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MEMORANDUM

To: **Tony Boren**
Executive Director

Date: March 3, 2010

Subject: **Status report for February 2010**

The intent of the present document is to provide you with a **Status Report** regarding SRI's activities, to date, during the month of February 2010.

Farmland Conservation:

As you know, I was interviewed by the Fresno Bee regarding the status of the Farmland Conservation study. While I've not seen the article that is being written, as yet (I'm not certain when it will be published), I believe the interview went well.

Of course, I could NOT disclose even the "tentative" findings from this critical study; this would be premature (thus, inappropriate). However, I did explain the we've moved from the **EXPLORATORY** stage to the **CONFIRMATORY** stage in the study. I also said that I am guardedly optimistic with respect to ultimate outcome of this concerted effort. The reporter had attended BOTH the PAC meeting and the meeting of the Policy Board in January, where I provided a status report, in person. Most of the reporter's questions came out of this meeting; some came from a discussion he had had with you a day or two prior to the interview.

As reported in the January meeting, I am continuing with this study. It will be done when one of two things take place: (i) we've interviewed everyone who have been referred to us by participants, or (ii) when it's clear that we have either identified a model that is worthy of pursuit or it has been determined that Farmland Conservation is not feasible, at least not for the foreseeable future.

While there is NOT complete consensus among everyone interviewed, to date (which exceeds 50 individuals, largely representing the Agriculture Industry in Fresno County), a huge majority of these people believe that Farmland Conservation is, indeed, important for the long-term health and well-being of The Central Valley. Unfortunately, some who do NOT concur with this perspective are among the **INFLUENTIALS** within the Ag Industry.

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Transit Consolidation in Fresno County:

The major accomplishment this month is that we interviewed two firms that responded to the RFP (*Request for Proposal*) for commissioning a qualified Consultant with substantial experience in preparing comprehensive transit operations analysis, developing transit operating plans, and forming regional transit agencies. Nelson\Nygaaard Consulting Associates was selected. John Downs will finalize a formal Agreement with the consulting firm, including a Work Plan and time line; work will begin, immediately thereafter. I will be working closely with John Downs, the Exploratory Committee, and the consultants.

Performance-based Salary Structure for Fresno COG:

SRI has completed work with Fresno COG executives in developing a **PERFORMANCE-BASED** compensation plan for COG employees. The final element was to update (make recommendations for critical changes) in select job descriptions. If additional input and/or support is needed or desired regarding this matter, or other matters involving Human Resource management, SRI stands ready to serve.

California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley:

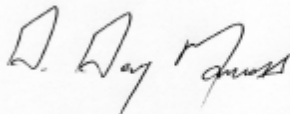
Due to the activities involving other projects, we have NOT been able to begin work on a project for the California Partnership; however, I fully anticipate beginning this work within the next few weeks.

Support for members of Fresno COG

At the present time, we are continuing to support a variety of activities with public agencies that are members of Fresno COG. This includes, for example, the City of Mendota, the City of Huron, and two other cities that we've been asked to meet with. I will provide updates on these activities as we progress with activities on behalf of these entities in the public sector.

Of course, there are other projects (e.g., bringing the High-speed Rail Maintenance Yard to Fresno, for example) that SRI will be likely be asked to work on. However, the above projects are those that are on the front burner at the moment. If you have any questions and/or comments you would like to share, please know that I'm telephone close and I monitor my e-mails quite closely.

Respectfully submitted,



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