



DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

DIVISION OF LAND RESOURCE PROTECTION

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September 28, 2005

Peter Brundage
Sacramento County Local Agency Formation
Commission (LAFCO)
1112 I Street #100
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Notice of Preparation (NOP) for a Draft Program Environmental Impact Report (DPEIR) for Amendment of the Sphere of Influence for the Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) and SMUD Annexation of the Cities of West Sacramento, Davis, and Woodland, and Portions of Unincorporated Areas of Yolo County SCH #2005092009

Dear Mr. Brundage:

The Department of Conservation's Division of Land Resource Protection (Division) monitors farmland conversion on a statewide basis and administers the California Land Conservation (Williamson) Act and other agricultural land conservation programs. The Division has reviewed the above NOP and offers the following recommendations for the DPEIR with respect to the project's potential impacts on agricultural land.

The proposed project involves SMUD annexation of a 212 square-mile area of Yolo County for the purpose of replacing Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) Company as the primary electric service in the annexed area. The project will also involve SMUD acquisition of PG&E electrical facilities serving the annexation area. The NOP notes that the current annexation project will not have a direct impact on agricultural resources, however, future transmission and substation facilities may be placed on agricultural lands. These facilities, according to the NOP, should have a relatively small footprint and agricultural activities can continue under overhead wires and adjacent to facilities.

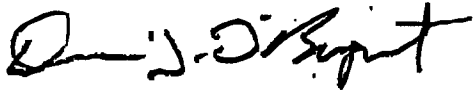
Based on the NOP information, the Division recommends that the DPEIR provide information on the location of agricultural preserves and types of lands (prime, nonprime) under Williamson Act contract in the annexation area. It should also be noted that state policy is to avoid placing public improvements in areas of agricultural

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preserves and on lands under Williamson Act contract whenever non-contracted land is available (Government Code Section 51290). It should be noted that at the time contracted lands are being considered for acquisition for public use or for easement purposes, the public agency is required to provide notice to the Department of Conservation. Public acquisition also requires that the public agency make required findings to support the acquisition per Government Code Section 51292. Please refer to the enclosure for more detailed information on public acquisition requirements.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the NOP. If you have questions on our comments, or require technical assistance or information on agricultural land conservation, please contact the Division at 801 K Street, MS 18-01, Sacramento, California 95814; or, phone (916) 324-0850.

Sincerely,



Dennis J. O'Bryant
Acting Assistant Director

Enclosure

cc: Yolo County RCD
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