

Maria Echaweste's
Faxes

MEMORANDUM

TO: MARIA ECHAVESTE
FROM: IRENE BUENO
RE: KEYNOTE SPEECH AT A TOWNHALL MEETING OF THE CENTRAL
SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY EMPOWERMENT INITIATIVE - Wednesday,
October 25, 2000 at noon

PURPOSE: You are delivering a keynote address at the Central San Joaquin Valley Community Empowerment Initiative that is sponsored by the USDA. Attached are talking points that USDA prepared for this event, agenda and invitation letter.

BACKGROUND: Representative Dooley asked that President to issue an Executive Order creating the Federal Interagency Task Force for the Economic Development of California's Central Valley. On September 20, 2000, the President announced that he would issue this Executive Order. At this meeting, you should be able to announce that the President will be signing the Executive Order on Wednesday??? (See attached letter and draft Executive Order).

ATTENDEES: You
300-400 people

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

Date: 10/24ACTION / CONCURRENCE / COMMENT DUE BY: 10/24 COBSubject: EXECUTIVE ORDER ON CENTRAL SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY TASK FORCE

	ACTION	FYI		ACTION	FYI
VICE PRESIDENT	☒	☐	SIEWERT	☐	☐
PODESTA	☒	☐	LANE	☐	☐
ECHAVESTE	☒	☐	MARSHALL	☒	☐
RICCHETTI	☒	☐	MOORE	☐	☐
LEW	☐	☐	NASH	☒	☐
BAILY	☐	☐	NOLAN	☐	☐
BERGER	☐	☐	SPERLING	☒	☐
BLUMENTHAL	☐	☐	STREETT	☐	☐
BRAIN	☐	☐	TRAMONTANO	☒	☐
BURSON	☐	☐	UCELLI	☒	☐
CAHILL	☐	☐	VERVEER	☐	☐
CHOW	☒	☐	_____	☐	☐
EDMONDS	☐	☐	_____	☐	☐
FRAMPTON	☐	☐	_____	☐	☐
IBARRA	☐	☐	_____	☐	☐
JOHNSON, B.	☐	☐	_____	☐	☐
JOHNSON, J.	☒	☐	_____	☐	☐

REMARKS: Comments to Staff Secretary.

RESPONSE:



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

THE DIRECTOR

October 23, 2000

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: Jacob J. Lew
Director

SUBJECT: Proposed Executive Order Entitled "Interagency Task Force on the Economic Development of the Central San Joaquin Valley"

SUMMARY: This memorandum forwards for your consideration a proposed Executive order that was prepared by the Department of Agriculture. The proposed order would establish an interagency task force to help coordinate the provision of existing Federal Government resources to the Central San Joaquin Valley.

BACKGROUND: The Central San Joaquin Valley ("Valley") geographically includes approximately 25,750 square miles of semi-desert land in central California and is governmentally organized into Fresno, Kern, Kings, Madera, Merced, and Tulare counties. Due to its isolation, the Valley has historically been less able than California's coastal and urban areas to attract business development and government programs to assist its population. For example, in 1998 the Valley's average unemployment rate was 13.1%, nearly double West Virginia's nation-leading 6.6 percent. While the region has long been one of the country's most productive agriculture regions, the uncertain nature of agriculture employment and the lack of large-scale growth in the agriculture sector means that to improve the economic welfare of its residents, the Valley must develop a more diverse economic profile.

The proposed Executive order, therefore, would create an interagency task force to better coordinate and leverage existing Federal programs to help improve the economic base and raise the living standards of the people in the Valley. The task force would comprise the Secretaries of Agriculture, Commerce, Defense, the Interior, Education, Health and Human Services, Housing and Urban Development, Energy, Labor, Transportation, the Treasury, and the Directors of the Office of Management and Budget and Office of National Drug Control Policy, and the Administrators of General Services, the Small Business Administration, and the Environmental Protection Agency, or their designees. The chair of the task force would rotate annually among the Secretaries of Agriculture, Housing and Urban Development and Commerce. Administrative support would be provided by the then-current chair.

The task force would, among other things: (a) analyze the existing programs and policies of the task force members that relate to the Valley and determine what changes should be considered; (b) consult and coordinate their membership's activities with State, tribal, and local governments; (c) integrate Administration initiatives and programs into sustainable economic development actions for the Valley; and (d) report its actions and recommendations to the President on January 15, 2001 and annually for five years thereafter.

Representative Calvin Dooley, in whose district the Valley lies, has requested the creation of this task force and the White House Chief of Staff's Office concurs in the request.

None of the affected agencies objects to the proposed Executive order.

RECOMMENDATION: I recommend that you sign the proposed Executive order.

Attachments

①
DOOLEY
LETTER

Wants help to get
\$3 million

~~Kris Baldwin~~
- Send this to B. Chow
(how can)
→ written response
& 'll' keep you for

sent.rgt: 6/17/00



6/17/00

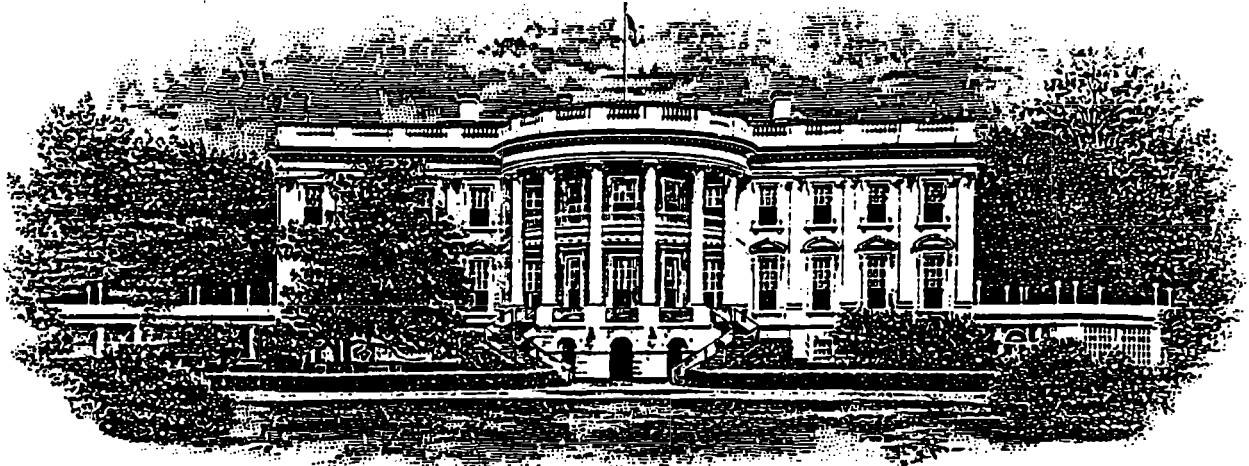
CHIEF OF STAFF TO THE PRESIDENT

Barbara Chow:
Michael Duch:

Attached is a letter from Cal
Dooley: this is an important effort
in trying to prevent more farmworker
accidents. Do you think we can
do anything here?

Maria

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF



Please Deliver To: Debra Bond

Fax Number: 5-1596

Sender: IRENE BUENO

Date: 9/1/06

Pages Including Cover: 4

Message: _____

NOTE: The information contained in this facsimile message is **CONFIDENTIAL** and intended for the recipient **ONLY**. If there is any problem with this transmission or you mistakenly received this facsimile, please call (202) 456-6798. Thank You.

CALVIN M. DOOLEY

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

June 1, 2000

Ms. Maria Echaveste
Deputy Chief of Staff
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20500-0005

Dear Maria

I wanted to draw your attention to an innovative pilot project currently under development in California's Central Valley aimed at providing safe transportation for farm laborers from their home communities to job sites. I would like to request your assistance in securing a \$3 million grant through the Job Access and Reverse Commute Program for this important project.

The difficulty of agricultural work in the Central Valley of California is heightened by the challenges farm workers face in securing safe and reliable transportation to the fields. According to the California Highway Patrol, the Central Valley has been the site of 63 transportation-related farm worker fatalities since 1994. In response to a tragic vehicle accident in Five Points, California, last August in which 13 farm laborers lost their lives, the State of California moved swiftly to make changes to state law that previously put farm workers at risk. These changes to state law, however, do not solve the inherent problems associated with transportation in the farm worker community.

I have been working with Governor Davis and CalTrans officials in developing a farm worker transportation pilot program in Fresno, Kings, Kern and Tulare counties. This program, the Farmworker Transportation Services Pilot Project, will provide safer and more reliable transportation for farm workers in the form of vanpools, dial-a-ride programs, and an expansion of existing county rural transit systems. I have enclosed a recent article from the Fresno Bee that describes this project.

The House of Representatives recently included \$3 million for this project in the FY 2001 Transportation Appropriations bill, through the Job Access and Reverse Commute program. California Senators Barbara Boxer and Dianne Feinstein have also pledged their assistance in securing this funding in the Senate version of this legislation.

In addition, CalTrans has recently submitted a \$3 million grant application for the project to Transportation Secretary Rodney Slater. This application, per the grant requirements of the Job

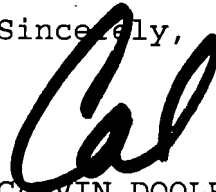
Access and Reverse Commute program, includes a pledge of \$3 million in matching funds from state and local agencies if the grant application is successful.

I would very much appreciate your assistance in helping to secure a positive response to the CalTrans grant application for the Farmworker Transportation Services Pilot Project. This funding would demonstrate the federal commitment to safer farm laborer transportation, and would also release the pledged local matching funds, providing another important boost for the this project.

I appreciate your consideration and believe that this pilot project represents a dramatic step forward in resolving this persistent problem. With your help, we can make work and life better for Central Valley farm workers, employers and make our roads safer for everyone.

Thank you for your assistance and I look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,



CALVIN DOOLEY
Member of Congress

CD:ark
Enclosure

Thank you for
all of your help.

A SAFER COMMUTE



Evarado Vidales, left, Rep. Cal Dooley, center, and the UFW's Dolores Huerta announce the pilot program Tuesday. ERIC PAUL ZAMORA — THE FRESNO BEE

\$3 million would provide transportation options for Valley farm laborers.

BY LESLI A. MAXWELL
THE FRESNO BEE

McFARLAND — Building on a wave of state legislation that aims to keep farmworkers safe on their way to work, a coalition of officials unveiled a plan Tuesday that will offer a variety commuting options to thousands of Valley laborers.

The pilot project calls for van pools, expanded public bus routes and dial-a-ride services in areas of Fresno, Tulare, Kings and Kern counties where large concentrations of farmworkers live and work.

Officials tout it as a fix to the problem of rickety labor vans that don't guarantee a safe trip to and from the fields, even when equipped with seat belts and forward-facing seats.

"This project empowers farmworkers

to provide for their own destiny," said Kings County Area Public Transit Agency Manager Ronald Hughes. "It gives them more choices so they don't have to pay a lot of money to a van driver who might not be operating a safe vehicle."

At an afternoon news conference in McFarland, Rep. Cal Dooley, D-Hanford joined state transportation and agriculture officials, United Farm Workers Secretary Dolores Huerta and Wasco farmer Jim Crettol to announce that \$3 million set to pay for the project is making its way through Congress.

The money is part of a \$55 billion transportation funding bill approved this month by the House of Representatives. The bill will be heard before the Senate in coming weeks.

Dooley sought the funding in response to farmworker vehicle accidents that have killed 63 Valley farmworkers since 1994, including an August crash near Five Points that killed 13 laborers.

"The way we've been doing business and allowing farmworkers to be transported is not acceptable," Dooley said.

"This is an opportunity to look at other innovative ways of getting farmworkers between their homes and the fields."

Details on how the project would work still are being hammered out, said Annette Emery, a senior planner for the California Department of Transportation. The goal is to expand the pilot project to become a permanent, statewide program.

"Much of it will be worked out locally, based on the origins and destinations of farmworkers," Emery said. "Van pools will work for people who travel good distances to work, whereas dial-a-rides and expanded bus routes will work better for those who work closer to home."

In Kings County, farmworkers who live in the unincorporated community of Kettleman City could look forward to a fleet of 10 new vans to take them to their jobs at west-side farms, Hughes said.

"The idea is to provide a van to 12 or 15 people who live close together and work together," Hughes said. "For a monthly fee, we'd provide the van, its insurance and its maintenance. It's a whole new way of providing farmworkers a safe ride to work."