

Sacramento County Farm Bureau
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November 6, 2007

Mayor Heather Fargo
City Hall
915 I Street, 5th Floor
Sacramento, California 95814-2604

RE: Proposed Greenbriar Project

Dear Mayor Fargo:

The Sacramento County Farm Bureau has significant concerns regarding the proposed Greenbriar project. We believe these concerns are not being appropriately addressed by the City of Sacramento, the County of Sacramento or LAFCo.

The proposed Greenbriar project will pave over some of the County's remaining prime farmland with no discernible mitigation to help preserve farmland in our region. The City of Sacramento and County of Sacramento both have General Plans that recognize the importance of protecting agriculture land, yet the City of Sacramento is allowing the Greenbriar project to count habitat mitigation land as agriculture preservation with no evidence that it can and will be used for farmland in perpetuity. Jurisdictions in the region require at least 1:1 mitigation for the intent purposes of agriculture only. Anything less than 1:1 mitigation for agriculture is unacceptable and this project should be no exception. In addition, the project lies outside the Permit Areas of the Natomas Basin Habitat Conservation Plan, the NBHCP mitigation plan relied on the assumption that most of the Basin outside of the Permit Areas would remain undeveloped and agricultural for the 50 year Permit Term.

It should be recognized that agriculture's economic impact to Sacramento County is over \$306 million in farm gate sales and over \$1.2 billion in supportive industries, such as transportation, processing and sales. It should also be recognized that Farm Bureau respects the position of the City and County's need to grow to accommodate future population growth. However, agriculture should be of highest priority and protected against urban sprawl because of its economic contribution. Agriculture is an important

economic engine that drives the vitality of not only our State's economic health, but habitat for our wildlife, food and fiber for people around the world. **We urge that infill projects and revitalization of existing developed areas are the priority before the development of existing farmland.**

In addition, the proposed development is slated for over 3,400 housing units, shopping malls, an elementary school and several parks in a deep floodplain prior to any repairs of Natomas levees; which lacks 100 year flood protection. This is poor public planning.

In closing, the proposed Greenbrier project does not adequately address the impacts to agriculture and is clearly inconsistent with the City's and County's General Plan and Natomas Basins Habitat Conservation Plan. Farm Bureau first urges that infill projects are priority before further expansion. If expansion must occur, we ask this project remain consistent with other jurisdictions in the region that require at least 1:1 mitigation for the intent purposes of agriculture only. Anything less than 1:1 mitigation for agriculture is unacceptable.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Ken Oneto".

Ken Oneto, President

cc: City of Sacramento Council Members
City of Sacramento Planning Commission
Sacramento County Board of Supervisors
Sacramento Local Agency Formation Commission