Print Form

Appendix C

Notice of Completion & Environmental Document Transmittal

Mail to: State Clearinghouse, P.O. Box 3044, Sacramento, CA 95812-3044 (916) 445-0613
For Hand Delivery/Street Address: 1400 Tenth Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

SCH #

Project Title: Paramount Farms, International, LLC El Dorado Pistachio Plant Expansion

Lead Agency: Regional Water Quality Control Board - Central Valley Reion
Contact Person: Katie Carpenter
Mailing Address: 1685 E Street
Phone: 559-445-5551
City: Fresno Zip: 93706
County: Fresno

Project Location: County: Fresno City/Nearest Community: Coalinga
Cross Streets: NE of South El Dorado Avenue and West Jayne Avenue Zip Code: 93210
Longitude/Latitude (degrees, minutes and seconds): 35 ° 46 ′ 17.39″ N / -119 ° 52 ′ 12.59″ W Total Acres: 800
Assessor's Parcel No.: 073-090-32S Section: 26 Twp.: 20S Range: 16E Base: MDB&M
Within 2 Miles: State Hwy #: Interstate 5 Waterways: Los Gatos Creek
Airports: none Railways: none Schools: none

Document Type:

CEQA: ☐ NOP ☐ Draft EIR
☐ Early Cons ☐ Supplement/Subsequent EIR
☐ Neg Dec (Prior SCH No.) _____
☒ Mit Neg Dec Other: _____

NEPA: ☐ NOI ☐ EA ☐ Draft EIS ☐ FONSI

Other: ☐ Joint Document ☐ Final Document ☐ Other: _____

Local Action Type:

☐ General Plan Update ☐ Specific Plan ☐ Rezone ☐ Annexation
☐ General Plan Amendment ☐ Master Plan ☐ Prezone ☐ Redevelopment
☐ General Plan Element ☐ Planned Unit Development ☐ Use Permit ☐ Coastal Permit
☐ Community Plan ☐ Site Plan ☐ Land Division (Subdivision, etc.) ☒ Other: WDRs

Development Type:

☐ Residential: Units _____ Acres _____
☐ Office: Sq.ft. _____ Acres _____ Employees _____
☐ Commercial: Sq.ft. _____ Acres _____ Employees _____
☐ Industrial: Sq.ft. _____ Acres _____ Employees _____
☐ Educational: _____
☐ Recreational: _____
☐ Water Facilities: Type _____ MGD _____

☐ Transportation: Type _____
☐ Mining: Mineral _____
☐ Power: Type _____ MW _____
☒ Waste Treatment: Type Industrial MGD 1.0
☐ Hazardous Waste: Type _____
☒ Other: Wastewater reuse on crops

Project Issues Discussed in Document:

☒ Aesthetic/Visual ☐ Fiscal ☒ Recreation/Parks ☐ Vegetation
☒ Agricultural Land ☒ Flood Plain/Flooding ☐ Schools/Universities ☒ Water Quality
☒ Air Quality ☐ Forest Land/Fire Hazard ☐ Septic Systems ☒ Water Supply/Groundwater
☒ Archeological/Historical ☒ Geologic/Seismic ☐ Sewer Capacity ☐ Wetland/Riparian
☒ Biological Resources ☒ Minerals ☒ Soil Erosion/Compaction/Grading ☐ Growth Inducement
☐ Coastal Zone ☒ Noise ☒ Solid Waste ☒ Land Use
☒ Drainage/Absorption ☒ Population/Housing Balance ☒ Toxic/Hazardous ☒ Cumulative Effects
☐ Economic/Jobs ☒ Public Services/Facilities ☒ Traffic/Circulation ☐ Other: _____

Present Land Use/Zoning/General Plan Designation:

AE-20 Exclusive Agriculture (20-acre minimum)

Project Description: *(please use a separate page if necessary)*

Paramount Farms International, LLC proposes to increase water use during hulling operations at its Pistachio Processing Plant at 39840 El Dorado Avenue near Coalinga in Fresno County. The increased water use will result in increased wastewater flows up to 1 million gallons per day. Wastewater generated during the hulling operations will be reused as supplemental irrigation water on approximately 600 acres of pistachio trees. No increase in production capacity is proposed. The project will involve trenching for installation of a new irrigation line to transfer wastewater to the new land application areas where it will be tied into the existing irrigation system.

Note: The State Clearinghouse will assign identification numbers for all new projects. If a SCH number already exists for a project (e.g. Notice of Preparation or previous draft document) please fill in.

Reviewing Agencies Checklist

Lead Agencies may recommend State Clearinghouse distribution by marking agencies below with and "**X**".
If you have already sent your document to the agency please denote that with an "**S**".

X	Air Resources Board		Office of Historic Preservation
	Boating & Waterways, Department of		Office of Public School Construction
	California Emergency Management Agency		Parks & Recreation, Department of
	California Highway Patrol		Pesticide Regulation, Department of
	Caltrans District #		Public Utilities Commission
	Caltrans Division of Aeronautics	S	Regional WQCB #5
	Caltrans Planning		Resources Agency
	Central Valley Flood Protection Board		Resources Recycling and Recovery, Department of
	Coachella Valley Mtns. Conservancy		S.F. Bay Conservation & Development Comm.
	Coastal Commission		San Gabriel & Lower L.A. Rivers & Mtns. Conservancy
	Colorado River Board		San Joaquin River Conservancy
	Conservation, Department of		Santa Monica Mtns. Conservancy
	Corrections, Department of		State Lands Commission
	Delta Protection Commission		SWRCB: Clean Water Grants
	Education, Department of	S	SWRCB: Water Quality
	Energy Commission		SWRCB: Water Rights
X	Fish & Game Region #IV		Tahoe Regional Planning Agency
	Food & Agriculture, Department of		Toxic Substances Control, Department of
	Forestry and Fire Protection, Department of	S	Water Resources, Department of
	General Services, Department of		
	Health Services, Department of		Other:
	Housing & Community Development		Other:
X	Native American Heritage Commission		

Local Public Review Period (to be filled in by lead agency)

Starting Date 24 September 2013 Ending Date 24 October 2013

Lead Agency (Complete if applicable):

Consulting Firm: RWQCB- Fresno
Address: 1685 E Street
City/State/Zip: Fresno, CA 93706
Contact: Katie Carpenter
Phone: 559-445-5116

Applicant: Paramount Farms International, LLC, Danial Lee
Address: 13646 Highway 33
City/State/Zip: Lost Hills, CA 93249
Phone: 661-391-3742

Signature of Lead Agency Representative: Tommie M. Wells **Date:** 9/17/13

Authority cited: Section 21083, Public Resources Code. Reference: Section 21161, Public Resources Code.

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
CENTRAL VALLEY REGION

RESOLUTION R5-2013-XXXX

ADOPTING A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION
AND
APPROVING AN INITIAL STUDY
FOR
PARAMOUNT FARMS INTERNATIONAL, LLC
EL DORADO PISTACHIO PROCESSING PLANT EXPANSION
AND
PARAMOUNT FARMING COMPANY, LLC
FRESNO COUNTY

DRAFT

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region (Central Valley Water Board) finds:

1. The Central Valley Water Board proposes to adopt Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) for the discharge/reuse of pistachio processing wastewater by Paramount Farms International, LLC (hereafter Paramount) from its El Dorado Pistachio Processing Plant (Plant) at 39840 El Dorado Avenue near Coalinga in Fresno County to approximately 600 acres of farmland. The farmland is owned by Paramount's sister company Paramount Farming Company, LLC.

2. The Central Valley Water Board is the lead agency for the project in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act and has conducted an Initial Study in accordance with Title 14, California Code of Regulation, Section 15063, entitled *Guidelines for the Implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act*.

3. The Discharger's Plant is an existing facility that currently discharges pistachio processing wastewater to approximately 80 acres of farmland adjacent to the Plant. The Plant and land application area are located in Sections 26, Township 20 South, Range 16 East, Mount Diablo Base & Meridian, parcels 073-090-32S and 073-090-04S.

4. The Discharger submitted a Report of Waste Discharge to increase its seasonal average discharge from up to 0.35 million gallons per day (mgd) to 1 mgd and expand its land application area to include 600 acres of farmland planted with pistachio trees. The expanded land application area includes parcels 073-070-22S, 073-070-24S, 085-030-18S, and 085-320-26S in Section 36 of Township 20 South, Range 16 East and Sections 1 and 12 of Township 21 South, Range 16 East, Mount Diablo Base and Meridian.

5. Copies of the Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration were transmitted to or made available to all agencies and persons known to be interested in these matters.

6. The Central Valley Water Board considered all testimony and evidence at a hearing held on XX December 2013 in Rancho Cordova, California and good cause was found to approve the Initial Study and adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration.

7. Central Valley Water Board staff drafted WDRs that incorporate the various findings described in the Initial Study. The proposed WDRs contain discharge prohibitions, flow limitations, discharge specifications, and land application area specifications, developed to protect the beneficial uses of underlying groundwater and prevent conditions of nuisance.

8. Along with the WDRs, the Board will issue a Monitoring and Reporting Program that will ensure that the project will not create significant effects to the environment and that all of the mitigation measures incorporated into the WDRs will be implemented. This Monitoring and Reporting Program will; therefore, satisfy the requirements of Public Resources Code section 21081.6(a)(1).

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, pursuant to Section 21080, et seq., of the California Public Resources Code, the Central Valley Water Board, after considering the entire record, including written and oral testimony at the hearing:

1. Approves the Initial Study and adopts the Mitigated Negative Declaration for the adoption of WDRs and Monitoring and Reporting Program for the discharge/reuse of pistachio processing wastewater by Paramount Farms, Inc., to the approximately 600-acre land application area.

2. Finds the record before the Central Valley Water Board contains no substantial evidence that a fair argument has been made that the project may have a significant effect on the environment.

I, PAMELA C. CREEDON, Executive Officer, do hereby certify the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region on XX December 2013.

PAMELA C. CREEDON, Executive Officer

DRAFT

PARAMOUNT FARMS INTERNATIONAL, LLC
EL DORADO PISTACHIO PROCESSING PLANT EXPANSION PROJECT
AND PARAMOUNT FARMING COMPANY, LLC

CEQA INITIAL STUDY
AND MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

17 September 2013

Prepared by:

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY
CONTROL BOARD
CENTRAL VALLEY REGION
1685 E Street
Fresno, California 93706
(559) 445-5116

TABLE OF CONTENTS

MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION 1
PROJECT SUMMARY 3
PROJECT DESCRIPTION 4
BACKGROUND 4
PROJECT DETAILS 4
PURPOSE 6
SOURCES 6
INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST FORM 8
I. AESTHETICS. 8
II. AGRICULTURE RESOURCES. 8
III. AIR QUALITY. 9
IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES. 10
V. CULTURAL RESOURCES. 11
VI. GEOLOGY AND SOILS 12
VII. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS 13
VIII. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY. 14
IX. LAND USE AND PLANNING. 18
X. MINERAL RESOURCES. 18
XI. NOISE. 18
XII. POPULATION AND HOUSING. 19
XIII. PUBLIC SERVICES. 20
XIV. RECREATION. 20
XV. TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC 20
XVI. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS. 21
XVII. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE 22
ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED 23
DETERMINATION 24

FIGURES

Figure 1. Project Location 7
Figure 2. FEMA Flood Zones 17

MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

Project Title. El Dorado Pistachio Processing Plant Expansion Project

Project Location. The El Dorado Pistachio Processing Plant (Plant) is at 39840 El Dorado Avenue near Coalinga in Fresno County. The Plant and land application areas are between the Guijarral Hills Oil Field and Interstate 5.

Summary Description of Project. The Plant seasonally process and hulls pistachio nuts during the pistachio season from late August through October. The proposed expansion would allow the Plant to increase its average wastewater flows for the season from 0.35 million gallons per day to as much as 1 million gallons per day with a daily maximum flow of 2.5 million gallons per day and a total annual flow of 42 million gallons. The increased flows would improve hulling operations and provide better quality control within the Plant. No increase in production capacity is proposed. To handle the increased flows the associated wastewater application areas would also be expanded to include approximately 600 acres of pistachio trees. The project will involve trenching for installation of a new irrigation line to send wastewater to the new land application areas where it will be tied into the existing irrigation system for reuse.

Mitigation Measures. The following summary of mitigation measures shall be incorporated into the project.

1. Air Quality
    a. Prior to any ground disturbing activities, contact the San Joaquin Air Pollution Control District to ensure compliance with requirements of Regulation VIII for Fugitive Dust Control.

2. Biological Resources
    a. Conduct protocol level surveys in advanced of trenching activities to install the new irrigation line and contact DFW and the United States Federal Wildlife Service to ensure appropriate measures will be taken to avoid or mitigate potential impacts to special status or endangered species.

3. Cultural Resources
    a. Prior to any ground disturbing activities contact representatives on the Native American Contact List included in Attachment A to get their recommendations concerning the proposed project.

    b. In the event cultural resources are unearthed during trenching activities, all work shall be halted in the area of the find, and an Archeologist and the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) shall be called to evaluate the findings and make any necessary mitigation measures.

4. Hydrology and Water Quality Resources
    a. The Waste Discharge Requirements would implement the following mitigation measures to mitigate potential impacts:

        - Limit the average seasonal wastewater flow to no more than 1 million gallons per day and the maximum daily flow to no more than 2.5 million gallons per day and set a total annual flow limit of 42 million gallons per year.

- Require application of wastewater at agronomic rates for nitrogen and hydraulic loading and set a cycle average BOD loading rate of 100 lbs/acre/day for applications of wastewater to the land application areas.
- Prohibit the discharge of wastewater to the land application areas during and within 24-hours of a storm event of measurable precipitation or when soils become saturated.
- Require proper management of solids and annual soil sampling within the Solids Reuse Area.
- Within 180 days of adoption of the Waste Discharge Requirements, the project proponent must have prepared and begun implementation of a salinity control plan and wastewater and nutrient management plan.

Findings: It is hereby determined that, based on information contained in the attached Initial Study, the project would not have a significant adverse effect on the environment. The mitigation measures above are necessary to avoid or reduce to a less-than-significant level the project's potential significant effects on the environment. These mitigation measures are hereby incorporated and fully made part of this Mitigated Negative Declaration.

PROJECT SUMMARY

1. Project title:
   El Dorado Pistachio Processing Plant Expansion Project

2. Lead agency name and address:
   Regional Water Quality Control Board,
   Central Valley Region
   1685 E Street
   Fresno, California 93706
   Phone: (559) 445-5116
   FAX: (559) 445-5910

3. Contact person and phone number:
   Ms. Katie Carpenter, (559) 445-5551

4. Project location:
   The El Dorado Pistachio Processing Plant (Plant) is at 39840 El Dorado Avenue near Coalinga in Fresno County. The approximately 150-acre property including the Plant and Solids Reuse Area is bound on the East by El Dorado Avenue, the West by the Coalinga Canal, and to the north and south by agricultural land and open range land. The discharge areas (land application areas) include 4 parcels (APN's 073-070-22S, 073-070-24S, 085-030-18S, and 085-320-26S) for a total of about 600 acres in Section 36 in Township 20 South, Range 17 East, and Sections 1 and 12 in Township 21 South, Range 16 East MDB&M.

5. Project sponsor's name and address:
   Paramount Farms International, LLC
   13646 Highway 33
   Lost Hills, CA 93249

6. General plan designation:
   Intensive Agriculture

7. Zoning:
   Exclusive Agriculture (AE 20), minimum 20 acres

8. Description of project:
   The Plant seasonally processes, stores, and sorts pistachio nuts. Process wastewater at the Plant consists of hulling water and equipment wash down. Discharges from the Plant have been regulated by Waste Discharge Requirement (WDRs) 97-131, but revised WDRs are required to reflect the proposed increase in flows and expansion of the land application areas. The proposed increase in flows would allow for improved hulling operations and better quality control within the Plant. The associated wastewater discharge would be to an existing unlined pond prior to reuse for irrigation on about 600 acres of pistachio trees. The project will involve trenching for installation of a new irrigation line to send the wastewater to the new land application areas where it can be tied into the existing irrigation system.

9. Surrounding land uses and setting:
   Surrounding land is generally agricultural or open land. There are four mobile homes directly south of the Plant used for employee housing (currently two are occupied), and the Guijarral Hills Oil Filed is immediately south and west of the Plant. Primary crops grown in the area include pistachios, almonds, field, and fodder crops.

10. Other public agencies whose approval is required:
    None required. The Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board will act as the lead agency as it is preparing Waste Discharge Requirements to regulate the discharge of wastewater to land.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Paramount Farms International, LLC (Paramount) owns and operates the El Dorado Pistachio Processing Plant (Plant) at 39840 El Dorado Avenue near Coalinga in Fresno County (see Figure 1). The Plant hulls and processes pistachio nuts during the 30 to 45 day processing season and discharges process wastewater to land for reuse on crops.

BACKGROUND

The discharge of wastewater is currently regulated by Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) Order 97-131. In 2005 Paramount acquired the Plant from Gold Coast Pistachio, Inc. Following acquisition of the Plant, Paramount determined that the land application area was insufficient to handle the discharge and that the volume of water in use at the Plant was inadequate to meet quality control requirements. In November 2010, Paramount submitted a Report of Waste Discharge (RWD) to increase flow, and to expand the available land application areas. A revised RWD and addendums to further expand the land application areas were submitted in May and June of 2013.

The proposed increase in flows and expansion of the land application areas requires revised Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) pursuant to California Water Code Section 13263. The Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) action to adopt revised WDRs regulating the proposed discharge requires a California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) determination. The Central Valley Water Board will act as the lead agency in certification of the final environmental document prior to its adoption of revised WDRs.

PROJECT DETAILS

Wastewater from the Plant consists of hulling water and equipment wash down generated during the pistachio processing season. Wastewater, generated from the cleaning and hulling process, is captured and discharged to an existing unlined settling pond, with an operational capacity of about 10.9 million gallons. Hulls, shells, and skins removed during the hulling process are discharged along with the process wastewater to the settling pond.

According to the RWD, Paramount would increase its average seasonal flow from 0.35 million gallons per day (mgd) to 1 mgd (about a 65% increase), with a maximum daily flow of 2.5 mgd and an annual flow of 42 million gallons. To handle increased flows, Paramount would expand its land application areas to include four pistachio orchards owned by Paramount Farming Company, LLC, a sister company of Paramount. The four pistachio orchards, with a combined net acreage of about 600 acres, include parcels 073-070-22S, 073-070-24S, 085-030-18S, and 085-320-26S.

At the proposed annual flow of 42 million gallons per year, process wastewater applied to the pistachio orchards will account for less than 10% of the crop's irrigation demand. Supplemental irrigation water for the orchards is primarily surface water. On leaving the settling pond, the wastewater will pass through a series of sand filters to remove fine particulates and be applied to the pistachio orchards via a micro drip irrigation system.

The Zapato Chino Canyon Creek, an ephemeral stream, crosses a portion of the pistachio orchards where process wastewater will be applied. FEMA maps show that this area lies within Flood Zone A, an area subject to potential flooding though no baseline flood level has been determined. Paramount Farming Company has implemented management controls including 20-foot setbacks from the creek bed, drip irrigation, and cessation of irrigation during or within 24 hours of a storm event to minimize potential impacts to the creek. With the discharge of wastewater to the fields outside of the normal rain season and implementation of the management controls specified above, the potential for wastewater runoff into the creek is minimal.

Solids, consisting principally of hulls, shells, and skins will be removed from the bottom of the settling pond following the harvest, at least every other year, and will be spread and incorporated into the soil on the existing application area north of the Plant (referred to as the Solids Reuse Area). A winter fodder crop will be planted to take advantage of the moisture in the hulls and the winter rain season.

Groundwater Conditions

According to the Westlands Water District Well Survey for 2012, first-encountered groundwater in the area occurs at about 350 to 400 feet below ground surface (bgs). Regional groundwater flow is to the northeast toward the valley floor. The upper groundwater zone above the Corcoran Clay is unconfined or semi-confined consisting of alternating layers of sands and clays.

There are few wells in the area. Groundwater in the area is of poor quality with respect to salinity, typical of the west side of the San Joaquin Valley. Published data for groundwater wells in the area show high concentrations of saline constituents (largely sodium and sulfate). The *Water Quality Portal* database provided by the United States Geological Survey, National Water Quality Monitoring Council, and United States Environmental Protection Agency identified five wells in the vicinity of the Plant and Reuse Areas. Samples collected from these wells from 1951 and 1968 reported an EC of 1,368 to 2,860 umhos/cm, TDS of 878 to 2,240 mg/L, chloride of 46 to 160 mg/L, sodium of 230 to 440 mg/L, sulfate of 430 to 1,300 mg/L, and nitrate as NO_3 of 2 to 65 mg/L. Most of these wells were constructed to depths of 1,200 to 2,000 feet bgs. Only one well was constructed to a depth of less than 500 feet bgs. This well sampled in 1951 had the highest reported concentrations for EC and TDS at 2,860 umhos/cm and 2,240 mg/L, respectively, and nitrate as NO_3 in excess of the primary MCL at 65 mg/L.

PURPOSE

This Initial Study addresses Paramount's proposal to increase wastewater flows at its El Dorado Pistachio Processing Plant and to expand the land available for reuse of wastewater.

Section 15063 of the CEQA Guidelines provides for preparation of Initial Studies. The purpose of an Initial Study is to:

1. Provide the lead agency with information to use as the basis for deciding whether to prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) or Negative Declaration.

2. Enable an applicant or lead agency to modify a project, mitigating adverse impacts before an EIR is prepared, thereby enabling a project to qualify for a Negative Declaration.

3. Assist in the preparation of an EIR, if one is required.

4. Facilitate environmental assessment early in the design of a project.

5. Provide documentation of the factual basis for the finding in a Negative Declaration that a project will not have a significant effect on the environment.

6. Eliminate unnecessary EIRs.

7. Determine whether a previously prepared EIR could be used with the project.

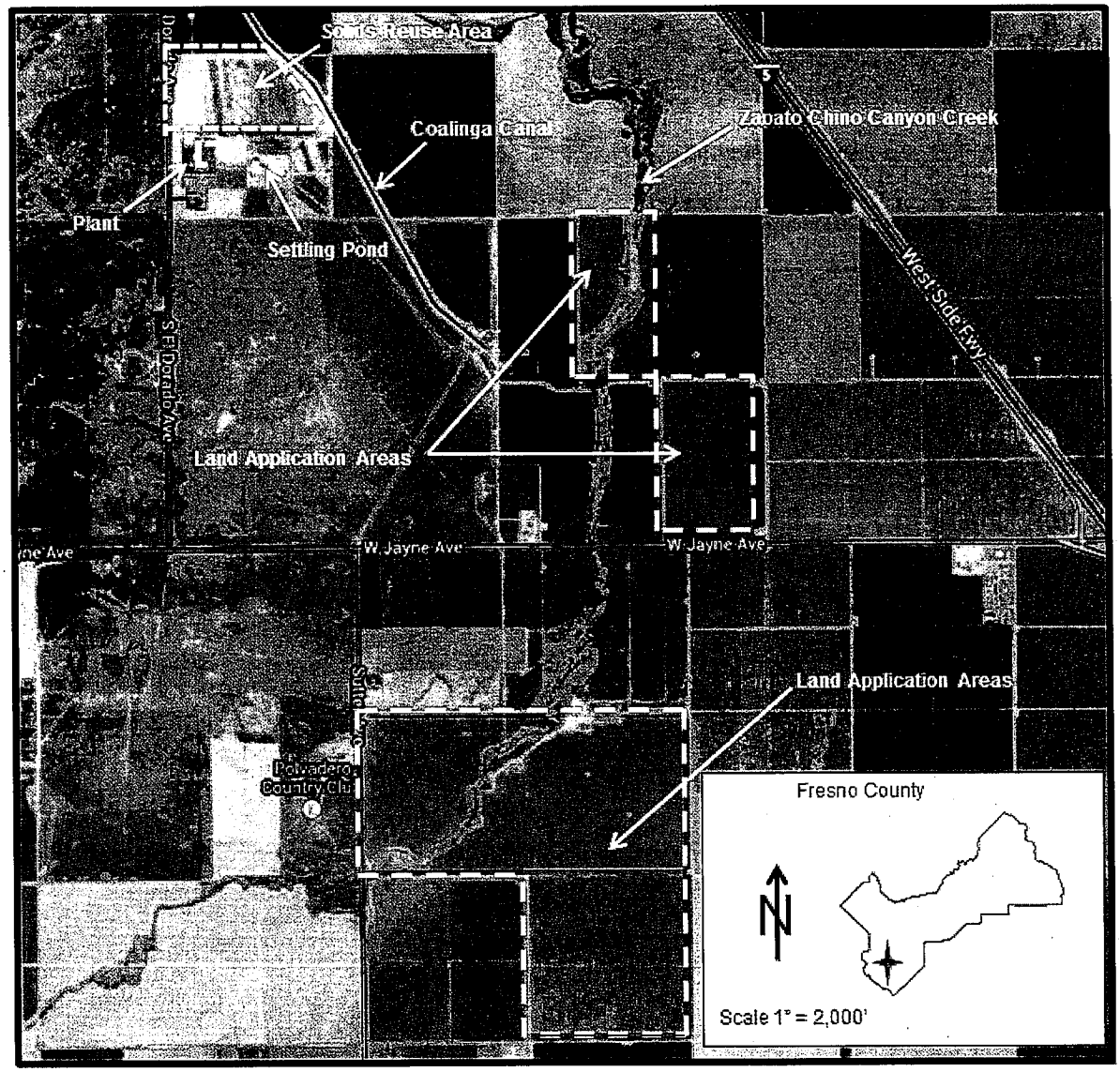
SOURCES

The primary sources of information for this Initial Study are the Report of Waste Discharge, self-monitoring reports, and supplemental data provided by Paramount. The Report of Waste Discharge, self-monitoring reports, and supplemental data are part of public record and are available for review at the Central Valley Water Board's Fresno office (address below).

California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region
1685 E Street
Fresno, California 93706

Other sources of information include informal consultation with other agencies and published data. Additional information was obtained by Central Valley Water Board staff from the Fresno County Planning Department, Native American Heritage Commission, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District.

Figure 1. Project Location



INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST FORM

The following discussion provides an evaluation of the environmental factors listed in the environmental checklist form (Appendix A of the CEQA Guidelines), which may be potentially affected by the project. A brief explanation is provided for each factor in the order presented in the environmental checklist form.

I. AESTHETICS.

Would the project:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	☐	☐	☐	☒

I. a) - d) Land use associated with the project is visually consistent with existing uses. The project would not affect a scenic vista, damage scenic resources, degrade existing visual character or quality, or create a new source of light or glare.

II. AGRICULTURE RESOURCES.

Would the project:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use?	☐	☐	☐	☒

II. a) - c) The site would not be converted to a non-agricultural use. The proposed land application areas are currently developed agricultural land and would be operated as such.

Crop management is a critical factor in operating and maintaining a wastewater reuse system. Healthy and productive crops are required to remove nutrients as part of the treatment of applied wastewater. Much of the crop management is accomplished in the same way for water reuse sites as conventional agricultural operations. Discharging wastewater to the farmland provides a portion of the crops needs for water and nutrients. Supplemental water and fertilizers would be added as required to maintain a healthy crop.

III. AIR QUALITY.

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?	☐	☐	☐	☒

III. a) - e) The San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (District) has pre-calculated the emissions on a large number of and types of projects. Construction activities associated with installation of the new irrigation line from the settling pond to the expanded land application area could have the potential to affect air quality. As such, Paramount will need to contact the San Joaquin Air Pollution Control District and comply with requirements of Regulation VIII for Fugitive Dust Control.

III. d) - e) The project should not expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations or create objectionable odors that affect a substantial number of people. There are no known sensitive receptors within the vicinity of the proposed land application areas. New WDRs, to be issued by the Central Valley Water Board, would require that any objectionable odors originating at the Plant and land application areas not be perceivable beyond the limits of the property.

IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES.

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	☐	☒	☐	☐
b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or US Fish and Wildlife Service?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	☐	☐	☐	☒
f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒

IV. a) – f) Staff contacted the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) for informal consultation (Pub. Res. Code, § 15063, sudb. (g).

In general, the discharge of pistachio processing wastewater for irrigation on existing farmland would not impact any sensitive or special status biological species, riparian habitats, sensitive natural communities, federally protected wetlands, or interfere with the movement of native or migratory wildlife species. In addition, the project would not conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources. No significant wildlife impacts are expected. The project property is currently already used for the purpose proposed in the project, with the difference of irrigation water being supplemented with diluted pistachio processing wastewater.

According to the project proponent, a new 12-inch irrigation line will be constructed to send the wastewater from the settling pond to the new irrigation areas. DFW staff indicated that ground disturbing activities associated with construction of the new irrigation line may have a potential limited impact on special status or protected species. Specifically, the Blunt-nosed Leopard Lizard, San Joaquin Kit Fox, San Joaquin Antelope Squirrel, Swainson's Hawk, and Burrowing Owl.

To mitigate potential impacts to special status or protected species, DFW recommends that multiple protocol level surveys be conducted by a qualified wildlife biologist in accordance with approved survey methodologies well in advanced of any ground disturbing activities. Prior to initiating any ground disturbing activities, the project proponent will need to contact DFW and the United States Federal Wildlife Service to ensure appropriate measures will be taken to avoid or mitigate potential incidence of "Take". "Take" means to hunt, pursue, catch, capture, or kill or attempt to hunt, pursue, catch, capture, or kill (DFW Code, Section 86).

For nesting birds, including the Swainson's Hawk and Burrowing Owl, ground disturbing activities should take place outside of the breeding season, which generally runs from February 15 through August 31. If project activities cannot feasibly avoid the breading season, DFG recommends that beginning no more than 15 days prior to construction activities, bird surveys should be conducted to detect any protected native birds utilizing the area. The surveys should be conducted by a qualified wildlife biologist with experience in conducting breeding bird surveys. A no-disturbance buffer zone should be clearly delineated on the ground around active bird nests and/or burrows. If the project proponent proposes to evict burrowing owls that may be present, DFW recommends passive relocation during the non-breeding season.

Given the limited scope and duration of the proposed ground disturbing activities, these mitigation measures should ensure the project should have a less than significant impact on biological resources.

V. CULTURAL RESOURCES.

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in Section 15064.5?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to Section 15064.5?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	☐	☐	☐	☒

d) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?	☐	☐	☒	☐

V. a) - d) The project is currently in agricultural use and is located in an area zoned for agricultural production. No cultural resources impacts are expected as the land is already in agricultural use.

The project is not within an area of significant geological or historical resources. The Native American Heritage commission (NAHC) recommended Paramount contact representatives of Native American Tribes from the project area to obtain their recommendations concerning construction activities associated with installation of the new irrigation pipeline. Although no impacts on archeological resources are expected, in the event that cultural resources are unearthed during grading or construction for the new irrigation pipeline, all work shall be halted in the area of the find, and an Archeologist and the NAHC shall be called to evaluate the findings and make any necessary recommendations.

VI. GEOLOGY AND SOILS.

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:	☐	☐	☐	☒
i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.	☐	☐	☐	☒
ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?	☐	☐	☐	☒
iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?	☐	☐	☐	☒
iv) Landslides?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial risks to life or property?	☐	☐	☐	☒

e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?	☐	☐	☐	☒

VI. a) The project site is not within a Alquist-Priolo Special Studies Zone designated by the California Department of Conservation, Division of Mines and Geology.

VI. b) - c) The project is located on flat land and is not susceptible to landslide hazards. Therefore, implementation of the proposed project would not expose persons or structures to landslide-related risks. Agricultural activities would introduce organic material and would not result in soil erosion or loss of topsoil.

VI. d) The USGS soil survey identifies soils at the Plant and land application areas as primarily Polvadero sandy loam, Excelsior sandy loam, and Westhaven loam, which are likely expansive soils as defined in the Uniform Building Code. However, the magnitude of soil expansion is anticipated to have less than significant impact.

VI. e) The project has an operating septic system and leachfield. Fresno County is overseeing the septic system to ensure it complies with County ordinance, which implements the Water Quality Control Plan for the Tulare Lake Basin.

VII. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS. Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two	☐	☐	☐	☒

miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?				
f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?	☐	☐	☐	☒
g) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒
h) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands?	☐	☐	☐	☒

VII. a) - h) Food processing requires regular equipment sanitation and cleaning. Cleaning chemicals in use at the Plant include relatively small volumes of potassium hydroxide, sodium hypochlorite, sodium silicate, and sodium tripolyphosphate. All cleaning chemicals used at the Plant must be FDA-approved for use on food processing equipment. Hazards associated with these chemicals are minimal in the volumes and concentrations used at the Plant. The project is not anticipated to create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials. The project does not create hazardous wastes, nor does it have any other characteristics that could create hazards to the public or the environment.

VIII. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY.

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?	☐	☒	☐	☐
b) Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level which would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site?	☐	☐	☐	☒

d)	Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e)	Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned storm water drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?	☐	☐	☐	☒
f)	Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?	☐	☒	☐	☐
g)	Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map?	☐	☐	☐	☒
h)	Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures which would impede or redirect flood flows?	☐	☐	☐	☒
i)	Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss injury or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam?	☐	☐	☐	☒
j)	Inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?	☐	☐	☐	☒

VIII. a) & f) The discharge from the Plant and its potential to degrade groundwate will be consistent with the State Water Resources Control Board Resolution 68-16 ("Policy with Respect to Maintaining High Quality Waters of the State"), commonly referred to as the Antidegradation Policy, since; (a) the discharge is not expected to cause unreasonable degradation, result in water quality less than that prescribed in state and regional policies, or unreasonably affect present and anticipated beneficial uses, (b) Paramount implements best practicable treatment and control (BPTC) to minimize the potential for degradation, and (c) the limited degradation is of maximum benefit to people of the State.

Given the lithology in the area with depth-to-groundwater at greater than 350 feet, the short processing season, and implementation of BPTC including reuse of wastewater on crops and blending with higher quality irrigation water, the discharge is not expected to cause unreasonable groundwater degradation.

Mitigation measures to be incorporated into the project to further limit potential water quality impacts include: effluent flow limits, pond operation and maintenance requirements, land application area specifications, solids handling requirements, groundwater quality limits, and provisions to prepare and implement a Salinity Control Plan and Wastewater and Nutrient Management Plan.

VIII. b) Source water for the Plant consists of surface water from the California Aqueduct provided by the Westlands Water District. The project is not anticipated to

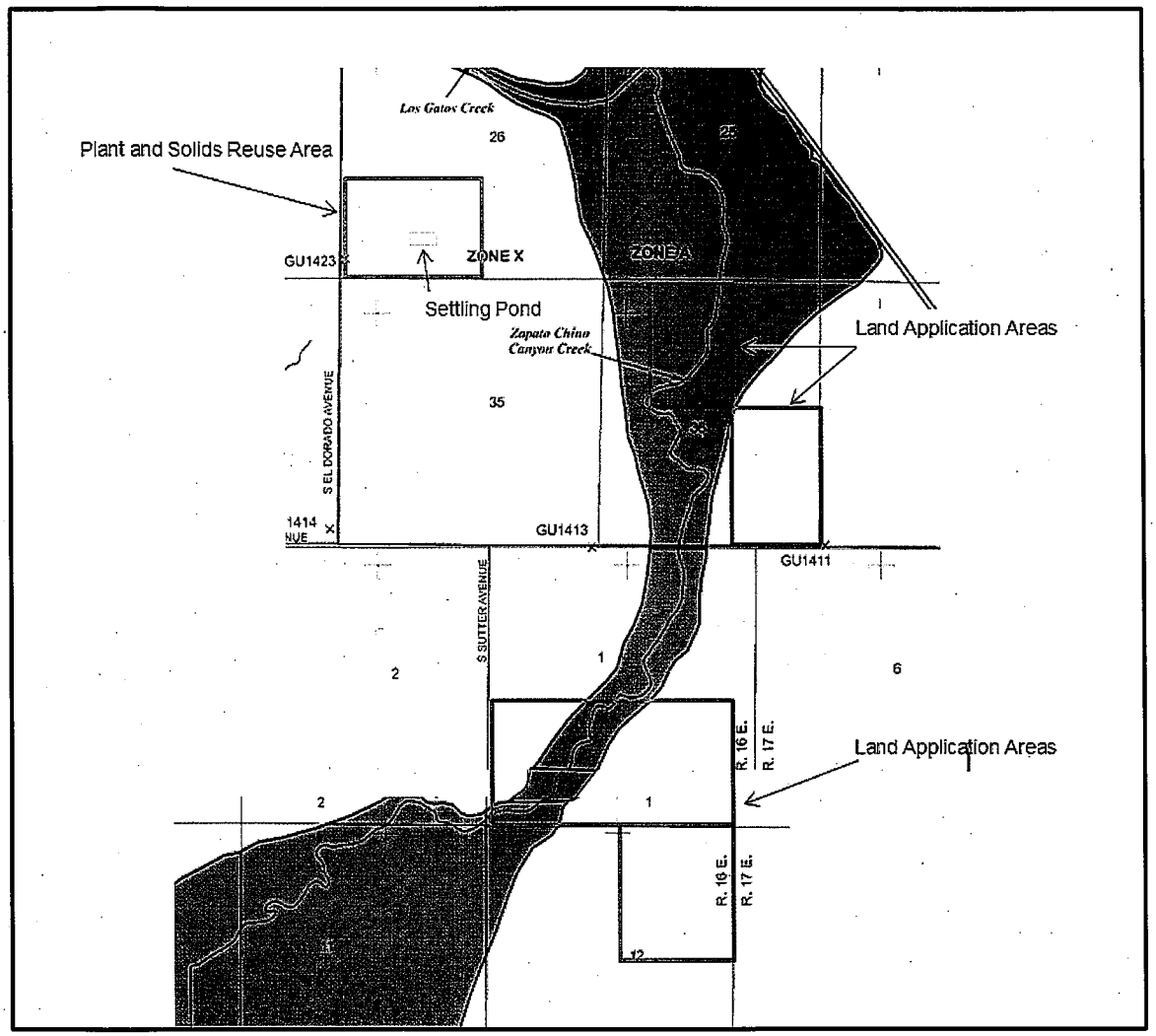
deplete groundwater supplies or affect groundwater recharge. The increased water usage at the Plant will eventually be discharged to cropland to replace irrigation water on existing agricultural land in the area.

VIII. c) - e) The project would involve reuse of process wastewater in place of irrigation water on existing agricultural properties. The quantity of water applied would be based on agronomic demand. No offsite discharge of surface runoff would occur. There would also not be any increase in erosion or siltation onsite or offsite. Existing drainage control structures would be sufficient to contain and control drainage.

VIII. g) - i) The project does not involve placement of housing or structures. The project would not place structures within a 100-year flood hazard area which would impede or redirect flood flows. Figure 2 below is a map depicting the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) flood hazard areas in the vicinity of the project area. The Plant and settling pond are outside of the 100-year flood zone. A portion of the land application area does lie within a 100-year flood hazard area. To avoid discharge of contaminated runoff from the land application areas, the Waste Discharge Requirements would prohibit the project proponent from discharging during or within 24 hours of a storm event of measurable precipitation or when soils become saturated.

VIII. j) The project is not in an area subject to inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow.

Figure 2. FEMA Flood Zones



Source: Flood Insurance Maps 06019C3250H and 06019C3425H (February, 2009)

IX. LAND USE AND PLANNING.

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Physically divide an established community?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to the general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒

IX. a) - c) The project would not divide an established community, conflict with land use plans, or conflict with a habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan.

X. MINERAL RESOURCES.

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally-important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒

X. a)- b) The project would not involve the loss of a mineral resource.

XI. NOISE.

Would the project result in:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise	☐	☐	☐	☒

levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?

d) A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	☐	☐	☐	☒
f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	☐	☐	☐	☒

XI. a) - d) Since the project would not increase production capacity at the Plant or result in a significant change in existing agricultural operations within the land application areas, no substantial permanent noise issues associated with operation of the project are expected. Impacts associated with agricultural operations are less-than-significant due to the lack of sensitive receptors in the vicinity of the project site.

XI. e) - f) The project is not within an airport land use plan or in the vicinity of a private airstrip.

XII. POPULATION AND HOUSING.

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by processing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Displace substantial numbers of existing housing necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	☐	☐	☐	☒

XII. a) - c) The project would not induce population growth, displace existing housing, or displace substantial numbers of people.

XIII. PUBLIC SERVICES.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services:	☐	☐	☐	☒
Fire protection?	☐	☐	☐	☒
Police protection?	☐	☐	☐	☒
Schools?	☐	☐	☐	☒
Parks?	☐	☐	☐	☒
Other public facilities?	☐	☐	☐	☒

XIII. a) The project would not result in the need for new or physically altered governmental facilities.

XIV. RECREATION.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the Plant would occur or be accelerated?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?	☐	☐	☐	☒

XIV. a) - b) The project would not affect the use of existing recreational facilities, does not include recreational facilities, nor does it require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities.

XV. TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC.

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Cause an increase in traffic which is substantial in relation to the existing traffic load and capacity of the street system (i.e., result in substantial increase in either the number of vehicle trips, the volume to capacity ratio on roads, or	☐	☐	☒	☐

congestion at intersections)?

b) Exceed, either individually or cumulatively, a level of service standard established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) Result in inadequate emergency access?	☐	☐	☐	☒
f) Result in inadequate parking capacity?	☐	☐	☐	☒
g) Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation (e.g., bus turnouts, bicycle racks)?	☐	☐	☐	☒

XV. a) - g) The project would not substantially increase the number of new vehicle trips or change air traffic pattern. The project would also not result in inadequate emergency access or parking capacity, or conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation.

The proposed land application areas are existing agricultural properties requiring the use of farm equipment for planting, harvesting, and management of the crops. No changes are proposed.

XVI. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS.

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?	☐	☒	☐	☐
b) Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or the expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or	☐	☐	☐	☒

expanded entitlements needed?

e) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?	☐	☐	☐	☒
f) Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?	☐	☐	☐	☒
g) Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	☐	☐	☐	☒

XVI. a) The Central Valley Water Board would issue WDRs to regulate the discharge of wastewater on the project site. A monitoring program would be adopted with the revised WDRs requiring the performance of the land application areas to be monitored and to assure that compliance limits would be met. If necessary, corrective action measures can be implemented by the project proponent. With the mitigation measures included to address potential impacts from the Water Quality section, no significant impacts are anticipated.

XVI. b) The project would not result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities.

XVI. c) - d) The project would have no impact on storm drainage or water supply facilities.

XVII. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?	☐	☒	☐	☐
b) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	☐	☐	☐	☒

XVII. a) The project has very limited potential to adversely affect the environment. With the mitigation measures included to address potential impacts from the Water Quality section, no significant impacts are anticipated.

XVII. b) - c) The project does not significantly contribute to cumulative impacts, nor would substantial adverse effects occur on human beings.

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED

The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project:

□ Aesthetics	□ Agricultural Resources	x Air Quality
x Biological Resources	x Cultural Resources	□ Geology/Soils
□ Hazards & Hazardous Materials	x Hydrology/Water Quality	□ Land Use/Planning
□ Mineral Resources	□ Noise	□ Population/Housing
□ Public Services	□ Recreation	x Transportation/Traffic
x Utilities/Service Systems	□ Mandatory Findings of Significance	

DETERMINATION

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

□ I find that the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.

x I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.

□ I find that the proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.

□ I find that the proposed project MAY have a "potentially significant impact" or "potentially significant unless mitigated" impact on the environment, but at least one effect 1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and 2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. An ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.

□ I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION pursuant to applicable standards. And (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project, nothing further is required.

Signature

9/18/13
Date

Lonnie Wass, Supervising Water Resource Control Engineer
Printed name

ATTACHMENT A – NATIVE AMERICAN CONTACT LIST

Big Sandy Rancheria of Mono Indians
Liz Hutchins Kipp, Chairperson
P.O. Box 337/37302
Auberry, CA 93602
Western Mono
ck@bigsandyrancheria.com
559-855-4003
559-855-4129 fax

Cold Springs Rancheria of Mono Indians
Robert Marquez, Chairperson
P.O. Box 209
Tollhouse, CA 93667
Mono
559-855-5043
559-855-4445 fax

Table Mountain Rancheria
Bob Pennell, Cultural Resources Director
P.O. Box 410
Friant, CA 93626
Yokuts
559-325-0351
559-217-9718 cell
559-325-0394 FAX

Dumna Wo-Wah Tribal Government
Robert Ledger Sr., Tribal Chairperson
2216 East Hammond Street
Fresno, CA 93602
Dumna/Foothill, Mono
ledgerrobert@ymail.com
559-519-1742 office

Santa Rosa Tachi Rancheria
Lalo Franco, Cultural Coordinator
P.O. Box 8
Lemoore, CA 93245
Tachi, Tache, Yokut
559-924-1278 – Ext 5
559-924-3583 FAX

Kings River Choinumni Farm Tribe
John Davis, Chairman
1064 Oxford Avenue
Clovis, CA 93612
Foothill Yokuts, Choinumni
559-307-6430

Dunlap Band of Mono Historical Preservation
Mandy Marine, Chairperson
P.O. Box 18
Dunlap, CA 93621
Mono
Mandy_marine@hotmail.com
559-274-1705

Wuksache Indian Tribe/Eshorn Valley Band
Kenneth Woodrow, Chairperson
1179 Rock Haven Ct.
Salinas, CA 93906
Foothill Yokuts, Mono, Wuksache
Kwood8934@aoll.com
831-443-9702

Chowchilla Tribe of Yokuts
Jerry Brown
10553 N. Rice Road
Fresno, CA 93720
North Valley Yokuts
559-434-3160