2. This Court has jurisdiction over this action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1331 and U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(B), as this action arises under FOIA.

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3. Venue in the District of Oregon is proper under 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(B).

PARTIES

- 4. Spearhead is an Oregon limited liability corporation with its principal place of business in this District. Spearhead has requested and been denied access to the records at issue here.
- 5. Defendant United States Department of Veterans Affairs ("VA") is an agency within the meaning of 5 U.S.C. § 552(f) and is subject to the requirements of FOIA. Defendant has improperly withheld the records at issue here.

FACTUAL BACKGROUND TO PLAINTIFF'S FOIA REQUEST

- 6. Spearhead was a subcontractor on a federal work of improvement for the VA known as the RAMB Project located at the Eagle Point National Cemetery in Eagle Point, Oregon (the "Project").
- 7. On July 11, 2014, Spearhead filed an action in the United States District Court, for the Southern District of California (Case No. 3:14-cv-01641-CAB-KSC) against general contractor, Kevcon, Inc. ("Kevcon"), and its Miller Act payment bond surety, Safeco Insurance Company of America, to recover payment for work performed by it on the Project (the "Action").
- 8. On June 30, 2014, Spearhead, through its counsel David W. Smiley, Esq. of Marks, Finch, Thornton & Baird, LLP, submitted a FOIA request to the VA (the "FOIA Request"). A true and correct copy of the FOIA Request is attached as Exhibit 1 and incorporated by reference as though set forth in full at this point.
- 9. The FOIA request seeks VA documents and communications regarding Kevcon and Spearhead's work on the Project (the "Eagle Point Documents"). The Eagle Point Documents are highly relevant and critical to the

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MARKS, FINCH, HORNTON & BAIRD, LLP 4747 Executive Drive - Suite 700

San Diego, CA 92121 (858) 737-3100 claims and defenses of the parties in the Action.

The VA has failed and refused to provide the Eagle Point Documents pursuant to the FOIA request. By failing to produce the requested Eagle Point Documents, the VA violated the production requirements stated in

FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION FOR INJUNCTIVE RELIEF AGAINST THE VA

- Spearhead incorporates by reference paragraphs 1 through 10 inclusive, as though set forth in full at this point.
- Pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(3), Spearhead has a right of access to the Eagle Point Documents and the VA is required to make them promptly available.
- The Eagle Point Documents do not fall within any of FOIA's 13. exemptions from disclosure under 5 U.S.C. § 552(b), including without limitation Exemption 7(A), and the VA has no legal basis for withholding them.
- Pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 552(b), even if it were established that any of the Eagle Point Documents contained information exempt from disclosure, the VA is required to provide to Spearhead all reasonably segregable non-exempt portions of the Eagle Point Documents. As they do not fall within any of the FOIA's exemptions from required disclosure, the VA has no legal basis for withholding such portions of the Eagle Point Documents.
- 15. Spearhead has exhausted applicable statutory and administrative remedies with regard to its FOIA request, or was excused from compliance due to the VA's failure to timely respond to the FOIA request.
- Spearhead is entitled to expedited injunctive relief with respect to 16. the processing of the requested documents.

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1	<u>PRAYER FOR RELIEF</u>						
2	WHEREFORE, Spearhead requests that this Court:						
3	A.	A. Enjoin the VA from withholding the Eagle Point Documents, and					
4	order their immediate disclosure to Plaintiff;						
5	B.	Establish a date certain for the VA to prepare and file a Vaughn					
6	Index;						
7	C.	Establish a date certain for the VA to file any dispositive motion on					
8	the merits;						
9	D.	Provide for expeditious processing in this action;					
10	E.	Grant Spearhead its costs and attorneys' fees in this action, as					
11	provided under 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(E); and						
12	F.	Grant such other and further relief as the Court deems just and					
13	proper.						
14	DATED: .	January 28, 2015	Respectfully submitted,				
15 16			MARKS, FINCH, THORNTON & BAIRD, LLP				
17			By: s/David W. Smiley				
18			By: <u>s/David W. Smiley</u> DAVID W. SMILEY Attorneys for Plaintiff Spearhead Roofing,				
19			LLC Email: dsmiley@marksfinch.com				
20							
21	DATED: .	January 28, 2015	Respectfully submitted,				
22			SLINDE NELSON STANFORD				
23			By: s/R. Hunter Bitner II R. HUNTER BITNER II				
24			Attorneys for Plaintiff Spearhead Roofing,				
25			LLC Email: nelson@slindenelson.com				
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