yolo basin foundation

July 8, 2008

Jay Ziegler
Ziegler Associates
1121 L Street Suite 806
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Jay:

Thank you for taking the time to meet with me on July 2. It was a good opportunity to learn more about the proposed habitat project on the Yolo Ranch and to share some of our experiences over the past 20 years of working in the Yolo Bypass.

The guiding policy of the Yolo Basin Foundation Board of Directors is to learn about proposed Yolo Bypass related projects, ask questions and to look for common ground among the many stakeholders with an interest in the Bypass. Over the last 20 years this unique role has become the trademark of the Yolo Basin Foundation. In that vein I would like to list our initial questions regarding the proposed Yolo Ranch Project.

1. What is the timeline for the project?
2. What is the estimated acreage proposed for tidal wetlands and other habitats?
3. What are the specific project goals and objectives?
4. Who are the parties directly involved in the proposed project?
5. What long-term habitat management activities are envisioned to maintain habitat goals, manage mosquito populations, and ensure that the flood carrying capacity of the Bypass is not impacted?
6. Is it anticipated that soil moved to create the tidal wetlands will be kept on site?
7. When will hydraulic modeling related to the flood carrying capacity of the Bypass be completed and who will be doing the modeling?
8. Has the Central Valley Flood Control Board approved the model to be used?
9. How much additional water would be used as a result of the creation of the tidal wetlands?
10. Would the additional use of water impact the amount of water in the eastside Toe Drain that is used by the Department of Fish and Game and the tenant farmers in managing the 16,000 acre Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area habitat, ranching and farming activities?

As you know the Yolo Basin Foundation is a co-sponsor with the Delta Protection Commission of the Lower Yolo Bypass Planning Forum, which had its official kick off on June 25, 2008. We have carefully identified the appropriate stakeholders for this collaboration and encourage you and your clients to participate. We believe that it is the most efficient process for resolving many of the complex issues in the Lower Yolo Bypass of which Yolo Ranch is a key piece.

The issue of improving native fish spawning and rearing habitat in the Yolo Bypass has been the subject of years of study and discussion among Bypass stakeholders. In January 2006 Yolo Basin Foundation wrote and widely circulated a letter outlining our questions and concerns in regard to proposed springtime inundation of the Yolo Bypass. Many of the questions outlined in the enclosed letter have not been specifically addressed. We think that these are important points that must be included in the development of the Bay Delta Conservation Plan. To the extent that your clients are involved in related discussions we would like them to be aware of the points outlined in the letter.

Thank you for involving the Yolo Basin Foundation in your discussions and we hope to continuing working with you and your clients in the future. If you have any questions please call me at (530) 756-7248.

Sincerely,

Robin Kulakow

Robin Kulakow
Executive Director

Attachment: Letter dated January 27, 2006

Cc:
Chuck Armor
Brad Burkholder
Dave Ceppos
Dave Feliz
Linda Fiack
Mike Hardesty
Gary Hester
Butch Hodgkins
Betsy Marchand
Supervisor Mike McGowan
Julia McIver
Tim O'Halloran
Jay Punia
Curt Schmutte
Supervisor Helen Thomson
Susan Treabass
Assemblywoman Lois Wolk
Supervisor Mariko Yamada