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February 8, 1950

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GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

The Honorable Earl Warren, Governor  
State of California  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, California

1950 FEB 9 AM 9 30

Dear Governor Warren :

We are writing to ask that you will intercede for us with the prison authorities and the State Forestry Service against the placement of a prison camp at Meadow Vista.

Ours is a hitherto peaceful community, solely residential in character - the kind where no one bothers to lock his doors at night because we are all neighbors and friends. We own our own homes, and most of us have school-age children.

In the beginning a lot of loose statements were made about the benefits to Meadow Vista of locating the prison camp here. I can't believe that the Forestry Service and the prison authorities deliberately misled some of us, but I do think they were ambiguous. At any rate, a large number of the small majority who signed the petition favoring the prison camp did so under the impression they would be aided in getting water and telephone service, and that some business benefits would accrue to Meadow Vista. Now that they know this is not so, they bitterly regret signing the petition permitting the camp to locate here.

We have discussed this prison camp with disinterested real estate men, and asked how it would affect property values in Meadow Vista. We are informed that it would undoubtedly depreciate the value of our property. Many in the community are planning to sell their homes and go elsewhere if the camp locates here, and this will force them to take a loss on property which they bought in good faith with the expectation of living their lifetime here.

My husband and I bought our place just a year ago. We are located about a mile and a half from the proposed prison camp site. Had that camp been located in Meadow Vista at that time, we would never have come here.

There is only one advantage that the Forestry Service can stress - and that is the aid they will receive in fire fighting and fire prevention. They could have that same aid with the camp located other than in a strictly residential community.

There is no other advantage to Meadow Vista. We will get no business from them - in fact, we have no business district. We will have our property devaluated at a time when Meadow Vista is considered the cream of the countryside around for locating homes. And, above and beyond all that, our hearts will be filled with fear and distrust of every stranger we see, and our doors kept locked and barred at night. In this day of sex degenerates, we will be afraid to let our children out of our sight, whereas now they range freely about a friendly neighborhood.

Much smaller opposition than was met in Meadow Vista has served to turn this prison camp away from other residential locations, but our opposition has been disregarded.

My husband and I earnestly ask that you come to our aid with those who are seeking to force this prison camp upon us.

Very truly yours,

*Carmen Wood*

Mrs. James W. Wood  
Rt. 1, Box 761  
Colfax, Calif.