

# County of Fresno

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND PLANNING STEVEN E. WHITE, DIRECTOR

May 6, 2019

State Clearinghouse Office of Planning and Research Attn: Sheila Brown 1400 Tenth Street, Room 212 Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Ms. Brown:

Subject: State Clearinghouse Review of Proposed Negative Declaration for Initial Study

Application No. 7584 (CalCom Energy on behalf of Pappas Ranch LLC,

Friendship LLC, and California Trade LLC)

Enclosed Please find the following documents:

1. Notice of Completion/Reviewing Agencies Checklist

- 2. Notice of Intent to Adopt a Negative Declaration
- 3. Fifteen (15) hard copies of Draft Initial Study, Draft Negative Declaration (ND), and Project Routing
- 4. One (1) electronic copy of the Draft Initial Study, Draft Negative Declaration (ND), and Project Routing

We request that you distribute the documents to appropriate state agencies for review as provided for in Section 15073 of the CEQA Guidelines, and that the review be completed within the normal 30-day review period. Please transmit any document to my attention at the below listed address or to <a href="mailto:eahmad@co.fresno.ca.us">eahmad@co.fresno.ca.us</a>

Sincerely.

Ejaz Ahmad, Planner

**Development Services and Capital Projects Division** 

EA:

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**Enclosures** 

#### **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	#		

•		•	L.				
Project Title: Initial Study No.	o. 7584 (CalCom Energy on be	ehalf of Pappas F					
Lead Agency: County of Fresr			Contact Person: Ejaz	ijaz Ahmad			
Mailing Address: 2220 Tulare S	Street, Sixth Floor	-	Phone: (559) 600-4	204			
City: Fresno		Zip: <u>93721</u>	County: Fresno				
Project Location: County: Fre							
	esno-Coalinga Road (SR 145)						
Longitude/Latitude (degrees, mir	nutes and seconds):°	′″N/	°′″ W Tota	al Acres: Five			
Assessor's Parcel No.: 060-140-	60S; 065-020-37S	Section: 4 & 33 Twp.: 19S&18S Range: 16E Base: Mt. D					
Within 2 Miles: State Hwy #:		Waterways:	Waterways:				
		Railways: -	Scho	chools:			
Document Type:		WHEN SHIPE SHIPE SHIPE SHIPE		NAME WASHE SHOOT NAME WASHE WASHE SHOOT SHOOT SHOOT SHOOT			
CEQA: NOP Early Cons Neg Dec	☐ Draft EIR ☐ Supplement/Subsequent EIR (Prior SCH No.)  Other:		NOI Other: EA Draft EIS FONSI	Joint Document Final Document Other:			
Local Action Type:		14004 45005 8000E 2000E 2000B		NAME NAME NAME NAME NAME NAME NAME NAME			
☐ General Plan Update ☐ Specific Plan ☐ General Plan Amendment ☐ Master Plan ☐ Planned Unit Developmen ☐ Community Plan ☐ Site Plan		Rezone					
Development Type:							
Commercial: Sq.ft. Industrial: Sq.ft. Educational:	Acres Employees Acres Employees Acres Employees MGD			MGD			
Project Issues Discussed in	Document:						
★ Aesthetic/Visual     ★ Agricultural Land     ★ Air Quality     ★ Archeological/Historical     ★ Biological Resources     ★ Coastal Zone     ★ Drainage/Absorption     ★ Economic/Jobs	Fiscal Flood Plain/Flooding Forest Land/Fire Hazard Geologic/Seismic Minerals Noise Population/Housing Balanc Public Services/Facilities	Solid Waste	versities ms city //Compaction/Grading	⊠ Vegetation     ₩ Water Quality     ₩ Water Supply/Groundwater     ₩ Wetland/Riparian     Growth Inducement     Land Use     Cumulative Effects     Other:			
Present Land Use/Zoning/Go Orchard /AE-20 (Exclusive Ag	eneral Plan Designation: gricultural, 20-acre minimum p	parcel size) Zone	District/Agriculture				

**Project Description:** (please use a separate page if necessary)
Allow a 2,218 kW ground mount solar system to be developed in two phases on an approximately 11.8-acre portion of a 55acre parcel to support agricultural operations by energizing existing electrical facilities on an adjacent 116.6-acre parcel. The project will install approximately 1.5 miles of overhead electrical lines to connect the system to the facilities. The subject parcels are located on the south side of Fresno-Coalinga Road (State Route 145) between S. Sonoma and S. Napa Avenues in the AE-20 (Exclusive Agricultural, 20-acre minimum parcel size) Zone District approximately 10 miles northwest of the City of Huron. (SUP. DIST. 4) (APNs 060-140-60S, 065-020-37S).

Rev	iewing Agencies Checklist				
	Agencies may recommend State Clearinghouse dist u have already sent your document to the agency ple				
Χ	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	X	Pesticide Regulation, Department of		
X	Caltrans District # 6	X	Public Utilities Commission		
***************************************	Caltrans Division of Aeronautics	X	Regional WQCB #5		
	Caltrans Planning	*************	Resources Agency		
	Central Valley Flood Protection Board		Resources Recycling and Recovery, Department of		
	•		S.F. Bay Conservation & Development Comm.		
	Coastal Commission		San Gabriel & Lower L.A. Rivers & Mtns. Conservancy		
	Colorado River Board		San Joaquin River Conservancy		
X	Conservation, Department of	***************************************	Santa Monica Mtns. Conservancy		
	Corrections, Department of	***************************************	State Lands Commission		
	Delta Protection Commission		SWRCB: Clean Water Grants		
	Education, Department of	X	SWRCB: Water Quality		
X	Energy Commission		SWRCB: Water Rights		
X	Fish & Game Region #4		Tahoe Regional Planning Agency		
X	Food & Agriculture, Department of		Toxic Substances Control, Department of		
Χ	Forestry and Fire Protection, Department of	X	Water Resources, Department of		
	General Services, Department of				
X	_ Health Services, Department of	X	Other: US Fish & Wildlife		
	Housing & Community Development	X	Other: San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District		
	_ Native American Heritage Commission				
Loca	Il Public Review Period (to be filled in by lead age	 ency)			
Start	ing Date May 6, 2019	Endin	g Date June 4, 2019		
	Agency (Complete if applicable):				
	The second secon				
Consulting Firm: County of Fresno App			pplicant: CalCom Energy		
Address: 2220 Tulare Street, 6th Floor Addres			ss: 635 A. Atwood Avenue		
City/	State/Zip: Fresno, CA 93721	tate/Zip: Visalia, CA 93277			
Contact: Ejaz Ahmad, Project Planner Phone: (550)600-4204			(559) 667-9200		
			2,,		
Sign	ature of Lead Agency Representative:		Date: 05-06-201		

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

REVIE	EWING AGENCIES CHECKLIST		······		KEY S = Document sent by lead agency		
***************************************	Resources Agency Boating & Waterways				X = Document sent by SCH ✓ = Suggested distribution		
	Coastal Commission						
	Coastal Conservancy						
	Colorado River Board			Environmenta	I Protection Agency		
<u>X</u>	Conservation	x		Air Resources	Board		
<u>X</u>	Fish & Wildlife	X	·	APCD/AQMD			
_X	Forestry			California Was	te Management Board		
	Office of Historic Preservation			SWRCB: Clear			
	Parks & Recreation	***************************************		SWRCB: Delta			
	Reclamation			SWRCB: Water			
	S.F. Bay Conservation & Development Commissi			SWRCB: Wate	_		
	Water Resources (DWR)	X		-	B # (Fresno County)		
	Business, Transportation & Housing			Youth & Adult	Corrections		
************	Aeronautics			Corrections			
	California Highway Patrol						
_x	CALTRANS District # 6		Independent Commissions & Offices				
	Department of Transportation Planning (headqua	irters)x		Energy Commi			
***************************************	Housing & Community Development				an Heritage Commission		
_x	Food & Agriculture	x	·	Public Utilities			
	Health & Welfare	-		California High	Mountains Conservancy		
x	Health Services, Fresno County	X		U.S. Fish & Wi	•		
	State & Consumer Services	X			Pollution Control District		
	date a consumer convices	x		Pesticide Regu			
	General Services			r esticide rege	nation, Dept. of		
***************************************	OLA (Schools)						
***************************************	OLA (GC10013)						
 Public	Review Period (to be filled in by lead agency)						
Starting	g Date: May 6, 2019	End	ling	Date: June 4	, 2019		
Signatu	ure Alemas	. Dat	e	05-6	26-2019.		
		or SCH Use					
Contact: Eiaz Ahmad. Planner			Date Review Starts:				
		Date to SCH:					
L	C	Clearance Da	te:				
Applie	ant: CalCom Energy	lotes:					
	ss: 635 A. Atwood Avenue						

City/State/Zip Visalia, CA 93277 Phone: (559) 667-9200

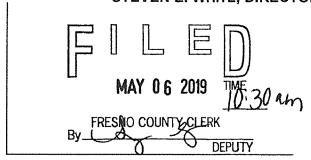
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## E201910000161

# County of Fresno

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND PLANNING STEVEN E. WHITE. DIRECTOR



For County Clerk's Stamp

## NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A NEGATIVE DECLARATION

Notice is hereby given that the County of Fresno has prepared Initial Study Application (IS) No. 7584 pursuant to the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act for the following proposed project:

INITIAL STUDY APPLICATION NO. 7584 and UNCLASSIFIED CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT APPLICATION NO. 3638 filed by CALCOM ENERGY ON BEHALF OF PAPPAS RANCH LLC, FRIENDSHIP LLC, AND CALIFORNIA TRADE LLC proposing to allow a 2,016 kW ground-mount solar system to be developed in two phases, on a 55-acre parcel to support agricultural operations by energizing existing electrical facilities on an adjacent 116.6-acre parcel. The project will install approximately 1.5 miles of overhead electrical lines to connect the system to the facilities. The subject parcels are located on the south side of Fresno-Coalinga Road (State Route 145) between S. Sonoma and S. Napa Avenues in the AE-20 (Exclusive Agricultural, 20-acre minimum parcel size) Zone District approximately 10 miles northwest of the City of Huron. (SUP. DIST. 4) (APNs 060-140-60S, 065-020-37S). Adopt the Negative Declaration prepared for Initial Study Application No. 7584, and take action on Unclassified Conditional Use Permit Application No. 3638 with Findings and Conditions.

(hereafter, the "Proposed Project")

The County of Fresno has determined that it is appropriate to adopt a Negative Declaration for the Proposed Project. The purpose of this Notice is to (1) provide notice of the availability of IS Application No. 7584 and the draft Negative Declaration, and request written comments thereon; and (2) provide notice of the public hearing regarding the Proposed Project.

#### **Public Comment Period**

The County of Fresno will receive written comments on the Proposed Project and Negative Declaration from May 6, 2019 through June 4, 2019.

Email written comments to eahmad@co.fresno.ca.us, or mail comments to:

Fresno County Department of Public Works and Planning Development Services and Capital Projects Division Attn: Ejaz Ahmad 2220 Tulare Street, Suite A Fresno, CA 93721

### F201910000161

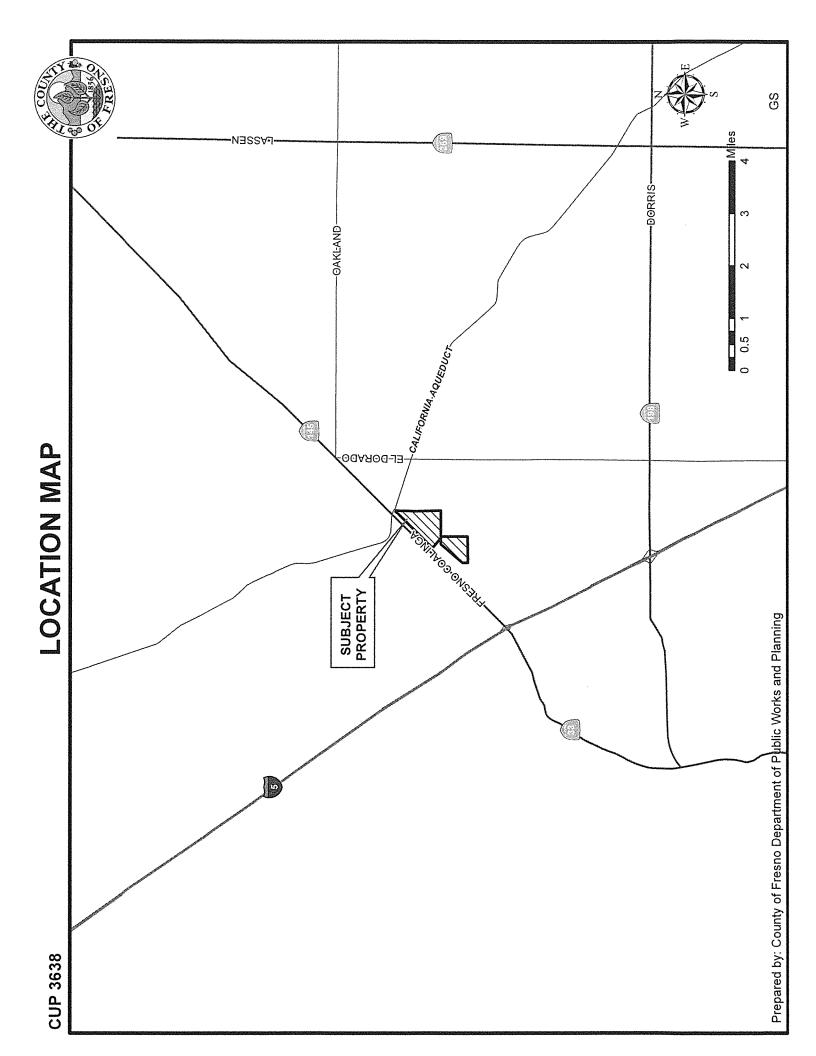
IS Application No. 7584 and the draft Negative Declaration may be viewed at the above address Monday through Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. (except holidays). An electronic copy of the draft Negative Declaration for the Proposed Project may be obtained from Ejaz Ahmad at the addresses above.

#### **Public Hearing**

The Planning Commission will hold a public hearing to consider approving the Proposed Project and the Negative Declaration on June 6, 2019, at 8:45 a.m., or as soon thereafter as possible, in Room 301, Hall of Records, 2281 Tulare Street, Fresno, California 93721. Interested persons are invited to appear at the hearing and comment on the Proposed Project and draft Mitigated Negative Declaration.

For questions, please call Ejaz Ahmad at (559) 600-4204.

Published: May 6, 2019





# County of Fresno

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND PLANNING STEVEN E. WHITE, DIRECTOR

## INITIAL STUDY ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST FORM

#### 1. Project title:

Initial Study Application No. 7584, Unclassified Conditional Use Permit Application No. 3638

#### 2. Lead agency name and address:

Fresno County Department of Public Works and Planning Development Services and Capital Projects Division 2220 Tulare Street, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor Fresno, CA 93721-2104

#### 3. Contact person and phone number:

Ejaz Ahmad, Planner, (559) 600-4204

#### 4. Project location:

The project site is located on the south side of Fresno-Coalinga Road (State Route 145) between S. Sonoma and S. Napa Avenues in the AE-20 (Exclusive Agricultural, 20-acre minimum parcel size) Zone District approximately 10 miles northwest of the City of Huron (SUP. DIST. 4) (APNs 060-140-60S, 065-020-37S).

#### 5. Project sponsor's name and address:

CalCom on behalf of Pappas Ranch LLC, Friendship LLC, and California Trade LLC 8246 S. Crawford Avenue Reedley, CA 94140

#### 6. General Plan designation:

Agriculture

#### 7. Zoning:

AE-20 (Exclusive Agricultural, 20-acre minimum parcel size)

8. Description of project: (Describe the whole action involved, including, but not limited to, later phases of the project, and any secondary, support, or off-site features necessary for its implementation. Attach additional sheets if necessary.)

Allow a 2,218 kW ground mount solar system to be developed in two phases, on an approximately 11.8-acre portion of a 55-acre parcel to support agricultural operations by energizing existing electrical facilities on an adjacent 116.6-acre parcel. The project will install approximately 1.5 miles of overhead electrical lines to connect the system to the facilities.

#### 9. Surrounding land uses and setting: Briefly describe the project's surroundings:

The project site (comprised of two contiguous parcels) is currently planted in orchard. The surrounding agricultural fields are also planted in orchard and related crops. The site is located approximately 10 miles northwest of the unincorporated community of Huron.

10. Other public agencies whose approval is required (e.g., permits, financing approval, or participation agreement.)

None

11. Have California Native American tribes traditionally and culturally affiliated with the project area requested consultation pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21080.3.1? If so, is there a plan for consultation that includes, for example, the determination of significance of impacts to tribal cultural resources, procedures regarding confidentiality, etc.?

NOTE: Conducting consultation early in the CEQA process allows tribal governments, lead agencies, and project proponents to discuss the level of environmental review, identify and address potential adverse impacts to tribal cultural resources, and reduce the potential for delay and conflict in the environmental review process. (See Public Resources Code section 21080.3.2.) Information may also be available from the California Native American Heritage Commission's Sacred Lands File per Public Resources Code Section 5097.96 and the California Historical Resources Information System administered by the California Office of Historic Preservation. Please also note that Public Resources Code section 21082.3(c) contains provisions specific to confidentiality.

The project site is located in an area designated to be highly sensitive for archeological resources. Table Mountain Rancheria, Santa Rosa Rancheria Tachi Yokut Tribe, and Picayune Rancheria of Chukchansi Indians reviewed the proposal and expressed no concerns with the project. The project will have no impact on Tribal Cultural Resources (TCRs) as defined in Public Resources Code Section 21074.

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED:**

The environmental factors checked below would be potentiall a "Potentially Significant Impact" as indicated by the checklist	
Aesthetics	Agriculture and Forestry Resources
Air Quality	Biological Resources
Cultural Resources	Energy
Geology/Soils	Greenhouse Gas Emissions
Hazards & Hazardous Materials	Hydrology/Water Quality
Land Use/Planning	Mineral Resources
Noise	Population/Housing
Public Services	Recreation
Transportation	Tribal Cultural Resources
Utilities/Service Systems	Wildfire
Mandatory Findings of Significance	
On the basis of this initial evaluation:  I find that the proposed project COULD NOT have a sign DECLARATION WILL BE PREPARED.  I find that although the proposed project could have a sign a significant effect in this case because the Mitigation Mandded to the project. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARITY DISTRICT IMPACT REPORT is required  I find that as a result of the proposed project, no new effect be required that have not been addressed within the score	gnificant effect on the environment, there will not be easures described on the attached sheet have been ARATION WILL BE PREPARED.  on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL ects could occur, or new Mitigation Measures would
PERFORMED BY:	REVIEWED BY:
Ejaz Ahmad, Planner	Marianne Mollring, Senior Planner
Date: 05-06-19	Date: 5-6-19

Initial Study Environmental Checklist Form – Page 3

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## INITIAL STUDY ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST FORM

(Initial Study Application No. 7584 and Unclassified Conditional Use Permit Application No. 3638)

The following checklist is used to determine if the proposed project could potentially have a significant effect on the environment. Explanations and information regarding each question follow the checklist.

- 1 = No Impact
- 2 = Less Than Significant Impact
- 3 = Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated
- 4 = Potentially Significant Impact

#### I. AESTHETICS

Except as provided in Public Resources Code Section 21099, would the project:

- 1 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?
- \_2 c) In non-urbanized areas, substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings? (Public views are those that are experienced from a publicly accessible vantage point.) If the project is in an urbanized area, would the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?
- \_2 d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare that would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?

#### II. AGRICULTURAL AND FORESTRY RESOURCES

In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Dept. of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. In determining whether impacts to forest resources, including timberland, are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to information compiled by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection regarding the state's inventory of forest land, including the Forest and Range Assessment Project and the Forest Legacy Assessment project; and forest carbon measurement methodology in Forest Protocols adopted by the California Air Resources Board. Would the project:

- \_2 a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance, as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?
- 2 b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act Contract?
- \_2 c) Conflict with existing zoning for forest land, timberland or timberland zoned Timberland Production?
- \_2 d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?
- e) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?

#### III. AIR QUALITY

Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management district or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations. Would the project:

- a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable Air Quality Plan?
- b) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is nonattainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard?
- \_\_\_\_ c) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?
- d) Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?

#### IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

#### Would the project:

- 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 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?
- \_1 c) Have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally-protected wetlands (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?
- \_1 e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?
- \_1\_\_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?

#### V. CULTURAL RESOURCES

#### Would the project:

- a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to Section 15064.5?
- b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to Section 15064.5?
- \_\_\_\_ c) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?

#### VI. ENERGY

#### Would the project:

- a) Result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources during project construction or operation?
- b) Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?

#### **GEOLOGY AND SOILS** HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY Would the project: Would the project: a) Directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving: groundwater quality? Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on 1 the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning b) Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project on other substantial evidence of a known fault? may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin? ii) Strong seismic ground shaking? Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or \_2\_ iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction? area, including through the alteration of the course of a iv) Landslides? 1 stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would result in substantial 2\_ b) Result in substantial soil erosion or loss of topsoil? erosion or siltation on or off site? c) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that \_1\_ Result in substantial erosion or siltation on or off site; would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, Substantially increase the rate or amount of surface subsidence, liquefaction, or collapse? runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on or Be located on expansive soil as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial direct Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed 2 or indirect risks to life or property? the capacity of existing or planned storm water drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of 1 e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of polluted runoff; or septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste iv) Impede or redirect flood flows? In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of 1 f) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological pollutants due to project inundation? resource or site or unique geologic feature? Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan? **GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS** LAND USE AND PLANNING Would the project: a) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or Would the project: indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the a) Physically divide an established community? \_1\_ environment? b) Cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict \_2\_ Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect? gases? MINERAL RESOURCES HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS Would the project: Would the project: a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment that would be of value to the region and the residents of the through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous state? materials? b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally-important mineral 2 b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment resource recovery site delineated on a local General Plan, through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident Specific Plan or other land use plan? conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment? XIII. NOISE Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely Would the project result in: hazardous materials, substances, or waste within onea) Generation of a substantial temporary or permanent quarter mile of an existing or proposed school? increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project 1 d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous in excess of standards established in the local general plan materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other Section 65962.5 and, as a result, create a significant hazard agencies? to the public or the environment? 2 b) Generation of excessive ground-borne vibration or ground-1 e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, borne noise levels? where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of For a project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or a public airport or public use airport, result in a safety hazard an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been or excessive noise for people residing or working in the adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use project area? airport, exposing people residing or working in the project Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an area to excessive noise levels?

XIV. POPULATION AND HOUSING

a) Induce substantial unplanned population growth in an area,

either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and

Would the project:

adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation

Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a

significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland

fires?

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? ii) Police protection? iii) Schools? iv) Parks? 1\_ v) Other public facilities? RECREATION Would the project: a) Increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated? b) Include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities, which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment? XVII. TRANSPORTATION Would the project: 1 a) Conflict with a program, plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities? b) Would the project conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3, subdivision (b)? Substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design \_2\_ c) feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)? d) Result in inadequate emergency access? XVIII. TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES Would the project: 1 a) Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code Section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is: Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code Section 5020.1(k), or 1 ii) A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1? In applying the criteria set

businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of

with the provision of new or physically-altered governmental

1 b) Displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing

2 a) Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated

facilities, or the need for new or physically-altered

roads or other infrastructure)?

elsewhere?

**PUBLIC SERVICES** 

Would the project:

forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resource Code Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.)

#### XIX. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS

#### Would the project:

- a) Require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects?
- 2 b) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years?
- 1 c) 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?
- d) Generate solid waste in excess of State or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction
- e) Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?

#### WILDFIRE XX.

If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the project:

- a) Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?
- 2 b) Due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks, and thereby expose project occupants to pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire?
- 2 c) Require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment?
- 2 d) Expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes?

#### XXI. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

#### Would the project:

- 1 a) Have the potential to substantially 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, substantially 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?
- 2 b) 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
- 1 c) Have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?

#### **Documents Referenced:**

This Initial Study is referenced by the documents listed below. These documents are available for public review at the County of Fresno, Department of Public Works and Planning, Development Services and Capital Projects Division, 2220 Tulare Street, Suite A, Fresno, California (corner of M & Tulare Streets).

Fresno County General Plan, Policy Document and Final EIR Fresno County Zoning Ordinance Important Farmland 2010 Map, State Department of Conservation

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# County of Fresno

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND PLANNING STEVEN E. WHITE, DIRECTOR

#### **EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS**

APPLICANT:

CalCom Energy on behalf of Pappas Ranch LLC, Friendship LLC, and

California Trade LLC

**APPLICATION NOS.:** 

Initial Study Application No. 7584; Unclassified Conditional Use Permit

Application No. 3638

**DESCRIPTION:** 

Allow a 2,218 kW groundmount solar system to be developed in two phases, on an approximately 11.8-acre portion of a 55-acre parcel to support agricultural operations by energizing existing electrical facilities on an adjacent 116.6-acre parcel. The project will install approximately 1.5 miles of overhead electrical lines to connect the system to the

facilities.

LOCATION:

The subject parcels are located on the south side of Fresno-Coalinga Road (State Route 145) between S. Sonoma and S. Napa Avenues in the AE-20 (Exclusive Agricultural, 20-acre minimum parcel size) Zone District approximately 10 miles northwest of the City of Huron. (SUP.

DIST. 4) (APNs 060-140-60S, 065-020-37S)

#### I. AESTHETICS

Except as provided in Public Resources Code Section 21099, would the project:

- A. Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista; or
- B. Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

The subject parcels are not located in an area that has been identified as a scenic vista. There is no rock outcropping or historic buildings on or near the site. The Fresno-Coalinga Road (State Route 145) that runs along the westerly side of the parcels is not a scenic highway per the County General Plan and no scenic vistas or scenic resources exist on or near the site that may be impacted by the project.

C. In non-urbanized areas, substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings? (Public views are those that are experienced from publicly accessible vantage points.) If the project is in an urbanized

area, would the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?

FINDING: LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT:

The subject parcels are currently planted in orchard. The surrounding agricultural fields are also planted in orchard and related crops.

An approximately 11.8-acre portion of the project site (northerly 55-acre parcel) will be cleared from orchard to accommodate a 1,210 kW (Phase 1) and a 1,008 kW (Phase II) of ground-mount solar system. The project is composed of 2,880 modules (Phase I) and 3,456 modules (Phase II) totaling 6336 modules on a single-axis tracking structure. The power generated by the facility will energize existing electrical facilities on the adjacent 116.6-acre parcel (APN 065-020-37S) via 1.5 miles of overhead electrical lines starting from the 55-acre parcel and ending on the 116.6-acre parcel.

Review of the elevations show that the proposed solar array will maintain low height (approximately 6 to 8 feet). This low height will allow the surrounding orchard to screen the view of the solar array from the surrounding parcels. Due to low visibility, the proposed fencing around the solar site and no residential development located in the immediate vicinity of the project, the project will have less than significant impact on the surrounding area.

D. Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?

FINDING: LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT:

Per the Applicant's Operational Statement, the solar site will require no outdoor lighting and be located approximately 930 feet east of Fresno-Coalinga Road (State Route 145). While the installation of solar panels may increase the amount of glare in the area, the existing onsite orchard around the solar site will provide some screening of glare. Due to screening, the glare impact on SR 145 or other nearby street would be less than significant.

#### II. AGRICULTURAL AND FORESTRY RESOURCES

In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Department of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. In determining whether impacts to forest resources, including timberland, are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to information compiled by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection regarding the state's inventory of forest land, including the Forest and Range Assessment Project and the Forest Legacy Assessment project; and forest carbon measurement methodology in Forest Protocols adopted by the California Air Resources Board. Would the project:

- A. Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance, as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use; or
- B. Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act Contract?

#### FINDING: LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT:

The project is not in conflict with agricultural zoning and is an allowed use on land designated for agriculture with discretionary approval and adherence to the applicable General Plan Policies. The Fresno County Important Farmlands 2014 map designates the project site (comprised of two parcels) as Prime Farmland. The site is restricted by Williamson Act Land Conservation Contract AP-2200 & AP-4272 and a Condition of Approval would require non-renewal of the Contract. Of the 55-acre parcel, approximately 11.8 acres will be removed from farmland production for the solar facility while the remainder of the parcel will remain agricultural. This loss of farmland is not permanent in that at the end of project's useful life, the property may return back to farming operations.

The Fresno County Agricultural Commissioner's Office reviewed the project and requires that the Applicant acknowledge the Fresno County Right-to-Farm Ordinance regarding the inconveniencies and discomfort associated with normal farm activities surrounding the proposed development. This requirement will be included as a Condition of Approval.

- C. Conflict with existing zoning for forest land, timberland or timberland zoned Timberland Production; or
- D. Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use; or
- E. Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of farmland to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?

#### FINDING: LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT:

The project site is an active farmland and is not located on forest land or timberland. The project will not result in the permanent conversion of farmland to non-agricultural uses. At the end of the project's useful life, the land may be reverted to agricultural uses. The project will not bring any significant changes to the existing environment dominated by agricultural uses. The proposed solar array will be obscured from view from adjacent parcels due to surrounding orchards.

#### III. AIR QUALITY

Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management district or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations. Would the project:

- A. Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable Air Quality Plan; or
- B. 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; or
- C. Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations; or
- D. Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

The San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District reviewed the proposal and expressed no concerns with the project's operational air emissions.

#### IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Would the project:

- 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; or
- 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 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; or
- C. Have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally-protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

The project site has been cultivated over the years and is located in a predominantly agricultural area. The proposed solar arrays will be located on the property currently occupied by orchard. Further, the site does not contain any riparian features, wetlands, or waters under the jurisdiction of the United States.

An irrigation ditch runs along the northern boundary of the 55-acre parcel with the proposed solar array. This canal is not a protected wetland and does not provide habitat for sensitive species.

This project was routed to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) for review and comments. Neither of the agencies expressed any concerns relating to project impact on biological resources.

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?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

The project area cannot be characterized as an area for migratory wildlife species or suitable for migratory wildlife corridors. As stated earlier, the project site is an active farmland has been in farming operations for a number of years. The surrounding lands have also been in farming operations and disturbed by farming activities.

- E. Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance; or
- 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?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

The project will not conflict with any biological resources related to tree preservation policy or any adopted Conservation Plans.

#### V. CULTURAL RESOURCES

Would the project:

- A. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to Section 15064.5; or
- B. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to Section 15064.5; or
- C. Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

The project site is not in an area designated to be highly or moderately sensitive for archeological resources. The site has undergone previous land disturbance during plantation of orchard. The project will have no impact on historical, archeological, or paleontological resources.

#### VI. ENERGY

Would the project:

A. Result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources during project construction or operation?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

The project involves production of renewable energy. Being a relatively passive use, the project implementation will provide a relatively emission-free mechanism for generating electricity to help support energy needs of the Applicant's farming operations. The project construction will not result in unnecessary consumption of energy resources. All the energy produced will be utilized for the benefit of the Applicant's onsite and offsite farming operations.

B. Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

The project will not obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy.

VII. GEOLOGY AND SOILS

Would the project:

- A. Directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:
  - 1. 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?
  - 2. Strong seismic ground shaking?
  - 3. Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?
  - 4. Landslides?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

The project site is flat, and is not located near a fault line or an area of known landslides. The project will not adversely affect any earthquake fault and will not cause seismic ground shaking, ground failure due to liquefaction, or landslides.

B. Result in substantial soil erosion or loss of topsoil?

FINDING: LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT:

No significant grading activities are expected of this project to result in substantial loss of topsoil. The PV module array requires a moderately flat surface for installation. Some earthwork, including grading, fill, compaction, and erosion control cultivation may be required to accommodate the placement of PV arrays, foundations or footings, access roads and drainage features. As noted by the Development Engineering Section of the Development Services and Capital Projects Division, a Project Note will

require that a grading permit or voucher shall be obtained for any grading proposed with this application.

- 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; or
- D. Be located on expansive soil as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

As discussed earlier, the project site's liquefaction and landslide potential is low. The development of the project would implement all applicable requirements of the most recent California Building Standards Code and as such would not create substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property.

E. Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

There are no septic systems associated with this proposal, as the proposed use does not entail utilization of onsite sewage disposal systems. The facility will be unmanned.

F. Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?

FINDING: NO IMPCT:

See discussion above in Section V. CULTURAL RESOURCES.

#### VIII. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

Would the project:

- A. Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment; or
- B. Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?

FINDING: LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT:

The project is expected to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Temporary impacts related to greenhouse gas emission may occur during the construction of the project when workers and construction vehicles will be mobilized to and from the project site. However, negligible greenhouse gas emission would occur during operation of the Evaluation of Environmental Impacts – Page 7

facility. Due to being an unmanned facility, there will be no traffic trips to the site during its operations except for one truck per month visiting the site for maintenance purposes. It is expected that any greenhouse gas emission generated during construction will be offset during the facility operations.

#### IX. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

Would the project:

- A. Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials; or
- 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; or
- C. Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one quarter-mile of an existing or proposed school?

FINDING: LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT:

The Fresno County Department of Public Health, Environmental Health Division reviewed the project and requires that facilities proposing to use and/or store hazardous materials and/or hazardous wastes shall meet the requirements set forth in the California Health and Safety Code (HSC), Division 20, Chapter 6.95, and the California Code of Regulations (CCR), Title 22, Division 4.5. Additionally, any business that handles a hazardous material or hazardous waste may be required to submit a Hazardous Materials Business Plan pursuant to the HSC, Division 20, Chapter 6.95. Further, all hazardous waste shall be handled in accordance with requirements set forth in the California Code of Regulations (CCR), Title 22, Division 4.5. These requirements will be included as Project Notes.

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?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

The project site is an active farmland and not a hazardous material site. No agency expressed any concerns regarding site's suitability for 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, result in a safety hazard or excessive noise for people residing or working in the project area?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

The project site is not located within an Airport Land Use Plan area, two miles of a public use airport, or near a private airstrip. The proposed facility will be unmanned, and will not generate noise to the level where it may affect people residing or working within the project area.

- F. Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan; or
- G. Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

The project site is not located in an area of wildfire hazards. Approval of the project will not impair implementation of an adopted Emergency Response or Evacuation Plan.

X. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

Would the project:

A. Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or groundwater quality?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

The Fresno County Department of Public Health, Environmental Health Division, reviewed the proposal and expressed no concerns with the project concerning soils or wastewater disposal. Wastewater generated during construction of this project will be contained within portable restroom facilities and will be disposed of at an approved site. Once operational, the proposed facility will be unmanned. As such, no permanent onsite restroom facilities are required for the use, nor proposed with this project. No impact will occur.

B. Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?

FINDING: LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT:

The project site is not in a water-short area. According to the Applicant's Operational Statement, water needed during construction will be provided via an onsite well and is estimated to be 9,000 gallons for dust suppression and earth work over a 3-month period. During operation of the facility, approximately 4,000 gallons of water will be used every three months for panel washing. The source of water will be via a water truck.

The Water and Natural Resources Division of the Fresno County Department of Public Works and Planning reviewed the proposal and expressed no concerns with the project as it relates to water quantity.

- C. Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would:
  - 1. Result in substantial erosion or siltation on or off site; or
  - 2. Substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on or off site; or
  - 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; or
  - 4. Impede or redirect flood flows?

FINDING: LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT:

According to the United States Geological Survey Quad Maps, there are no natural drainage channels adjacent to or running through the subject parcels.

Installation of solar arrays on the property will not cause significant changes in the absorption rates, drainage patterns, or the rate and amount of surface runoff with adherence to the mandatory construction practices contained in the Grading and Drainage Sections of the County Ordinance Code. Site drainage requirements appropriate to the proposed uses will be addressed through mandatory Site Plan Review. According to the Development Engineering Section of the Fresno County Department of Public Works and Planning, any additional runoff generated by the proposed development shall be retained or disposed of per county standards, and Grading Permit or Voucher shall be required for any grading proposed by this application. These requirements will be included as Project Notes.

D. In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

The project site does not contain nor is close to water features that could create seiche, tsunami, or mudflow conditions. It is unlikely that an irrigation ditch that runs along the northerly boundaries of the subject parcels would create seiche, tsunami, or mudflow conditions.

E. Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

The project is not in conflict with any water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan.

#### XI. LAND USE AND PLANNING

Would the project:

A. Physically divide an established community?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

The project will not physically divide an established community. The nearest community (Huron) is approximately 10 miles southeast of the subject parcel.

B. Cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?

FINDING: LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT:

The subject parcel is designated Agriculture in the Fresno County General Plan and is zoned AE-20 (Exclusive Agricultural, 20-acre minimum parcel size) in the County Zoning Ordinance. Provisions for non-agricultural uses such as the proposed use have been provided in the Fresno County Zoning Ordinance and General Plan.

Plan Policy LU-A.3 of the General Plan provides that electrical power generating facilities may be allowed by discretionary permit subject to a number of specific criteria. Criteria LU-A. 3.a. states that the use shall provide a needed service to the surrounding agricultural area which cannot be provided within urban areas. Criteria LU-A. 3.b. states that the use should not be sited on productive agricultural lands if less productive land is available in the vicinity. Criteria LU-A. 3.c. states that the use shall not have a detrimental impact on water resources or the use or management of surrounding properties within one quarter-mile radius. Criteria LU-A. 3.d. states that a probable workforce should be located nearby or be readily available.

With regard to Criteria "a" and Criteria "b", the proposed solar facility will produce limited 2,218 kW power to meet the energy needs of the Applicant's onsite and offsite agricultural operations. The facility will be located on prime farmlands, as no less productive land is available near the proposal. With regard to Criteria "c", the project will utilize limited groundwater during construction of the facility. With regard to Criteria "d", the nearest communities of Huron and Helm have the ability to provide an adequate workforce.

Policy LU-A.12 of the General Plan requires that agricultural activities be protected from encroachment of incompatible uses, and Policy LU-A.13 of the General Plan requires buffers between proposed non-agricultural uses and adjacent agricultural operations.

The subject proposal is consistent Policy LU-A.3 as discussed above and the proposed solar arrays will be fenced off to be separated from the surrounding farming operations.

Plan Policy PF-C.17 of the General Plan requires that the County shall undertake a water supply evaluation, including determinations of water supply adequacy, impact on other water users in the County, and water sustainability. The project will utilize limited groundwater during construction and water needed for panel washing will be trucked in. The Water and Natural Resources Division of the Fresno County Department of Public Works and Planning expressed no concerns related to water availability for the project.

#### XII. MINERAL RESOURCES

Would the project:

- 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; or
- 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?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

No mineral resource impacts were identified in the analysis. The site is not located in a mineral resource area as identified in Policy OS-C.2 of the General Plan.

#### XIII. NOISE

Would the project result in:

- A. Generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies; or
- B. Generation of excessive ground-borne vibration or ground-borne noise levels; or
- C. For a project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or 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?

FINDING: LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT:

The Fresno County Department of Public Health, Environmental Health Division, reviewed the proposal and did not identify any impact related to noise. However, the project will be subject to conformance with the Fresno County Noise Ordinance related to limiting noise-generating construction activities to the hours of 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Monday through Friday and 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. This requirement will be included as a Project Note.

#### XIV. POPULATION AND HOUSING

Would the project:

- A. Induce substantial unplanned population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure); or
- B. Displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

The project will not construct or displace housing and will not otherwise induce population growth.

#### XV. PUBLIC SERVICES

Would the project:

- A. Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically-altered governmental facilities, or the 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 following public services:
  - 1. Fire protection?

FINDING: LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT:

Fresno County Fire Protection District (CalFire) reviewed the subject proposal and expressed no concerns with the project. The project will require compliance with the California Code of Regulations Title 24 – Fire Code and approval of County-approved site plans by the Fire District prior to issuance of building permits by the County. The project will also require annexation to Community Facilities District (CFD) No. 2010-01 of the Fresno County Fire Protection District and compliance with the California Code of Regulations, Title 14 Natural Resources. These requirements will be included as Project Notes.

- 2. Police protection; or
- 3. Schools; or
- 4. Parks; or
- 5. Other public facilities?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

Development of the project will not result in the need for schools, parks, policing or other public services.

#### XVI. RECREATION

Would the project:

- A. Increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated; or
- B. Include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities, which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

No such impacts were identified as part of the analysis.

#### XVII. TRANSPORTATION

Would the project:

A. Conflict with a program, plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

The project will have no impacts on the performance of the traffic circulation system, congestion management programs, or traffic hazards.

The project will generate approximately 32 daily one-way trips (16 round trips) by workers, 16 daily one-way trips (8 round trips) by vendor trucks and a total of 50 one-way (25 round trips) by haul trucks during the construction of the project. These trips are related to mobilization, underground work, system installation, and site cleanup and restoration work. Outside of the initial trips required for construction there will be one visit per month for maintenance and repair purposes.

The Design Division of the Fresno County Department of Public Works and Planning reviewed this proposal and expressed no impact on County roadways and required no Traffic Impact Study.

B. Be in conflict or be inconsistent with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Section 15064.3, subdivision (b)?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

The project entails an unmanned solar facility, which requires no regular daily traffic trips during operation. With no concerns expressed by the Design Division of the Fresno County Department of Public Works and Planning or the California Department of Transportation, the project will not be in conflict with or be inconsistent with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Section 15064.3, subdivision (b).

C. Substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (*e.g.*, sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (*e.g.*, farm equipment)?

FINDING: LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT:

There is no county-maintained roads adjacent to the subject parcel. The project would not increase traffic hazards due to design features, as it does not propose to alter existing roadway designs within the project area. According to the California Department of Transportation review of the proposal, a Project Note would require that if the site takes access to SR 145, a 20-foot by 20-foot asphalt pavement or shakedown shall be provided to minimize debris from entering the State facility.

D. Result in inadequate emergency access?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

The Road Maintenance and Operations Division of the Fresno County Department of Public Works and Planning and California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) reviewed the project and did not identify any concerns with respect to emergency access.

#### XVIII. TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES

Would the project:

- A. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code Section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is:
  - Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code Section 5020.1(k); or
  - A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1? (In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resource Code Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.)

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

The project will have no impact on Tribal Cultural Resources (TCRs) as defined in Public Resources Code Section 21074. The project was routed to the Table Mountain Rancheria, Santa Rosa Rancheria Tachi Yokut Tribe, Picayune Rancheria of Chukchansi Indians, and Dumna Wo Wah Tribal Governments. None of the tribes expressed any concerns with the project.

#### XIX. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS

Would the project:

A. Require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

See discussion above in Section VII.E. GEOLOGY AND SOILS. Construction of the project will have less than significant impact on the environment.

B. Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years?

FINDING: LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT:

See discussion above in Section X. B. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY.

C. 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?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

See discussion above in Section VII.E. GEOLOGY AND SOILS.

- D. Generate solid waste in excess of State or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals; or
- E. Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

The project operations will not generate any solid waste. Any solid waste generated during construction will be minimal and will go to a local landfill.

#### XX. WILDFIRE

If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the project:

- A. Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan, or telecommunications facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects; or
- B. Due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks, and thereby expose project occupants to pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire; or
- C. Require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment; or
- D. Expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes?

FINDING: LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT:

See discussion above in Section XV. A. 1. PUBLIC SERVICES.

#### XXI. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

Would the project:

A. Have the potential to substantially 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, substantially 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?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

The project will have no impact on biological or cultural resources.

B. 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)?

FINDING: LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT:

The project has been analyzed for potential impacts, and appropriate project-specific Conditions have been developed to reduce project impacts to less than significant. The project is required to comply with applicable County policies and ordinances. The project will adhere to the permitting requirements and rules and regulations set forth by the Fresno County Grading and Drainage Ordinance, the San Joaquin Air Pollution Control District, and the California Code of Regulations Fire Code. The incremental contribution by the proposed project to overall development in the area is less than significant.

C. Have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings either directly or indirectly?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

No cumulative impacts were identified in this analysis. No substantial adverse effects on human beings were identified.

#### CONCLUSION/SUMMARY

Based upon the Initial Study prepared for Conditional Use Permit Application No. 3638, staff has concluded that the project will not have a significant effect on the environment. It has been determined that there would be no impacts to Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Energy, Mineral Resources, Population and Housing, Recreation, Transportation, and Tribal Cultural Resources.

Potential impacts related to Aesthetics, Agricultural and Forestry Resources, Geology and Soils, Greenhouse Gas Emission, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, Hydrology and Water Quality, Land Use and Planning, Public Services, Noise, Utilities and Service Systems, and Wildfire have been determined to be less than significant.

A Negative Declaration is recommended and is subject to approval by the decision-making body. The Initial Study is available for review at 2220 Tulare Street, Suite A, street level, located on the southwest corner of Tulare and "M" Street, Fresno, California.

EA:ksn

G:\4360Devs&PIn\PROJSEC\PROJDOCS\CUP\3600-3699\3638\IS-CEQA\CUP 3638 IS wu.docx

File original and one copy with:		Space E	Below For Co	unty	Clerk Only.			
Fresno County Clerk								
2221 Kern Street								
Fresno, California	93721							
			CLK-204	6.00 E04-73 R	00-00			
Agency File No:		LOCA		AGENCY County Clerk File No:				
IS 7584			OPOSE		E-			
Responsible Agency (Name):		NEGATIVI Address (S				City: Zip Code:		
Fresno County	221	20 Tulare St. Six						93721
Fresho County	222	20 Tulate St. Si	אנוו רוטטו			Fresno		93/21
Agency Contact Person (Name	e and Title):			Area Code	):	Telephone Number:	Ext	tension:
Ejaz Ahmad, Planner				559		600-4204	N/	A
	·		***		1			
		n behalf of Pap		Project Titl	45.55			
	LLC, Frier iia Trade I	ndship LLC, and	i	Unclassi	tied	Conditional Use Permit Appli	cation	No. 3638
Project Description:	na Traue i			<u> </u>				
1	dmount s	olar system to h	ne develo	aned in two	n nh	ases, on an approximately 11	8-ac	re portion of a
						electrical facilities on an adjac		
The project will install ar	oproximat	ely 1.5 miles of	overhea	nd electrica	ll lin	es to connect the system to the	ne fac	ilities. The
						(State Route 145) between S		
northwest of the City of						arcel size) Zone District appr	oxima	itely 10 miles
lioranwood or the only or	riaron. (O	01 : 0101: 4) (1		J 110 000	, 00	3 323 37 3.		
Justification for Mitigated Negative Declaration:								
						ional Use Permit Application I	No. 36	338, staff has
concluded that the proje	ct will not	have a significa	ant effec	t on the er	iviro	onment		
No impacts were identifi	ed related	d to Biological R	esource	es. Cultural	Re	sources. Energy. Mineral Res	ource	s. Population
No impacts were identified related to Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Energy, Mineral Resources, Population and Housing, Recreation, Transportation, and Tribal Cultural Resources.								
					à.			_
Potential impacts related to Aesthetics, Agricultural and Forestry Resources, Geology and Soils, Greenhouse Gas								
Emission, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, Hydrology and Water Quality, Land Use and Planning, Public Services, Noise, Utilities and Service Systems, and Wildfirehave been determined to be less than significant.								
The Initial Study and Negative Declaration (ND) is available for review at 2220 Tulare Street, Suite A, Street Level, located								
on the southeast corner of Tulare and "M" Street, Fresno, California.								
FINDING:								
The proposed project will not have a significant impact on the environment.								
Newspaper and Date of Publication:				Review Date Deadline:				
Fresno Business Journal – May 6, 2019			***************************************	Pla	Planning Commission – June 6, 2019			
Date: Type or Print Name:			L	T	Submitted by (Signature):			
May 6, 2019 Marianne Mollring, Senior Planner								

State 15083, 15085

County Clerk File No.:\_\_\_\_\_

# LOCAL AGENCY MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION



## County of Fresno

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND PLANNING STEVEN E. WHITE, DIRECTOR

DATE: January 31, 2019

TO: Development Services and Capital Projects, Attn: William M. Kettler, Division

Manager

Development Services and Capital Projects, Attn: Chris Motta, Principal Planner Development Services and Capital Projects, Current Planning, Attn: Marianne

Mollring, Senior Planner

Development Services and Capital Projects, Policy Planning, ALCC,

Attn: Mohammad Khorsand

Development Services and Capital Projects, Zoning & Permit Review, Attn: Tawanda

Mtunga

Development Services and Capital Projects, Site Plan Review, Attn: Hector Luna Development Services and Capital Projects, Building & Safety/Plan Check,

Attn: Chuck Jonas

Development Engineering, Attn: Laurie Kennedy, Grading/Mapping

Road Maintenance and Operations, Attn: Frank Daniele/Wendy Nakagawa/Nadia

Lopez

Design Division, Transportation Planning, Attn: Mohammad Alimi/Dale Siemer Water and Natural Resources Division, Attn: Glenn Allen, Division Manager Department of Public Health, Environmental Health Division, Attn: Deep

Sidhu/Steven Rhodes

Agricultural Commissioner, Attn: Les Wright

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, San Joaquin Valley Division, Attn: Sarah D. Yates CA Regional Water Quality Control Board, Attn: centralvalleyfresno@waterboards.ca.gov

CA Department of Fish and Wildlife, Attn: Craig Bailey, Environmental Scientist California Department of Transportation, District 6, Attn: David Padilla Dumna Wo Wah Tribal Government, Attn: Robert Ledger, Tribal Chairman Picayune Rancheria of the Chuckchansi Indians, Attn: Tara C. Estes-Harter,

THPO/Cultural Resources Director

Table Mountain Rancheria, Attn: Robert Pennell, Cultural Resources Director/Kim Taylor, Cultural Resources Department/Sara Barnett, Cultural Resources

rayior, Cultural Nesources Department/Sala Damett, Cultural Ne

Department

Santa Rosa Rancheria Tachi-Yokut Tribe, Attn: Hector Franco, Director/Shana

Powers, Cultural Specialist

San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District (PIC-CEQA Division),

Attn: PIC Supervisor

Westlands Water District, Attn: Russ Freeman; Jose Gutierrez

Fresno County Fire Protection District, Attn: Chris Christopherson, Battalion Chief

FROM:

Ejaz Ahmad, Planner

Development Services and Capital Projects Division

SUBJECT: Initial Study Application No. 7584, Unclassified Conditional Use Permit Application

No. 3638

APPLICANT: CalCom Energy

DUE DATE: February 14, 2019

- 1210 KW& 1008 KW

The Department of Public Works and Planning, Development Services and Capital Projects Division is reviewing the subject applications proposing to allow a 4,100 kW ground mount solar system on a 55-acre parcel (APN: 060-140-66S) to support agricultural operations by energizing the existing electrical facilities on an adjacent 116.6-acre parcel (APN: 065-020-37S). The project will install an approximately 1.5 miles of overhead electrical lines to connect the system to the facilities. The subject parcels are located on the south side of Fresno-Coalinga Road (State Route 145) Millerton Road, between S. Sonoma and S. Napa Avenues in the AE-20 (Exclusive Agricultural, 20-acre minimum parcel size) Zone District.

The Department is also reviewing for environmental effects, as mandated by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and for conformity with plans and policies of the County.

Based upon this review, a determination will be made regarding conditions to be imposed on the project, including necessary on-site and off-site improvements.

We must have your comments by <u>February 14, 2019</u>. Any comments received after this date may not be used.

NOTE - THIS WILL BE OUR ONLY REQUEST FOR WRITTEN COMMENTS. If you do not have comments, please provide a "NO COMMENT" response to our office by the above deadline (e-mail is also acceptable; see email address below).

Please address any correspondence or questions related to environmental and/or policy/design issues to me, Ejaz Ahmad, Planner, Development Services and Capital Projects Division, Fresno County Department of Public Works and Planning, 2220 Tulare Street, Sixth Floor, Fresno, CA 93721, or call (559) 600-4204, or email eahmad@FresnoCountyCA.gov.

G:\4360Devs&PIn\PROJSEC\PROJDOCS\CUP\3600-3699\3638\ROUTING\CUP 3638 Routing Ltr.doc

Activity Code (Internal Review):2384

**Enclosures** 

Date Received: 01-28-2019

LOCATION:

# COUNTY STORY OF THE STORY OF TH

#### Fresno County Department of Public Works and Planning

CUP 3638

(Application No.

MAILING ADDRESS:
Department of Public Works and Planning
Development Services Division
2220 Tulare St., 6 <sup>th</sup> Floor

Southwest corner of Tulare & "M" Streets, Suite A Street Level Fresno Phone: (559) 600-4497

T-U ---- 1 900 742 1011

Fresno, Ca. 93721	Toll Free: 1-800-742-1011 Ext. 0-4497
APPLICATION FOR:	DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED USE OR REQUEST:
Pre-Application (Type)	Ground mount solar interconnecting on an
Amendment Application Director Review and Approval	adjacent parcel. Solar will be used to offset
☐ Amendment to Text ☐ for 2 <sup>nd</sup> Residence	agricultural operations on site.
Conditional Use Permit Determination of Merger	
☐ Variance (Class )/Minor Variance ☐ Agreements	
Site Plan Review/Occupancy Permit	
☐ No Shoot/Dog Leash Law Boundary ☐ Other	
General Plan Amendment/Specific Plan/SP Amendment)	
Time Extension for	,
CEQA DOCUMENTATION: Initial Study PER N/A	
PLEASE USE FILL-IN FORM OR PRINT IN BLACK INK. Answer all questions compl	letely. Attach required site plans, forms statements
and deeds as specified on the Pre-Application Review. Attach Copy of Deed, i	
LOCATION OF PROPERTY: East side of HWY 145	
between Sonoma Ave and	Napa Ave
Street address:	22 30 . 16
	_ Section(s)-Twp/Rg: S <u>33</u> - T <u>18</u> S/R <u>16</u> E
ADDITIONAL APN(s): 065-020-378	
Gionatural dadara that I am tha	owner, or authorized representative of the owner, of
the above described property and that the application and attached document	
knowledge. The foregoing declaration is made under penalty of perjury	
Ariel Namvar - Nut Farmers LLC 12121 Wilshire Blvd Los A	Angeles CA 310-873-9561
Owner (Print or Type) Address City	
CalCom Energy 635 S. Atwood St. Visa	
Applicant (Print or Type) Address City Jason Core 635 S. Atwood St. Visal	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
Representative (Print or Type) Address City	
CONTACT EMAIL:	•
OFFICE USE ONLY (PRINT FORM ON GREEN PAPER)	UTILITIES AVAILABLE:
Application Type / No.: $CUP(U)NO.3638 \rightarrow Fee: $9,123.9$ Application Type / No.: Process Condition Fee: \$-247.0	WATER: Yes / No
Application Type / No.: Pye-2 pp Credit Fee: \$ - 24/. Fee: \$	I
Application Type / No.: Fee: \$	Agency:
$\text{PER/Initial Study No.:}$ $\text{TS 7584} \longrightarrow \text{Fee: $ 5,15/.}$	SEWER: Yes / No
Ag Department Review: Fee: \$ 93.4 Health Department Review: Fee: \$ 992.5	
Received By: EJAZ Invoice No.: TOTAL: \$ 15, 1/2.	
STAFF DETERMINATION: This permit is sought under Ordinance Section:	Sect-Twp/Rg: TS/RE
	APN #
Related Application(s):	APN#
one District: AE-ZO	APN#
Parcel Size: 222 ACRES & 116.57 ACRES.	APN #



Rev 12/14/18

F226 Pre-Application Review

### Development Services and Capital Projects Division

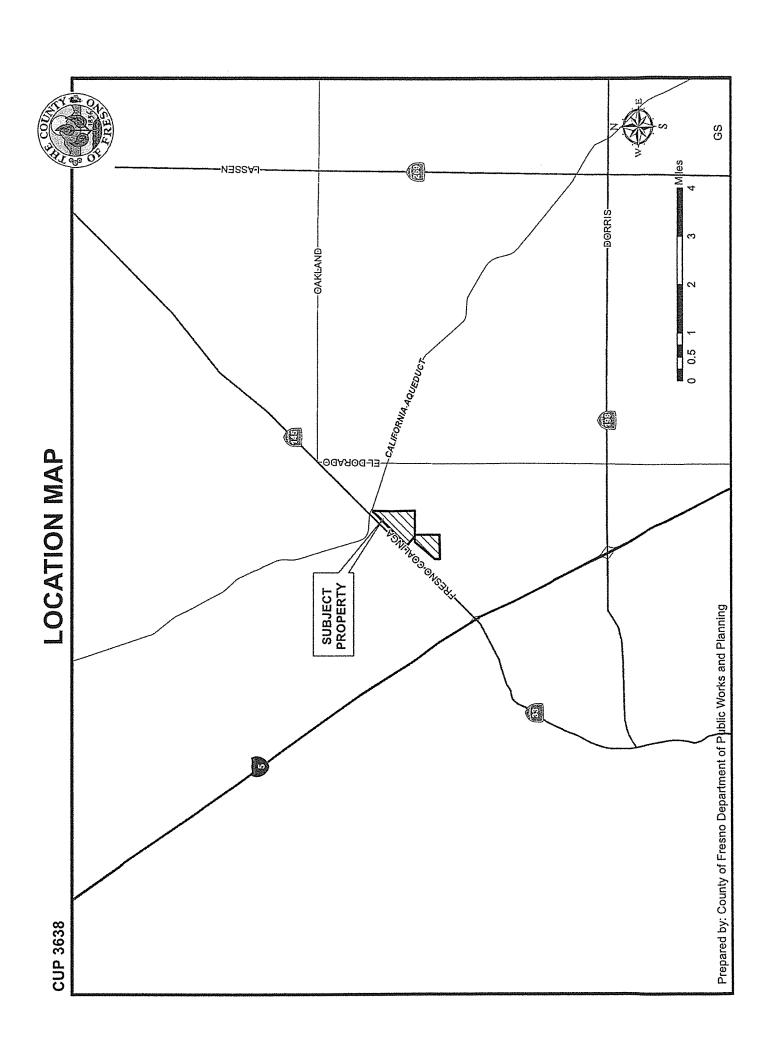
Mail To: Dao Vang 635 S. Atwood St. Visalia, CA 93277

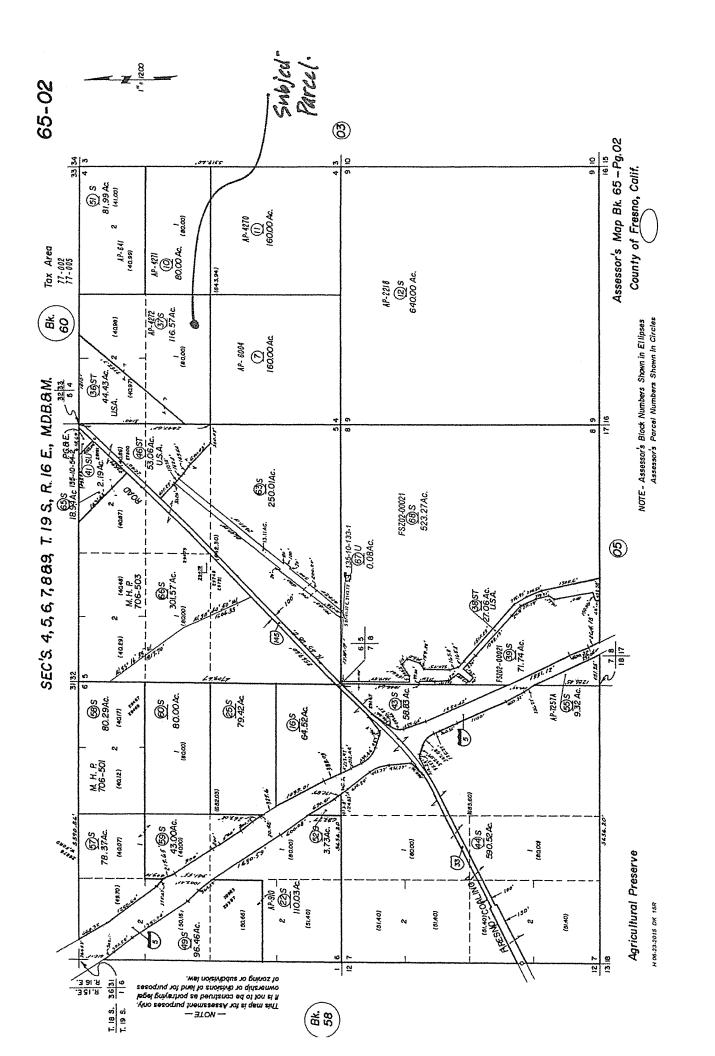
Email: dvang@calcomenergy.com

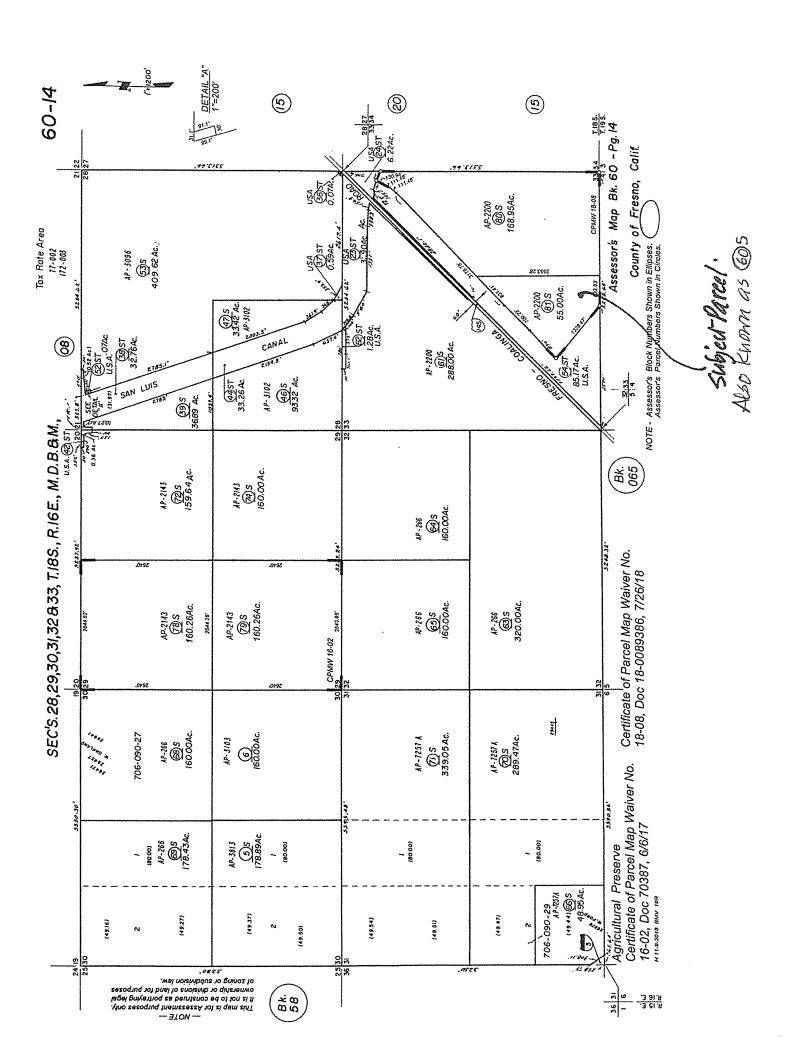
## Pre-Application Review

## Department of Public Works and Planning

	dyang(a)calcomenergy	NUMBER	₹: 39	9613
FRES	.com	APPLICA		o Vang
		PHONE:	***************************************	31-0408
PROPERTY LOCATION: Parcel ID 060	-140-605 & Parcol I			
APN: 060 & 065 - 140 & 020 - 60S & 37S			272 VIOLATIO	ON NO. N/A
CNEL: No X Yes (level) LOW WATE				
ZONE DISTRICT: AE-20; SRA: No X				
LOT STATUS:		IOMESTIC DECE	ANATION	D.: NO_X1 e3
Zoning: (X) Conforms; ( ) Legal N	lon-Conforming los	. ( ) Dood Pavi	ow Poald (con F	Form #2361
Morgary May be subject to margar	No V Voc	i, ( ) Deed Kevii	itiotod In	process
Merger: May be subject to merger Map Act: ( ) Lot of Rec. Map; (X) C	. NO_A_1 es Z	.1/1	Noode Pea'd	1 (con Form #226)
SCHOOL FEES: No X Yes DISTI	DICT.	iei, (	Deeds Rey a	No V Voc
FMFCD FEE AREA: (X) Outside () District				
PROPOSAL UNCLASSIFIED CONDITIONAL				
ON APN 060-140-60S TO SERVE A SEPARATE				
WILL BE SERVICING AN EXISTING WELL FOR				TIL SOLAN ARRAT
COMMENTS:	AGNICULTURAL	UKF USES UN AF	14 003-020-373.	
	BY:	O. RAMIREZ	DATE	12/21/18
ORD. SECTION(S): 853-B.14	BY:	U. KAWIKEZ	DATE:	12/21/10
GENERAL PLAN POLICIES:		<u>PROCEDU</u>	RES AND FEES	
LAND USE DESIGNATION: ASPICILI	(UUE ( )GPA:		_ (    )MINOR V	
COMMUNITY PLAN:	( )AA:		_ (	16999.02.
REGIONAL PLAN:	(√)CUP <u>(ii</u>	1 15 9,123.11	( /)AG COMI	W: <u>市 内3.00</u>
SPECIFIC PLAN:	( )DRA:		( )ALCC:	
SPECIAL POLICIES:	( )VA:		_ (	
SPHERE OF INFLUENCE:	( )AT:		_ (      )Viol. (35%	
ANNEX REFERRAL (LU-G17/MOU):	( )TT:		_ ( )Other:	
		Filing	Fee: \$	
COMMENTS:	WARREST	Pre-Application	Fee:	· \$247.00
		Total County Fili	ing Fee:	5 15, 112. of
				-
FILING REQUIREMENTS:	OTHER F	LING FEES:		
/				
( $\sqrt{\ }$ ) Land Use Applications and Fees		ogical Inventory		
( √) This Pre-Application Review form		check to Southern		
( √) Copy of Deed / Legal Description		of Fish & Wildlife		
	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •			
Letter Verifying Deed Review Must be paid prior to IS closure and prior to setting hearing date.)				
(√) IS Application and Fees* * Upon review	ew of project mater	rials, an Initial St	udy (IS) with fee	es may be required.
( /) Site Plans - 4 copies (folded to 8.5"X11				
( √) Floor Plan & Elevations - 4 copies (fold	ded to 8.5"X11") + 1	1 - 8.5"x11" redu	ction	
( /) Project Description / Operational State	ment (Typed)	[		
( ) Statement of Variance Findings		PLU	J#113 F	ee: \$247.00
( ) Statement of Intended Use (ALCC)		Note		ly to the application fee
( ) Dependency Relationship Statement		§	e application is sub	
( ) Resolution/Letter of Release from City	of		ths of the date on t	• • •
Referral Letter				
F.77	_			
BY: ( The Alman)	DATE: DC 78	2018		
PHONE NUMBER: (559) 600 - 4204				
NOTE: THE FOLLOWING REQUIREMENTS		Y:		
	TE PLAN REVIEW			
	UILDING PLANS			
• •	UILDING PERMITS 'ASTE FACILITIES PE	RMIT		
	CHOOL FEES			
, ,	THER (see reverse side)	1		OVER







CUP Pre App: 39613

Contractor: California Commercial Solar, Inc. DBA CalCom Energy 9497 N. Fort Washington Rd, Suite 105 Fresno, CA 93730 Jim Lawson, 559-909-8271

Owner: Pappas Ranch LLC 12121 Wilshire Blvd. Los Angeles, CA 90025 Ariel Namvar



1. Nature of the operation--what do you propose to do? Describe in detail.

Proposed project: A 1210kW\_DC (Phase I) and a 1008 kW\_DC (Phase II) project totaling 2,218 kW\_DC of ground mount solar systems to be used for agricultural operations support. Project composed of 2880 modules (Phase I) and 3456 modules (Phase II) totaling 6,336 modules on a single axis tracking structure. Those 6,336 modules will comprise of the main structure which will be constructed on APN 060-140-60S.

Phase I of the project will be entirely contained on APN 060-140-60S. For phase II, approximately 1.5 miles of overhead electric lines will be installed to connect the system to a nearby existing facility on APN 065-020-37S. The overhead electric lines will start on APN 060-140-60S and end on APN 065-020-37S. The overhead electrics lines will run southward on the East side of APN 065-020-37S and then westward on the South side of APN 065-020-37S.

### 2. Operational time limits:

The solar system will be tied in and serving a well on APN 065-020-37S. The solar system will be generating power year-round, 7 days a week and from approximately 5am to 9pm. No special activities will be performed.

### Number of customers or visitors:

The system will average 1 visit per month for maintenance and repair purposes. The maximum visitor or technicians on the site at one time will be 3.

### 4. Number of employees:

The system will not house or require any employees. A service truck will be present about once a month for operation maintenance purposes.

### 5. Service and delivery vehicles:

A service truck will be present about once a month for operation maintenance purposes.

### 6. Access to the site:

The system will be accessible via both public and private road.

7. Number of parking spaces for employees, customers, and service/delivery vehicles.

There will be no dedicated parking spaces.

8. Are any goods to be sold on-site? If so, are these goods grown or produced on-site or at some other location?

No goods will be sold on this site. The system will generate power via solar modules.

9. What equipment is used?

The equipment being used on site will be small tools, services trucks and cleaning equipment.

10. What supplies or materials are used and how are they stored?

There will be no supplies or materials stored on site.

11. Does the use cause an unsightly appearance?

The system will not cause any unsightly appearance or noise.

12. List any solid or liquid wastes to be produced.

The system will not produce any solid or liquid wastes

13. Estimated volume of water to be used (gallons per day).

About 4000 gallons of water will be used once every three months for cleaning purposes (44 gallons per day). The source of water will be via a water truck.

14. Describe any proposed advertising including size, appearance, and placement.

A contractor logo, approximately 4'x3', will be hung on a fence.

15. Will existing buildings be used or will new buildings be constructed?

This system does not utilize any existing buildings and no new buildings will be constructed.

16. Explain which buildings or what portion of buildings will be used in the operation.

The solar system is self-performing with no other buildings involved.

17. Will any outdoor lighting or an outdoor sound amplification system be used?

There will be no lighting or sound amplification system of any type.

18. Landscaping or fencing proposed?

There will be a permanent fence erected around the proposed solar system with four access gates.

19. Any other information that will provide a clear understanding of the project or operation.

20. Identify all Owners, Officers and/or Board Members for each application submitted; this may be accomplished by submitting a cover letter in addition to the information provided on the signed application forms.

See page 1.



# County of Fresno

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND PLANNING STEVEN E. WHITE, DIRECTOR

## INITIAL STUDY APPLICATION

## INSTRUCTIONS

Answer all questions completely. An incomplete form may delay processing of your application. Use additional paper if necessary and attach any supplemental information to this form. Attach an operational statement if appropriate. This application will be distributed to several agencies and persons to determine the potential environmental effects of your proposal. Please complete the form in a legible and reproducible manner (i.e., USE BLACK INK OR TYPE).

OFFICE USE ONLY		
IS No	7584	
Project No(s)	CUP 3638	
Application Rec'd.: 01-28-2019		

### **GENERAL INFORMATION**

1.	Property Owner: Ariel Namvar - Nut Farmers LLC		_Phone/Fax310-873-9561	
	Mailing Address: 12121 Wilshire Blvd	Los Angeles	CA 90025	
	Street	City	State/Zip	
2.	Applicant: CalCom Energy	Phone	<sub>2</sub> /Fax: 559-667-9200	
	Mailing Address: 635 S. Atwood St.	Visalia	CA 93277	
	Street	City	State/Zip	
3.	Representative: Brad Styer	· Phone	/Fax: 559-667-9200	
	Mailing Address: 635 S. Atwood St.	Visalia	CA 93277	
4.	Street 1210 FW_DC & 1008 Proposed Project: 1100kW_DC ground		State/Zip pricultural operations support.	
	Project composed of 3,150 modules on a single axis tracking structure. Approximately 1.5 miles of overhead			
	electric lines will also be installed to conr	nect the system to a nearby exis	sting facility.	
5.	Project Location: Array will be built on APN 060-140-60S, with the overhead lines running to 065-020-37S.  Project located approximately 2 miles northeast of the HWY145/I5 intersection.			
6.	Project Address: APN 060-140-60s. No	address for the site.		
7.	Section/Township/Range: 33 /18		Size:	
9.	Assessor's Parcel No. 060-140-60s			

10.	Land Conservation Contract No. (If applicable): AP2200			
11.	What other agencies will you need to get permits or authorization from:			
	LAFCo (annexation or extension of services) X SJVUAPCD (Air Pollution Control District)  CALTRANS Reclamation Board  Division of Aeronautics Department of Energy  Water Quality Control Board Airport Land Use Commission  Other			
12.	Will the project utilize Federal funds or require other Federal authorization subject to the provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969? Yes $\_{\times}$ No			
	If so, please provide a copy of all related grant and/or funding documents, related information and environmental review requirements.			
13.	Existing Zone District <sup>1</sup> : A1			
14.	. Existing General Plan Land Use Designation <sup>1</sup> : Agriculture			
<u>EN</u>	VIRONMENTAL INFORMATION			
15.	Present land use: currently used as orchard and ground crop farming  Describe existing physical improvements including buildings, water (wells) and sewage facilities, roads, and lighting. Include a site plan or map showing these improvements:  Existing well and water system on array parcel and secondary parcel. A basin is also located on the secondary parcel.			
	Describe the major vegetative cover: orchard and ground crops			
	Any perennial or intermittent water courses? If so, show on map: none			
	Is property in a flood-prone area? Describe:			
<i>16</i> .	Describe surrounding land uses (e.g., commercial, agricultural, residential, school, etc.):  North: Agriculture			
	South: Agriculture			
	East: Agriculture			
	West: Agriculture			

17.					
18.					
19.	Tra	nsportatio	n:		
	NOTE: The information below will be used in determining traffic impacts from this project. The data may also show the need for a Traffic Impact Study (TIS) for the project.				
	A. Will additional driveways from the proposed project site be necessary to access public roads?  Yes X No				
	В.	Daily tro	affic generation:		
		I.	Residential - Number of Units  Lot Size  Single Family  Apartments  0  0  0  0		
		II.	Commercial - Number of Employees 0 Number of Salesmen 0 Number of Delivery Trucks 0 Total Square Footage of Building 6 acres		
		III.	Describe and quantify other traffic generation activities: During construction, deliveries and		
		,	employee traffic, however once operational, no regular traffic will be created. Occasional maintenance will		
			occur, however that it typically twice per year.		
20.	Describe any source(s) of noise from your project that may affect the surrounding area: None. Regular construction noise during the 8-week construction period; none once operational.				
21.	Desc	cribe any s	cource(s) of noise in the area that may affect your project: none.		
22.	Desc	cribe the p	robable source(s) of air pollution from your project: None.		
22					
23.	(x)	private we	ce of water: ll v system³-name:		

24.	Anticipated volume of water to be used (gallons per day) <sup>2</sup> : 4,000 during construction, 0 once complete.
25.	Proposed method of liquid waste disposal:  ( ) septic system/individual  ( ) community system³-name N/A
<i>26</i> .	Estimated volume of liquid waste (gallons per day) <sup>2</sup> : 0
27.	Anticipated type(s) of liquid waste: None
28.	Anticipated type(s) of hazardous wastes <sup>2</sup> : None
29.	Anticipated volume of hazardous wastes <sup>2</sup> : None
<i>30.</i>	Proposed method of hazardous waste disposal <sup>2</sup> : N/A
<i>31</i> .	Anticipated type(s) of solid waste: None
<i>32</i> .	Anticipated amount of solid waste (tons or cubic yards per day): 0
<i>33.</i> <sub>2</sub>	Anticipated amount of waste that will be recycled (tons or cubic yards per day):
34.	Proposed method of solid waste disposal: N/A
<i>35</i> .	Fire protection district(s) serving this area: Fresno County Fire Protection District
<i>36</i> .	Has a previous application been processed on this site? If so, list title and date: No.
<i>37</i> .	Do you have any underground storage tanks (except septic tanks)? Yes No_X
38.	If yes, are they currently in use? Yes No
То т	THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE, THE FOREGOING INFORMATION IS TRUE.
	11/2/18
SIC	ENATURE DATE

(Revised 5/2/16)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Refer to Development Services Conference Checklist <sup>2</sup>For assistance, contact Environmental Health System, (559) 600-3357 <sup>3</sup>For County Service Areas or Waterworks Districts, contact the Resources Division, (559) 600-4259

## NOTICE AND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

### INDEMNIFICATION AND DEFENSE

The Board of Supervisors has adopted a policy that applicants should be made aware that they may be responsible for participating in the defense of the County in the event a lawsuit is filed resulting from the County's action on your project. You may be required to enter into an agreement to indemnify and defend the County if it appears likely that litigation could result from the County's action. The agreement would require that you deposit an appropriate security upon notice that a lawsuit has been filed. In the event that you fail to comply with the provisions of the agreement, the County may rescind its approval of the project.

### STATE FISH AND WILDLIFE FEE

State law requires that specified fees (effective January 1, 2017: \$3,078.25 for an EIR; \$2,216.25 for a (Mitigated/Negative Declaration) be paid to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) for projects which must be reviewed for potential adverse effect on wildlife resources. The County is required to collect the fees on behalf of CDFW. A \$50.00 handling fee will also be charged, as provided for in the legislation, to defray a portion of the County's costs for collecting the fees.

The following projects are exempt from the fees:

- 1. All projects statutorily exempt from the provisions of CEQA (California Environmental Quality Act).
- 2. All projects categorically exempt by regulations of the Secretary of Resources (State of California) from the requirement to prepare environmental documents.

A fee exemption may be issued by CDFW for eligible projects determined by that agency to have "no effect on wildlife." That determination must be provided in advance from CDFG to the County at the request of the applicant. You may wish to call the local office of CDFG at (559) 222-3761 if you need more information.

Upon completion of the Initial Study you will be notified of the applicable fee. Payment of the fee will be required before your project will be forwarded to the project analyst for scheduling of any required hearings and final processing. The fee will be refunded if the project should be denied by the County.

Applicant's Signature Date

**DOCUMENT**1

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