

# Exhibit J

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State of California • Natural Resources Agency  
Department of Conservation  
**Division of Land Resource Protection**  
801 K Street • MS 14-15  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
(916) 324-0850 • FAX (916) 327-3430

**Edmund G. Brown Jr., Governor**  
**Kathryn M. Lydan, Assistant Director**

December 13, 2016

**VIA EMAIL: SCHUBERTBJ@CO.MONTEREY.CA.US**

Mr. Bob Schubert, Senior Planner  
Monterey County Resource Management Agency  
Planning Department  
168 W. Alisal Street, 2nd Floor  
Salinas, CA 93901

Dear Mr. Schubert:

MONTEREY COUNTY RCT LANDS LP – PARTIAL CANCELLATION OF THE VANOLI RANCH (WILLIAMSON ACT EASEMENT EXCHANGE)

The Department of Conservation's (Department) has reviewed the cancellation petition submitted by Monterey County for the purpose of pursuing a Williamson Act easement exchange.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The cancellation petition outlines a proposal to cancel a portion of the existing Williamson Act contract on 121.4 acres of farmland outside of the Greenfield city limits in Monterey County. The cancellation is related to a Williamson Act Easement Exchange project annexation into the city for future development. The property is classified as Grazing Land per the California Important Farmland Finder.<sup>1</sup>

This proposed partial cancellation is the first step in the Williamson Act Easement Exchange.

CANCELLATION FINDINGS CONCLUSIONS

The requirements necessary for cancellation of land conservation contracts are outlined in Government Code Section 51282. The County must document the justification for the cancellation through a set of findings. Based on the County's petition, the project is being processed under both the Consistency with the Williamson Act findings.

The Department has reviewed the findings submitted in the SEIR by the City of Greenfield and does not have any additional comments for the Board. The Department concurs that the proposed project should be able to meet the consistency findings of the statute based on the data provided in the SEIR.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the proposed cancellation. Please provide our office with a copy of the public notice for the tentative cancellation, ten working days before the

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<sup>1</sup> California Important Farmland Finder. California Department of Conservation.  
<http://maps.conservation.ca.gov/ciff/ciff.html>.

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hearing, and a copy of the *recorded* tentative cancellation resolution within 30 days after approval pursuant to Government Code Section 51284.

If you have any questions concerning our comments, please contact Meri Meraz, Conservation Program Support Supervisor at (916) 445-9411 or via email at [mmeraz@conservation.ca.gov](mailto:mmeraz@conservation.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kathryn M. Lyddan", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kathryn M. Lyddan  
Assistant Director  
Division of Land Resource Protection