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NOTED FOR THE RECORD THAT
THE 13, 14, AND 15, 1967, 1968, 1969
AND 1970, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1974,
1975, 1976, 1977, 1978, 1979, 1980,
(2013) 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1985,

U.S.D.A.

L.A.

January 13 1942

To Dave Davidson

State Department of Agric. has notified 2 Japanese produce dealers that they would be denied licenses to operate for 1942.

Many persons in Terminal market disturbed over that situation should be discussed with State Dept of agriculture officials.

Dallas I. Walker chairman
L.A. U.S.D.A.

C O P Y

March 11, 1942

The Chairman of the Placer County
USDA War BOARD
Auburn, California

Gentlemen:

Because of the proposed evacuation of the Japanese there is considerable confusion relative to financing, supplies, etc., to care for a great many of our Placer County ranches. Many of us fear that just as soon as the real status of the proposal becomes generally known that work on these ranches will almost entirely cease, resulting in the loss of the crops thereon. To what extent these crops are vital to our needs we do not know, but it seems to us that to have gone as far as we will have by mid-summer that perhaps there is some way in which the necessary labor might be left with us at least just long enough to harvest these crops.

Naturally we think first of our country and of its welfare, but we also are led to believe that the harvesting of these crops is of importance too. Fruit houses, banks, and individuals have financed the work on most of these places and to a large extent have already laid in supplies for the marketing of the crops. Whether to liquidate or to withhold all future financing, etc., in order to safeguard against heavy financial losses is another phase of the dilemma. Some of us are hoping that the forces in charge may see their way clear to lend as much support as they can toward some additional delay in moving the alien help if these supplies are of any special value. Every season during the peak of shipments, July and August, almost every facility is taxed to its utmost capacity in order that these crops are moved. Inasmuch as a very great portion of the experienced labor is Japanese, and as this experience is only gained after several years of practical experience, it seems that it will be impossible to harvest more than a percentage of the total crop.

Any help which you might be able to lend the industry here along the above lines would, it seems to us, tend to be of considerable benefit all around; and if some assurance could be given the industry at an early date, it would, we believe, largely relieve this panicky situation.

Very truly yours,

(S) Gene Fowler

E. F. Fowler

EFF/kfd

COPY

Loomis, California
March 12, 1942

The Chairman of the Placer County
USDA War Board
Auburn, California

Gentlemen:

To avoid mixed confusion, both to Japanese evacuees and growers of food products vital to our armed forces, our allies and our civilian population, caused mainly by incomplete press releases coupled with radio commentator's individual interpretation of the rather complex situation, causes this communication being addressed to your board.

The welfare of our country takes dominance over every other circumstance, yet we believe the producing of food places itself high among the war essentials. The production of fruit in Placer County circumscribes many operations, the principal part of which is the item of labor. The probable primary supply of which is composed of Japanese both aliens and citizens.

Fruit houses, banks, Federal Agencies and individuals are financing the labor costs on perhaps 90% of the operations in this county. To a large extent marketing supplies have been collected and laid in perhaps 3 or 4 months earlier than usual. The question immediately arises whether to continue financing in the face of uncertainty of continuance of orchard operations. The primary problem being to hold future obligations to a minimum.

The industry and the Japanese would appreciate the fixing of the positive date of evacuation to as late a date as is compatible with military necessity, always having in mind the vital need for food and that it be abundantly produced and harvested.

Yours very truly,

LOOMIS FRUIT GROWERS ASSOCIATION

By /Signed/ R. L. Tudsbury
Manager

RLT.em

C O P Y

Newcastle, California
March 12, 1942

The Chairman of the Placer County
USDA War Board
Auburn, California

Gentlemen:

We are asking that you recommend to the War Board of the State of California that Japanese Agricultural labor be not evacuated from Placer County until the present fruit crop is harvested. Placer County has a different harvesting season from any other district in the State as it starts the first of May with cherries and does not finish harvesting until the first of October with persimmons, and the demand for labor is about the same all through the season and gives us practically a five months harvest season. Most other districts have a shorter harvest season. In Placer County we grow some of practically every variety of plums that is grown in the State of California. The same is true of pears.

It is impossible for us to get sufficient skilled labor to harvest this crop which is of vital importance for food for military supplies and for the civil supplies of the country. Placer County is one of the largest fruit districts in the State, its method of irrigating is different from any other in the world as it is a foothill district, the irrigation water comes down from the mountains by gravity and the ground is irrigated with trenches and ditches circling each tree and this requires skilled labor.

The Japanese have always done about 80 to 90% of the labor in Placer County and with this labor taken out entirely it will necessitate a season to educate other labor for irrigating, pruning, thinning, picking, and packing fruit ready for market which requires skilled labor for the different varieties of fruit that we produce in this county. Hardly a fruit ranch but what has 25 to 30 different varieties of plums, cherries, peaches, Bartlett pears, Fall and Winter Pears. Many of our present owners are getting along in years, many are widows that are not able to work or oversee their properties.

In addition to this, financial institutions of different types finance the production and harvest of about 90% of the growers in Placer County. Had it not been for the Farm Credit Administration that came into existence in 1933, I doubt that we would have a fruit district in Placer County today. The Commercial banks practically quit loaning to farmers 100%. Fruit companies came to the rescue when the Farm Credit Administration quit loaning on production and harvest loans, the Federal Land Bank quit making loans in Placer County. Through the financing of the fruit shipping houses we have still held on and are on a fair road to recovery.

If we are not allowed sufficient labor and have to make the change at this time when there is not sufficient labor to do the work even with the Japanese, and if this Japanese population of some 1500 is moved out of the county at this time and labor is short all over the State of California and the West, I dare ~~XX~~ say that 50% of the crops in Placer County will never be harvested. In addition to this the financial institutions will stop financing immediately and, in fact have started to do now, unless the owner can show a reasonable assurance that they are going to get sufficient labor to harvest the crops.

Pacific Gas & Electric Company who supply the water to the growers will not furnish the season's supply without payment in advance of a guarantee.

Placer County produced in 1941, 8400 tons of Bartlett pears, some 1000 tons of Fall and Winter Pears, some 2000 tons of Freestone peaches, and 1500 tons of cling peaches which all went to the cannery in addition to 640 cars of Bartlett pears, 1800 cars of plums and 70 cars of peaches which went to the Eastern markets. This is a substantial amount of food that the army and navy need as well as the Lend-lease supplies that they expect to furnish and we are earnestly asking your support in asking the State War Board that we be given an extension of time until we can harvest the crops of Placer County in 1942.

I want to remind you that my Country comes first always and we do not want to interfere in any way with the military plans of this country, but at the same time the welfare of the fruit growers of this county and the production of these crops that are needed so badly should be considered before the removal of the Japanese or until such time as we have trained sufficient labor to take the place of these Japanese that we now have. If it is necessary and will satisfy the military demands we could keep these mostly in large camps on the different ranches and furnish guards and control or protect them, and have them check in at night and out in the morning and thereby get a service out of them rather than expense to the Government and a lot of time for the evacuation.

Yours respectfully,

(S) E. L. Taylor

PLT:B

TO MEMBERS:

San Francisco, Cal., March 13, 1942.

ALIEN EVACUATION

Mr. Dave Davidson, Chairman, California USDA War Board has today released War Letter No. 77, dated March 12th, copy of which is attached, and we recommend that you give it your careful study.

This letter in effect, is an instruction to the County War Boards to make a survey of the areas in agricultural production within their jurisdictions with the object of recommending deferments in the removal of groups of Japanese engaged in the production of crops which will be harvested some time prior to the final removal date which has not yet been announced.

You will note that Mr. Davidson now advises that all recommendations covering the deferments be sent direct to the respective County Boards and also that the recommendations of the boards should be received by him prior to March 21, which is an indication of the urgency of the matter. For the information of the members, the following is a list of the names and addresses of the Chairman and the County Agent on each County War Board with whom you can communicate. We are giving you the name of the County Agent in addition to that of the Chairman on the assumption that the latter might be more familiar with the local situation, but, of course, it is necessary only to contact or write either one.

USDA Agencies Represented on County USDA War Boards:

AAA - Agricultural Adjustment Administration
EXT - Extension Service

Mar. 17. Pointed this out to Bridges. Said he knew of other agencies and Bd. would put a clarifying statement in next issue. D.B.

ALAMEDA COUNTY

Name
Herbert W. Young, Chairman
T. O. Morrison

Agency
AAA
EXT

Address
1871 Tennyson Rd., Hayward, Calif.
Post Office Bldg., Hayward, Calif.

BUTTE COUNTY

Geo. L. Cosart, Chairman
H. P. Everett

AAA
EXT

P.O. Box 503, Chico, Calif.
Federal Bldg., Oroville, Calif.

COLUSA COUNTY

Ralph B. Brown
W. H. Brooks

AAA
EXT

Arbuckle, California
P.O. Box 179, Colusa, Calif.

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

Millard O. Diffin, Chairman
R. E. Goble

AAA
EXT

R.R. 2, Brentwood, Calif.
Hall of Records, Martinez, Calif.

EL DORADO COUNTY

D. M. Bassi, Chairman
I. W. Lilley

AAA
EXT

Lotus, California
P.O. Bldg., Placerville, Calif.

D.B.

March 13, 1942.

FRESNO COUNTY

<u>Name</u>	<u>Agency</u>	<u>Address</u>
Frank Long, Chairman	AAA	P. O. Box 45, Dunlap, Calif.
J. P. Benson	EXT	Rm.20, Federal Bldg., Fresno, Calif.

KERN COUNTY

J. R. Bright, Chairman	AAA	Rt. 1, Box 43, Buttonwillow, Calif.
M. A. Lindsay	EXT	P.O. Box 791, Bakersfield, Calif.

KINGS COUNTY

A. P. Howe, Chairman	AAA	Rt. 3, Box 72, Hanford, Calif.
H. R. Keller	EXT	P.O. Box 707, Hanford, Calif.

LAKE COUNTY

Roscoe M. Smith, Chairman	AAA	Kelseyville, Calif.
N. W. Stice	EXT	Kelseyville, Calif.

LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Dallas I. Walker, Chairman	AAA	218 E. Cieniga Ave., San Dimas, Calif.
C. V. Castle	EXT	533 Federal Bldg., Los Angeles, Calif.

MADERA COUNTY

Floyd S. Nelson, Chairman	AAA	615 E. 6th St., Madera, Calif.
E. L. Garthwaite	EXT	P.O. Bldg., Madera, Calif.

MARIN COUNTY

James A. Marshall, Chairman	AAA	Tomales, Calif.
M. B. Boissevain	EXT	P.O. Bldg., San Rafael, Calif.

MERCED COUNTY

J. L. Otterson, Chairman	AAA	207 - 27th St., Merced, Calif.
W. H. Alison	EXT	Co.Adobe Bldg., Court House Square, Merced, Calif.

MONTEREY COUNTY

Jan H. Martinus, Chairman	AAA	Lockwood, Calif.
A. A. Tavernetti	EXT	Court House, Salinas, Calif.

NAPA COUNTY

R. C. Clark, Chairman	AAA	Monticello, Calif.
H. J. Baade	EXT	P.O. Bldg., Napa, Calif.

PLACER COUNTY

W. A. Maxwell, Chairman	AAA	Newcastle, Calif.
H. E. Catlin	EXT	135 Court St., Auburn, Calif.

SACRAMENTO COUNTY

<u>Name</u>	<u>Agency</u>	<u>Address</u>
I. Craven, Chairman	AAA	Walnut Grove, California
E. L. Stanley	EXT	315 Federal Bldg., Sacramento, Calif.

SAN BENITO COUNTY

Ben P. Rice, Chairman	AAA	Hollister, California
R. D. McCallum	EXT	Court House, Hollister, Calif.

SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY

C. C. Anderson, Chairman	AAA	1 S. Aurora St., Stockton, Calif.
O. V. Patten	EXT	145 S. American St., Stockton, Calif.

SANTA CLARA COUNTY

Lewis W. Armstrong, Chairman	AAA	Rt. 3, Box 216, Los Gatos, Calif.
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SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

Herbert Dalton, Chairman	AAA	Rt. 1, Box 203, Watsonville, Calif.
H. L. Washburn	EXT	Court House Annex, Santa Cruz, Calif.

SOLANO COUNTY

J. M. Brazelton, Chairman	AAA	Vacaville, California
V. W. DeTar	EXT	Co. Library Bldg., Fairfield, Calif.

SONOMA COUNTY

Donald E. Martin, Chairman	AAA	3524 Redwood Highway, Santa Rosa, Calif.
H. A. Weinland	EXT	Court House, Santa Rosa, Calif.

STANISLAUS COUNTY

John T. Halford, Chairman	AAA	Rt. 1, Box 62, Hughson, Calif.
A. A. Jungerman	EXT	Federal Bldg., Modesto, Calif.

SUTTER COUNTY

R. N. Kells, Chairman	AAA	Rt. #1, Box 25, Yuba City, Calif.
R. H. Klant	EXT	P.O. Bldg., Yuba City, Calif.

TULARE COUNTY

F. J. McCarthy, Chairman	AAA	Rt. 3, Box 266, Tulare, Calif.
W. E. Gilfillan	EXT	P.O. Bldg., Visalia, Calif.

VENTURA COUNTY

B. D. Laubacher, Chairman	AAA	152 F St., Oxnard, Calif.
Roy W. Southwick	EXT	52 N. Calif. St., Ventura, Calif.

March 13, 1942.

YOLO COUNTY

<u>Name</u>	<u>Agency</u>	<u>Address</u>
H. M. Wilber, Chairman	AAA	Rt. 1, Box 38, Davis, Calif.
W. D. Norton	EXT	Court House, Woodland, Calif.

YUBA COUNTY

Ray E. Hutchinson, Chairman	AAA	Rt. 1, Marysville, Calif.
M. D. Collins	EXT	P.O. Box 910, Marysville, Calif.

We have today cleared with Mr. Herbert D. Armstrong of the Federal Reserve Bank a question submitted by one of our members relative to a situation that might arise if the Japanese who had made a contract to deliver a crop to a canner should turn over his lease to a buyer who would refuse to honor the contract. The tentative answer is that a generally licensed Japanese being under no restrictions, can make any disposition he wishes of his lease while retaining an interest in the production and consequently, the recourse of the canner would be the same as it would be under normal conditions.

Bridges says:

Contracts follow lease.

Recourse to court action.

Mar. 17.

Yours truly,

CANNERS LEAGUE OF CALIFORNIA

L. F. Bridges

L. F. BRIDGES

LFB:MF

Enc.

[att to Mar. 13, 1942]

C
O
P
Y

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
California USDA War Board
P. O. Box 247
Berkeley, California

WL 77
MIS 19

War Letter No. 77
March 12, 1942

MISCELLANEOUS - - - - - No. 19

Re: Military Areas and Recommendations about
Order of Removal of Japanese

On March 2, 1942 Lieutenant General John L. DeWitt established by proclamation areas from which Japanese, and in some cases alien Germans and Italians, will move. As yet the follow-up orders describing the details of the movement have not been issued, but we understand that the movement of these people will be an orderly affair which will extend over a reasonable period.

We understand that probably some general exceptions will be announced in regard to alien Germans and Italians, but more than likely there will be no general exceptions in the case of Japanese. Therefore, there is no point in having County and State War Boards give consideration to the permanent retention of Japanese in either the Prohibited or the Restricted Areas.

However, the Army has offered to consider recommendations, which are made to it by Federal agencies, regarding the order of removal of groups of Japanese. In no case will recommendations be considered for deferments that will extend past the final removal date, which is yet to be announced. Also it is expected that recommendations will involve only Japanese who are now living in a particular area. In other words, no County War Board should recommend that additional Japanese be moved into the county from outside areas. The Army desires that Japanese make no intermediate stops within the Restricted or Prohibited Areas, but continue beyond those boundaries.

Since we in agriculture are so much concerned with everything that deals with agricultural production, the schedule of exclusion from certain parts of this State bears an important relation to agricultural production. With that in mind, we would like you to make a brief survey of the situation in regard to Japanese in your county and send your recommendations into the State USDA War Board. Your recommendations should include the following items:

1. The exact boundaries of the area to which the recommendation applies. This area need not be wholly within one county. If the area recommended includes all or parts of several counties, the recommendation should be concurred in by all the counties involved. However, there should not be included areas near military establishments or defense plants. Even though some production may be found in such places, the entire areas will probably be rejected if such points are included.
2. The approximate number of Japanese now resident in the area.
3. The crops with which farmers in the area are concerned. This should cover both crops where Japanese work as laborers and those where they are operators.

[Att. to Mar. 13, 1942]

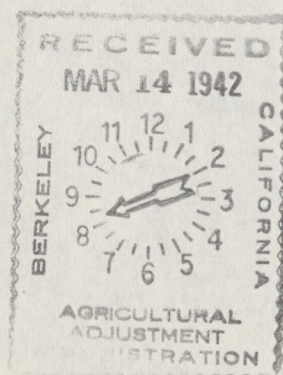
-2-

4. The expected loss of production if all the Japanese have to move within the next two weeks.
5. A date that is recommended as one which would provide time for the completion of certain farming operations or the harvesting of certain crops. In recommending a date, the earliest possible date should be used. It should be kept in mind that this date cannot be later than the finally-established deadline by which time all Japanese will have to leave the designated areas.
6. The recommendations should be received by us by March 21.
7. Before making the recommendations, the survey should be sufficiently complete so that we will not receive conflicting recommendations from other groups within the county. In other words, the opinions of all those affected should be coordinated before the recommendations are made.

We are now receiving some recommendations from interested groups of farmers and others regarding this possible deferment of movement of Japanese. All such recommendations will be referred by us to the respective County War Boards before we in turn pass the recommendation on to the Army. However, it will be a better order of procedure if the recommendations are cleared with the respective County Boards before they have been received by the State War Board.

Please give this matter your immediate attention in order that we may do everything possible to facilitate production of agricultural commodities during this disturbed period when Japanese and other aliens are being removed from parts of our State.

Dave Davidson, Chairman
California USDA War Board



Newcastle, California
March 16, 1942

COPY

Mr. W. A. Maxwell, Chairman
Agricultural War Board
Auburn, California

Dear Mr. Maxwell:

The attached is a resolution passed by the Board of Directors of the Newcastle Fruit Growers Association at a regular meeting held at Newcastle, March 14, 1942, and which resolution is the result of a considerable discussion as to harvesting the Placer County Crops, and which prompted to formulate this resolution conceding the attitude of the growers of this Association.

Very truly yours,

/S/ Chas. G. Werner

Manager, Newcastle Fruit Growers Assn.

RESOLUTION OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF
NEWCASTLE FRUIT GROWERS ASS'N.

WHEREAS, Placer County is confronted with a serious labor shortage for the coming season, and

WHEREAS, there are in the county numerous Japanese who are doing the major work for many of the growers, and

WHEREAS, if the help of these men should be evacuated from the county at this time it would seriously interfere with the handling and harvesting of the fruit produced here, and

WHEREAS, we appreciate that the decision of this matter rests entirely with the Army authorities, nevertheless, it is felt that everything produced by the farmer should be harvested, which can only be done by the necessary labor, and from all appearances will not be available unless the labor of all nationals, including the Japanese now in the county are used to its best advantage.

NOW, THEREFORE, it is hereby resolved that evacuation of the Japanese nationals from Placer County be deferred until the end of the harvest season, or not earlier than August 31, 1942.

The above is a true and correct copy of a resolution passed by the Board of Directors of Newcastle Fruit Growers Association, a grower Co-operative organization, at a regular meeting held in Newcastle, March 14, 1942.

/s/ E. W. Ammon, President

Special meeting, March 16, 1942

H. E. Catlin, County Agent

Dear Mr. Catlin:

We the Loomis Grange #638 do not approve of a delay in the evacuation of the Japanese.

The sooner they are evacuated, the better.

(S)

Yours truly,

Chas. Stallman
Master
E. E. Nelthorpe
Treasurer

March 17, 1942

Dear Mr. Catlin:

The Vote of Mt. Vernon Grange #453 was 21 to 1 to evacuate Japs before August 31.

Evacuation before July 31 or right now seemed to be the opinion of the biggest majority of majority of members present.

The Grange held a special meeting on July 17, 1942.

Fraternally

Mrs. Grace A. Edwards, Sec'y.

46 North Oak Street
Ventura, California

March 17, 1942

Dave Davidson, Chairman
Calif. U.S.D.A. War Board
P. O. Box 247
Berkeley, California

Dear Mr. Davidson:

The Ventura County U.S.D.A. War Board recommends:

1. That the boundaries of the area from which Japanese are to be excluded be the County limits of Ventura County. While most of the Japanese farmers in the County are adjacent to the military and other strategic points we feel that the entire County should be included within the boundaries of this area.
2. Number of Japanese now residing in Ventura County area: 131 adult Japanese farmers, and 130 Japanese minors, also potential farmers. There are 800 Japanese in addition to the above who are not connected with farming but are small business men.

3. Principal Crops

American Citizens

Cauliflower.....	200 Ac.
Celery.....	50 "
Cabbage.....	50 "
Lettuce.....	
Tomatoes.....	60 "
Peppers.....	150 "
	<u>510 Ac.</u>

Small plots of Misc.
Vegetables..... 15.24 Ac.

Aliens

Cauliflower.....	350 Ac.
Celery.....	35 "
Cabbage.....	80 "
Lettuce.....	75 "
Tomatoes.....	90 "
Peppers.....	"
	<u>630 Ac.</u>

Small plots of Misc.
Vegetables or unplanted
acreage.....243 Ac.

Acres farmed by American-Japanese with no Aliens connected with the farm or working on the farm - 139.24 Acres.

Acres farmed by Aliens with no American Citizen Japanese connected with the farm or working on the farm - 59 Acres.

4. It is not anticipated that there will be a loss of production if the Japanese are moved within the next week or ten days. Many applications from white farmers have been received to take over this land farmed by Japanese and in some instances the produce companies financially backing the Japanese have indicated their willingness to assume the continued growing and harvesting of the crops already planted. In general, no loss is anticipated through the evacuation of Japanese, except 60 acres of celery as white farmers do not seem to be able to handle this crop.
5. It is the opinion of the Ventura County U.S.D.A. War Board that due to the seriousness of the war conditions and due to the fact that the Navy is now taking over operations at Hueneme Harbor with an addition of approximately 1500 acres of land almost in the center of the Japanese farming activities that the Japanese be removed from Ventura County immediately.

Many Japanese of this County have indicated their desire to evacuate this area at once, but are afraid to attempt such travel because of the experience of one of the representatives of the American-Japanese Association, who attempted to locate farming lands in other states for these people and who in attempting the travel was refused gasoline for his automobile and his experience in general was one that he would not try again. It would seem that under these circumstances if the Japanese wish to evacuate voluntarily from this area that some arrangements should be made with the proper authorities to aid them in this project.

6. These recommendations are leaving this office on Tuesday, March 17th, in plenty of time to be received by you prior to March 21st.
7. The recommendations included in this survey are complete as far as this County is concerned. All of the members of the U.S.D.A. War Board participated in the discussion and the above recommendations are their unanimous opinion.

Very sincerely yours,

B. D. Laubacher, Chairman
Ventura Co. U.S.D.A. War Board.

Chamber of Commerce Building
San Diego, California
March 17, 1942

Mr. Dave Davidson, Chairman
California USDA War Board

The following are the recommendations of the San Diego County
USDA War Board with respect to the points outlined in War Letter No. 77.

1. Japanese should be removed from San Diego County entirely.
2. There are at present 2,076 Japanese resident in San Diego County, of which about 1,000 are farmers.
3. Crops with which Japanese are concerned are as follows:

Tomatoes	990 acres
Strawberries	500 "
Cabbage	400 "
Celery	300 "
Asparagus	110 "
Cauliflower	110 "
Bunch vegetables	100n
Cucumbers	50

4. There should be very little loss of production if Japanese are removed immediately. They have done very little planting this year, and if their removal is not delayed any longer, there should be time for other growers to carry on with spring planting.

5. This Board feels that the Japanese should have been removed by March 1, 1942.

W. E. Bradbury, Chairman
San Diego County USDA War Board

ORANGE COUNTY

622 N. Main Street
Santa Ana, California
March 17, 1942

Mr. Dave Davidson, Chairman
California USDA War Board
P. O. Box 247
Berkeley, California

Dear Mr. Davidson:

This is in reply to War Letter No. 77 requesting a survey and recommendations concerning the removal of Japanese.

1. The following information and recommendations apply to the entire area of Orange County.
2. Approximately 1500 Japanese now reside in Orange County representing 300 families of which approximately 230 are farm operators.
3. The above operators are concerned with the production of

Lima beans	Cabbage	Poultry
Tomatoes	Celery	
Chili Peppers	Lettuce	
Squash	Peas	
Asparagus	Cucumbers	
Strawberries	Bunch vegetables	
4. In the event all Japanese are required to move within the next two weeks a 10% loss of the following planted crops might be expected: cucumbers, strawberries, squash and asparagus. In our opinion this loss would be of minor importance and would be more than offset by increased planting by new operators. Due to the uncertainty of the present situation and other factors Japanese farmers are delaying new plantings.
5. This Board recommends that all Japanese be moved as soon as possible, but in any event not later than April 15.

It is believed that crop losses will be in proportion to the length of time Japanese are permitted to remain.

Very truly yours,

WALTER R. SCHMID, Chairman
Orange County USDA War Board

Los Angeles County U.S.D.A. War Board
409 Union League Building
Second and Hill Streets
Los Angeles, California

March 17, 1942

Mr. Dave Davidson, Chairman
California State U. S. D. A.
War Board
P. O. Box 247
Berkeley, California

Dear Mr. Davidson:

In reply to letter No. 77, re removal of Japanese, the Los Angeles County USDA War Board recommends the following:

1. Removal as soon as possible of all Japanese in Los Angeles County, with the possible exception of Antelope valley which is in restricted Zone B.
2. There are 36,866 Japanese in Los Angeles county, of which 13,391 are aliens. Of these Japanese, approximately 7,000 live on farms, of which approximately 2,300 are aliens.
3. There are 1,391 Japanese vegetable farms, 90 cut flower farms, and 107 other farms of various kinds. There are 408 Japanese nurseries in the county.
4. The sooner Japanese farmers are removed, the less loss in production there will be, for the following reasons:
 - (a) Japanese are not planting at this time.
 - (b) They are harvesting crops prematurely.
 - (c) Until the Japanese know that they have to move, they will not make arrangements to permit other farmers to take over their lands and leases.

In anticipation of the movement of Japanese, the Los Angeles Civilian Defense Council, with the knowledge and assistance of the County USDA War Board, asked the County Board of Supervisors to set up an Agricultural Coordinator to assist in finding new tenants for lands vacated by Japanese. This was done, and W. S. Rosecrans, a very able and public-spirited citizen, undertook the job without pay. The Agricultural Commissioner, who is chairman of the Agricultural Production and Resources Committee of the County Defense Council, furnished one of his deputies to assist, and seventeen volunteer workers are rendering assistance.

Several hundred farmers and men of farming experience have been interviewed, and 250 experienced farmers are ready to take over such lands, up to 15,000 acres. Most of these farmers have the necessary finances in all or in part. Several hundred other applicants would be able to take over additional lands, if financial assistance can be provided for them.

In setting up the Agricultural Coordinator, it was realized that

sooner or later Federal Agencies would come into the picture, but it was felt that time could be gained by so doing. Now if advantage is not taken by Federal Agencies of this preliminary work, it will leave a very bad impression of Federal Agencies in Los Angeles county, and result in great disappointment to those farmers who have been sent to the Agricultural Coordinator by the USDA War Board and others here in the county.

The County War Board does not believe that this is the time to carry on social experiments, and that land vacated by Japanese should be put into the hands of capable persons such as have been already lined up, as soon as possible.

Further, the lands now being farmed by Japanese are for the most part not suited for family type farms, as they are in areas that may be subdivided, and are subject to excessive taxes and, therefore, will produce more economically in the immediate future if kept for specialized vegetable farming.

We would like to stress the advantage to future crop production by immediate removal of all Japanese farmers.

Sincerely,

Dallas I. Walker, Chairman
Los Angeles County U.S.D.A.
War Board

P. O. Box 267
Martinez, Calif.
March 18, 1942

Dave Davidson, Chairman
Calif. USDA War Board
P. O. Box 247
Berkeley, California

Re: War Letter No. 77
Military Areas and Recommendations
About Order of Removal of Japanese

Dear Mr. Davidson:

A meeting of the War Board was held March 17. All responsible and interested agencies were invited to sit in on the meeting. The combined opinion of all concerned is set forth in the following recommendations:

1. The boundary of the area under consideration shall be the entire county, less those areas already designated as prohibited or to be excluded in the near future by the military authorities.
2. There are approximately 1003 Japanese now resident in the area.
3. The chief crops concerned are tomatoes, pears, and strawberries. Crops of lesser importance include asparagus, apricots, peaches, and peas.
4. The additional loss of production which would result from an evacuation within two weeks, as contrasted to a postponed evacuation, is negligible. The Board wishes to amplify this statement by saying that the real loss has already taken place by reason of the expected evacuation.
5. The Board recommends that April 15 would be the earliest date at which a minimum of loss would occur. This would provide for completion of transplanting tomato plants from the seed beds into the cold frames. There is no significant interruption date with respect to other crops.

The Board wishes to express the additional recommendation that the determination of the date of evacuation should be made immediately. This is necessary to enable definite planning of agricultural operations. Again it should be emphasized that the real loss of production is due to the indecision regarding the exact time of evacuation.

The Sheriff's Office, the Committee on Agricultural Resources of the County Defense Council, the Agricultural Committee of the County Development Association, the Labor Subcommittee of the County Land Use Planning Committee, the Japanese-American Citizen's League, and the agencies of the USDA as represented in the County War Board, together with leading individual agriculturists, were consulted and contributed to the above determinations.

Sincerely,

Millard O. Diffin, Chairman
Contra Costa County USDA War Board

C O P Y

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
U.S.D.A. DEFENSE BOARD
10th & L Streets
Modesto, Calif.

March 18, 1942

Mr. Dave Davidson, Chairman
California USDA War Board
P. O. Box 247
Berkeley, California

Dear Mr. Davidson:

Relative to your inquiry about the enemy alien situation, our USDA War Board asked me to report the following:

The approximate number of Japanese, including children, in Stanislaus County is four hundred, and the crops they farm cover some two thousand acres. The Japanese are caring for their crops in a very good manner, although they do not seem to be attempting to expand as was indicated earlier.

Our War Board feels that since the Government's plans call for taking over alien properties and since it seems these people are to be removed before their harvest time, perhaps the sooner this removal were carried out the better. We feel the loss of their man-power to agriculture will be considerable, but feeling seems to be such, generally speaking, that it might be better if they were evacuated rather soon.

We have been unable to contact other interests up to this time relative to this situation, but we are planning to complete a survey of the County attitude in a day or two, and will send you further information on this subject when we have finished.

Sincerely,

(S) John T. Halford, Chairman
Stanislaus County USDA War Board

March 28

JH:TT answered March 26 letter from Dave Davidson. Japanese in Stanislaus in agriculture, if they are moved out this would become nil. "Of course the removal of Japanese from this county itself would not reduce our production 50% as indicated by the Cal. Decid. Grower Report. However we can readily conceive of many places where that might take place outside of our county."

P. O. Box 149
Madera, California

March 18, 1942

Mr. Dave Davidson, Chairman
Calif. Agricultural Conservation Committee
P. O. Box 247
Berkeley, California

Dear Mr. Davidson:

Reference is made to War Letter No. 77, which requests that a brief survey be made of the situation in regard to Japanese, and that recommendations be sent to the State U.S.D.A. War Board.

This matter was referred to the Madera County War Board at its meeting on Monday, March 16, 1942, and it was the decision of the Board that no recommendations be made for deferment of the evacuation of Japanese. Immediate evacuation of Madera County Japanese would have little effect upon the food production effort, for all but one or two are engaged in the production of cotton and grapes. Thus, so far as the Board knows now, there are no problems involved if evacuation takes place immediately.

This applies to Madera County only.

Sincerely yours,

Floyd S. Nelson, Chairman
Madera County U.S.D.A. War Board

GSN:ic

Room 11, Bank of American Building
Main and B. Streets
Hayward, California
March 18, 1942

Mr. Dave Davidson, Chairman
California U.S.D.A. War Board
P. O. Box 247
Berkeley, California

Dear Mr. Davidson:

This is in reply to War Letter No. 77 dated March 12th requesting recommendations in the order of removal of Japanese.

In as much as national defense is of primary importance, it takes precedence over the production of food. This war board does not feel that it is in a good position to designate any portion of the county as being of less strategic value than any other portion of the county, especially in view of the fact that the entire county is considered under the prohibited area as set up by the Army. The designation as to when and from which areas Japanese should be removed first, we believe, should be left entirely in the hands of those whose duty it is to safeguard our security.

Our recommendations, therefore, must necessarily consist of advising you as to what the principal crops are that will be effected by the removal of the Japanese and as to the approximate dates when certain phases of development will be reached where a diminishing dependence on the Japanese will be effected.

The principal operations of the Japanese are (1) tomatoes (2) truck crops (3) strawberries (4) green houses. As to the first group, tomatoes, it is estimated that the approximated 12,000 acres of tomatoes grown in this county, plants for at least 9,000 acres are provided by the Japanese. By April 15th, the tomato seedlings will have all been transplanted into beds and consequently will be in a stage of development where they could be very readily handled by any farmer. May 1st will see most of the tomato plants developed to a stage where they are ready to set out in the fields. At this stage dependency upon the Japanese is almost entirely eliminated.

Another crop grown in this county which is dependent almost 100% upon Japanese is strawberries. It is not believed that there will be any salvage on this crop unless the Japanese remain long enough to harvest the crop themselves. The date for removal to make this job possible would have to be no earlier than June 1st.

No consideration is being given to green house operations, in which Japanese play a major part, as they are for the most part devoted to the growing of flowers.

It is rather difficult to estimate loss of production if Japanese are moved within the next two weeks but it is estimated that it might possible run as high as 40% on tomatoes alone. After two weeks the rate of loss will diminish rapidly until May 1st at which time we think that the situation will be enough in hand in this county and practically eliminate loss as far as tomato production is concerned.

As far as miscellaneous vegetables and truck crops are concerned, no date can be set which would affect production to a great extent. The problem seems to be to find anyone at any time who is particularly interested in taking over truck crop operations.

The War Department has already appointed a representative to take care of the adjustments which will be necessary to effect evacuation of the Japanese with the minimum of interruption in production. We believe that in the future our function in this matter will be to lend whatever aid we can to this representative whose responsibility it now is.

Yours very truly

Herbert W. Young, Chairman
Alameda County U. S. D. A. War Board

COPY

Moved that it is the sense of this group that the matter of removal of Japanese from the restricted area of Placer County be left in the hands of the army and the Federal authorities, and further that we are not in favor of delayed evacuation.

Board of Directors of Placer County Farm Bureau

E. E. Burnet, Sec'y pro tem

March 18, 1942
Long Valley Grange #642

Mr. Catlin:

After much discussion on your letter of the 13th in regard to the Japanese situation a vote was taken which resulted in a tie vote.

The opinion is from the membership in general if they are going to be moved they should be moved as soon as possible, their labor could not be depended on to complete this season's harvest.

Yours truly,

(S)

Wm. E. Wakefield, Sec'y.

Lincoln, California
March 15, 1942

H. E. Catlin
County Agent
Auburn

Dear Mr. Catlin:

The Gold Hill Grange went on record of approving the army plans to complete evacuation of Japanese from the restricted area of Placer County in July.

(S)

Sincerely yours,

Eldon Gage
(C.L.G.)

212 - Fifth Street - Post Office Box 59
Colusa, California

March 18, 1942

Mr. Dave Davidson, Chairman
California USDA War Board
Post Office Box 247
Berkeley, California

Re: War Letter No. 77
Miscellaneous No. 19
Removal of Japanese

Dear Mr. Davidson:

The War Board does not meet again until Friday, March 20th. However, I have contacted William H. Brooks, Farm Advisor in regard to the recommendation requested in the above letter.

It is the opinion of Mr. Brooks and myself that no special provision in regard to the removal of Japanese need be made in this County. The total number of Japanese farm families in the County is 8 as near as we can determine, and the total number of farm laborers in the County is 43. As near as we can tell these farm families will operate in 1942 230 acres of orchard, 230 acres of beans, and negligible acreages of vegetables, strawberries, etc.

Unless evacuation could be deferred completely through the harvest season for beans and orchard crops, very little could be gained by making any deferment of the date of evacuation. Current operations in these crops are not sufficiently pressing to require a great amount of labor of the kind usually performed by Japanese.

This problem will be presented to the War Board at their next meeting. If they feel that a recommendation should be made, a letter stating that recommendation will be mailed to you on Friday night and should be received in your office on Saturday.

Sincerely,

Ralph B. Brown, Chairman
County USDA War Board

Room 200, Professional Bldg.
San Bernardino, California
March 19, 1942

Mr. Dave Davidson, Chairman
California USDA War Board
P. O. Box 247
Berkeley, California

Re: Recommendations RE Order of Removal of
Japanese

Dear Mr. Davidson:

This is in reply to War Letter #77 as requested.

1. The exact boundaries of the areas from which Japanese are to be removed and the order of their removal has already been determined upon by the Army Intelligence and the FBI. Therefore no recommendations regarding this point are included.
2. The approximate number of Japanese now resident in San Bernardino County is estimated at under 100 workers. The FBI has an exact count kept current.
3. These few Japanese are principally concerned with vegetables and citrus.
4. The expected loss of production is considered negligible due to the small number involved.
5. The earliest possible date of removal is recommended. So far as we can ascertain, all plans for removal have been completed by the Army and the FBI.
6. -----
7. The opinions of all those affected have been summarized and it appears that there is no need for recommendations from the War Board since all of the work has been completed. The order of removal is being kept confidential by the FBI. The original survey was completed several weeks ago by the Army Intelligence and the FBI in connection with the Agricultural Commissioner's Staff, all of whom are under strict secrecy orders.

Yours very sincerely

Arthur J. Leavitt, Chairman
COUNTY USDA WAR BOARD

C O P Y

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
U.S.D.A. DEFENSE BOARD
Room 205, California Fruit Bldg.
Sacramento, California

March 19, 1942

Mr. Dave Davidson, Chairman
California USDA War Board
Berkeley, California

Dear Mr. Davidson:

Re: Military Areas and Recommendations
About Order of Removal of Japanese

Referring to War Letter No. 77, the Sacramento County USDA War Board invited a delegation of some 15 key men most vitally familiar with the Japanese farm labor situation in the County to be present at the County USDA War Board Meeting. It was the unanimous opinion of these men together with the War Board that agricultural production of crops such as pears, tomatoes, grapes, strawberries, vegetable seed crops and practically all truck crops would be seriously affected by the evacuation of the Japanese.

The recommendations of the Sacramento County USDA War Board on the items included in War Letter No. 77 follows:

1. It was felt that it would not be practical to recommend any definite area to be evacuated other than the Japanese be moved from the cities first and those in the agricultural areas last, as far as possible, but this is possibly a problem for the Army to decide on since nothing was recommended that would not be for public safety.
2. There are approximately 7000 Japanese in Sacramento County of which about 60% are engaged in agricultural production.
3. The crops concerned would be deciduous fruits, particularly pears and grapes, truck crops, especially tomatoes and strawberries and vegetable seed crops.
4. This would be impossible to estimate, but a great deal of damage would be done, particularly to the tomato crop as the Japanese produce over 60% of the crop.
5. It was recommended that the date for final evacuation be set as late as possible, consistent with public safety and furthermore to enable farmers to make plans. It was requested that the schedule of evacuation dates be announced as soon as possible.

Sincerely yours,

(S) I. Craven, Chairman, Sacramento County
U.S.D.A. War Board

IC:CM

Auburn, California
March 19, 1942

Mr. Dave Davidson, Chairman
State USDA War Board
Berkeley, California

Dear Mr. Davidson:

The War Board was approached on March 12 by a group of Placer County fruit house managers with a request that we urge upon you a delay in the evacuation of Japanese until August 31, after which time it was thought fruit growers could complete the harvest without the Japanese. The fruit house managers submitted to us the attached letters. We then began to explore farmer opinion and received such indications of it as are indicated in the attached documents. It is evident that farmer opinion is divided regarding delayed evacuation.

In the meantime we received your War Letter #77, March 12, 1942, in which you requested of us answers to five questions. Those answers are:

1. The following data applies to all of Placer County except those areas designated by the War Department as prohibited, and such other areas as may later be so designated.

2. There are about 1600 resident Japanese in the county, of which about 1200 men, women and children are engaged in agriculture.

3. Crops concerned are cherries, plums, peaches, pears and grapes.

4. The loss, if all Japanese are moved within the next two weeks, is thought to be 33% of 1941 production, or

cherries -	135 tons
plums -	7000 tons
peaches -	7500 tons
pears -	4500 tons
grapes -	70 tons

5. The earliest dates at which certain operations will be completed are:

Cultivation and furrowing for irrigation	- May 20
Thinning	- June 10
Harvesting cherries	- June 10
Harvesting plums	- August 15
Harvesting pears	- August 31
Harvesting peaches	- September 20
Harvesting grapes	- October 5

- 2 -

It can readily be seen that a material loss is bound to take place under present conditions within Placer County. To partially off set any undue loss we respectfully request an early decision as to the actual date evacuation will be completed. This should prove exceptionally helpful and serve to relieve an urgent situation.

Yours truly,

/s/ W. A. MAXWELL, Chairman
PLACER COUNTY USDA WAR BOARD

C O P Y

Red Bluff, California

March 19, 1942

California USDA War Board
P. O. Box 247
Berkeley, California

Gentlemen:

We note the information in your recent letters concerning the evacuation of Japanese. We find on a survey of Tehama County that there are only six Japanese outfits here. Only two of these are raising a small amount of vegetables. The others are working as laborers.

The amount of vegetables raised by these people is being absorbed many times by local citizens who have gone into the business; and we do not feel that even if the small amount raised by these two small outfits would be lost, that it would be any matter of concern.

Yours very truly,

Erle Gans, Secretary
Tehama County U.S.D.A.
War Board

EG:s

Auburn, California
March 19, 1942

At a meeting of the Deciduous Fruit Growers Department of the Placer County Farm Bureau held in Newcastle, Tuesday, March 17, a motion was duly carried expressing the opinion of the group as favoring an extension of the time in the evacuation of resident Japanese agricultural workers within Placer County, to permit completion of harvesting crops.

Yours truly,

DECIDUOUS FRUIT DEPARTMENT

No report yet filed by secretary. This report made by member of the USDA War Board.

FV90 24 AUBURN CALIF 23 1102A

DAVE DAVIDSON

CHAIRMAN U S D A WAR BOARD PO BOX 247 BERKELEY CALIF

ADD TO DOCUMENTS ACCOMPANYING OUR LETTER MARCH 19 RESOLVED BY PLACER
COUNTY FARM LABOR SUBCOMMITTEE THE JAPANESE EVACUATION BE DELAYED UNTIL
FRUIT HARVEST COMPLETED

W A MAXWELL.

COPY

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
U.S.D.A. WAR BOARD
Fairfield, California
March 19, 1942

Mr. Dave Davidson
California USDA War Board
Berkeley, California

Dear Mr. Davidson:

Enclosed is a survey made in this county
in reference to Military Areas and Recommendations
About Order of Removal of Japanese in answer to War
Letter #77, dated March 12, 1942.

Very truly yours,

/s/ J. M. Brazelton

J. M. Brazelton, Chairman
Solano County USDA War Board

JMB: dh

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
U.S.D.A. WAR BOARD
Fairfield, California
March 19, 1942

Mr. Dave Davidson
California USDA War Board
Berkeley, California

Dear Mr. Davidson:

In reply to your War Letter #7, we thought it best to divide Solano County into four districts, so as to intelligently answer the questions.

Suisun District consists of all that portion of Green Valley and Suisun judicial townships lying north of line, running east and west along southerly boundary of Sec. 16 T 4 R 3 W. (This contains 60% of the 792 acres of tomato plantings in the Suisun area and extends about one mile south into the Japanese "forbidden area."

Vacaville -- Winters District comprises Vacaville, Silveyvill, and Elmira judicial townships.

Ryer Island -- Prospect Island Districts comprise that portion of the Holland District lying in Solano County.

Liberty Island District #4.

In the remaining parts of the county there are practically no Japanese residents.

The source of the information which we regard as very accurate was

1. Agricultural Commissioners office which made a special survey of the tomatoes for this purpose.
2. Farm Advisors office.
3. County Farm Labor Committee of Land Use Planning Comm.
4. Commercial fruit packing houses.
5. Key farmers in the county.
6. Postmaster and schools.

Very truly yours

/s/ J. M. Brazelton, Chairman

J. M. Brazelton, Chairman
Solano County USDA War Board.

JMB:dh

MILITARY AREAS AND RECOMMENDATIONS ABOUT
ORDER OF REMOVAL OF JAPANESE.

Re: War Letter #77

District	No. Jap.Residents	Crops in Area	Expected Loss	Date of Completion
Suisun	175	Tomatoes Decidious Fruits	Tomatoes 25% loss in next two weeks. Have a total 792 A. with 1,164,000 plants in hot beds. Decidious fruits 10% if Japanese can not be replaced with competent labor. Total 7500 A. in this district.	May 15 is earliest date for completion of tomato plantings. Decidious fruits: May 15 finish thinning July 15 " Apricot Harvest Sept 1 " peaches & Pears Nov. 1 " prunes & tomatoes
Vacaville--Winters	540	Tomatoes Decidious Fruits	Tomatoes 75% loss. Have a total of 345 A. and 445,000 plants total anticipated plantings. Prunes 25% loss. 2500 A. in area (approx) Apricots 30% loss. 2600 A. in area " Peaches 30% loss. 1100 A. in area " Plums 50% loss. 2000 A. in area " Pears 25% loss. 400 A. in area "	May 15 is earliest date for completion of tomato plantings Decidious fruits: May 15 to finish all thinning July 15 " " apricot harvest Sept 1 " " pears, peaches & plums harvest Nov. 1 " " prunes, tomato harvest
Ryer Island Prospect Island	200	Asparagus Tomatoes	No serious loss if moved within two weeks.	May 15 to finish planting
Liberty Island	20	Asparagus Tomatoes	500 A. tomatoes will not be planted which is about 5000 tons. No serious loss to asparagus.	May 15 to finish planting

County USDA War Board
361 Fifth Street
Hollister, San Benito County, California

March 19, 1942

Mr. Dave Davidson, Chairman
Calif. USDA War Board
P. O. Box 247
Berkeley, California

Dear Sir:

In compliance with War Letter 77, Misc. 19, the following recommendations are made:

1. The boundries of the area referred to in the above-mentioned letter should consist of San Benito County.
2. The number of Japanese residents in San Benito County is estimated between 500 and 525, operating approximately 70 farms covering approximately 3700 acres.
3. The crops and acreages with which these Japanese farmers are concerned are as follows:

<u>Crop</u>	<u>Acreage</u>
Garlic	685.0
Lettuce	840.0
Sugar Beets	1800.0
Tomatoes	311.0
Carrots	70.0
Seed Crops	189.0
Spinach	73.0
Tomato Plants, enough for 1200 to 1300 acres.	

4. The expected loss is none, unless the Japanese stay on the land and cannot get help. At the present time, the Japs are unable to obtain the proper help and many of the crops are in need of attention. The longer the Japanese stay on the land without adequate help, the greater the danger of loss. It is recommended that steps should be taken to set an evacuation deadline and effort be made to transfer the crops from Japanese ownership to other owners who will step in immediately and carry on. The spinach must be harvested within the next ten days or two weeks.

5. It is very doubtful if any crops can be brought to harvest time before a possible evacuation with the exception of spinach for canning.

Unless steps are taken to remedy the situation as shown in No. 4, considerable loss can be anticipated. At the present time, the crops operated by the Japanese are to a period of growth where necessary attention must be given immediately. For example, it was reported a 44 acre sugar beet field had only 8 thinners; another field of 26 acres had only 2 thinners working. It is quite possible that this is all the help the Japanese were able to get, but it is not enough to thin the tract before the period of growth has been reached wherein the crop can be sorely depleted. This is true, also of lettuce.

Very truly yours,

Ben P. Rice, Chairman
County USDA War Board

C O P Y

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
U.S.D.A. WAR BOARD
Visalia, Tulare County, California

306 East Main Street
Visalia, California
March 20, 1942

Mr. Dave Davidson, Chairman
California USDA War Board
P. O. Box 247
Berkeley, California

Dear Mr. Davidson:

This is in reply to your War Letter 77, Misc. 19, March 12, 1942. We have consulted with the County Civilian Defense Council and with representatives of the Japanese American Citizens League regarding the need and advisability of a survey to determine recommendations deferring removal of certain Japanese farmers.

We find no apparent need for this survey since a similar survey by the Civilian Defense Council through the District Attorney Sheriff's Office and the Agricultural Commissioner has just been completed. More important is the determination yesterday of Federal authorities to handle transfer of Japanese farms to other operators under the War Time Farm Adjustment Administration.

The employees of this new agency are now in the field working on this problem. Field employees of this agency have already contacted members of the War Board and assistance is being given them by members of the Board. This assistance will naturally be continued.

Representatives of the Japanese American Citizens League yesterday indicated to us that many Japanese are ready to move at once but do not know where to move to. Apparently many of them in the normal business manner have arranged for disposal of their farm interests here.

It appears, therefore, that no recommendation suggested in your War Letter 77 will be needed at present.

Very truly yours,

(S) L. D. Flory, Acting Chairman
COUNTY USDA WAR BOARD

WEG:ps

In answer to Davidson submitting

Dave Davidson to Tulare U.S.D.A. War Board: March 25 1942

Enclosed George Casey's report..

Your reply, dated March 20, to War Letter 77 contained no recommendation whatsoever. Fro this reason we would appreciated your comments on report especially paragraphs 2,3 and 7.

Room 201 Post Office Building
San Jose, California

March 20, 1942

Mr. Dave Davidson, Chairman
California U.S.D.A. War Board
Post Office Box 247
Berkeley, California

Dear Mr. Davidson:

This refers to War Letter No. 77.

The War Board finds it very difficult to arrive at a conclusion as no definite evacuation date has been set. They feel, however, that if the Japanese are moved within two weeks to a month it would not seriously handicap production as there would be enough time left to set out tomatoes in the field.

The peak picking of strawberries, raspberries and other berries comes in June, but the County War Board is inclined to feel that the removal date will come before that time so that the Japanese would not be considered as being available for the berry harvest.

The War Board favors the early evacuation of Japanese from this county so that we will be in a position to know just where we stand as far as the land is concerned that is now operated by Japanese and which is being taken over by citizens not of Japanese lineage.

It is understood that the War Time Farm Adjustment Program is doing considerable at this time to have land transferred to those who are not Japanese aliens or citizens of Japanese lineage.

Yours very truly,

Lewis W. Armstrong, Chairman
Santa Clara County U.S.D.A. WAR Board

HLE/el

C O P Y

B-102

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
U. S. D. A. DEFENSE BOARD

1 S. Aurora Street
Stockton, California

March 20, 1942

Mr. Dave Davidson, Chairman
State USDA War Board
P. O. Box 247
Berkeley, California

Dear Mr. Davidson:

Referring to War Board Letter No. 77, an immediate evacuation of Japanese from restricted areas would have no material effect on crop production in this County. We are, therefore, confining our report and answers to the restricted areas. The following answers were agreed upon by the San Joaquin County USDA War Board this afternoon:

1. All of San Joaquin County with the restricted area as defined:-2;
2. Estimates vary and show from 5000 to 7000 Japanese residing in this County at the present time;
3. Crops in the areas in which Japanese operators and laborers are factors are as follows:

Important Factors

Tomatoes
Asparagus
Onions
Potatoes
Celery
Sugar Beets
Grapes
Misc. Vegetables

Minor Factors

Beans
Lettuce
Orchard
Seed Crops
Alfalfa
Strawberries
Melons
Peas
Field Corn
Carrots
Barley
Other grains
Spinach

4. The expected loss of production if all Japanese have to move within the next two weeks cannot possibly be estimated. We believe, however, there will be material reduction in tonnage of the above crops in which Japanese are an important factor if all Japanese are evacuated within two weeks;

5. To complete certain operations in which Japanese are important factors the following is suggested:

<u>Crop</u>	<u>Operation</u>	<u>Date to Complete</u>
Tomatoes	Planting	June 15, 1942
Tomatoes	Harvesting	Nov. 1, 1942
Asparagus	Harvesting	July 1, 1942
Onions	Harvesting	Sept. 15, 1942
Potatoes	Harvesting	Dec. 1, 1942
Celery	Harvesting	Jan. 1, 1943
Sugar Beets	Harvesting	Jan. 1, 1942
Misc. Vegetables	Harvesting	Sept. 15, 1942
Grapes	Harvesting	Nov. 1, 1942

Yours very truly,

(S) W. J. Erich, Chairman
San Joaquin County USDA War Board

WJE:EW

C O P Y

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
U.S.D.A. WAR BOARD
Room 11, Monterey County Bank Bldg.
Salinas, Calif.

March 20, 1942

Mr. Dave Davidson, Chairman
California USDA War Board
P. O. Box 247
Berkeley, California

Re: War Board Letter
No. 77, Removal
of Japanese

Dear Mr. Davidson:

I am writing on behalf of Jan H. Martinus, Chairman of the Monterey County USDA War Board. At a regular meeting of the War Board today the following recommendations were made:

1. The boundaries of the area in which the recommendation applies is the whole of Monterey County.
2. The number of Japanese now resident in the area is approximately 3,500.
3. The crops which these Japanese farmers are concerned with are commercial vegetables, sugar beets, strawberries and bush berries.
4. There would be no appreciable loss of production if all the Japanese were moved within the next two weeks.
5. The date recommended for their removal is immediately.
6. The War Board has contacted all known agencies concerned with the problem.

Very sincerely,

(S) J. P. Tripp, Secretary
Monterey County Agricultural
Conservation Association

COPY

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
U.S.D.A. WAR BOARD
323 North Douty Street
Hanford, California

March 20, 1942

Mr. Dave Davidson, Chairman
California USDA War Board
P. O. Box 247
Berkeley, California

Re: Recommendations on Removal of Japanese

Dear Mr. Davidson:

The following report by the Kings County USDA War Board is submitted as requested in War letter #77:

1. Area -- Kings County
2. Approximate number of Japanese in Kings County:

Estimated as of this date -- 600
1940 Census----- 508

3. 50 farmers are Japanese and 60 farms are controlled by them as operators and as owner-operators. These control approximately 450 acres of deciduous fruits and 500 acres of grapes. This represents 5% of the fruit and 4% of the grapes produced in the county.

15 farms depend on Japanese laborers. These are concerned with the harvest of 5% of the deciduous fruits and 4% of the grapes produced in the county. 272 acres of olives are harvested by migrated Japanese crews.

Thusly, Japanese as operators and owners- operators and as laborers are concerned with 10% of deciduous fruit production and 8% of the grape production in the county.

4. Vegetables which are vital foods are negligable in Kings County. Those produced are only partly produced by the Japanese. Removal in two weeks would have little effect on production.

Fruit production will not materially be effected by removal in two weeks. Irrigation, thinning of fruits and sulphuring of vineyards are principal operations until time of harvest. These operations can be completed without Japanese labor.

March 20, 1942

5. If Japanese are held to complete harvesting operations in fruit and grapes it would be necessary to have a final removal date of December 1, 1942, which no doubt would be after the final removal date which will be set by those in authority.

It is the opinion of this War Board that the early removal of Japanese from this county would be desirable as it would hasten plans and arrangements to complete harvest and maintain production of vital food crops without the assistance of Japanese. It is felt that any date that might be set which would give sufficient time for complete harvesting of crops would be after an advisable final removal date. An early removal date would have the effect of causing those who are concerned with the harvest of vital foods to immediately make plans to complete harvest without Japanese labor.

Therefore, a final removal date not later than April 15 is recommended by the Kings County War Board.

Very truly yours,

/s/ A. P. Howe

A. P. HOWE, Chairman
Kings County USDA War Board

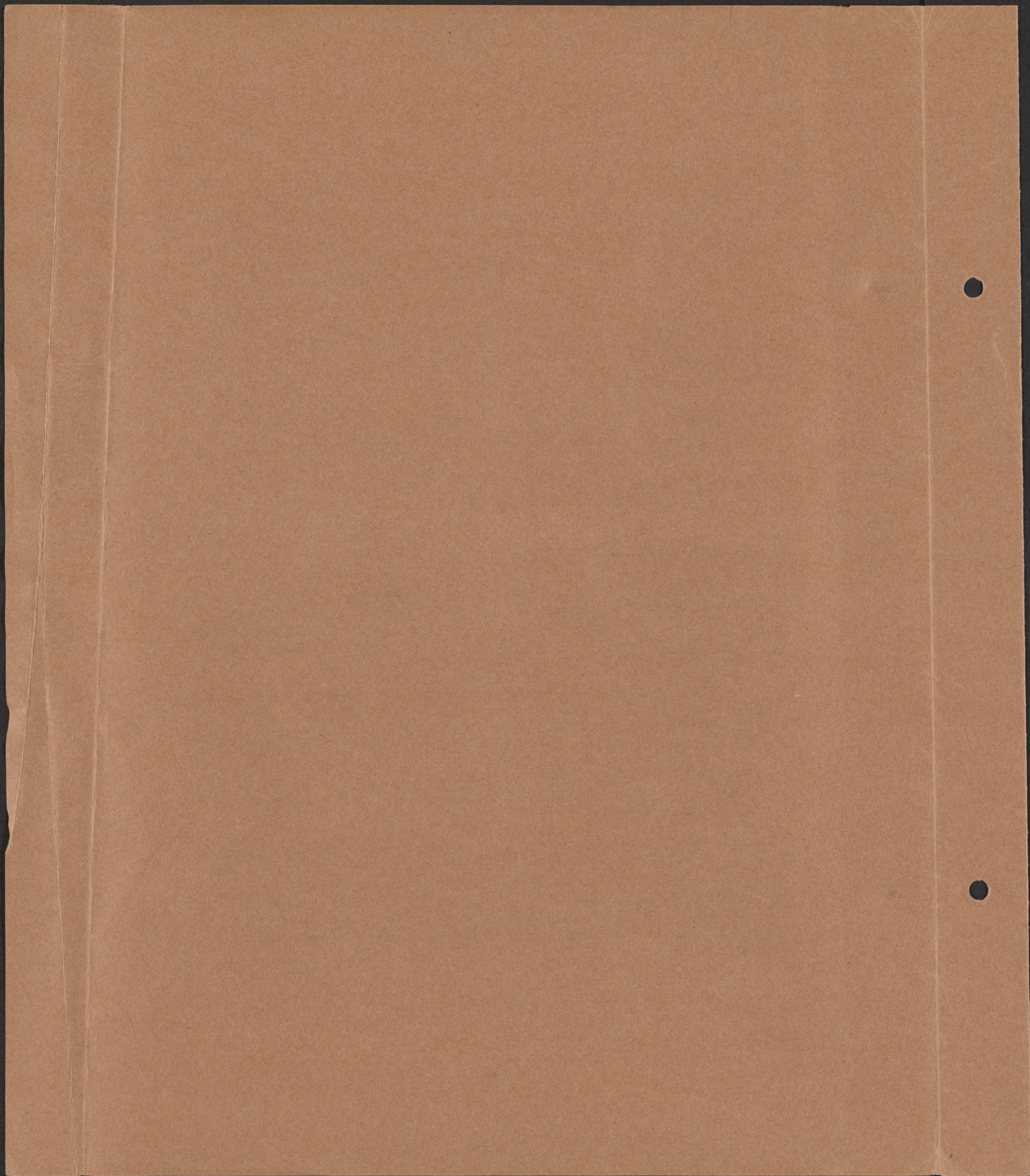
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
CALIFORNIA USDA WAR BOARD

REQUEST OF CALIFORNIA DECIDUOUS GROWERS
LEAGUE FOR RECOMMENDATION WITH RESPECT
TO EVACUATION OF JAPANESE

CALIFORNIA DECIDUOUS
GROWERS LEAGUE
85 SECOND STREET
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

Reference: War Letter No. 77
Miscellaneous No. 19



San Francisco, California,
March 20, 1942.

United States Department of Agriculture
California USDA War Board
P.O.Box 247
Berkeley, California

Re: Request of California Deciduous Growers
League for Recommendation with Respect
to Evacuation of Japanese.

Reference: War Letter No. 77
Miscellaneous No. 19

Requested Recommendation.

California Deciduous Growers League, a non-profit organization, representing the greater part of the industry engaged in the production and preparation for market of fresh California deciduous fruits, urgently requests that your agency recommend to the military authorities:

That the evacuation of persons of Japanese ancestry, engaged by the California deciduous fruit industry in agricultural pursuits (including the handling, packing and preparation for market of same) in the following counties:

Placer	Sacramento	Sutter	Yuba	Solano
Yolo	San Joaquin	Stanislaus		Merced
Tulare,	Kern	and	Fresno	

(except such areas within said counties as may be within Zone A, or in the vicinity of military establishments or defense plants as defined by the military authorities) be deferred until September 30, 1942, or in any event be deferred last in order of persons to be evacuated from Military Area No. 1 prior to the final evacuation date.

[Mar. 20, 1942]

Facts in Support of Requested Recommendation.

In support of the foregoing request, attention is called to the following:

(1) California produced, harvested and shipped interstate in 1941 approximately 42,000 cars of fresh deciduous fruits of the following varieties: Pears, plums, grapes, cherries, apricots and peaches. Members of the California Deciduous Growers League constitute approximately eighty percent of the industry engaged in said activities. In addition to the foregoing volume, members of the California Deciduous Growers League harvested and shipped to canneries and other processors substantial quantities of said varieties of fruit.

(2) The normal periods for the harvesting and preparing of said fruits for market are as follows:

Cherries	April 20 - June 15
Apricots	May 15 - July 15
Peaches	May 15 - Sept. 15
Plums	May 15 - Sept. 20
Pears	June 1 - Sept. 30
Grapes	June 15 - Nov. 1

It will be noted from the above, that the normal season in the case of Grapes ends November 1, thirty days later than the final date herein requested. In view of your urgent advice to select the earliest possible date we have purposely refrained from requesting an extension until the final completion of the grape harvest.

(3) The deciduous fruit industry is in large part dependent upon Japanese for the production, harvesting and preparing for market of said crops, particularly the harvesting and packing of the same. The approximate number of Japanese employed by the industry in said counties and the percentage of the total employees of the industry is as follows:

Placer	3000	60%
Sacramento	2000	50%
Sutter	300	5%
Yuba	600	20%
Solano	2500	50%
Yolo	200	10%
San Joaquin	5000	75%
Stanislaus	400	10%
Merced	600	75%
Tulare	1400	25%
Kern	600	25%
Fresno	3400	25%

*In the case of Tokay Grapes, 85% of the crop is harvested and packed by Japanese.

(4) The harvesting, packing and preparing for market of deciduous fruits requires a high degree of skill and experience. It will be utterly impractical to use inexperienced labor in substitution of the experienced and skilled Japanese labor engaged in said pursuits.

(5) Deciduous fruits are highly perishable commodities. The exact time of harvesting cannot be predicted. Crops when ready for harvesting must be picked within a limited number of days. After harvesting, deciduous fruits must be packed and prepared for market within forty-eight hours. Weather conditions frequently require acceleration of the foregoing time limits. In each of said operations time is of the essence. The dependency upon skilled and experienced labor is accentuated by this feature of the industry.

(6) A supply of labor, experienced and skilled in harvesting and preparing deciduous fruits for market positively is not and will not be available to take the place of said Japanese for the harvesting and preparing for market of the 1942 crops of deciduous fruits.

(7) All Federal agencies recognize that the production, harvest and preparation for market of the greatest volume of deciduous fruits possible is a primary and essential objective in the prosecution of the war. California, and the industry making this request, produces and prepares for market the greater part of the volume of deciduous fruits referred to and required in the United States.

In the event that Japanese engaged in the deciduous fruit industry previously referred to are evacuated from the said counties within the next two weeks, it is reliably estimated that production will be decreased at least fifty percent. In the event that Japanese engaged in the deciduous fruit industry are evacuated prior to the time for harvesting and preparation of said crops for market, it is reliably and reasonably estimated that the decrease will be forty percent.

[Mar. 20, 1942]

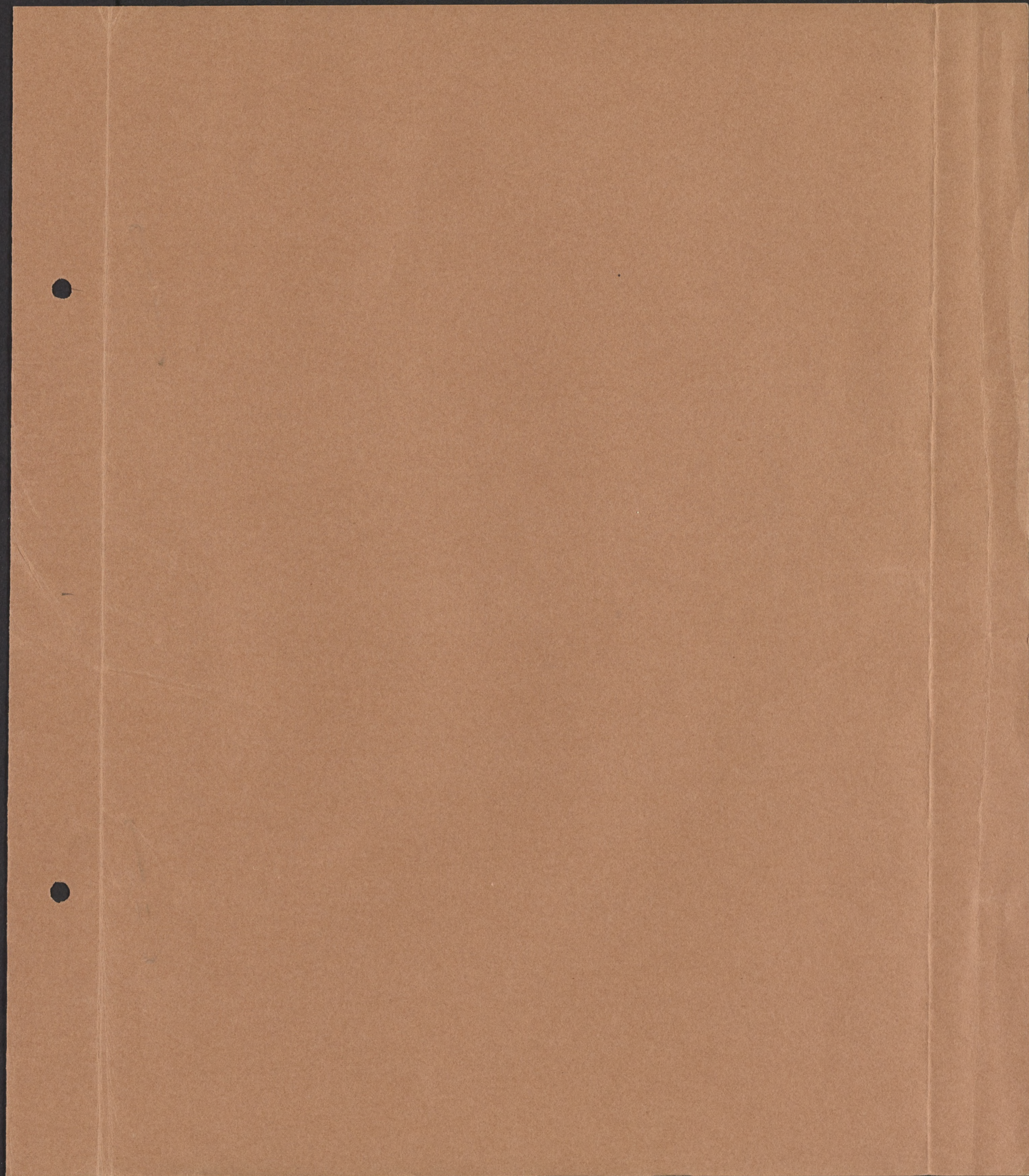
In view of the foregoing, California Deciduous Growers League therefore fervently requests that your agency make the recommendation herein requested.

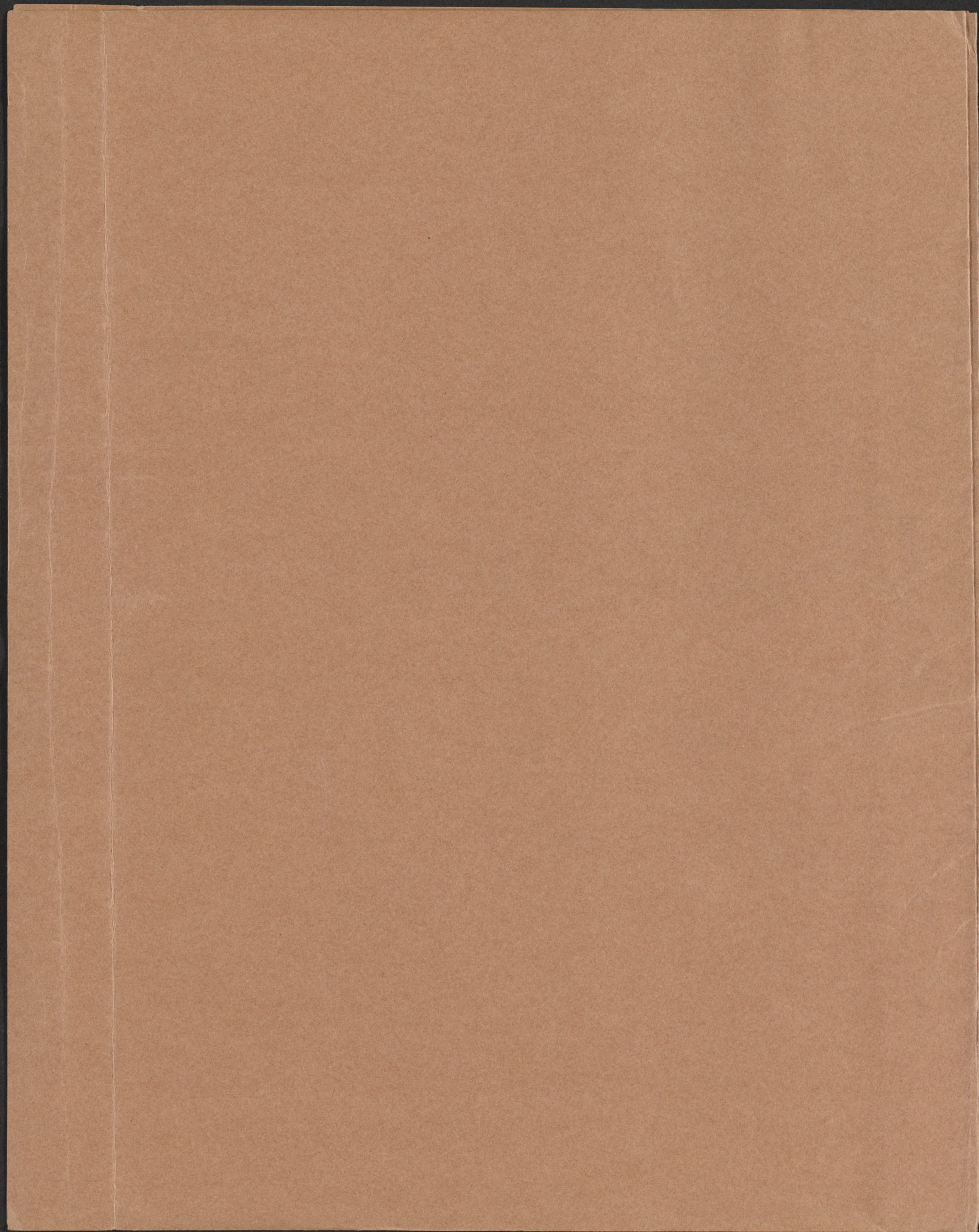
California Deciduous Growers League has purposely confined the recommendation here requested to its own industry because it has a particular knowledge of the facts concerning the same. The question of the dependency of any other agricultural industries upon Japanese labor has been left to such other industries which are better qualified to speak on the subject.

Respectfully submitted,

CALIFORNIA DECIDUOUS GROWERS LEAGUE

George H. Casey
George H. Casey
President





CHECK SERVICE DESIRED OTHERWISE MESSAGE WILL BE SENT AT FULL RATE		
DOMESTIC		FOREIGN
FULL RATE		FULL RATE
DAY LETTER		CDE RATE
NIGHT LETTER		URGENT
SERIAL		DEFERRED
RESERVATION		NIGHT-LETTER
TOUR-RATE		SHIP RADIO

Postal Telegraph

Mackay Radio
Commercial Cables



All America Cables
Canadian Pacific Telegraphs

CHARGE ACCOUNT NUMBER	
CASH NO.	TOLLS
CHECK	
TIME FILED	(STANDARD TIME)

Form 2-L

Send the following message, subject to the Company's rules, regulations and rates set forth in its tariffs and on file with regulatory authorities

C O P Y

EL CENTRO, CALIF.
MARCH 20 8:11 AM

DAVE DAVIDSON

CHAIRMAN STATE USDA WAR BOARD 2288 FULTON ST.
BERKELEY, CALIF.

IMMEDIATE REMOVAL OF JAPANESE FROM IMPERIAL COUNTY WILL INVOLVE NO CROP LOSS PROVIDING A FEDERAL CUSTODIANSHIP IS SET UP IMMEDIATELY TO HANDLE AND FREEZE ALL JAPANESE FUNDS AND PROPERTY UNTIL COURTS CAN DETERMINE DEFINITELY WHICH ASSETS ARE THE PROPERTIES OF ALIENS AND SUBJECT TO FEDERAL ALIEN CUSTODIANSHIP AND WHICH ARE THE LEGITIMIAE PROPERTIES OF CITIZENS THIS IS NECESSARY PROCEDURE IN ORDER TO PROTECT ALL PERSONS CONCERNED URGE THAT ALL JAPANESE BE COMPLETELY MOVED FROM THIS VALLEY WITHIN FOUR WEEKS OR LESS THERE IS NOW A THREE OF FOUR WEEK LULL BETWEEN CROPS ADVISABLE TO MAKE TRANSFER OF PROPERTIES INCIDENTAL TO EVACUATION DURING THIS PERIOD ABOUT TWO THOUSAND JAPANESE ARE RESIDENTS HERE PRINCIPAL CROPS CONCERNED ARE TOMATOES AND CANTALOUPE

L. C. HAWK, CHAIRMAN IMPERIAL COUNTY USDA WAR BOARD

C O P Y

ERICKSON BROS.
Sanger, California

March 20, 1942

Mr. Dave Davidson, Chairman
California USDA War Board
P. O. Box 247
Berkeley, California

RE: EVACUATION OF JAPANESE

Dear Sir:

In reply to War Board Letter #77 with regard to the evacuation of Japanese from the agricultural areas, beg to advise that we are definitely not in favor of retaining the Japanese in this area one moment longer than is absolutely necessary to effect their evacuation.

In view of the tragic lessons we have had of the treachery of the Japanese, we strongly recommend that all possible steps be taken to remove them as soon as possible from this area. There are too many vital things such as power substations, etc. in this area which might prove too great a temptation to possible saboteurs.

While we are making this recommendation, we might suggest that attention be given to consideration of white help for agriculture instead of the concerted effort to lure them away with WPA jobs, Relief and highly paid defense jobs after drafting the young ~~help~~ and the young farmers.

And another thing. Agriculture is going on record as protesting strongly the labor leaders' boast that they are going to organize all farm help and hold the threat of secondary boycott over the heads of the farmers. The War Board can do something about that, while they are thinking of consideration of agricultural producers.

Yours truly,

ERICKSON BROS.

(S) P. A. Erickson

PAE/E

C O P Y

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
U.S.D.A. DEFENSE BOARD
Riverside, California
3646 Ninth St.
Room 3

March 21, 1942

Re: War Letter No. 77

Mr. Dave Davidson, Chairman
California War Board
P. O. Box 247
Berkeley, California

Dear Mr. Davidson:

We have listed below, in numerical order, the Riverside County USDA War Board's recommendations in regard to the removal of Japanese from Riverside County, as per your request in War Letter No. 77.

1. It is the belief of the Riverside County War Board that there are no areas in Riverside County which would be acceptable for Japanese use. In this conjunction, it is also recommended that no deferment or delay be granted to any Japanese residents as to time of removal.
2. The approximate number of Japanese now residing in this area is as follows:

American Japanese.....	31
Alien Japanese.....	<u>27</u>
Total	58

3. These Japanese farm approximately 3,396 acres of cropland, of which 95% is vegetables.
4. It is our belief that if all of these Japanese were moved from this area within two weeks, there would be no appreciable loss in production. It appears that there are ample white American farmers who stand ready to take over these farms immediately.
5. As most of the crops raised in this area by Japanese are vegetables, no definite date can be sent by which a majority of their farming operations might be completed. These crops are rotated and are constantly in the process of being harvested and planted. In no case, would the time required for the completion of their operations, be more than ninety days.

Note: Statistical data used in this report was partially compiled by Mr. W.H. Wright, Riverside County Agricultural Commissioner.

We trust that this is all of the information which is required.

Sincerely yours,

(S) H. L. Roberts, Chairman, USDA Riverside County War Board

C O P Y

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
U.S.D.A. DEFENSE BOARD

March 23, 1942

Mr. Dave Davidson, Chairman
California USDA War Board
P. O. Box 247
Berkeley, California

Dear Mr. Davidson:

Today the Merced County USDA War Board met and thoroughly discussed the situation in regard to the evacuation of Japanese aliens and nationals. A resume of the discussion can be stated in very few words--" that the Merced County USDA War Board is unanimously of the opinion that all Japanese be evacuated from Merced County by May 1, 1942."

The reasons for the recommendations are clear cut and urgent, in the opinion of us, whose principal function, as a USDA War Board, is to work for a maximum of agricultural production in Merced County during the war, and who live here, right on the ground.

First, it is evident that our season of greatest fire hazard in the San Joaquin Valley is only a little over a month away. And although we are getting well prepared to meet fire sabotage this Summer, still it is much easier to prevent a fire than it is to suppress it, and we feel that by moving the Japanese out, a good many fires will be prevented.

Second, irrigation water is the keystone of our agricultural production program, and there are many flumes, and irrigation canals, and dams that might be damaged, or destroyed by some of our industrious enemies. With many flumes and hundreds of miles of canals, it is quire evident that our irrigation systems are not invulnerable to enemy attack, and whether or not we get irrigation water means the difference between getting or not getting a crop.

Third, we believe that we, who live here, are in a pretty good position to judge the temper of the people and their opinion of the necessity of evacuating the Japanese. It is our belief that the large majority of our farmers and other citizens favor the speedy evacuation of all Japanese, not only from the angle of protecting our crops from losses as the result of sabotage, but for the protection of the Japanese themselves as well.

There is little doubt that many of the Japanese now living in Merced County are loyal American citizens, and it is unfortunate that they have to be moved away from their homes, temporarily, but who knows how many of these Japanese we now have running loose among us are interested in seeing the Axis win the war.

We know that the Sheriff of Merced County has seized, and turned over to Federal agents, certain publications which are apparently military manuals.

We know, too, that the day after the fall of Singapore, a celebration was held in a secluded spot on the Merced River, by a group of Japanese, who, as far as we know, are still living in areas guarded at night by only a single patrol car from the Sheriff's office.

We believe that there has been too much thinking along the lines of how much production will be lost if the Japanese are moved out immediately, and too little thinking along the lines of how much food might be lost by sabotage if they remain.

In conclusion, may we earnestly recommend, as we have done several times previously, that the State USDA War Board work for the speedy evacuation of all Japanese from the State of California.

Very sincerely yours,

(S) J. L. Otterson, Chairman
Merced County USDA War Board

JLO:BL

C O P Y

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
U.S.D.A. DEFENSE BOARD

356 College Street
Woodland, California
March 24, 1942

Mr. Dave Davidson, Chairman
California Agricultural
Conservation Committee
P. O. Box 247
Berkeley, California

Dear Mr. Davidson:

Answering your War Letter #77 in regard to Military Areas
and recommendations about removal of Japanese.

This Yolo County War Board feels that most of the land
now controlled by Japanese will be transferred to other hands.
In this way, only a small portion of the land will go out of
production. As we now see it, there are contracts in this county
for 11,000 acres of tomatoes. Of this 11,000 acres, less than
5,000 is controlled by Japanese. We feel that possibly 15% of the
land controlled by Japanese may go out of production this year.
However, we do not think this to be a serious matter.

The Japanese in this county are reading all the publicity
being put out about their removal. Needless to say, they feel
that they are going to be well treated and are trying to take every
advantage of it. Some Japanese have even asked for higher prices
for their leases and equipment than it is worth on the market.
We feel that all this publicity is working adversely to the good
that will come from moving the Japanese to other areas.

We sincerely hope that more action will come instead of
more words.

Hoping this answers your questions, we are,

Sincerely yours,

(S) H. M. Wilber, Chairman
Yolo County USDA War Board

HMW;s

Letters to following USDA Boards from Dave Davidson re-Request of Calif.
Deciduous growers league for deferment of Evacuation of Japanese, asking opinion on
War letter #77 and validity of assertions of Casey which to ~~xx~~ his county. "we have not
yet received your reply on such matters and would appreciate hearing from you:

Kern County .	March 26 1942
Yuba County	"
Sutter County	"

USDA :Sutter County

Mission Hall
Yuba City
March 31 1942

MR. Dave Davidson
,,,,,,,,,,,,,

This is in reply to War letter #77. We are enclosing a copy of ~~xix~~ a letter written to Roscoe Bell, Feb. 5 1942....

The local Japanese situation in Sutter County is not very serious on since the number of Japanese operators and laborers is very ~~small~~ portion of the total farm labor employed.

Answering questions more specifically:

- 1) about 300 Japanese resident in this area
- 2) The crops in which the Japanese are employed are ~~peaches~~, prunes and small amt of vegetable crop. They are either employed as laborers or operators

Signed
R.N. Kells,
USDA

Letter to Roscoe Bell

- 1) There are in Sutter county the following registered enemy aliens: Japanese 84, Italians 31, Germans 26. We believe that we could use each class of these aliens to eliminate some of the serious labor shortage that we anticipate without any serious difficulty.
- 2) We believe that public opinion will support the evacuation of enemy aliens in certain areas of our county
- 3) The need in this area at peak of thinning and harvesting labor is about 6,000

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

U.S.D.A. DEFENSE BOARD

Room 205, California Fruit Building
Sacramento, California

April 1, 1942

Mr. Dave Davidson, Chairman
California USDA War Board
Berkeley, California

Dear Mr. Davidson:

Re: Request of California Deciduous Growers
League for Deferment of Evacuation of
Japanese

First, in reference to answer to War Letter No. 77 the opinions expressed therein were those of the group assembled.

As for the Casey report, the assertions as to numbers employed in the various deciduous fruits are probably very close. It is difficult to say just how much would not be harvested due to the evacuation of the Japanese.

However, there would no doubt be a loss if the imported labor would not be as skilled, even if the number could be supplied. This would also be true of other groups where Japanese are employed.

It would seem to me that the only fair and equitable procedure of evacuation would be first to evacuate the cities and towns and leaving the key men of agriculture to the last, such as those in charge of orchards, vineyards, tomatos, seed crops, etc.

Very truly yours,

/s/ J. Craven

Chairman, Sacramento County
USDA War Board

B-102

P. O. Box 247
Berkeley, California

April 3, 1942

Lieutenant Colonel Wm. A. Boekel, Head
Division of Exceptions and Licensing
Wartime Civil Control Administration
Hotel Whitcomb
1231 Market Street
San Francisco, California

Dear Colonel Boekel:

Recently the California USDA War Board sent out to all County War Boards our War Letter No. 77, which had been approved by Lieutenant General DeWitt and two copies of which are attached. In reply to the questions in the letter, most of the counties indicated that since the Japanese would have to move before the end of the harvest season, they did not care to recommend any deferment in the evacuation. A few counties did desire to keep Japanese laborers for as long as possible and a summary of their reports as consolidated by the State USDA War Board follows. However, in all cases the County War Boards insist that it would be very beneficial in making plans for maintenance of agricultural production if the dates of evacuation could be announced promptly. As soon as the dates are determined, they should be revealed.

There are three areas where the retention of Japanese labor will be of great assistance. They are:

1. The Delta Area of the San Joaquin and Sacramento Rivers. We are concerned with only the part of the "Delta" marked out with the blue line on the inclosed map, No. 1. This area consists of very fertile islands. This land is all cultivated and produces large crops of potatoes, sugar beets, celery, tomatoes, asparagus, peas, carrots, onions, and fruit. In the production of these commodities, Japanese labor is now important. Other crops grown in the area will not be materially affected by the removal of the Japanese.

The acreages of these crops are very large as shown by the following table which is not complete, but which does show the importance of this area in the crops we need:

Mis. Vegetables	2963 acres	Tomatoes	6225 acres
Asparagus	4249 acres	Onions	1021 acres
Barley	3675 acres	Other Grains	800 acres
Carrots	236 acres	Dry Beans	292 acres
Orchards	189 acres	Seed Crops	248 acres
Alfalfa	200 acres	Spinach	158 acres
Grapes	1166 acres	Strawberries	165 acres
Melons	200 acres	Peas	258 acres
Celery	2687 acres	Sugar Beets	5999 acres
Field Corn	2300 acres	Potatoes	6255 acres
		Total	39,418 acres

The best estimates we can obtain are that 50% of the potatoes, 100% of the celery, 100% of the tomatoes, 25% of the asparagus, 50% of the carrots and 50% of the onions will be lost if the Japanese laborers are forced to leave within the next two or three weeks. If they are allowed to remain until the end of June, the full planned programs of the operators can be carried out, and the farmers will have opportunity to arrange for other labor to replace the Japanese for the harvest of these and other crops. Consequently, we recommend that the Japanese be allowed to remain in this area as long as possible, but at least through April, May and June.

This area is all agricultural and contains almost no town - only labor camps. It is isolated from roads, railroads, military establishments and defense plants and the Japanese now there can be guarded, if necessary, and kept within the defined boundaries. The local sheriffs and police officers are willing to provide any guards considered necessary to military safety and the farmers are willing to defray any extra expense for such guards.

The Japanese laborers have been working in this area for many years and are known individually to the farm operators. Although many work in gangs packing asparagus, setting out celery and tomatoes, weeding onions, etc., the most important service they render is in irrigation. They can eventually be replaced, but their prompt removal would result in the production losses indicated above.

For these reasons the California USDA War Board concurs in the recommendation of the Sacramento and San Joaquin County War Boards that these some 1000 or more Japanese laborers in the Delta Area be left there through June, if military safety will permit.

2. There are also substantial numbers of Japanese north and east of Stockton. Those used in the production of tomatoes are needed now and the others are being used. For that reason

we wish to concur in the recommendation that those Japanese living within the areas enclosed by the blue lines on the inclosed map, No. 2, be left as long as possible. In this area there will not be as much loss of agricultural production if they move soon, because they are most important during the harvest season which will probably be after the evacuation has been completed. However, this area also is chiefly agricultural and for that reason it will help greatly if this supply of labor is left as long as possible.

You will note that this area is adjacent to the Delta Area discussed above. However, a separate presentation is being made because of different geographical conditions and different work done by the Japanese. There are at least 1,500 Japanese living in this area.

3. The one other area is that part of Placer County within Military Area No. 1. Here also Japanese are used chiefly as laborers in the fruit industry. There are some 1,600 Japanese in the county and their removal now or within two weeks would cause a loss of from 30% to 50% of the fruit production in the area. Since the fruit harvest would continue beyond a probable final date for evacuation, the California USDA War Board recommends that Placer County be one of the last areas in Military Area No. 1 that is evacuated. The longer that this evacuation date is put off, the less will be the loss in agricultural production.

In these areas for which we have recommended a late evacuation date and for the rest of the State as well, it will be extremely helpful if the date of evacuation is announced as soon as possible. Such announcement will enable the farmers to make their plans to meet very serious labor problems. Even if the final date cannot now be determined exactly for the last districts to be evacuated, it would help immensely if these districts could be named, and again the California USDA War Board recommends that those districts referred to in this letter be the last or among the last areas from which the Japanese should be removed.

During the period since we mailed out our letter No. 77, we have accumulated quite detailed reports regarding Japanese farmers and laborers in most parts of the State. This data is all available to you if you so desire, and we will be glad to supply you with additional information regarding these few districts.

Also during this period a lot of interested people have learned that we will be making some recommendations to you. Consequently, they expect us to have some information, so we would appreciate

- 4 -

it if you would inform us of any decisions on these matters as soon as they can be made public. We can then pass it on to those farmers whose production we are concerned about.

Thanking you for your cooperation, I am

Very truly yours,

Dave Davidson, Chairman
California USDA War Board

Inclosures

DD:mgh

cc: Davidson