

## Exhibit 8 –

# Declaration of Alana Crutcher in Support of Lithium Nevada Corp.'s Opposition to Motion for Preliminary Injunction

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**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
DISTRICT OF NEVADA**

	)	<b>Lead case</b>
	)	<b>Case No. 3:21-cv-00080-MMD-CLB</b>
BARTELL RANCH, LLC et al.,	)	
Plaintiff,	)	
v.	)	
ESTER M. MCCULLOUGH, et al.	)	
Defendants,	)	
and	)	<b>DECLARATION OF</b>
LITHIUM NEVADA CORP.,	)	<b>ALANA CRUTCHER IN SUPPORT</b>
Defendant-Intervenor.	)	<b>OF LITHIUM NEVADA CORP.'S</b>
	)	<b>OPPOSITION TO MOTION FOR</b>
	)	<b>PRELIMINARY INJUNCTION</b>
	)	
	)	
	)	
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	)	

I, Alana Lynn Crutcher, declare as follows:

I am over eighteen years old, have personal knowledge of the matters set forth  
in this Declaration, and am competent to testify as to the matters set forth herein.

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1           1.       I was born on August 21, 1972, in Winnemucca, Nevada, at Humboldt  
2 County Hospital, and grew up as a member of Nevada's Paiute Shoshone Tribe. I am  
3 proud of my heritage as a 7th-Generation Member of the Paiute Shoshone Tribe. This  
4 heritage is dear to me, and to my family.

5  
6           2.       I grew up on the Paiute Shoshone Reservation, near Ft. McDermitt, and  
7 also spent time growing up on the Duck Valley Shoshone/Paiute reservation. To this  
8 day, I participate in my tribe's sacred ceremonial events. I observe and honor my tribe's  
9 cultural traditions as a way of life. I'm proud of our Paiute Shoshone traditions, and I'm  
10 proud of the Paiute Shoshone tribal heritage.

11  
12           3.       I am also the proud mother of five children, Martica, Anthony, Taylyr,  
13 Tucker, and Tanner, and a grandmother of eight grandchildren.

14  
15           4.       Several generations of my family have been involved in the mining  
16 industry. Nevada mining has been important to my family. My uncles and extended  
17 family members were employed in mining operations, the Cordero Mercury Mine  
18 operation, in Humboldt County, in particular.

19  
20           5.       After pursuing my post-secondary education in Kansas and New Mexico,  
21 I built my career in mining in Nevada. My three sons are currently employed in the  
22 mining industry. I recently resigned from my position as a Heavy Equipment Operator  
23 and New Hire Trainer for Kinross Gold Corporation, in Elko, in part because I wanted  
24 to spend more time with my grandchildren.

25  
26           6.       Before pursuing a career in mining, I held positions in federal law  
27 enforcement, including with the U.S. Department of Justice, the Department of  
28 Homeland Security, and the Bureau of Indian Affairs. I graduated from the Federal Law

1 Enforcement Training Center in Artesia, New Mexico, and I also worked in the county  
2 sheriff's office.

3  
4 7. I decided to leave my position in law enforcement to return to Nevada,  
5 where I was born, so that I could provide a better life for my five children. As a single  
6 mother of five, I knew that a career in the mining industry would enable me to provide  
7 for my family.

8  
9 8. I have held various positions with Barrick Gold Corporation and with  
10 Newmont Corporation. I've also been invited to join mining operations as a trainer and  
11 supervisor in other states around the country. I'm proud to say that I've worked my way  
12 up to achieve a level of seniority in the industry that has allowed me to raise my five  
13 children, to provide for them, and keep a roof over their heads.

14  
15 9. With more than 17 years experience in mining, I'm very familiar with the  
16 processes mining projects have to go through before opening and starting operations. I  
17 know that mining projects have to complete reclamation and other processes, and that  
18 there are many steps mining projects have to complete before they open, including  
19 community engagement processes.

20  
21 10. I am personally aware that, over the past couple of years, there have been  
22 many community outreach and educational events and other types of community  
23 engagement among members of the Ft. McDermitt Paiute Shoshone tribe with regard to  
24 the Thacker Pass project. Members of my immediate family, including my mother and  
25 my daughter, have attended and participated in those events. Now that I have more free  
26 time, I plan to attend and participate in those same events, as well.

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1           11. I am aware that the Ft. McDermitt Paiute Shoshone tribal community has  
2 been actively engaged in community-wide conversations about the Thacker Pass project  
3 for at least a couple of years. The Ft. McDermitt Paiute Shoshone community has not  
4 been excluded from the planning process for Thacker Pass. In my opinion, as a tribal  
5 community, we have been consulted. There has been meaningful effort to keep our  
6 community informed about Thacker Pass development.

7  
8           12. My heritage as a 7th-Generation Paiute Shoshone is dear to me. If  
9 anyone—a private company, a public agency, or anyone else—disrespected that  
10 heritage, I would be the first to stand up for my heritage, and the traditions and way of  
11 life of my tribe. To my knowledge, nothing about the Thacker Pass project has  
12 disrespected or dishonored the Paiute Shoshone community, culture, or way of life.

13  
14           13. The mining industry has played an important role in my life, and in my  
15 family's experience. As a child, when the Cordero Mercury Mine shut down, where my  
16 uncles worked, our community was devastated. We had nothing left. When the Cordero  
17 mine closed, our town became a ghost town.

18  
19           14. The mines have stepped up in tough times to help keep our communities  
20 together. They have provided college tuition assistance and made it possible for  
21 countless young people to attend college, kids who otherwise would not have had that  
22 chance.

23  
24           15. Two of my own children, Martica and Anthony, benefited from tuition  
25 assistance from the mining industry that allowed them to attend college and build their  
26 own careers. Martica is now a librarian, and Anthony is a Heavy Equipment Operator.

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1           16. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the mines in our community stepped up  
2 and helped keep our community together. The mines engaged in outreach during a time  
3 of need for the tribes. They've done so much good for the tribal community in Nevada,  
4 and I've personally seen and experienced the benefits of mining and the way mining has  
5 facilitated success as a member of the Paiute Shoshone Tribal Community.

6  
7           17. At a time when our community, and the Tribal Community in particular,  
8 continues to struggle as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and economic shutdown,  
9 the jobs and the opportunity that will result from the Thacker Pass lithium project are  
10 incredibly needed and will profoundly benefit our community. The Ft. McDermitt Paiute  
11 Shoshone Tribe has been informed about the Thacker Pass lithium project and has been  
12 consulted about the project since at least 2020.

13  
14           18. I am personally concerned and troubled that the views of the Ft.  
15 McDermitt Paiute Shoshone tribe about mining, and about Thacker Pass, are being  
16 misrepresented. Our community has been involved in discussions about the project, and  
17 we have been consulted about its development and informed about what it will mean for  
18 creating jobs and opportunity for the Paiute Shoshone tribe.

19  
20           19. Mining is essential for our community to thrive. Based on my lifelong  
21 experiences in and around mining in Northern Nevada, I'm confident that the Thacker  
22 Pass project will help to sustain our tribal community, support the livelihoods of our  
23 tribal members, and promote prosperity and opportunity for countless families.

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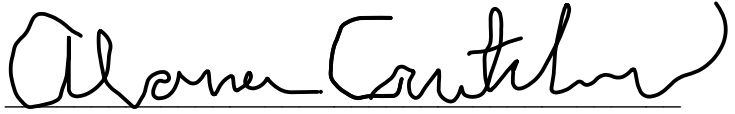
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1           20. I DECLARE under penalty of perjury under the law of the United States  
2 that the foregoing is true and correct.

3  
4 Executed on August 12, 2021 AT 3711 BRADEN WAY, ELKO, NV 89801

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7 ALANA LYNN CRUTCHER  
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