



DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

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October 20, 2009

Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors
105 East Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Dear Honorable Supervisors:

RE: Santa Barbara Ranch / Dos Pueblos Ranch; Rescission of Williamson Act Contract in Exchange for Simultaneous Conservation Easements; Schulte Agricultural Preserve No. 77-AP-14

The Department of Conservation is now in possession of all of the necessary documents that will allow me to make a final approval of the proposed Santa Barbara Ranch/Dos Pueblos Ranch Williamson Act contract and agricultural conservation easement exchange. After meeting with Department staff yesterday evening, I can state that the Department fully intends to approve the sufficiency of the County's findings required of it by law, and the form of the agricultural conservation easements. The Department has been engaged in the proposed easement exchange process, through its statutory role under the Williamson Act, since 2007 and believes that the current proposal will make a beneficial contribution to the conservation of agricultural land in Santa Barbara. Contingent upon receiving an acceptable final appraisal review from the Department of General Services, the Department of Conservation is committed to issuing a final approval of the proposed Williamson Act Contract Exchange within two weeks.

I am sending this letter to the Board because I want to emphasize how important this easement exchange and resulting permanent preservation of land is for meeting State objectives of preserving agricultural lands and open space.

Sincerely,

Bridgett Luther
Director

cc: Diane Black