



**U.S. Department of Justice**

Office of Legislative Affairs

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*Office of the Assistant Attorney General*

*Washington, D.C. 20530*

April 8, 2019

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Feinstein:

This responds to your letter to Environment and Natural Resources Division (“ENRD”) Assistant Attorney General (“AAG”) Jeffrey Bossert Clark dated November 8, 2018, regarding the Department of Justice’s (Department) proposal to discontinue the commercial lease for ENRD’s San Francisco field office and close that office. We are sending identical responses to Senator Harris and Speaker Pelosi, who joined in your letter. We apologize for the delay in this response.

AAG Clark was confirmed by the Senate in October 2018 and subsequently took office in early November, around the same time as the Department received your letter. Since that time, he has been working diligently to study numerous legal, administrative, and budgetary issues facing the Division, including the decision announced in October, prior to his arrival, to discontinue leasing commercial office space in San Francisco and to close that office, while relocating employees to ENRD’s Washington, D.C. headquarters or its Denver field office. AAG Clark and appropriate Department leadership have been carefully reviewing all pertinent information surrounding the decision, including financial assessments that relate to ENRD’s budget, as well as the timing of discontinuing the lease.

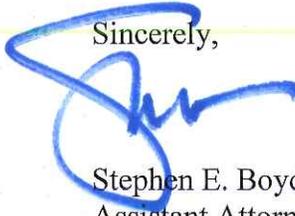
Based on updated cost information, the Department has determined that an early discontinuance of the commercial lease for the San Francisco field office by September 30 of this year, as contemplated by the October 2018 closure plan, is not in the best interests of ENRD. The Department is continuing to study the available information to determine whether the San Francisco field office should remain in its current location until its long-term lease expires in November 2020. Meanwhile, in the coming months, the Department will be exploring whether substitute office space can be secured in the San Francisco or northern California areas for ENRD’s San Francisco field office at a reasonable cost. If the Department determines that such space can be secured at reasonable cost in light of ENRD’s budget constraints (a determination ENRD is hoping that it can make, so that it can keep the field office in the area), then the office would not be closed.

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We want to emphasize that ENRD highly values the accomplished attorneys and staff in its San Francisco office and is encouraging all of them to remain with the Division. Moreover, ENRD does not expect any change in its affirmative or defensive case load as a result of whether it continues leasing office space in San Francisco. The Division's attorneys in Washington and the field offices handle cases throughout the country, not just those limited to the state, local, or regional jurisdictions near or in which they work.

We expect to update this response when we have additional information regarding this matter. Please do not hesitate to contact this office in the future regarding this or other matters.

Sincerely,



Stephen E. Boyd  
Assistant Attorney General

cc: The Honorable Jerry Moran  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science,  
and Related Agencies  
United States Senate

The Honorable Jeanne Shaheen  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science,  
and Related Agencies  
United States Senate

The Honorable José Serrano  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science,  
and Related Agencies  
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Robert Aderholt  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science,  
and Related Agencies  
U.S. House of Representatives