



ATTACHMENT A

Fresno County Public Works and Planning
Attention: Steven White, Director
2220 Tulare Street
6th Floor
Fresno, CA 93721

June 2, 2017

cc: Mohammed Khorsand
mkhorsand@co.fresno.ca.us
cc: John Adams
jradams@co.fresno.ca.us
Development Services Department
Fresno County Department of Public Works and Planning

Dear Mr. White:

The intent of this letter is to request your department's assistance in obtaining the Fresno County Board of Supervisor approval and a Board Resolution in support of our project with Scott M. Raven and Charlyse Raven to preserve their 642-acre farm as productive agricultural land, with an agricultural easement. The farm is located on Elkhorn Avenue and Davis Avenue approx. 5 miles southwest of the City of Kingsburg and about 2 miles from the town of Laton. The farm's Assessor's Parcel numbers are: 056-030-42s, 056-030-043s, 056-030-53s, 056-030-54s and 056-303-62s. The subject property currently zoned AE20, and is an area that would be conducive for commuting to the larger cities of Selma and Fresno. A portion of the ranch is to be acquired by State of California for the purposes of locating the High Speed Rail corridor.

The landowners are willing participants in this transaction and we have secured funding through the state's Agricultural Farmland Mitigation Program (ALMP) for the purchase of the agricultural easement. SRT will hold the easement and assume responsibility for monitoring and enforcing the easement terms. Stewardship costs have been factored into the grant and proceeds will be used to establish a stewardship endowment. Therefore, the County will not bear any fiscal burden associated with the preservation of the farm. Moreover, the landowner will continue to pay County property tax.

In addition, as a requirement under the ALMP the State, requires a resolution from the Fresno County Board of Supervisors supporting the easement and finding the project is consistent with long-term land use plan, and certify that the proposed easement meets the eligibility criteria set forth in Public Resources Code Section 10251, and that the easement proposal has been approved by the governing body. We respectfully request that the Board of Supervisors consider this request and take action as soon as possible. The interested landowners and I are available to answer any questions or submit any additional information to facilitate this request.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,


Courtney Barnes
Director of Land Transactions

enclosures

Sequoia Riverlands Trust Ag Easement

