



By the City  
Office of the City  
*referred to  
City Now*  
OCT 27 1981

September 21, 1981

TO: Ron Parker  
Engineer, City of Sacramento

SUBJECT: AGRICULTURAL UTILIZATION OF THE FREEPORT BLVD.-I-5 WATER TREATMENT SITE

This is a proposal to lease the City property south of the intersection of Freeport Blvd. and I-5 for agricultural production. This parcel of approximately 17 acres is currently designated as a site for a water treatment plant. I understand that the site may be developed after 1991 or declared surplus and sold.

The site has lain fallow for years. It is unsightly, a fire hazard, and has a cost to the City for minimal perimeter vegetation control. Current City efforts of vegetation control and unauthorized dumping of debris are inadequate.

This site has a real agricultural potential because of its location in relationship to the urbanized area of South Sacramento. A good agricultural operation at the site would provide fresh agricultural products for Sacramentans plus a favorable impression to travelers on I-5. There is the potential to produce vegetables, fruits and Christmas Trees.

I want to lease the property for a minimum of seven years with the lease being renewed yearly for an additional six years. This type of leasing is needed since a cut and choose Christmas tree plantation is planned. Approximately five years are required to produce a crop of trees. The acreage would be planted over a period of three to four years with the initial non tree planted acreage devoted to fresh vegetable production (corn, tomatoes, squash, cucumbers, etc.)

All trees and produce should be marketed at the site at an attractive direct marketing stand with adequate graveled parking space. At Christmas, I would plan to have a travel trailer on site to prevent theft and vandalism.

I would pay for all farming costs and costs related to marketing. I would also develop an irrigation water supply and distribution system and fencing if necessary along Freeport Blvd. Perhaps the possessory tax should be paid by the City.

Lease rates and terms would have to be negotiated with the real estate department of the City of Sacramento.

I have discussed this proposed project with Cooperative Extension Director Ted Tomgren and he concurs with the concept of raising Christmas trees.

Sincerely,  
*John A. Lewis*  
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