

## Beard Land and Investment Co.

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January 8, 2008

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BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Mr. Paul Van Konynenburg  
Chairman  
Stanislaus Economic Development & Workforce Alliance  
1010 10th Street Place  
P.O. Box 3091  
Modesto, California 95353

Dear Paul:

Over the past year I have become increasingly disappointed with the direction that the Alliance has taken. At the last meeting I attended I shared some of these concerns with the group. The responses that management provided were nothing more than an indication that there was no interest in exploring any changes that might lead to improvements.

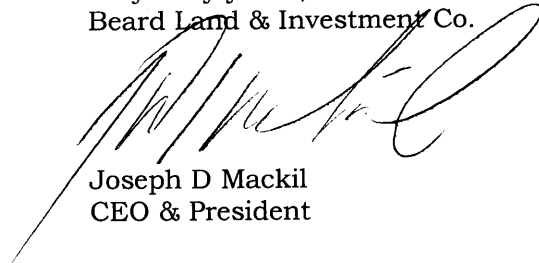
The concerns that I raised were:

- (1) Meetings are pointless, as a quorum is seldom if ever achieved and that as directors we have no vote in the direction that the organization is taking,
- (2) Problem (1) is only being compounded with the need to add numerous labor union representatives to the board,
- (3) The focus on economic development has been lost in the rush to secure government funding for workforce development issues,
- (4) The white paper issued by the Alliance to the press was inaccurate in stating that no "shovel ready" industrial sites over fifty acres were available in the county.

The Alliance's active support of the economically questionable West Park project and its developer before the supervisors even voted on the project is even more disturbing to me. Based on my limited knowledge of the "short haul railroad" plan, intermodal operations, and railroad economics I believe that the West Park proposal is not even close to being economically viable. The money required from taxpayers to create a money losing railroad operation would be a foolish waste of scarce resources.

I am fundamentally committed to the future economic development of Stanislaus County but I do not believe that the Alliance is on the right track to ensure a positive impact for the money that is being spent. Therefore Beard Land and Investment Co. will no longer provide any financial support to Alliance. As a result of the above items I feel compelled to submit my resignation from your board of directors with deepest regrets.

Very truly yours,  
Beard Land & Investment Co.



Joseph D Mackil  
CEO & President