

**RADANOVICH PHOTOGRAPHY**  
**Yosemite Wedding Specialists**

SEP 26 2001

Letter DN



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9-25-01

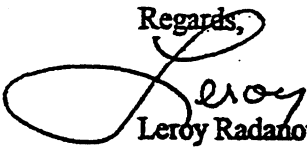
Mr. Robert E. Smith  
Planning Director, UC Development Office.  
3351 "M" St. Suite 240  
Merced, CA 95348

Dear Mr. Smith,

Enclosed find a copy of my column from this weeks Gazette regarding the two draft EIR's for the University. As Chairman of the Mariposa County Planning Commission I have written this article to try to have an understanding with any other who wishes to know Mariposa County's position on exempting LaPaloma Road from the conservation easements. It is critical to the future of Mariposa County. Allowing Merced County to have their way on this issue makes, from our stand point, a campus not for the valley and mountains, but as a project designed to benefit Merced County only.

DN-1

Regards,

  
Leroy Radanovich  
Chairman, Mariposa County Planning Com.

Best regards,

MARIPOSA COUNTY AND THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA AT MERCED  
ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTS

The title of this article is long because I want everyone to know exactly what I am writing about. It is quite simple. I am, along with a number of other Mariposa County residents, members of the Board of Trustees of the new University of California at Merced. Furthermore we strongly support the development of that campus on whatever site they choose. We have not fully funded any buildings or Chairmanships because, frankly, there is not that kind of money in our county (Mariposa County Government excepted). I will be sending this article to key members of the Board of Trustees, as well as the administration of the school. The Board of Supervisors of Merced County and Planning Staff already know what the problem is.

DN-2

Quite simply, there are three roads which enter Mariposa County from Merced County. One is Highway 140. Another is La Paloma Road. This road enters approximately halfway between Hwy. 140 and Merced Falls, joining the Hornitos/Merced Falls road in the Hornitos region. It is the oldest most historic road from Merced to Mariposa. Because of the appeasement of environmentalist over vernal pools and a handful of Fairy Shrimp, an proposal has been made to place a large acreage into a conservation easement, most of which is along the Merced-Mariposa County line. This means that no development can take place within this easement other than that which already exists. Grazing will continue.

DN-3

La Paloma Road falls within that easement. The environmental documents which are being crafted on behalf of the University do no address the future of La Paloma Road. Mariposa County has asked the Merced County agencies responsible for the creation of the environmental documents to withhold La Paloma road from such an easement by creating a right away simply for the purpose of future need for a second first class road into Mariposa County. Nothing is contemplated at this time but may be needed in the near future. Mariposa County is being ignored.

From the beginning of this University, Mariposa County was not considered even from the point of view of offering some of its citizens as Trustees. When this was pointed out the University community gratefully allowed the over sight and accepted our recommendation that we be represented. For that we are certainly appreciated of the opportunity to serve. After all we are a growing county which has a student population which should have great interest in

DN-4

being able to access a University of California education close to home. We applaud the development of this campus and support it's location in Merced County. When the idea of a new campus was advanced, then Supervisor George Radanovich, and former Gazette Editor and Owner Marguerite Campbell served on the committee which advanced Merced as the proper home. Later Congressman George Radanovich, along with Congressman Gary Condit, sponsored legislation to give financial help to the University for access roads. Trustees from Mariposa County have contributed to the growth and development of the ideas and plans. We encouraged State Senator Monteith to support the campus and even approved his switching of his vote to pass the State budget this year to ensure continued funding.

DN-4

It is a bit discouraging to find Merced County unresponsive to the future needs of Mariposa County in regards to La Paloma Road. We fully understand that this university project is the future of Merced County. But I find it short sighted when Merced fails to recognize the value of Mariposa County to its economy. Opportunities for growth in Mariposa County will benefit Merced County as in the past. Merced has been the major commercial center for Mariposa from it's beginning. Mariposa County is rapidly becoming a bedroom county, whether it be for tourists, retired people or commuters to work in Merced County. One of the largest reasons that we have not grown in the past is the lack of strong economic development in Merced County. In many ways that has been good for Mariposa County because we have not prepared well for growth and hopefully our new General Plan will address that issue. So the ignoring the potential of La Paloma Road further isolates a portion of Mariposa County which has perhaps the greatest opportunity for future growth and development. It is this area that is closest to Lake McClure and its source of water.

DN-5

I am about to close out forty years of civic involvement in Mariposa County. I am sorry to say that little has been accomplished in the area of economic diversification. We have lost our natural resource development, much of our agriculture outside of grazing, growth of the wine grape industry is stagnate, and our historical edifices need immediate attention. We have come to rely on the lodging industry and government as our main economic activities. The value of the lodging industry seems to be well known to everyone except the County. The joining of Economic Development with Tourism makes little sense. We are not ready for genuine Economic Development. We do need strong Tourist development and support. Economic

DN-6

Development is land use planning dependent and any move towards that end in the past has been rejected. It is only now that the slow process of creating a New General Plan is under way and it is a long way from completion and adoption. We are putting the cart before the horse.

So this is why I feel that the exception of La Paloma road from the Conservation Easement is important. Important more for the future than for the present, but none the less important. I applaud our Board of Supervisors for trying to communicate with Merced County in this matter. Last week a meeting was supposed to be held with members of Merced Planning and Administration, but they sent only representatives. Does not show much respect. I am sorry that I must bring this issue strongly to the attention of the University but I feel that long after I am gone from the scene Mariposa County will wish that their interests had been recognized in the game of appeasement that is taking place.

Merced County, this is no way to treat your Mother.

DN-6

DN-7

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**COMMENT LETTER DN: LEROY RADANOVICH  
RADANOVICH PHOTOGRAPHY**

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**Response to Comment DN-1:**

Please see Responses to Comment DN-2 through DN-7, which address the remainder of the comment letter.

**Response to Comment DN-2:**

The comment's support is hereby forwarded to the decision makers for their consideration.

**Response to Comment DN-3:**

Please see Response to Comment AX-5.

**Response to Comment DN-4:**

The comment's support and participation in the planning process are hereby forwarded to the decision makers for their consideration.

**Response to Comment DN-5:**

Please see Response to Comment AX-5.

**Response to Comment DN-6:**

The comment's opinions regarding Mariposa County's current economic condition and needs of the County are noted.

**Response to Comment DN-7:**

The comment's concern regarding La Paloma Road is hereby forwarded to the decision makers.