



DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

DIVISION OF LAND RESOURCE PROTECTION

801 K STREET • MS 18-01 • SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95814

PHONE 916 / 324-0850 • FAX 916 / 327-3430 • TDD 916 / 324-2555 • WEBSITE conservation.ca.gov

December 12, 2006

VIA FACSIMILE (805) 568-2076

Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara CA 93101

Honorable Members of the Board:

On December 8, 2006, the Department of Conservation received an e-mail from David Lackie of your staff, which included a December 5, 2006, revision of the County's Uniform Rules for Agricultural Preserves and Farmland Security Zones. We have reviewed the changes made in the document since our October 25, 2006, review, and have the following comments.

Rule 1-4.1.C.1 (Principal Dwelling) - The December 5 version of the Rules clarifies that this section applies only to immediate family members, and requires that the land be managed primarily for agricultural uses for the duration of the contract. This section appears to be in conformance with statute. We recommend that if the parcels involved are to be transferred to family members, the joint management agreement provisions of Government Code Section 51230.1 be included in the Rules. Also, any residential housing on contracted land would be compatible with the Act only if it is related to the agricultural use of the property. Such a relationship should be demonstrated to the County before residential construction is allowed.

Rule 2-2.1.A (Preparation Facilities) - Agricultural processing facilities, such as cooling sheds, nut hulling facilities, etc., have been found to be compatible uses in most cases statewide. The Department has encouraged counties to develop standards to ensure that the size of such facilities does not become industrial in nature, but remains associated with the parcel and surrounding agricultural uses. This section appears to conform with recommendations to limit such uses.

Rule 2-4 (Small-scale Guest Ranch) - This section now clarifies that guest ranch uses are restricted to existing buildings, and that construction of new buildings for overnight guests are not allowed under this section. The section now appears to conform to statutory requirements.

It is our understanding that other issues addressed in our October 25, 2006 letter are not a part of the current revisions to the Uniform Rules, including Residential

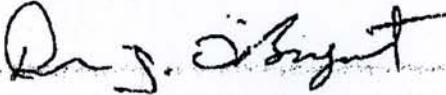
*The Department of Conservation's mission is to protect Californians and their environment by:
Protecting lives and property from earthquakes and landslides; Ensuring safe mining and oil and gas drilling;
Conserving California's farmland; and Saving energy and resources through recycling.*

Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors
December 12, 2008
Page 2 of 2

Agricultural Units and Animal Boarding/Breeding. We understand from your staff that the County will be revisiting these sections in the future. We recommend that the County revise these sections, as they do not appear to be currently compatible with statutory requirements.

If you have any additional questions on our review, please feel free to contact me at (916) 322-5954.

Sincerely,



Dennis J. O'Bryan
Program Manager