



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

MAR 15 2012

THE ADMINISTRATOR

Steven S. Balling, Ph.D.
Director, Agricultural and Analytical Services
Del Monte Foods
205 North Wiget Lane
Walnut Creek, California 94598

Dear Dr. Balling:

I wish to convey my sincerest appreciation to you and the members of the Farm, Ranch, and Rural Communities Committee for the insightful report you recently submitted to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency regarding effective approaches to addressing water-quality issues associated with agriculture. Please know that I very much enjoyed visiting with committee members in December and hearing their thoughts about recommendations in the report.

As you know, I have asked Lawrence Elworth, my agricultural counselor, and Nancy Stoner, acting assistant administrator for the EPA's Office of Water, to review the specific issues raised by the committee and to consider how the EPA might make use of them. I understand that there will be significant interaction with the committee's workgroups to fully explore those issues.

You and the committee members have contributed significantly to constructive policy dialogue, and my EPA colleagues and I look forward to working with you in the coming months. In the meantime, I thank you once more for your service to the EPA and your commitment to tackling the complex challenges facing agriculture and the environment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lisa P. Jackson".

Lisa P. Jackson

cc: Lawrence Elworth, Agricultural Counselor to the Administrator
Nancy Stoner, Acting Assistant Administrator for Water

Thank you!