

DOWNEY, BRAND, SEYMOUR & ROHWER

555 CAPITOL MALL, 10TH FLOOR
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95814-4686

TELEPHONE (916) 441-0131

OF COUNSEL
OTTO ROHWER
JOHN F. DOWNEY
RONALD N. PAUL
RICHARD G. WORDEN

STEPHEN W. DOWNEY
(1926-1959)

CLYDE H. BRAND
(1926-1964)

HARRY B. SEYMOUR
(1926-1977)

TELECOPIER
(916) 441-4021

ROBERT R. HARLAN
GARTH L. SCALLON
GEORGE BASYE
RICHARD D. WAUGH
JAMES A. WILLETT
JOHN J. HAMILYN, JR.
PHILIP A. STOHR
J. KEITH MCKEAG
HENRY E. RODEGERDTS
D. STEVEN BLAKE
JAMES M. DAY, JR.
THOMAS N. COOPER
STEPHEN J. MEYER
ANNE JEFFREY SCHNEIDER
PAUL F. DAUER
DANIEL J. McVEIGH
THOMAS E. ROSS
JEFFREY C. CHIANG
FRED A. DAWKINS
RONALD F. LIPP
ROBERTA L. FRANKLIN
PETER A. BUCK
CHRISTOPHER T. ELLISON
SHELLEY MYDANS

JAMES J. DEERHOFF
NEITHE PERSHALL
JAMES E. MacMASTER
JOHN A. MENDEZ
KENNETH O'BRIEN
MARGARET G. LEA, III
DAN J. CARR
STEPHEN G. STANFORD
WHITNEY F. WASHBURN
ANTHONY A. AROSTEGUI
JUDY HOLZER HERSHEP
ABBY G. PRUITT
STEVEN P. SAXTON
GREGORY J. SMITH
MARTHA H. LENNY HAN
SHARON K. SANDELL
FRED S. ETHERIDGE
JULIA L. JENNESS
ERIC A. OMSTEAD

September 24, 1987

Mr. Fred H. Bachmann
Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
Central District
3251 "S" Street
Sacramento, CA 95816

Re: Improvements to Lambert Road, Sacramento County
and North Delta Water Management

Dear Mr. Bachmann:

This office represents the Stone Lake Environmental District. Representatives of that District attended a Department of Water Resources scoping session regarding North Delta water management on September 11, 1987. At that meeting, a Department spokesperson represented that proposed improvements to Lambert Road could adversely affect flood conditions in the north Delta.

Many of the District members are long time residents of the Stone Lake area, northeast of Snodgrass Slough. These residents have had a protracted struggle to obtain the public assistance necessary to address the flooding problems caused in part by rapid urban development of the Morrison Creek Stream Group watershed. Some progress has finally been achieved in that the County of Sacramento and Laguna Creek Ranch developers have committed to construct long-awaited improvements to Lambert Road. Lambert Road presently functions as a levee, and has not been improved in years.

The County has been approving development in the Morrison Creek Watershed for years, based in part on Army Corps of Engineers data which indicates that there are no significant flows in a south to north direction across Lambert Road. More recent studies by the Gill and Pulver, engineers for the County

Mr. Fred H. Bachmann
September 24, 1987
Page 2

of Sacramento, show that there may be up to 30,000 acre-feet of water crossing Lambert Road in a south to north direction during major storm events. District residents' personal observations confirm the magnitude of such flows.

In the flood of February 1986, the water elevation in the Stone Lake area reached 14.2 feet M.S.L., more than 2 feet higher than any previously recorded elevation. This 14.2 foot water elevation occurred in spite of major levee breaks in Tyler Island, New Hope Tract and Reclamation District 1002's jurisdiction, which alleviated flooding in the Stone Lake area. The volume of water stored by the otherwise unfortunate conversion of these islands to reservoirs was approximately 200,000 acre-feet. The severity of the flooding problem in the Stone Lake area is demonstrated by the occurrence of a 14.2 foot water elevation even while significant mitigation of the flood pressure on that area was provided from the above-described levee breaks.

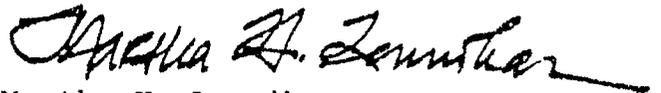
The Stone Lake area flood situation is being aggravated by the fact that Delta levees south of Lambert Road have been or are being raised and improved to meet FEMA standards. Urban development in the Morrison Creek Stream Group watershed which increases and accelerates the runoff to the Stone Lake area is not being curtailed.

If a storm event of similar magnitude to that of February 1986 were to occur today, the water elevation in Stone Lake area would be significantly increased beyond the 14.2 foot M.S.L. elevation. For this reason, it is of utmost urgency that the Lambert Road improvements agreed to by the County of Sacramento be completed. Protection of the Stone Lake area residents is just as important as protection of much smaller populations on the various Delta islands.

Mr. Fred H. Bachmann
September 24, 1987
Page 3

We request that the Department of Water Resources respect the needs of the Stone Lake area residents and the District in determining Department positions and objectives with regards to North Delta water management. As a statewide public agency, the Department of Water Resources should be attempting to protect the interests of the Stone Lake area citizens rather than raising objections to construction of the Lambert Road improvements so essential to these people.

Sincerely,



Martha H. Lennihan

MHL/slp
B10

cc: Toby Johnson,
Sacramento County Supervisor

J. P. Alessandri, Chief
Sacramento County Water Resources Division

✓ Stone Lake Environmental District