

March 20, 2001 to discuss the Base Reuse Plan for Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Tustin, we discussed the local resolution of the City of Tustin's failure to include public benefit conveyances to Santa Ana Unified and Rancho Santiago Community College District in its Base Reuse Plan. You assured me then, and in your follow-up letter dated March 26, 2001, that the Department of Navy would not convey MCAS property until the parties concerned come to an agreement on the allocation of land.

We also discussed the possibility that, in implementing any such agreement, the Record of Decision (ROD) for the Base Reuse Plan may be required to be amended, to substitute a public benefit conveyance to the Districts in place of commercial development, or otherwise to accommodate a compromise among the City and the Districts. You stated in our meeting that such an amendment to the ROD would not create a significant problem for the Department of Navy. Furthermore, you stated that such a change may not even require an amendment to the ROD, but that if an amendment were required, that the Department of Navy could approve such an amendment to the ROD expeditiously and without undue delay.

Could you please affirm these statements to me by way of a short confirming letter. I would appreciate hearing from you by August 3rd, 2001. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

LORETTA SANCHEZ,  
*Member of Congress.*

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY,  
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY,  
*Washington, DC, August 3, 2001.*

Hon. LORETTA SANCHEZ,  
*House of Representatives,*  
*Washington, DC.*

DEAR CONGRESSWOMAN SANCHEZ: Thank you for your letter of July 19, 2001, regarding the need for local resolution of the reuse-related issues concerning the conveyance of Marine Corps Air Station Tustin to the Local Reuse Authority, the City of Tustin.

As you requested, I am re-affirming the statement I made to you in my letter of 26 March: The resolution of the issues surrounding conveyance of MCAS Tustin property for educational needs is critical to any conveyance decision. This is why the Navy continues to encourage a local agreement addressing all requests for property for these requirements. The lack of an agreement on educational transfers seriously complicates any Navy decision to convey MCAS Tustin property.

Regarding the Record of Decision (ROD), we continue to believe that the final resolution of the issues between the City of Tustin and the Santa Ana Unified School District can be accommodated within the ROD as presently configured. If the two sides reach a solution that would materially affect the ROD, then Navy would have to reevaluate the issue.

As always, if I can be of any further assistance, please let me know.

Sincerely,

DUNCAN HOLADAY,  
*Deputy Assistant Secretary,*  
*(Installations and Facilities).*

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
*Washington, DC, August 7, 2001.*

Hon. DUNCAN HOLADAY,  
*Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense, Installations and Facilities, Department of the Navy, Washington, DC.*

DEAR SECRETARY HOLADAY: Thank you for your letter of 3 August 2001 reaffirming that the Navy will not convey any Tustin MCAS

property until the parties concerned come to an agreement on the allocation of land. I appreciate your prompt and helpful response. I write to again seek your assistance on another matter, directly relating to the Record of Decision (ROD).

In our meeting of 20 March 2001, you indicated to me that the following two potential compromise solutions to the impasse between the City of Tustin and the Santa Ana Unified/Rancho Santiago Community College District would not require an amendment to the ROD. Or, if an amendment would be necessary, that it could be approved expeditiously.

(1) A compromise involving swapping the zoning of approximately 40 acres of commercially-designated land within the Districts' boundaries for 40 acres of educationally-designated land within the "Learning Village."

(2) The re-designation of approximately 100 acres of commercially-designated property within the Districts' boundaries to educational uses.

Your written confirmation of this would be very helpful relative to negotiations between the parties at this juncture and, for that reason, I ask that you please respond to my inquiry no later than August 14, 2001. Thank you, again, for your continued assistance with this difficult matter, and for your timely attention to this further request.

Sincerely,

LORETTA SANCHEZ,  
*Member of Congress.*

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY,  
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY,  
*Washington, DC, August 14, 2001.*

Representative LORETTA SANCHEZ,  
*House of Representatives,*  
*Washington, DC.*

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE SANCHEZ: Thank you for your letter of August 7 inquiring about the Department of the Navy's Record of Decision (ROD) regarding MCAS Tustin.

Let me assure you that the Department's principal interest is that the parties directly involved—the City of Tustin, the Santa Ana Unified School District, and Rancho Santiago Community College—reach an agreement rapidly on how to allocate the land so that we may begin to transfer the property.

The potential effect of an agreement on the ROD should not stand in the way of the negotiations. The Department is prepared to work with you and the parties directly involved if doing so would help answer questions or resolve issues associated with any proposals being considered.

We will review any agreement to determine whether we need to amend the ROD; if that proves necessary, we will do so expeditiously. If I may be of further assistance, please let me know.

DUNCAN HOLADAY,  
*Deputy Assistant Secretary,*  
*(Installations and Facilities).*

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. MICHAEL G. OXLEY**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 25, 2001*

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, I was absent from the House floor during yesterday's roll call votes on H.R. 717, the Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy CARE Act, and H.J. Res. 65, making continuing appropriations for the 2002 fiscal year.

Had I been present, I would have voted in favor of both H.R. 717 and H.J. Res. 65.

HONORING THE STAFF OF THE  
OREGON FARM SERVICE AGENCY

**HON. GREG WALDEN**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 25, 2001*

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the extraordinary efforts of the Oregon Farm Service Agency staff as they assist the farmers of the Klamath Basin in dealing with the crisis that arose earlier this year from the denial of irrigation water by the federal government.

In April of this year the Bureau of Reclamation announced that, based on biological opinions rendered by the National Marine Fisheries Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the farmers of the Klamath Basin would be denied irrigation water for agriculture from Upper Klamath Lake. This decision, coupled with a severe drought in the region, has subjected local farmers to extreme financial hardship. The devastating combination of drought and poor management decisions by the federal government has literally put the future of their way of life in doubt, as farming as it has existed in the Basin for over 100 years has virtually ceased.

Long before the full impact of this decision upon Klamath Basin farmers was understood, the Oregon Farm Service Agency was hard at work in delivering relief, guidance, and information to those affected. State Executive Director Larry Frey was in touch with my office almost immediately. He and his exceptionally competent staff made themselves available at any time, day or night, to keep me informed. They worked tirelessly to identify federal programs to help the farmers survive this season.

Mr. Speaker, on July 20, 2001, the Congress passed a partial relief measure of \$20 million to be disbursed to the devastated Klamath Basin farmers. The Klamath County office of the Oregon Farm Service Agency is now in the process of signing up farmers for that relief. Manning their offices in Klamath Falls from before dawn until late into the evening, they are dispatching the requests for relief quickly and efficiently. This is just the latest effort in a long-standing record of outstanding service to farmers by the Klamath Falls office, which is headed by County Executive Director Denise Martin. Denise's unflagging efforts serve as an inspiring example of a federal employee going the extra mile to meet the needs of her clients with compassion and professionalism.

Denise Martin would be the first to tell you that she has not delivered this tremendous service alone. Indeed, she has been assisted by a staff whose effectiveness is matched only by its dedication to the farmers of the Basin. Throughout this crisis she has relied heavily on fellow professionals Harvey Bush, Josh Hanning, and Kristen Bingaman. Additionally, the efforts of Anna Flemming, Linda Watson, Lindsay Miles, Dorothy Scull, and Rowena Chase have been invaluable to the operations of the Klamath Falls Office.

An effort of this magnitude, which has entailed many weeks of 13-hour days, could not proceed as smoothly as it has without the help of Farm Service Agency staff members brought in from all over the State of Oregon. These talented and committed individuals assisting the Klamath Falls office are: Lois Loop,