

Secretary Elaine L, Chao
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: State Route 99/Interchange BUILD Grant Application

Dear Secretary Chao,

I am pleased to support the \$16 million Better Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant request for the State Route 99 Interchange Project submitted by the Tulare County Association of Governments (TCAG), in partnership with the California Department of Transportation (CALTRANS).

My Family, but more specifically, My Uncle Manuel and My Dad (Danny) purchased this land that we are donating to this project more than 40 years ago. The land is some 12 miles from our home base in Tipton CA. Their idea was to farm it as a hay ranch but always knowing that it could serve a bigger purpose for the Community. The first step ended up being a land lease to the "World Ag Expo" (WAE), the largest Farm Show in the World. The WAE sits on land that I used to rake hay on 40 years ago as a kid. Then came the Tulare County Ag Commissioner Building. Then the Edison AG Tech building. In talking to Ty Holcher, who was on the Tulare City Council 26 plus years ago, he told me that this interchange was being discussed back then. My Family and I were really hoping that this project would get started quickly so that My Uncle could be part of the Ribbon Cutting or that picture with all the Big Wigs with a shovel in their hand. However, he recently passed away (April 2020). So, our goal as a Family is to see his Vision Through and to see that interchange built.

It is a big swing for us as a Family, but we are truly pleased to be a part of a Big Public/Private partnership project that will benefit the area and support agricultural industries and the whole community in general.

Sincerely,

Mike Faria