

*S.M.A.R.T.
P.O. Box 50
Santa Margarita, California 93453*

April 28, 2000

Dear Mike Valentine:

For almost a year, Santa Margarita Area Residents Together (SMART) has worked to ensure that enforcement agencies and owner-developer Rob Rossi don't ignore the extensive environmental impacts associated with development of Santa Margarita Ranch. The undersigned organizations are alarmed to see vineyard preparation well underway before permits required by the California Department of Fish and Game are issued.

The attached letters document the following chronology:

- July 21, 1999 Letter from DFG to Mr. Rossi stating conditions necessary for appropriate water rights permit and 1603 permit, subject to CEQA regulations.
- October 14, 1999 Letter from DFG to Mr. Rossi enclosing a notification package to begin process of obtaining a 1603 permit and accomplishing CEQA compliance.
- February 9, 2000 Water Rights Complaint against the Santa Margarita vineyard project by California Department of Fish and Game.

On March 14, 2000, aerial photographs were taken of the Santa Margarita Ranch and copies were sent to Patricia Anderson at the Monterey office of the California Department of Fish and Game. In phone conversations during the past month, Ms. Anderson and her supervisor, Pat Coulston, have stated that the photographs show that activities on the Santa Margarita Ranch require a 1603 permit. However, no enforcement action has occurred.

Although Mr. Rossi and the Robert Mondavi Company have been informed that there should be no work initiated until a permit is issued, vineyard preparation is nearly complete and vines will be planted within the next few days.

We are requesting your immediate assistance.

Respectfully,

John Beccia, President, SMART

cc: Rob Floerky, DFG
Patricia Anderson, DFG
Jack O'Connell, State Senate