

LETTER EA

September 25, 2001

OCT - 3 2001

Ric Notini
Environmental and Permitting Manager
University of California, Merced
1170 West Olive Avenue, Suite 1
Merced, Ca 95348-1959

Dear Ric Notini,

My name is Louie Bandoni, I am a third generation farmer, born and raised in Merced. My Grandfather, Father, and myself have worked hard, paid taxes, and supported this community for over 80 years. Now I am forced to have to defend my property rights and my way of life because UC Merced wants to come to town. It is also ironic that I have only 45 days to speak my peace on the EIR and of course the EIR comes at my busiest time of the year HARVEST!

EA-1

I do not have time to read the EIR, nor do I want to. I have heard enough about it from group meetings, farmers and friends. My opinion and wants from the EIR are simple .

EA-2

1. I want to have all the rights and privileges as any other Farm Property Owner in Merced County.

2. I do not want to be in any type of Greenbelt or Study Group.

3. I want all of our current water rights.

EA-3

4. I do not want any type of new regulation placed upon my farming practices, since farming is already over regulated.

EA-4

UC Merced is going to be built in the heart of the richest agricultural region in the World. I have a big problem with the fact that UC Merced will not have an Agriculture Department, but more concerned with Environmental Studies. It only seems logical to me that UC Merced be geared toward improving and helping Agriculture instead of a Greenbelt Preserve, so we can be studied like Guinea Pigs!

EA-5

It seems ironic that the Endangered Species in Merced County is not going to be the Fairy Shrimp but the survival of the Family Farm.

EA-6

Sincerely,

Louie Bandoni
Louie Bandoni

cc:
Ric Notini, UC Merced
Bob Smith, Planning Commissioner
Merced County Board of Supervisors

COMMENT LETTER EA: LOUIE BANDONI

Response to Comment EA-1:

The comment's background and concern that 45 days is not enough time to comment on the Draft EIR is hereby forwarded to the decision makers. Please see Master Response 6 for a discussion of the CEQA requirements for public circulation of a Draft EIR.

Response to Comment EA-2:

Please see Master Responses 7 and 8 for more detail regarding agricultural resources and project alternatives.

Response to Comment EA-3:

It is uncertain to what water rights the comment refers. As stated on page 4.15-5 of the DEIR, potable water for the UCP would be supplied by groundwater with wells that could tie into the City of Merced's public water system. The UCP would not infringe upon any property owner's current rights to water.

Response to Comment EA-4:

The UCP does not propose any new regulations on farming practices. A discussion of regulations related to farming practices that apply to the UCP are provided on pages 4.2-10 through 4.2-18 in Section 4.2, Agricultural Resources. Please also see Master Response 7.

Response to Comment EA-5:

An Agricultural Department at UC Merced would not reduce impacts on agricultural resources that were identified in Section 4.2, Agricultural Resources. In addition, the curriculum at UC Merced is not within the control of the County.

Response to Comment EA-6:

The comment's concern for the loss of farmland is hereby forwarded to the decision makers.