

**September 17, 2008**

**Delta Vision  
650 Capitol Mall  
Sacramento, CA 95814**

**I have a ranch at 3400 Howard Road which borders the San Joaquin River on Roberts Island. This property consists of 535 acres with irrigation pump and irrigation drainage into the San Joaquin River on the west side. It will produce 1200 ton of alfalfa for the dairies and 1500 ton of white corn for human consumption this year. Roberts Island also produces tomatoes, asparagus, wheat, grapes, cucumbers, corn, walnuts, cilantro, melons, olives and several summer and winter vegetables and other crops. Our island provides food for California, the nation and the world. We have the best production records in the United States. Why would you even think of taking this land out of production?**

**Has anyone taken into account the cost to San Joaquin County when the property is devalued resulting in the loss of tax dollars. This would affect the entire county's ability to provide services. With the state now sending less money to the counties can we afford to take another hit?**

**It is not just houses that have been built in the flood plain on the east side of the river. Irrigation pipelines and drainage ditches provide water and drainage for land in the middle of Roberts Island. Many of these ranches have been in families for generations. I'm the fourth generation on my ranch. This is our livelihood, our sweat and blood. Vintage Petroleum has natural gas wells and distribution pipelines on the Island that would be affected.**

**Now let's discuss the housing developments that have been built in flood plains in recent years. Why have developers been allowed to build houses and schools in these areas? If you build or buy one of these houses you should pay for the flood insurance. Is it fair that we on Roberts Island must suffer in order to protect these people from flooding? Just for your information, the last time that Roberts Island flooded was in 1909.**

**I attended the meeting in Stockton at the Scottish Rite Temple. A propaganda film was shown but nothing was said about the real plans**

for Roberts Island at that time. Direct questions were not answered and only later did I find out that the plan was posted on a bulletin board but the print was so small that you would have needed a magnifying glass to read it. When I asked why the plan was not discussed I was told that you didn't want to get people excited. Was this an attempt to postpone Roberts Island resident's knowledge of the actual plan while being able to say that they held a public meeting?

If the State of California wants to clean up the area rivers they might consider inspecting all of the city sewage plants along these rivers and make sure that there is never a valve that can be turned on to dump raw sewage into the river. This has happened several times in the San Joaquin River.

Now let's discuss the proposed peripheral canal plan. Why would we even consider sending more water to Southern California when nothing is being done to control the building of new developments in that area. Maybe they had better stop building and planting lawns. Southern Californians should put rock in their yards like a desert which is what they were originally. Then they wouldn't short themselves of food for survival. The less food we produce locally the more we import. We have no control over how imported food is grown as with the jalapeño pepper problem earlier this year. They should stop building golf courses and close half the ones existing. Instead of the State of California spending billions of dollars to build this canal, which is only a stop gap measure if they continue to grow, why not spend this money to develop desalinization plants and end the water wars forever.



**Peter R. Ohm**  
1513 McClellan Way  
Stockton, CA 95207  
(209) 951-4743