

Date: 5 April 2010 10:17 a.m.

From: JUNTA DE USUARIOS RIO SECO <juntausuariosrioseco@gmail.com>

Subject: CARTA N° 086– 2010/ JUDRI RIO SECO

To: kkopischke@ifc.org, kopischke@gmail.com

Cc: FEDERICO VACCARI CUSSIANOVICH <FMVACCARI@hotmail.com>

Gentlepersons of CAO
Att.: Ms. Kate Kopischke

Of our consideration:

We are pleased to write to you, first to thank you for your interest in assisting us in the search for solutions to the many problems related to the water issue in the area of ICA-VILLACURI-LANCHAS. For many years we have been concerned about our water situation and the risk it poses for the normal operation of our businesses, and the primary needs of the population as well. Our interest is to work collaboratively with the appropriate parties on strategies to address our situation, and to avoid the potential for heightened community conflict and continued risks to our health and survival.

We understand your mission, and after the several meetings you have facilitated amongst the different actors in water management, we arrived at the following conclusions:

- 1) Trust and solidarity are critical if we are to manage, as a community, the problems related with water – including our ability to stop the deterioration of the ground water reserves from which we, the farmers of the area, are supplied.
- 2) AGROKASA senior management (president Mr. José Chimpler and general manager Carlos Arrese), has committed verbally and in writing to work with us, and through its membership in JUASVI to protect the aquifer and to continue its efforts to reduce water consumption through crop replacement (grapes instead of asparagus) and to not expand its crop areas, which they suggest be adopted by other farmers.
- 3) AGROKASA also has stated a commitment to sharing information with us regarding its irrigation program and well extraction volumes, and also expects that others should equally share information with them at their request. We are in agreement with this, and believe that a systematic monitoring and supervision process should be designed and implemented jointly by the water user associations and local water authority.
- 4) The working group of water users associations and the local water authority, which was formed in March 2010 with assistance from the CAO, is an appropriate forum

for creating a climate of trust among and between all the large and small growers and users of water. Through this working group, we will exchange ideas for developing a basin-wide monitoring program that is trusted by all parties, and also will develop other specific projects to dramatically and collaboratively improve the way we manage our water resources.

- 5) Finally, we consider of vital importance the presence of CAO as a facilitator and motivator in our search for change, integration, and trust among all of the water users.

Confident of obtaining your understanding and willingness to give us support, we reiterate our feelings of greatest esteem.

Sincerely,

**FEDERICO VACCARI CUSSIANOVICH
PRESIDENTE**