

INITIAL STUDY/NEGATIVE DECLARATION

[Pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21080(c) and California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Sections 15070-15071]

Lead Agency: San Joaquin County Community Development Department

Project Applicant: Provost & Pritchard (c/o Steve Bommelje)

Project Title/File Number(s): PA-1800315

Project Description: A Site Approval application to install a manure digester facility on an 18-acre portion of an on a 237.48-acre parcel with an existing dairy, Vander Schaaf Dairy #3. The manure digester facility will capture greenhouse gases from manure waste and convert the greenhouse gases to Renewable Natural Gas (RNG). The proposal includes the construction of the following:

- a 11,825 square foot hydrolyzer structure,
- a 57,600 square foot digester double-lined covered lagoon,
- a 5,100 square foot Livestock Water Recycling structure,
- a 3,200 square foot office building
- a 1,500 square foot utility shop,
- a 5,500 square foot Livestock Water Recycling equipment area,
- a 11,000 square foot Renewable Natural Gas equipment area,
- a 2,760 square foot processing and equalization pit,
- a 7,850 square foot flare structure,
- a 1,370 square foot truck scale
- three (3) natural gas genset containers totaling 1,400 square feet
- a temporary manure storage area,
- a 144 square foot collection pit,
- a 1,990 square foot flush pit,
- a 2,700 square foot manure screen separation structure,
- a 1,900 square foot bedding drying structure, and
- a manure storage area.

The RNG will be picked up by outside truck hauling companies 7 days per week. The manure feeding the digester will be supplied by the onsite dairy, Vander Schaaf Dairy #1 located 0.5 miles north of the project site on AP: 203-130-05, and off-site "donor" dairies. Flush water for the project will be pumped from the Vander Schaaf Dairy #1 through the installation of new underground pipes and lift stations across two parcels including APN 203-130-03 & -06, to the Vander Schaaf Dairy #3. The resulting separated solids from the project will be sold as fertilizer and trucked offsite daily. The parcel will be served by an on-site water well, a septic system for waste water disposal, and natural storm drainage. The facility proposes to operate 24 hours per day 7 days per week with 14 truck trips per day, and 4 employees arriving on site in personal vehicles during normal daytime business hours 8 am to 5 pm, 5-days a week. The project site has two (2) existing access driveways on S. Murphy Rd, but only the south driveway will be utilized for the project. This parcel is under a Williamson Act contract.

The project site is located on the west side of South Murphy Road, 2,915 feet north of Lone Tree Road, northwest of Escalon.

Assessor's Parcel No(s): 203-120-11; 203-130-03, 05, & -06

Acres: 237.48

General Plan: A/G; OS/RC

Zoning: AG-40

Potential Population, Number of Dwelling Units, or Square Footage of Use(s):

A 117,489 square foot manure digester facility.

Surrounding Land Uses:

North: Agricultural with scattered residences/ Dairy Facility/Avena Drain

South: Agricultural with scattered residences/Lone Tree Creek

East: Agricultural with scattered residences/City of Ripon
West: Agricultural with scattered residences

References and Sources for Determining Environmental Impacts:

Original source materials and maps on file in the Community Development Department including: all County and City general plans and community plans; assessor parcel books; various local and FEMA flood zone maps; service district maps; maps of geologic instability; maps and reports on endangered species such as the Natural Diversity Data Base; noise contour maps; specific roadway plans; maps and/or records of archeological/historic resources; soil reports and maps; etc.

Many of these original source materials have been collected from other public agencies or from previously prepared EIR's and other technical studies. Additional standard sources which should be specifically cited below include on-site visits by staff (2/22/19); staff knowledge or experience; and independent environmental studies submitted to the County as part of the project application. Copies of these reports can be found by contacting the Community Development Department.

Tribal Cultural Resources:

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.?

No California Native American tribes have requested consultation.

General Considerations:

1. Does it appear that any environmental feature of the project will generate significant public concern or controversy?

☐ Yes ☒ No

Nature of concern(s):

2. Will the project require approval or permits by agencies other than the County?

☐ Yes ☒ No

Agency name(s):

3. Is the project within the Sphere of Influence, or within two miles, of any city?

☐ Yes ☒ No

City:

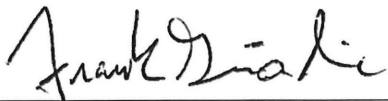
ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED:

The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project, involving at least one impact that is a "**Potentially Significant Impact**" as indicated by the checklist on the following pages.

<input type="checkbox"/> Aesthetics	<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture and Forestry Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> Air Quality
<input type="checkbox"/> Biological Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> Cultural Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> Energy
<input type="checkbox"/> Geology / Soils	<input type="checkbox"/> Greenhouse Gas Emissions	<input type="checkbox"/> Hazards & Hazardous Materials
<input type="checkbox"/> Hydrology / Water Quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Land Use / Planning	<input type="checkbox"/> Mineral Resources
<input type="checkbox"/> Noise	<input type="checkbox"/> Population / Housing	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Services
<input type="checkbox"/> Recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Tribal Cultural Resources
<input type="checkbox"/> Utilities / Service Systems	<input type="checkbox"/> Wildfire	<input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory Findings of Significance

Determination: (To be completed by the Lead Agency) On the basis of this initial evaluation:

- ☐ I find that the proposed project **COULD NOT** have a significant effect on the environment, and a **NEGATIVE DECLARATION** will be prepared.
- ☒ I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. A **MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION** will be prepared.
- ☐ I find that the proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT** is required.
- ☐ I find that the proposed project **MAY** have a "potentially significant impact" or "potentially significant unless mitigated" impact on the environment, but at least one effect 1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and 2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. An **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT** is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.
- ☐ I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier **EIR** or **NEGATIVE DECLARATION** pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier **EIR** or **NEGATIVE DECLARATION**, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project, nothing further is required.



Signature

April 7, 2021

Date

EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS:

- 1) A brief explanation is required for all answers except "No Impact" answers that are adequately supported by the information sources a lead agency cites in the parentheses following each question. A "No Impact" answer is adequately supported if the referenced information sources show that the impact simply does not apply to projects like the one involved (e.g., the project falls outside a fault rupture zone). A "No Impact" answer should be explained where it is based on project-specific factors as well as general standards (e.g., the project will not expose sensitive receptors to pollutants, based on a project-specific screening analysis).
- 2) All answers must take account of the whole action involved, including off-site as well as on-site, cumulative as well as project-level, indirect as well as direct, and construction as well as operational impacts.
- 3) Once the lead agency has determined that a particular physical impact may occur, then the checklist answers must indicate whether the impact is potentially significant, less than significant with mitigation, or less than significant. "Potentially Significant Impact" is appropriate if there is substantial evidence that an effect may be significant. If there are one or more "Potentially Significant Impact" entries when the determination is made, an EIR is required.
- 4) "Negative Declaration: Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated" applies where the incorporation of mitigation measures has reduced an effect from "Potentially Significant Impact" to a "Less Than Significant Impact." The lead agency must describe the mitigation measures, and briefly explain how they reduce the effect to a less than significant level (mitigation measures from "Earlier Analyses," as described in (5) below, may be cross-referenced).
- 5) Earlier analyses may be used where, pursuant to the tiering, program EIR, or other CEQA process, an effect has been adequately analyzed in an earlier EIR or negative declaration. Section 15063(c)(3)(D). In this case, a brief discussion should identify the following:
 - a) Earlier Analysis Used. Identify and state where they are available for review.
 - b) Impacts Adequately Addressed. Identify which effects from the above checklist were within the scope of and adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and state whether such effects were addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis.
 - c) Mitigation Measures. For effects that are "Less than Significant with Mitigation Measures Incorporated," describe the mitigation measures which were incorporated or refined from the earlier document and the extent to which they address site-specific conditions for the project.
- 6) Lead agencies are encouraged to incorporate into the checklist references to information sources for potential impacts (e.g., general plans, zoning ordinances). Reference to a previously prepared or outside document should, where appropriate, include a reference to the page or pages where the statement is substantiated.
- 7) Supporting Information Sources: A source list should be attached, and other sources used or individuals contacted should be cited in the discussion.
- 8) This is only a suggested form, and lead agencies are free to use different formats; however, lead agencies should normally address the questions from this checklist that are relevant to a project's environmental effects in whatever format is selected.
- 9) The explanation of each issue should identify:
 - a) the significance criteria or threshold, if any, used to evaluate each question; and
 - b) the mitigation measure identified, if any, to reduce the impact to less than significance.

ISSUES:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact	Analyzed In The Prior EIR
<u>I. Aesthetics.</u>					
Except as provided in Public Resources Code Section 21099, would the project:					
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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 publically accessible vantage point). If the project is in an urbanized area, would the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Impact Discussion:

- (a-d) The proposed project is a Site Approval application for establishing a manure digester facility at an existing dairy on an 18-acre portion of a 237.48-acre parcel. The project site is not located along a designated scenic route pursuant to 2035 General Plan Figure 12-2, and the surrounding area is a mixture of agricultural, and residential uses. As a result, the proposed project is not anticipated to have an impact on aesthetics.

Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact	Analyzed In The Prior EIR
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II. Agriculture 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 provided in Forest Protocols adopted by the California Air Resources Board. -- Would the project:

- | | | | | | |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to nonagricultural use? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c) Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g))? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 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? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Impact Discussion:

- (a-e) The proposed project is a Site Approval application for establishing a manure digester facility at an existing dairy on an 18-acre portion of a 237.48-acre parcel. According to the Department of Conservation Important Farmland map, the project site is designated S (Statewide Importance) and U (Unique Farmland). The project will not convert the agricultural land to a non-farm use and will not affect crop production on adjacent parcels.

The proposed project site is currently under Williamson Act contract No. WA-74-C1-0157. The contract restricts development to uses that are compatible with the Williamson Act and Development Title Section 9-1805. "Compatible use" as defined in the Williamson Act includes uses determined by the County to be compatible with the agricultural, recreational, or open-space use of land within the preserve and subject to contract. (Government Code Section 51201[e]) (Development Title Section 9-1810.3[b])

Pursuant to Government Code Section 51238.1, uses approved on contracted lands shall be consistent with the following three principles of compatibility.

1. The use will not significantly compromise the long-term productive agricultural capability of the subject contracted parcel or parcels or on other contracted lands in agricultural preserves.
 - **This Principle of Compatibility can be made because a manure digesting facility is classified as the Agricultural Wastes use type. The project will only occupy an 18-acre footprint within an 237.48-acre parcel. The use will support the existing dairy on site and is a compatible use on contracted land pursuant to Development Title Section 9-1810.3. As a result, the use will not significantly compromise the long-term productive agricultural capability of the subject contracted parcel or on other contracted lands in agricultural preserves.**
2. The use will not significantly displace or impair current or reasonably foreseeable agricultural operations on the subject contracted parcel or parcels or on other contracted land in agricultural preserves. Uses that significantly displace agricultural operations on the subject contracted parcel or parcels may be deemed compatible if they relate directly to the production of commercial agricultural products on the subject contracted parcel or parcels or neighboring lands including activities such as harvesting, processing, or shipping.
 - **This Principle of Compatibility can be made because the proposed use is for the disposal of agricultural wastes and relates directly to the dairies use both on this property and other agricultural properties in the vicinity of the project site. The parcel is currently used as a dairy operation, and the proposed use will occupy approximately 18 acres of a 237.48-acre legal lot. The remaining portion of the parcel will continue to remain as a grazing pasture.**
3. The use will not result in the significant removal of adjacent contracted land from agricultural or open-space use. In evaluating compatibility a board or council shall consider the impacts on non-contracted lands in the agricultural preserve or preserves.
 - **This Principle of Compatibility can be made because the Agricultural Wastes use type is a permitted use on property under contract. The project area is zoned AG-40 (General Agriculture, 40-acre minimum) with General Plan designations of A/G (General Agriculture) and OS/RC (Open Space and Resource Conservation). The use is consistent with the AG-40 zoning designation and may be conditionally approved with a Site Approval in this zone. Therefore, the manure digester facility will not negatively impact agricultural uses on adjacent contracted lands and will not result in the significant removal of adjacent contracted land from agricultural or open-space.**

The project will not affect any agricultural uses, nor will it affect properties under Williamson Act contracts to the north, south, east, and west. Therefore, the proposed application will have a less than significant impact on agriculture. The proposed project does not conflict with any existing or planned uses as the zoning and General Plan designations will remain the same and may be conditionally permitted in the AG-40 zone with an approved Site Approval. Therefore, this project will not set a significant land use precedent in the area. There are no applicable Master Plans, Specific Plans, or Special Purpose Plans in the vicinity. Referrals have been sent to the Department of Conservation for review and no comments were received.

Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact	Analyzed In The Prior EIR
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III. Air Quality.

Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management 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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Result in substantial emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Impact Discussion:

- (a-d) The proposed project is a Site Approval application for establishing a manure digester facility at an existing dairy on an 18-acre portion of a 237.48 acre parcel. The San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District (SJVAPCD) has been established by the State in an effort to control and minimize air pollution. A project referral was sent to the SJVAPCD on February 24, 2021. As a Condition of Approval, the project will be subject to the District's rules and regulations. As a result, any impacts to air quality will be reduced to a less-than-significant level.

To minimize the source of air pollutants involve dusts from onsite traffic, the existing driveway, circulation, and parking areas are paved with asphalt concrete. The proposed parking and circulation areas and driveway and will be required to be paved with asphalt concrete or Portland cement concrete pursuant to Development Title Section 9-1015.5(e). The project is expected to have a maximum of four (4) employees with an average of fourteen (14) truck trips per day. The project will follow best management practices for dust control. As a result of the required surfacing and best management practices, dust generated by the movement of vehicles on to and off of the property is expected to be less than significant.

IV. Biological Resources.

Would the project:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact	Analyzed In The Prior EIR
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 Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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 Game or US Fish and Wildlife Service?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Impact Discussion:

- (a-b) The California Department of Fish and Wildlife Natural Diversity Database lists *Buteo swainsoni* (Swainson hawk) as rare, endangered, or threatened species or habitat located on or near the site for the proposed project. Referrals have been sent to the San Joaquin Council of Governments (SJCOG), the agency responsible for verifying the correct implementation of the *San Joaquin County Multi-Species Habitat Conservation and Open Space Plan* (SJMSCP), which provides compensation for the conversion of Open Space to non-Open Space uses which affect the plant, fish and wildlife species covered by the Plan. Pursuant to the Final EIR/EIS for SJMSCP, dated November 15, 2000, and certified by SJCOG on December 7, 2000, implementation of the SJMSCP is expected to reduce impacts to biological resources resulting from the proposed project to a level of less-than-significant. The applicant has confirmed they will participate in the SJMSCP, and by participating in the plan this would reduce potential impacts on special-status plant and animal species to a less-than-significant level.

A referral was sent to SJCOG and SJCOG responded in letter dated February 24, 2021, that the project is subject to the SJMSCP. The applicant has confirmed that he will participate in SJMSCP. With the applicant's participation, the proposed project is consistent with the SJMSCP and any impacts to biological resources resulting from the proposed project will be reduced to a level of less-than-significant.

- (c) The subject property has no riparian habitat or wetlands located within its boundaries, therefore the proposed project will not have an impact on riparian habitat or wetlands.
- (d) The project's impact on resident or migratory wildlife corridors will be reduced to less than significant because the project applicant will participate in the San Joaquin Multi-Species Habitat Conservation and Open Space Plan (SJMSCP). Implementation of the SJMSCP is expected to reduce impacts to biological resources resulting from the proposed project to a level of less-than-significant.
- (e) The projects impact on protected biological resources will be reduced to less than significant because the project applicant will participate in the San Joaquin Multi-Species Habitat Conservation and Open Space Plan (SJMSCP). Implementation of the SJMSCP is expected to reduce impacts to biological resources resulting from the proposed project to a level of less-than-significant and the project will not conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources
- (f) The project will not conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan, because the project applicant will participate in the San Joaquin Multi-Species Habitat Conservation and Open Space Plan (SJMSCP). Implementation of the SJMSCP is expected to reduce impacts to biological resources resulting from the proposed project to a level of less-than-significant.

Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact	Analyzed In The Prior EIR
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V. Cultural Resources.

Would the project:

a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to § 15064.5?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to § 15064.5?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of dedicated cemeteries?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Impact Discussion:

- (a-c) The proposed project will have no impact on Cultural Resources as there are no resources on the project site that are listed or are eligible for listing on a local register, the California Register of Historic Places, or National Register of Historic Places.

In the event human remains are encountered during any portion of the project, California state law requires that there shall be no further excavation or disturbance of the site or any nearby area reasonably suspected to overlie adjacent remains until the coroner of the county has determined manner and cause of death, and the recommendations concerning the treatment and disposition of the human remains have been made to the person responsible for the excavation (California Health and Safety Code - Section 7050.5). Therefore, any disturbance to human remains will be reduced to less than significant.

Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact	Analyzed In The Prior EIR
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VI. Energy.

Would the project:

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|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| a) Result in a potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy, or wasteful use of energy resources, during project construction or operation? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Impact Discussion:

- (a-b) The California Energy Code (also titled The Energy Efficiency Standards for Residential and Non-residential Buildings) was created by the California Building Standards Commission in response to a legislative mandate to reduce California's energy consumption. The code's purpose is to advance the state's energy policy, develop renewable energy sources and prepare for energy emergencies. These standards are updated periodically by the California Energy Commission. The code includes energy conservation standards applicable to most buildings throughout California. These requirements will be applicable to the proposed project, and will be triggered at the time of building permit application, ensuring that any impact to the environment due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy will be less than significant and preventing any conflict with state or local plans for energy efficiency and renewable energy.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact	Analyzed In The Prior EIR
<u>VII. Geology And Soils.</u>					
Would the project:					
a) Directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
iv) Landslides?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Be located on expansive soil and create direct or indirect risks to life or property?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Impact Discussion:

- (a) The project will have to comply with the California Building Code (CBC) which includes provisions for soils reports for grading and foundations as well as design criteria for seismic loading and other geologic hazards based on fault and seismic hazard mapping. All recommendations from a soils report must be incorporated into the construction plans. Therefore, impacts to seismic-related (or other) landslide hazards will be less than significant.
- (b) The project will not result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil because the project will require a grading permit in conjunction with a building permit. Therefore, the grading will be done under permit and inspection by the San Joaquin County Community Development Department's Building Division. As a result, impacts to soil erosion or loss of topsoil will be less than significant.

- (c-d) The project site is relatively flat terrain where landslides have not historically been an issue. A soils report will be required for grading and foundations and all recommendations from a soils report must be incorporated into the construction plans. Therefore, any risks resulting from being located on an unstable unit will be reduced to less than significant.
- (e) The project will be served by an onsite septic tank or alternative wastewater disposal system for the disposal of waste water for the proposed office building. The sewage disposal system shall comply with the onsite wastewater treatment systems standards of San Joaquin County. A percolation test, performed under permit and inspection by the Environmental Health Department, is required. After a successful percolation test, the onsite wastewater treatment system will be evaluated prior to issuance of a building permit. With these standards in place, only soils capable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks will be approved for the septic system.
- (f) The project area has not been determined to contain significant historic or prehistoric archeological artifacts that could be disturbed by project construction; therefore, damage to unique paleontological resources or sites or geologic features is anticipated to be less than significant.

Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact	Analyzed In The Prior EIR
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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?

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b) Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?

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Impact Discussion:

(a-b) Emissions of GHGs contributing to global climate change are attributable in large part to human activities associated with the industrial/manufacturing, utility, transportation, residential, and agricultural sectors. Therefore, the cumulative global emissions of GHGs contributing to global climate change can be attributed to every nation, region, and city, and virtually every individual on earth. An individual project's GHG emissions are at a micro-scale level relative to global emissions and effects to global climate change; however, an individual project could result in a cumulatively considerable incremental contribution to a significant cumulative macro-scale impact. As such, impacts related to emissions of GHG are inherently considered cumulative impacts.

Implementation of the proposed project would cumulatively contribute to increases of GHG emissions. Estimated GHG emissions attributable to future development would be primarily associated with increases of carbon dioxide (CO₂) and, to a lesser extent, other GHG pollutants, such as methane (CH₄) and nitrous oxide (N₂O) associated with area sources, mobile sources or vehicles, utilities (electricity and natural gas), water usage, wastewater generation, and the generation of solid waste. The primary source of GHG emissions for the project would be mobile source emissions. The common unit of measurement for GHG is expressed in terms of annual metric tons of CO₂ equivalents (MTCO₂e/yr).

It should be noted that neither the SJVAPCD nor the County provide project-level thresholds for construction-related GHG emissions. Construction GHG emissions are a one-time release and are, therefore, not typically expected to generate a significant contribution to global climate change. As such, the analysis herein is limited to discussion of long-term operational GHG emissions.

As noted previously, the proposed project will be subject to the rules and regulations of the SJVAPCD. The SJVAPCD has adopted the *Guidance for Valley Land-use Agencies in Addressing GHG Emission Impacts for New Projects under CEQA* and the *District Policy- Addressing GHG Emission Impacts for Stationary Source Projects Under CEQA When Serving as the Lead Agency*.¹¹ The guidance and policy rely on the use of performance-based standards, otherwise known as Best Performance Standards (BPS) to assess significance of project specific greenhouse gas emissions on global climate change during the environmental review process, as required by CEQA. To be determined to have a less-than-significant individual and cumulative impact with regard to GHG emissions, projects must include BPS sufficient to reduce GHG emissions by 29 percent when compared to Business As Usual (BAU) GHG emissions. Per the SJVAPCD, BAU is defined as projected emissions for the 2002- 2004 baseline period. Projects which do not achieve a 29 percent reduction from BAU levels with BPS alone are required to quantify additional project-specific reductions demonstrating a combined reduction of 29 percent. Potential mitigation measures may include, but not limited to: on-site renewable energy (e.g. solar photovoltaic systems), electric vehicle charging stations, the use of alternative-fueled vehicles, exceeding Title 24 energy efficiency standards, the installation of energy-efficient lighting and control systems, the installation of energy- efficient mechanical systems, the installation of drought-tolerant landscaping, efficient irrigation systems, and the use of low-flow plumbing fixtures. This will reduce the impact of GHG emissions to a level of less than significant.

¹¹ San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District. *Guidance for Valley Land-use Agencies in Addressing GHG Emission*
PA-1800315 – Initial Study

Impacts for New Projects under CEQA. December 17, 2009. San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District. District Policy Addressing GHG Emission Impacts for Stationary Source Projects Under CEQA When Serving as the Lead Agency. December 17, 2009.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact	Analyzed In The Prior EIR
<u>IX. Hazards and Hazardous Materials.</u>					
Would the project:					
a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard or excessive noise for people residing or working in the project area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g) Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Impact Discussion:

- (a) Pursuant to the Hazardous Materials Disclosure Survey submitted with the application, the project is not expected to use or store hazardous materials on site, therefore the risk of hazard due to the transportation or use of hazardous materials is expected to be less than significant.
- (b-d) The project site is not listed as a hazardous materials site on the California Department of Toxic Substances Control EnviroStor database map, compiled pursuant to Government Code 65962.5 and, therefore, will not result in creating a significant hazard to the public or the environment.
- (e) The project site is not located within an airport land use plan nor within two miles of a public airport, therefore, impacts resulting from airport uses to people in the project area are expected to be less than significant.
- (f) The project site is located in the urban community of Stockton and is currently developed. The project will have approximately four (4) employees and fourteen (14) truck trips per day. Therefore, the project is not expected to

generate enough traffic to create traffic congestion that would interfere with the execution of an emergency plan.

- (g) Pursuant to the California Building code requirement, the project structure will have fire sprinklers installed inside the structure for safety. Implementation of this safety standard will result in any impact to people or structures from wildland fires being less than significant. Additionally, the project site is no located in a Fire Hazard area.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact	Analyzed In The Prior EIR
<u>X. Hydrology and Water Quality.</u>					
Would the project:					
a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or ground water quality?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
i) result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site;	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ii) substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site;	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
iii) create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff; or	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
iv) impede or redirect flood flows?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Impact Discussion:

- (a, e) The proposed project will not violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or ground water quality, conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan.
- (b-d) The project will not substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge, 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 result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site; substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site; create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff; or impede or redirect flood flows.

- (d) The project parcels contain areas designated as Flood Zones A, AE, AO, X(500) and X. The project site is located within the Flood Zone X portions of the parcels with the exception of the underground pipes for transferring flush water from Vander Schaaf Dairy #1 to Vander Schaaf Dairy #3. These pipes cross areas designated as Flood Zone A, AO, and X(500), but are located underground and would not risk release of pollutants in a flood hazard zone. Additionally, the project site is not located within a tsunami, or seiche zones.

Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact	Analyzed In The Prior EIR
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XI. Land Use and Planning.

Would the project:

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|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| a) Physically divide an established community? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 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? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Impact Discussion:

- (a-b) A manure digesting facility is classified under the Agricultural Wastes use type, and is a conditionally permitted use in the AG-40 (General Agriculture, 40-acre minimum) zone subject to an approved Site Approval application. The proposed project is a Site Approval application for establishing a manure digester facility on an 18-acre portion of a 237.48-acre legal lot with an existing dairy operation. The project site is surrounded by agricultural uses, and will not physically divide an established community.

The zoning and the General Plan for the project site will remain the same if the project is approved. Additionally, the proposed project will have a less than significant impact to surrounding parcels and will not create premature development pressure on surrounding agricultural lands to convert land from agricultural uses to non-agricultural uses. Therefore, this project is not a growth-inducing action.

The proposed project will not be a conflict with any existing or planned uses or set a significant land use precedent. The proposed project is not in conflict with any Master Plans, Specific Plans, or Special Purpose Plans, or any other applicable plan adopted by the County.

Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact	Analyzed In The Prior EIR
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XII. Mineral Resources.

Would the project:

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|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 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? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 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? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Impact Discussion:

- (a-b) The proposed project will not result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource of a resource recovery site because the site does not contain known mineral resources. San Joaquin County applies a mineral resource zone (MRZ) designation to land that meets the significant mineral deposits definition by the State Division of Mines and Geology and the proposed project site is not a designated mineral resource zone. Additionally, the proposed project will not impact active quarry operations in the project's vicinity. Therefore, the proposed project applications will have less than a significant impact on the availability of mineral resources or mineral resource recovery sites within San Joaquin County.

Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact	Analyzed In The Prior EIR
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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?
- b) Generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?
- c) For a project 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?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Impact Discussion:

- (a-b) The project site is located on S. Murphy Road, 2,915 feet north of Lone Tree Road, northwest of Escalon. The project site is surrounded by properties zoned for agricultural use and is separated from residential land uses which are listed as "noise sensitive" in the Development Title Section 9-1025.9. The nearest off-site residence is located 0.40 miles east of the project site, and the nearest on-site residence is located 0.20 miles east of the project site. The existing dairy facility is located between these residences and the proposed manure digester facility. The proposed project is also compatible with the surrounding agricultural land uses and is not expected to generate excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels. Therefore, noise impacts from the project are expected to be less than significant.
- (c) The project site is approximately five and one-half (5.5) miles from the nearest airport, Stockton Municipal Airport. Any noise impacts resulting from proximity to an airport are expected to be less than significant.

Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact	Analyzed In The Prior EIR
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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)?

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

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Impact Discussion:

(a-b) The proposed project will not induce substantial population growth in the area either directly or indirectly because the project site is in an agricultural zone. The proposed project would not displace substantial numbers of people or existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere because the project site not in proximity of existing residences and the zoning will remain the same if the project is approved. Therefore, the project's impact on population and housing is expected to be less than significant.

Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact	Analyzed In The Prior EIR
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XV. Public Services.

a) Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services:

Fire protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Police protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Schools?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Parks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other public facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Impact Discussion:

a) The proposed project will not result in substantial adverse physical impacts to existing service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for fire protection, police protection, schools, parks or other public facilities, as it will not result in a development requiring additional responsibilities for these public services. Therefore, the proposed project will have no impact on these services.

Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact	Analyzed In The Prior EIR
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XVI. Recreation.

a) Would the project 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?

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b) Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?

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Impact Discussion:

(a-b) The proposed project will not substantially increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks because no increase in housing or people is associated with this application. Additionally, the project does not include recreation facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities, which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment. Impacts to recreation opportunities are anticipated to be less than significant.

Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact	Analyzed In The Prior EIR
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XVII. Transportation.

Would the project:

a) Conflict with a program plan, ordinance, or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadways, bicycle, and pedestrian facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Would the project conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3, subdivision (b)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Result in inadequate emergency access?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Impact Discussion:

- (a-d) The Department of Public Works has been notified of this project and there is no substantial evidence that the project will cause significant impacts to S. Murphy Road. Based on project square footage, it was determined that this project will generate less than 110 automobile trips per day, and therefore, is considered a small project according to the Technical Advisory on Evaluating Transportation Impacts in CEQA, as published by the California Office of Planning and Research (OPR) in December 2018. According to this OPR guidance, a small project that generates or attracts "fewer than 110 trips per day generally may be assumed to cause a less-than-significant transportation impact" with regards to Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT). Therefore, this project is anticipated to have a less than significant impact on traffic.

The project is not expected to conflict with a program plan, ordinance, or policy addressing the vehicle circulation system. There will be no changes to the geometric design of roads or to emergency access routes. The proposed project is not expected to result in inadequate emergency access.

Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact	Analyzed In The Prior EIR
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XVIII. Tribal Cultural Resources.

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:

i) 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

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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 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.

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Impact Discussion:

(a) The proposed project is for a manure digester facility to be located on property currently developed with an existing dairy. At the time development, if Human burials are found to be of Native American origin, the developer shall follow the procedures pursuant to Title 14, Division 6, Chapter 3, Article 5, Section 15064.5(e) of the California State Code of Regulations. If human remains are encountered, all work shall halt in the vicinity and the County Coroner shall be notified immediately. At the same time, a qualified archaeologist shall be contacted to evaluate the finds. If Human burials are found to be of Native American origin, steps shall be taken pursuant to Section 15064.5(e) of Guidelines for California Environmental Quality Act.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact	Analyzed In The Prior EIR
<u>XIX. Utilities and Service Systems.</u>					
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Impact Discussion:

- (a-e) There are no public services available in this area for water, sewer, or storm water drainage. Parcels zoned as agricultural may use a well for water, a septic tank for sewer, and must retain all drainage on-site. Any new development will have to be accommodated by an on-site well for water, and septic system for sewage. Stormwater drainage will have to be retained on-site. The Department of Public Works will determine the specifications of the stormwater drainage system prior to issuance of a building permit. The Environmental Health Department will determine the specification of the water well and septic system prior to issuance of building permits.

Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact	Analyzed In The Prior EIR
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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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Impact Discussion:

(a-d) The project will have no impact on wildland fires as the project is located outside of a wildfire hazard area.

The proposed project will not substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan. The proposed project will not expose project occupants to pollutant concentrations from wildfire, or expose people or structures to significant risks such as downstream flooding, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes.

The project site is accessed by S. Murphy Road. Therefore, the project will not require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure that may exacerbate fire risk or may result in impacts to the environment. As a result, the proposed project will have a less than significant impact wildfire hazards.

Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact	Analyzed In The Prior EIR
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XXI. Mandatory Findings of Significance.

a) Does the project 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?

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b) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)?

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c) Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?

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Impact Discussion:

(a-c) The proposed project does not appear to have the potential to significantly degrade the overall quality of the region's environment, or substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory. There are no identified historic or prehistoric resources identified on this site. No archaeological or paleontological resources have been identified in the project area.

The project is not expected to have cumulatively considerable impacts. Less-than-significant impacts to air quality, biological resources, traffic, and hydrology have been identified. Any impacts will be adequately addressed through conditions of approval.

The project does not have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 21083, 21083.05, Public Resources Code. Reference: Section 65088.4, Gov. Code; Sections 21080, 21083.05, 21095, Pub. Resources Code; Eureka Citizens for Responsible Govt. v. City of Eureka (2007) 147 Cal.App.4th 357; Protect the Historic Amador Waterways v. Amador Water Agency (2004) 116 Cal.App.4th at 1109; San Franciscans Upholding the Downtown Plan v. City and County of San Francisco (2002) 102 Cal.App.4th 656.

