CASE NO.	CV 10-1811-RS (EMC)

1	
1	Michael P. Lehmann HAUSFELD LLP
2	44 Montgomery Street, Suite 3400
3	San Francisco, California 94104
4	Telephone: 415-633-1908 Facsimile: 415-358-4980
5	
6	Bruce L. Simon PEARSON, SIMON, WARSHAW &
	PENNY, LLP
7	44 Montgomery Street, Suite 2450 San Francisco, California 94104
8	Telephone: 415-433-9000
9	Facsimile: 415-433-9008
10	Daniel L. Warshaw
11	PEARSON, SIMON, WARSHAW &
12	PENNY, LLP 15165 Ventura Boulevard, Suite 400
13	Sherman Oaks, California 91403
	Telephone: 818-788-8300 Facsimile: 818-788-8104
14	
15	Joseph G. Sauder Matthew D. Schelkopf
16	Benjamin F. Johns (<i>Pro hac vice</i>)
17	CHIMICLES & TIKELIS LLP
18	361 W. Lancaster Ave. Haverford, Pennsylvania 19041
	Telephone: 610-642-8500
19	Facsimile: 610-649-3633
20	Ralph B. Kalfayan
21	KRAUSE, KALFAYAN, BENINK & SLAVENS, LLP
22	625 Broadway, Suite 635
23	San Diego, California 92101
24	Telephone: 619-232-0331 Facsimile: 619-232-4019
25	Jeffrey Carton (<i>Pro hac vice</i>) D. Greg Blankinship (<i>Pro hac vice</i>)
26	MEISELMAN, DENLEA, PACKMAN, CARTON
27	& EBERZ P.C. 1311 Mamaroneck Avenue
28	White Plains, New York 10605
	9
	PLAINTIFFS' MPA IN OPPOSITION TO DEF. REQUEST FOR JUDICIAL NOTICE
	CASE NO. CV 10-1811-RS (EMC)

1	Telephone: 914-517-5000 Facsimile: 914-517-5055	
2	John R. Fabry (<i>Pro hac vice</i>)	
3	WILLIAMS KHERKHER HART BOUNDAS,	
4	LLP 8441 Gulf Freeway, Suite 600	
5	Houston, Texas 77017 Telephone: 713-230-2200	
6	Facsimile: 713-643-6226	
7	Rosemary Farrales Luzon	
8	SHEPHERD, FINKELMAN, MILLER & SHAH, LLP	
9	401 West A. Street, Suite 2350	
10	San Diego, California 92101 Telephone: 619-235-2416	
11	Facsimile: 619-234-7334	
12	Counsel for Plaintiffs	
13		
14	I, Rosemary M. Rivas, am the ECF User whose identification and password are being used	
15	to file the foregoing PLAINTIFFS' MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES IN	
16	OPPOSITION TO DEFENDANT'S REQUEST FOR JUDICIAL NOTICE. I hereby attest that	
17	James A. Quadra and James Pizzirusso have concurred in this filing.	
18	Dated: October 12, 2010 FINKELSTEIN THOMPSON LLP	
19	By: <u>/s/ Rosemary M. Rivas</u>	
20	Counsel for Plaintiffs	
21		
22		
23		
24		
25		
26		
27		
28		
	10 PLAINTIFFS' MPA IN OPPOSITION TO DEF. REQUEST FOR JUDICIAL NOTICE	
	CASE NO. CV 10-1811-RS (EMC)	

1	CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE
2	I, Julia Dito, declare as follows:
3	I am employed by Finkelstein Thompson, 100 Bush Street, Suite 1450, San Francisco,
4	California 94104. I am over the age of eighteen years and am not a party to this action. On October
5	12, 2010, I served the following document(s):
6 7	PLAINTIFFS' MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES IN OPPOSITION TO DEFENDANT'S REQUEST FOR JUDICIAL NOTICE
8 9	X BY CM/ECF ELECTRONIC SERVICE: Electronically filing the foregoing with the Clerk of the Court using the CM/ECF system sent notification of such filing to the a mail addresses of registered participants.
10	the e-mail addresses of registered participants.
11	
12	I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the above is
13	true and correct. Executed this 12th day of October 2010 at San Francisco, California.
14	
15	Julia Dite
16 17	Juna Dito
18	
19	
20	
21	
22	
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24	
25	
26	
27	
28	11 CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE
	CASE NO. CV 10-1811-RS (EMC)