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MAIL ROOM

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David and Loretta Olson
3290 Undine Rd.
Stockton CA. 95206

Dear Delta Vision:

Our family has lived on Roberts Island since 1887. My children, who are the fifth generation, are being raised on this farm. This is our home and our heritage. There are many farms this old on Roberts Island. This is not only our home, it is our business and our heritage. No one should have the power to take that away.

We don't like the idea of leaving our farms for a bypass along the San Joaquin River. Farmers are some of the hardest working men around. They truly feed the nation. The farm land in the delta is so fertile and rich that it produces very high yields. Food production should be the highest priority. It is ridiculous to build so many houses in the fertile central valley paving over the best farm land. It is more ludicrous to build houses on fertile farmland which is in a floodplain. This is what has been done on the eastern side of the San Joaquin River in Lathrop and Stockton (Weston Ranch developments). There is also a proposal to build on Stuarts Tract, which is a major floodplain. To foolishly build houses in poor locations and punish the farmers (who by the way know better) is terrible. Each farm is a family business. We love our homes and our land. Do not bite the hand that literally feeds you.

Here are two ideas that would be a solution which would not hurt anyone. Place small dams below the big dams. The rivers are also very shallow. They used to be dredged periodically. This has not been done for years. Imagine the water flow you could get if the river were deeper.

Consider the important role that farmers play in feeding the nation, and PLEASE give them the respect they deserve. Do not take away their homes. Would you want someone to take yours?

Very Much Aggravated,
Loretta Olson
David Olson
David and Loretta Olson