

Anthony  
JUN 01 1999  
rough draft  
response

**Madera Ranch Project Oversight Committee**  
12152 Road 28 1/4  
Madera, CA 93637

May 25, 1999

Lester Snow  
Executive Director, CALFED Bay-Delta Program  
1416 9<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 1155  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Lester:

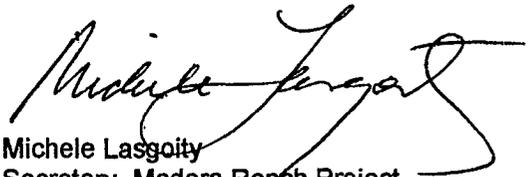
Thank you for meeting with us on April 7<sup>th</sup> to discuss the current status of the Madera Ranch Groundwater Bank. We appreciate the opportunity to meet with you one-on-one to hear your thoughts on why the project went awry. We agree that working with the local stakeholders is a prerequisite for a successful outcome of a potential project. Unfortunately, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation pursued an accelerated course of action for land acquisition prior to developing local support. Furthermore, as the binder we presented to you illustrates, numerous employees of our state and federal agencies had, and still have, questions regarding the technical feasibility of the project. The documents we received via the Freedom of Information Act request by our Congressman, George Radanovich, indicate that these questions and concerns seemed to have fallen on the deaf ears of the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation.

While the purpose of the Madera Ranch Project Oversight Committee has remained static since inception, we are working to broaden our objective. The experience with the proposed Madera Ranch Groundwater Bank has highlighted for us the need to understand and define our groundwater resource in Madera County. Consequently, we will be working towards seeking out opportunities for groundwater recharge and/or conjunctive use projects. Our broadening in focus is only in its infancy, but we will be working with the water districts of our county to look at potential sites in Madera County. We would appreciate any assistance you could provide in terms of process, communication, grant money, etc. We will keep you informed of our progress.

Thank you,



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