

CEQA Referral Initial Study And Notice of Intent to Adopt a Negative Declaration

Date:	December 16, 2021
То:	Distribution List (See Attachment A)
From:	Planning and Community Development
Subject:	USE PERMIT APPLICATION NO. PLN2020-0077 – COIT AND HEWES, LLC
Comment Period:	December 16, 2021 – January 18, 2022
Respond By:	January 18, 2022
Public Hearing Date:	Not yet scheduled. A separate notice will be sent to you when a hearing is scheduled.

You may have previously received an Early Consultation Notice regarding this project, and your comments, if provided, were incorporated into the Initial Study. Based on all comments received, Stanislaus County anticipates adopting a Negative Declaration for this project. This referral provides notice of a 30-day comment period during which Responsible and Trustee Agencies and other interested parties may provide comments to this Department regarding our proposal to adopt the Negative Declaration.

All applicable project documents are available for review at: Stanislaus County Department of Planning and Community Development, 1010 10th Street, Suite 3400, Modesto, CA 95354. Please provide any additional comments to the above address or call us at (209) 525-6330 if you have any questions. Thank you.

Applicant: Colt and Hewes, LLC	pplicant:	Coit and Hewes, LLC
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Project Location: 719 E Grayson Road, between Morgan Road and Crows Landing Road, in the Ceres area.

APN: 041-007-006

Williamson Act Contract:

General Plan: Agriculture

Current Zoning: A-2-40 (General Agriculture)

N/A

Project Description: This is a request to change the legal nonconforming use of a 1.91± acre parcel from a general contracting business to an agricultural service establishment, consisting of a nut and tomato harvesting equipment (shakers, sweepers, conditioners, elevators, and harvesters) fabrication and repair business, in the General Agriculture (A-2-40) zoning district. The harvesting equipment fabrication and repair business, currently operating as Coit and Hewes, LLC., has been operating on the site since 2020 and approval of this application would permit the existing operation. The project serves customers in the Central Valley in Stanislaus, San Joaquin, Merced, Madera, and Fresno County, with the majority of customers located in Stanislaus County. The project site is currently improved with the following: 6,408 square-foot fabrication shop; 7,361 square-foot warehouse with 420 square-foot awning; 3,440 square-foot pole barn for the storage of



equipment; concrete parking lot with 10 striped parking spaces and the remaining area improved with either concrete, gravel, asphalt, or crushed walnut shells; landscaping along the road frontage consisting of a combination of trees, shrubs, and flowers; exterior lighting affixed to the existing buildings; six-foot-tall chain-link fencing with vines for vegetative screening along the side and rear property lines; and six-foot-tall wrought iron fencing along the front property line with two, two-feet by three-feet signs affixed to the fence. The project proposes to: construct two awnings 1,140 and 1,680 square-feet in size to be affixed to existing buildings to be used for storage and/or shade; stripe the existing concrete with an additional eight parking spaces; and install two storm water basins adjacent to the north-eastern and south-eastern property line. No additional signage or lighting is proposed. Proposed hours of operation are Monday through Saturday from 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., with a maximum shift of 10 employees, one shift per day, and five customers per day. Truck trips are estimated to be one per day, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. The site is serviced by private well and septic system and has existing access to E. Grayson Road.

The project site was granted a Use Permit (UP No. 80-07 – Vincent Magaro), approved on March 25, 1980, to expand an existing legal non-conforming roofing business by allowing a gunite contractor to operate on the property. A subsequent Use Permit (Use Permit 80-70 – Central Valley Roofing Co.), approved on December 4, 1980, permitted the construction of a 5,000 square-foot warehouse for the roofing business. Lastly, two Staff Approval Permits were granted, (Staff Approval Permit No 81-22 – Vincent C. Magaro and Staff Approval Permit No. 93-20 – Vincent C. Magaro), approved on March 30, 1981 and May 20, 1993, respectively, permitting the addition of restrooms and office space to an existing building and changing the non-conforming use from a gunite contractor to a general contractor.

Full document with attachments available for viewing at: http://www.stancounty.com/planning/pl/act-projects.shtm



USE PERMIT APPLICATION NO. PLN2020-0077 – COIT AND HEWES, LLC Attachment A

	bution List CA DEPT OF CONSERVATION		STAN CO ALLIC
	Land Resources / Mine Reclamation		STAN CO ALUC
Х	CA DEPT OF FISH & WILDLIFE		STAN CO ANIMAL SERVICES
	CA DEPT OF FORESTRY (CAL FIRE)	Х	STAN CO BUILDING PERMITS DIVISION
	CA DEPT OF TRANSPORTATION DIST 10	Х	STAN CO CEO
Х	CA OPR STATE CLEARINGHOUSE		STAN CO CSA
Х	CA RWQCB CENTRAL VALLEY REGION	Х	STAN CO DER
	CA STATE LANDS COMMISSION	Х	STAN CO ERC
	CEMETERY DISTRICT	Х	STAN CO FARM BUREAU
	CENTRAL VALLEY FLOOD PROTECTION	Х	STAN CO HAZARDOUS MATERIALS
Х	CITY OF: CERES	Х	STAN CO PARKS & RECREATION
	COMMUNITY SERVICES/SANITARY DIST	Х	STAN CO PUBLIC WORKS
Х	COOPERATIVE EXTENSION		STAN CO RISK MANAGEMENT
	COUNTY OF:	Х	STAN CO SHERIFF
Х	DER - GROUNDWATER RESOURCES DIVISION	Х	STAN CO SUPERVISOR DIST 5: CHANCCE CONDIT
Х	FIRE PROTECTION DIST: CERES	Х	STAN COUNTY COUNSEL
Х	GSA: WEST TURLOCK SUBBASIN		StanCOG
	HOSPITAL DIST:	Х	STANISLAUS FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU
Х	IRRIGATION DIST: TURLOCK	Х	STANISLAUS LAFCO
Х	MOSQUITO DIST: TURLOCK	Х	STATE OF CA SWRCB – DIV OF DRINKING WATER DIST. 10
Х	MOUNTAIN VALLEY EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES	Х	SURROUNDING LAND OWNERS
	MUNICIPAL ADVISORY COUNCIL:	Х	TELEPHONE COMPANY: AT&T
Х	PACIFIC GAS & ELECTRIC		TRIBAL CONTACTS (CA Government Code §65352.3)
	POSTMASTER:		US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
Х	RAILROAD: UNION PACIFIC	Х	US FISH & WILDLIFE
Х	SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY APCD		US MILITARY (SB 1462)
Х	SCHOOL DIST 1: CERES UNIFIED	Х	USDA NRCS
	SCHOOL DIST 2:		WATER DIST:
	WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT		
Х	STAN CO AG COMMISSIONER	1	
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STANISLAUS COUNTY CEQA REFERRAL RESPONSE FORM

TO: Stanislaus County Planning & Community Development 1010 10th Street, Suite 3400 Modesto, CA 95354

FROM:

SUBJECT: USE PERMIT APPLICATION NO. PLN2020-0077 - COIT AND HEWES, LLC

Based on this agency's particular field(s) of expertise, it is our position the above described project:

_____ Will not have a significant effect on the environment.

_____ May have a significant effect on the environment.

No Comments.

Listed below are specific impacts which support our determination (e.g., traffic general, carrying capacity, soil types, air quality, etc.) – (attach additional sheet if necessary)

1.

- 2.
- 3. 4.

Listed below are possible mitigation measures for the above-listed impacts: *PLEASE BE SURE TO INCLUDE WHEN THE MITIGATION OR CONDITION NEEDS TO BE IMPLEMENTED* (*PRIOR TO RECORDING A MAP, PRIOR TO ISSUANCE OF A BUILDING PERMIT, ETC.*):

1. 2.

2. 3.

4.

In addition, our agency has the following comments (attach additional sheets if necessary).

Response prepared by:

Name

Title

Date



1010 10TH Street, Suite 3400, Modesto, CA 95354 Planning Phone: (209) 525-6330 Fax: (209) 525-5911 Building Phone: (209) 525-6557 Fax: (209) 525-7759

CEQA INITIAL STUDY

Adapted from CEQA Guidelines APPENDIX G Environmental Checklist Form, Final Text, January 1, 2020

1.	Project title:	Use Permit Application No. PLN2020-0077 – Coit and Hewes, LLC
2.	Lead agency name and address:	Stanislaus County 1010 10 th Street, Suite 3400 Modesto, CA 95354
3.	Contact person and phone number:	Teresa McDonald, Associate Planner
4.	Project location:	719 E Grayson Road, between Morgan Road and Crows Landing Road, in the Ceres area. (APN: 041-007-006).
5.	Project sponsor's name and address:	Coit and Hewes, LLC 312 E. Grayson Road Modesto, CA 95358
6.	General Plan designation:	Agriculture
7.	Zoning:	General Agriculture (A-2-40)

8. Description of project:

This is a request to change the legal nonconforming use of a 1.91± acre parcel from a general contracting business to an agricultural service establishment, consisting of a nut and tomato harvesting equipment (shakers, sweepers, conditioners, elevators, and harvesters) fabrication and repair business, in the General Agriculture (A-2-40) zoning district. The harvesting equipment fabrication and repair business, currently operating as Coit and Hewes, LLC., has been operating on the site since 2020 and approval of this application would permit the existing operation. The project serves customers in the Central Valley in Stanislaus, San Joaquin, Merced, Madera, and Fresno County, with the majority of customers located in Stanislaus County. The project site is currently improved with the following: 6,408 square-foot fabrication shop: 7.361 square-foot warehouse with 420 square-foot awning: 3.440 square-foot pole barn for the storage of equipment; concrete parking lot with 10 striped parking spaces and the remaining area improved with either concrete, gravel, asphalt, or crushed walnut shells; landscaping along the road frontage consisting of a combination of trees, shrubs, and flowers; exterior lighting affixed to the existing buildings; six-foot-tall chain-link fencing with vines for vegetative screening along the side and rear property lines; and six-foot-tall wrought iron fencing along the front property line with two two-feet by three-feet signs affixed to the fence. The project proposes to: construct two awnings 1,140 and 1,680 square-feet in size to be affixed to existing buildings to be used for storage and/or shade; stripe the existing concrete with an additional eight parking spaces; and install two storm water basins adjacent to the north-eastern and south-eastern property line. No additional signage or lighting is proposed. Proposed hours of operation are Monday through Saturday from 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., with a maximum shift of 10 employees, one shift per day, and five customers per day. Truck trips are estimated to be one per day, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. The site is serviced by private well and septic system and has existing access to E. Grayson Road.

The project site was granted a Use Permit (UP No. 80-07 – Vincent Magaro), approved on March 25, 1980, to expand an existing legal non-conforming roofing business by allowing a gunite contractor to operate on the property. A subsequent Use Permit (Use Permit 80-70 – Central Valley Roofing Co.), approved on December 4, 1980, permitted the construction of a 5,000 square-foot warehouse for the roofing business. Lastly, two Staff Approval Permits were granted, (Staff Approval Permit No 81-22 – Vincent C. Magaro and Staff Approval Permit No. 93-20 – Vincent C. Magaro), approved on March 30, 1981 and May 20, 1993, respectively, permitting the addition of restrooms and office space to an existing building and changing the non-conforming use from a gunite contractor to a general contractor.

9.	Surrounding land uses and setting:	Orchards and scattered single family dwellings surround the site on all sides; the City of Ceres is located to the north; the Cowan Tract ranchette subdivision to the south; a dairy exists to the east; and the Union Pacific railroad is adjacent to the west property line.
10.	Other public agencies whose approval is required (e.g., permits, financing approval, or participation agreement.):	Stanislaus County Department of Public Works Stanislaus County Department of Environmental Resources

11. Attachments:

None

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.

□Aesthetics	☐ Agriculture & 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

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 on file Prepared by

|X|

December 16, 2021

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, than 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 Section XVII, "Earlier Analyses," 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). References 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 significant 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 significant.

ISSUES

			-	
I. AESTHETICS – Except as provided in Public Resources Code Section 21099, could the project:	Potentially Significant	Less Than Significant	Less Than Significant	No Impact
code Section 21033, codia the project.	Impact	With Mitigation Included	Impact	
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?			Х	
b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?			x	
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 point). If the project is in an urbanized area, would the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?			x	
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?			x	

Discussion: The project site is currently improved with the following: 6,408 square-foot fabrication shop; 7,361 square-foot warehouse with 420 square-foot awning; 3,440 square-foot pole barn for the storage of equipment; concrete parking lot with 10 striped parking spaces and the remaining area improved with either concrete, gravel, asphalt, or crushed walnut shells; landscaping along the road frontage consisting of a combination of trees, shrubs, and flowers; exterior lighting affixed to the existing buildings; six-foot-tall chain-link fencing with vines for vegetative screening along the side and rear property lines; and six-foot-tall wrought iron fencing along the front property line with two two-feet by three-feet signs affixed to the fence. The project proposes to: construct two awnings 1,140 and 1,680 square-feet in size to be affixed to existing buildings to be used for storage and/or shade; stripe the existing concrete with an additional eight parking spaces; and install two storm water basins adjacent to the north-eastern and south-eastern property line. No additional signage or lighting is proposed. The only scenic designation in the County is along I-5, which is not near the project site. The site itself is not considered to be a scenic resource or a unique vista. The project will not degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site or its surroundings. Standard conditions of approval will be added to this project to address glare from any on-site lighting. No adverse impacts to the existing visual character of the site or its surroundings are anticipated.

Mitigation: None.

References: Application information; Stanislaus County Zoning Ordinance; the Stanislaus County General Plan; and Support Documentation¹.

II. AGRICULTURE AND FOREST RESOURCES: In	Potentially	Less Than	Less Than	No Impact
determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are	Significant	Significant	Significant	
significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer	Impact	With Mitigation Included	Impact	
to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site		moladea		
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 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			Х	
Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-				
agricultural use?				
b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a			х	
Williamson Act contract?			^	
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				Х
section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production				
(as defined by Government Code section 51104(g))?				
d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest				х
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			х	
Farmland, to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest			~	
land to non-forest use?				

Discussion: The 1.91± acre project site is classified as "Prime Farmland" by the California Department of Conservation's Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program. The parcel is not currently enrolled in a Williamson Act Contract. The California Revised Storie Index is a rating system based on soil properties that dictate the potential for soils to be used for irrigated agricultural production in California. This rating system grades soils with an index rating of 81 and above as excellent. Grade 1 soils are deemed prime farmland by Stanislaus County's Uniform Rules. The United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA NRCS) Web Soil Survey indicates that the property is comprised of Dinuba sandy loam, 0 to 1 percent slopes, with a grade of 1 and index rating of 86. According to Goal Two, Policy 2.5, Implementation Measure 1, of the General Plan's Agricultural Element, when defining the County's most productive agricultural areas, it is important to recognize that soil types alone should not be the determining factor. With modern management techniques, almost any soil type in Stanislaus County can be extremely productive. Although soil types should be considered, the designation of "most productive agricultural areas" also should be based on existing uses and their contributions to the agricultural sector of our economy. The project site is not currently in agricultural production and is improved with multiple buildings and parking lot.

This is a request to change the legal nonconforming use of a 1.91± acre parcel from a general contracting business to a harvesting equipment fabrication and repair business, which may also be considered an agricultural service establishment. The harvesting equipment fabrication and repair business, currently operating as Coit and Hewes, LLC., has been operating on the site since 2020 and approval of this application would permit the existing operation. The project serves customers in the Central Valley in Stanislaus, San Joaquin, Merced, Madera, and Fresno County, with the majority of customers located

in Stanislaus County. Tier Two uses, including agricultural service establishments, are uses which are agriculture-related commercial and industrial uses. Commercial type uses have been operating on the site with land use entitlements since 1980. The site is currently developed with multiple warehouse buildings and proposes to construct two awnings 1,140 and 1,680 square-feet in size, to be attached to the existing buildings and to be utilized in conjunction with the proposed harvesting equipment fabrication and repair business. As the site has already been improved with structures and the site is not being farmed, the project is not expected to perpetuate any significant conversion of farmland to non-agricultural use.

The surrounding area is comprised of orchards with scattered single-family dwellings, the City of Ceres is located to the north, a dairy exists to the east, and the Union Pacific railroad is adjacent to the west property line.

No impacts to agriculture are anticipated to occur as a result of this project as the project site is currently developed and considered topographically flat.

General Plan Amendment No. 2011-01 - Revised Agricultural Buffers was approved by the Board of Supervisors on December 20, 2011, to modify County requirements for buffers on agricultural projects. Low people intensive Tier One and Tier Two Uses (such as nut hulling, shelling, dehydrating, grain warehousing, and agricultural processing facilities) which do not serve the general public shall not be subject to compliance with these guidelines; however, conditions of approval consistent with these guidelines may be required as part of the project approval. The decision-making body shall have the ultimate authority to determine if a use is "low people intensive". The proposed harvesting equipment fabrication and repair business is a Tier Two use and is not considered to be people intensive with a total of 10 employees on a maximum shift and a maximum of five daily customers.

Impacts to agricultural resources are considered to be less than significant. No forest lands exist in Stanislaus County. Therefore, this project will have no impact to forest land or timberland.

Mitigation: None.

References: Application information; Natural Resources Conservation Service Soil Survey; Stanislaus Soil Survey (1957); California State Department of Conservation Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program - Stanislaus County Farmland 2018; Stanislaus County Zoning Ordinance; Stanislaus County General Plan and Support Documentation¹.

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:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Included	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?			х	
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?			х	
c) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?			x	
d) Result in other emissions (such as those odors adversely affecting a substantial number of people?			х	

Discussion: The proposed project is located within the San Joaquin Valley Air Basin (SJVAB) and, therefore, falls under the jurisdiction of the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (SJVAPCD). In conjunction with the Stanislaus Council of Governments (StanCOG), the SJVAPCD is responsible for formulating and implementing air pollution control strategies. The SJVAPCD's most recent air quality plans are the 2007 PM10 (respirable particulate matter) Maintenance Plan, the 2008 PM2.5 (fine particulate matter) Plan, and the 2007 Ozone Plan. These plans establish a comprehensive air pollution control program leading to the attainment of state and federal air quality standards in the SJVAB, which has been classified as "extreme non-attainment" for ozone, "attainment" for respirable particulate matter (PM-10), and "non-attainment" for PM 2.5, as defined by the Federal Clean Air Act.

The primary source of air pollutants generated by this project would be classified as being generated from "mobile" sources. Mobile sources would generally include dust from roads, farming, and automobile exhausts. Mobile sources are generally regulated by the Air Resources Board of the California EPA, which sets emissions for vehicles and acts on issues regarding cleaner burning fuels and alternative fuel technologies. As such, the District has addressed most criteria air pollutants through basin-wide programs and policies to prevent cumulative deterioration of air quality within the Basin. The proposed hours of operation for the agricultural service establishment are 6 A.M. to 6 P.M., Monday through Saturday. There will be a maximum total of 1 heavy-truck trips per day (total inbound and outbound), and a total of 15 automobile trips per-day (anticipated inbound and outbound trips by employees and customers), resulting in an increase of 13 daily automobile trips and one truck trip comparted to the previous general contracting operation.

The proposed project is considered to be consistent with applicable air quality plans, as the project will be required to obtain all applicable permits through the Air District. The proposed project would not conflict with applicable regional plans or policies adopted by agencies with jurisdiction over the project.

Construction activities associated with new development can temporarily increase localized PM10, PM2.5, volatile organic compound (VOC), nitrogen oxides (NOX), sulfur oxides (SOX), and carbon monoxide (CO) concentrations within a project's vicinity. The primary source of construction-related CO, SOX, VOC, and NOX emission is gasoline and diesel-powered, heavy-duty mobile construction equipment. Primary sources of PM10 and PM2.5 emissions are generally clearing and demolition activities, grading operations, construction vehicle traffic on unpaved ground, and wind blowing over exposed surfaces. The operation proposes to operate out of existing buildings and proposes to construct two awnings, 1,140 and 1,680 square-feet in size, and two storm drain basins, which will be required to occur in compliance with all SJVAPCD regulations.

The project was referred to SJVAPCD, and no response has been received to date. However, the District's Small Project Analysis Level (SPAL) guidance identifies thresholds of significance for criteria pollutant emissions, which are based on the District's New Source Review (NSR) offset requirements for stationary sources. The District has pre-qualified emissions and determined a size below, which is reasonable to conclude that a project would not exceed applicable thresholds of significance for criteria pollutants. Any project falling below the thresholds identified by the District are deemed to have a less than significant impact on air quality due to criteria pollutant emissions. The District's threshold of significance for industrial projects is identified as 1,506 additional trips per day. As stated previously, the project has the potential to generate 10 employee vehicle, 5 customer vehicle, and one truck trip per day, and increase of 13 vehicle trips and one truck trip compared to the prior general contractor operation. As this is below the District's threshold of significance, no significant impacts to air quality are anticipated.

Impacts to air quality are considered to be less than significant.

Mitigation: None.

References: Application information; San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District's Small Project Analysis Level (SPAL) guidance; <u>www.valleyair.org</u>; and the Stanislaus County General Plan and Support Documentation¹.

IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?		Included	x	
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 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?			х	

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?	x	
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?	x	
e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	x	
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?	x	

Discussion: The project is located within the Ceres Quad of the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB). There are nine species of animals and two species of plants which are state or federally listed, threatened, or identified as species of special concern within the Ceres California Natural Diversity Database Quad. These species include the following: Swainson's hawk, tricolored blackbird, burrowing owl, riffle sculpin, hardhead, steelhead - Central Valley DPS, chinook salmon - Central Valley fall / late fall-run ESU, valley elderberry longhorn beetle, Townsend's big-eared bat, heartscale, and subtle orache. According to the CNDDB spatial data for element occurrences, the species listed as being sited within the project area are the valley elderberry longhorn beetle, moestan blister beetle, Crotch bumble bee, and obscure bumble bee. According to the US Fish and Wildlife Service the habitat for valley elderberry longhorn beetles includes both riparian and non-riparian areas where elderberry shrubs are present. According to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, the moestan blister beetle are often found on flowers, and while bumble bees are found in a wide variety of natural, agricultural, urban, and rural habitats, the species richness tends to peak in flower-rich meadows of forests and subalpine zones. The entire project site is developed or disturbed and prior to the installation of the current landscaping, there were no shrubs or flowers present at the project site.

The project site is developed with an existing agricultural service establishment and the area where the proposed awnings will be located is already disturbed. There are no known Waters of the United States on-site. It does not appear that this project will result in impacts to endangered species or habitats, locally designated species, wildlife dispersal, or mitigation corridors as the site is disturbed and improved. The project is anticipated to have a less than significant impact to biological resources.

The project was referred to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and no comments have been received to date.

Mitigation: None.

References: Application information; California Department of Fish and Wildlife's Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB) Quad Species List; California Department of Fish and Wildlife's Natural Diversity Database spatial data for element occurrences; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Framework for Assessing Impacts to the Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle; Stanislaus County General Plan and Support Documentation¹.

V. CULTURAL RESOURCES Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Included	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to in § 15064.5?			x	
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to § 15064.5?			x	
c) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?			x	

Discussion: It does not appear that this project will result in significant impacts to any archaeological or cultural resources. The project site is already developed and the proposed construction is within the area which has already been disturbed. However, standard conditions of approval regarding the discovery of cultural resources during the construction process will be added to the project.

Mitigation: None.

References: Application information; Stanislaus County General Plan and Support Documentation¹

VI. ENERGY Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Included	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation?			х	
b) Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?			X	

Discussion: The CEQA Guidelines Appendix F states that energy consuming equipment and processes, which will be used during construction or operation such as: energy requirements of the project by fuel type and end use, energy conservation equipment and design features, energy supplies that would serve the project, and total estimated daily vehicle trips to be generated by the project, and the additional energy consumed per trip by mode, which shall be taken into consideration when evaluating energy impacts. Additionally, the project's compliance with applicable state or local energy legislation, policies, and standards must be considered.

All construction activities shall be in compliance with all SJVAPCD regulations and with Title 24, Green Building Code, which includes energy efficiency requirements. The operation proposes to operate out of existing buildings and proposes to construct two awnings for which a building permit will be required. Any future construction activities will be required to occur in compliance with all SJVAPCD regulations.

Energy consuming equipment and processes include equipment, trucks, and the employee and customer vehicles. These activities would not significantly increase Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT), due to the number of vehicle trips not exceeding a total of 110 vehicle trips per-day. There will be a maximum total of one heavy-truck trips per day (total inbound and outbound), and a total of 15 automobile trips per-day (anticipated inbound and outbound trips by employees and customers) which is an increase of one truck trip 13 automobile trips compared to the previous general contractor operation. Additionally, the trucks are the main consumers of energy associated with this project but shall be required to meet all Air District regulations, including rules and regulations that increase energy efficiency for heavy trucks. Consequently, emissions would be minimal. Therefore, consumption of energy resources would be less-than significant without mitigation for the proposed project.

The project was referred to the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District; no response has been received to date. A condition of approval will be added to the project requiring the applicant to contact the Air District to comply with any applicable Air District rules and regulations and obtain any required permits.

It does not appear that this project will result in significant impacts to the wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources. Accordingly, the potential impacts to Energy are considered to be less-than significant.

Mitigation: None.

References: Application information; CEQA Guidelines; Title 16 of County Code; CA Building Code; Governor's Office of Planning and Research Technical Advisory, December 2018; Stanislaus County General Plan and Support Documentation¹.

VII. GEOLOGY AND SOILS Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Included	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse			х	
effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:			~	
i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as				
delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake				
Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the			х	
area or based on other substantial evidence of a known		~		
fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special				
Publication 42.				
ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?			Х	
iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including			х	
liquefaction?				
iv) Landslides?			Х	
b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?			Х	
c) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or				
that would become unstable as a result of the project, and			х	
potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral			~	
spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?				
d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B				
of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial			Х	
direct or indirect risks to life or property?				
e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of				
septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems			х	
where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste			~	
water?				
f) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological			х	
resource or site or unique geologic feature?			~	

Discussion: The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service's Eastern Stanislaus County Soil Survey indicates that the property is made up of Hanford sandy loam, Chualar sandy loam, and Hilmar loamy sand. As contained in Chapter 5 of the General Plan Support Documentation, the areas of the County subject to significant geologic hazard are located in the Diablo Range, west of Interstate 5; however, as per the California Building Code, all of Stanislaus County is located within a geologic hazard zone (Seismic Design Category D, E, or F) and a soils test may be required at building permit application. Results from the soils test will determine if unstable or expansive soils are present. If such soils are present, special engineering of the structure will be required to compensate for the soil deficiency. The proposed awnings will be designed and built according to building standards appropriate to withstand shaking for the area in which they are constructed. The Department of Public Works requires that a grading, drainage, and erosion/sediment control plan for the project shall be submitted for any building permit that will create a larger or smaller building footprint, subject to Public Works' requirements, if applicable. Likewise, any future addition or expansion of a septic tank or alternative wastewater disposal system would require the approval of the Department of Environmental Resources (DER) through the building permit process, which also takes soil type into consideration within the specific design requirements.

The project site is not located near an active fault or within a high earthquake zone. Landslides are not likely due to the flat terrain of the area.

DER, Public Works, and the Building Permits Division review and approve any building or grading permit to ensure their standards are met. Conditions of approval regarding these standards will be applied to the project and will be triggered when a building permit is obtained for the proposed awnings.

Impacts to Geology and Soils are considered to be less-than significant.

Mitigation: None.

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References: Application information; USDA – NRCS Web Soil Survey; California Building Code; Referral response from Stanislaus County Department of Public Works, dated December 14, 2020; Stanislaus County General Plan and Support Documentation¹.

VIII. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Included	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?			x	
b) Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?			x	

Discussion: The principal Greenhouse Gasses (GHGs) are carbon dioxide (CO2), methane (CH4), nitrous oxide (N2O), sulfur hexafluoride (SF6), perfluorocarbons (PFCs), hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), and water vapor (H2O). CO2 is the reference gas for climate change because it is the predominant greenhouse gas emitted. To account for the varying warming potential of different GHGs, GHG emissions are often quantified and reported as CO2 equivalents (CO2e). In 2006, California passed the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 (Assembly Bill [AB] No. 32), which requires the California Air Resources Board (ARB) design and implement emission limits, regulations, and other measures, such that feasible and cost-effective statewide GHG emissions are reduced to 1990 levels by 2020. Two additional bills, SB 350 and SB32, were passed in 2015 further amending the states Renewables Portfolio Standard (RPS) for electrical generation and amending the reduction targets to 40% of 1990 levels by 2030.

Direct emissions of GHGs from the operation of the proposed project are primarily due to truck trips. Therefore, the project would result in direct annual emissions of GHGs during operation. As required by CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3, potential impacts regarding Green House Gas Emissions should be evaluated using Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT). The calculation of VMT is the number of cars/trucks multiplied by the distance traveled by each car/truck. Total vehicle trips as a result of this project will not exceed 110 trips per-day. As discussed above, the proposed project will generate a total of 1 heavy-truck trips (total inbound and outbound trips per-day) and a total of 15 automobile trips per-day (anticipated inbound and outbound trips by employees and customers).

The operation proposes to operate out of existing buildings and proposed construction includes two awnings and two drainage basins for which a building permit and grading permit will be required. During construction, the short-term emissions of GHGs during construction, primarily composed of CO2, CH4, and N2O, would be the result of fuel combustion by construction equipment and motor vehicles. The other primary GHGs (HFCs, PFCs, and SF6) are typically associated with specific industrial sources and are not expected to be emitted by future construction at this project site. As described above in Section III - Air Quality, the use of heavy-duty construction equipment would be very limited; therefore, the emissions of CO2 from future construction would be less-than significant. Additionally, the construction of any future proposed buildings is subject to the mandatory planning and design, energy efficiency, water efficiency and conservation, material conservation and resources efficiency, and environmental quality measures of the California Green Building Standards (CALGreen) Code (California Code of Regulations, Title 24, Part 11). Any future construction activities associated with this project are considered to be less-than significant as they are temporary in nature and are subject to meeting SJVAPCD standards for air quality control.

This project was referred to the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District; however, no response has been received to date. Staff will include a condition of approval requiring the applicant to comply with all appropriate District rules and regulations should future construction occur on the project site. Consequently, GHG emissions associated with this project are considered to be less-than significant.

Mitigation: None.

References: Application information; California Air Resources Board 2019 Edition, California Greenhouse Gas Emission Inventory: 2000 – 2017; Governor's Office of Planning and Research Technical Advisory, December 2018; CA Building Code; Stanislaus County General Plan and Support Documentation¹.

IX. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Included	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?			X	
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?			X	
c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?			x	
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?			х	
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?			x	
f) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?			х	
g) Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires?			х	

Discussion: The County Department of Environmental Resources (DER) is responsible for overseeing hazardous materials. This project was referred to the Department of Environmental Resources – Hazardous Materials Division; however, no response has been received to date. A standard condition of approval will be added to the project requiring the applicant contact DER for any appropriate permitting requirements for hazardous materials and/or wastes. Handlers of materials for the storage of 55 gallons, 500 pounds of a hazardous material, or of 200 cubic feet of compressed gas or more must submit hazardous materials Business information into the California Electronic Reporting System (CERS). Additionally, the handling of acutely hazardous materials may require the preparation of a Risk Management Prevention Program which must be implemented prior to operation of the facility and that any discovery of underground storage tanks, former underground storage tank locations, buried chemicals, buried refuse, or contaminated soil shall be brought to the immediate attention of the Haz Mat Division.

Pesticide exposure is a risk in areas located in the vicinity of agriculture. Sources of exposure include contaminated groundwater from drift from spray applications. Application of sprays is strictly controlled by the Agricultural Commissioner and can only be accomplished after first obtaining permits. Additionally, agricultural buffers are intended to reduce the risk of spray exposure to surrounding people. General Plan Amendment No. 2011-01 - Revised Agricultural Buffers was approved by the Board of Supervisors on December 20, 2011, to modify County requirements for buffers on agricultural projects. As this is a Tier Two use, if not considered people intensive by the Planning Commission, the project is not subject to agricultural buffers. Additionally, the majority of the work is to occur indoors and parking lots are permitted in the buffer area. Vines have been planted along the side and rear property lines to grow on the existing chain link fence, which will function as vegetative screening. The project was referred to the Stanislaus County Agricultural Commissioner, and no comments have been received to date.

The project site is not listed on the EnviroStor database managed by the CA Department of Toxic Substances Control or within the vicinity of any airport. The site is located in a Local Responsibility Area (LRA) for fire protection and is served by Ceres Protection District. The project was referred to the District, and no comments have been received to date. The

project was referred to the Environmental Review Committee (ERC), which responded with comments unrelated to hazardous materials. The project site is not within the vicinity of any airstrip or wildlands.

No significant impacts associated with hazards or hazardous materials are anticipated to occur as a result of the proposed project.

Mitigation: None.

References: Department of Toxic Substances Control's data management system (EnviroStar); Referral response from Stanislaus County Environmental Review Committee, dated December 22, 2020; Stanislaus County General Plan and Support Documentation¹.

X. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Included	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or ground water quality?			x	
b) Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?			x	
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:			x	
(i) result in substantial erosion or siltation on – or off-site;			Х	
(ii) substantially increase the rate of amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off- site;			х	
(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			X	
(iv) impede or redirect flood flows?			Х	
d) In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?			x	
e) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?			x	

Discussion: The site receives potable and irrigation water from an existing well. Current standards require that all of a project's stormwater be maintained on-site and the project includes two proposed storm drainage basins. A referral response received from the Department of Public Works indicated that a grading, drainage, and erosion/sediment control plan for the project shall be submitted prior to the issuance of the building permits for the proposed awnings or construction of the two drainage basins, and any future building permit that will create a larger or smaller building footprint. A Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) will be required for future construction prior to the approval of any grading. The submittal of the grading, drainage, erosion/sediment control plan will be made a condition of approval for this project. Accordingly, runoff associated with the construction at the proposed project site will be reviewed as part of the grading and building permit review process. No expansion to the existing septic systems are proposed as a part of this project. However, any future construction must be reviewed and approved by the Department of Environmental Resources (DER) and must adhere to current Local Agency Management Program (LAMP) standards. LAMP standards include minimum setback from wells to prevent negative impacts to groundwater quality.

The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) was passed in 2014 with the goal of ensuring the long-term sustainable management of California's groundwater resources. SGMA requires agencies throughout California to meet certain requirements including forming Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSA), developing Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSP), and achieving balanced groundwater levels within 20 years. The site is located in the San Joaquin Valley – Turlock Sub-basin covered by the West Turlock Sub-basin GSA.

Goal Two, Policy Seven, of the Stanislaus County General Plan's Conservation/Open Space Element requires that new development that does not derive domestic water from pre-existing domestic and public water supply systems be required to have a documented water supply that does not adversely impact Stanislaus County water resources. This Policy is implemented by requiring proposals for development that will be served by new water supply systems be referred to appropriate water districts, irrigation districts, community services districts, the State Water Resources Board and any other appropriate agencies for review and comment. Additionally, all development requests shall be reviewed to ensure that sufficient evidence has been provided to document the existence of a water supply sufficient to meet the short and long-term water needs of the project without adversely impacting the quality and quantity of existing local water resources.

Stanislaus County adopted a Groundwater Ordinance in November 2014 (Chapter 9.37 of the County Code, hereinafter, the "Ordinance") that codifies requirements, prohibitions, and exemptions intended to help promote sustainable groundwater extraction in unincorporated areas of the County. The Ordinance prohibits the unsustainable extraction of groundwater and makes issuing permits for new wells, which are not exempt from this prohibition, discretionary. For unincorporated areas covered in an adopted GSP pursuant to SGMA, the County can require holders of permits for wells it reasonably concludes are withdrawing groundwater unsustainably to provide substantial evidence that continued operation of such wells does not constitute unsustainable extraction and has the authority to regulate future groundwater extraction. No additional wells are proposed; however, any future proposals for new wells will be subject to review under the County's Groundwater Ordinance and Well Permitting Program.

The California Safe Drinking Water Act (CA Health and Safety Code Section 116275(h)) defines a Public Water System as a system for the provision of water for human consumption through pipes or other constructed conveyances that has 15 or more service connections or regularly serves at least 25 individuals daily at least 60 days out of the year. A public water system includes the following:

- (1) Any collection, treatment, storage, and distribution facilities under control of the operator of the system that are used primarily in connection with the system.
- (2) Any collection or pretreatment storage facilities not under the control of the operator that are used primarily in connection with the system.
- (3) Any water system that treats water on behalf of one or more public water systems for the purpose of rendering it safe for human consumption.

The project was referred to the Environmental Review Committee (ERC), which indicated the project may constitute a new public water system which would be subject to SB1263 and could require CEQA review. Subsequently, a revised referral response was received from DER stating that based on the Water System Classification Determination dated March 1, 2021, and the Declarations dated March 31, 2021, the project does not meet the definition of a public water system as defined in California Health and Safety Code Section 116275 (h). It is the property owner's responsibility to notify the DER if the water system ever meets the definition of a public water system. At such time when the operation meets the definition of a regulated water system, the owner/operator shall be subject to all applicable new water system regulations, such as SB1263. The property owner shall provide to the Department of Environmental Resources an application for a water supply permit along with a full technical report demonstrating that the water system will meet all requirements of a water system: including, but not limited to capacity, source water, treatment plant modifications, water works standards, and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). This will be added as a condition of approval.

Areas subject to flooding have been identified in accordance with the Federal Emergency Management Act (FEMA). The project site is located in FEMA Flood Zone X, which includes areas determined to be outside the 0.2% annual chance floodplains. All flood zone requirements will be addressed by the Building Permits Division during the building permit process. Any future buildings will be required to meet any prescribed measures to meet FEMA requirements during the building permit phase and will be administered the by County's Building Permits Division.

This project was referred to the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) and no response has been received to date. A condition of approval will be added to the project that the developer contact RWQCB to determine if any permits or standards are applicable to the project that must be met prior to construction. The project site is not within the vicinity of any airstrip or wildlands. The project was referred to the Turlock Irrigation District, which responded with no comments concerning irrigation facilities.

As a result of County regulatory requirements applicable to this project, impacts associated with hydrology and water quality are expected to have a less-than significant impact.

Mitigation: None.

References: Application information; Referral response from Stanislaus County Public Works Department, dated December 14, 2020; Referral response from Stanislaus County Environmental Review Committee, dated December 22, 2020; Referral response from Stanislaus County Department of Environmental Resources, dated December 14, 2020 and revised May 6, 2021; Referral response from the Turlock Irrigation District, dated December 18, 2020; West Turlock Subbasin GSA; Stanislaus County Code; Stanislaus County General Plan and Support Documentation¹.

XI. LAND USE AND PLANNING Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Included	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Physically divide an established community?			Х	
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?			Х	

Discussion: The project site is designated Agriculture by the Stanislaus County General Plan land use diagrams and zoned A-2-40 (General Agriculture). This is a request to change the legal nonconforming use of a 1.91± acre parcel from a general contracting business to an agricultural service establishment consisting of a harvesting equipment fabrication and repair business and would allow an existing structures and parking spaces that currently exist on-site to be utilized in conjunction with the proposed business. The project proposes to construct two awnings 1,140 and 1,680 square-feet in size to be affixed to existing buildings to be used for storage and/or shade, to stripe the existing concrete with an additional eight parking spaces, and to install two storm water basins adjacent to the north-eastern and south-eastern property line. As the site is already developed, the use is not expected to perpetuate any significant conversion of farmland to non-agricultural use as the use will support the vertical integration of the surrounding agriculture.

The proposed operation is considered a Tier Two use, which are agriculture-related commercial and industrial uses that may be allowed when the decision-making body finds:

- 1. The proposed operation will not be detrimental to the health, safety, and general welfare of persons residing or working in the neighborhood of the use or that it will be detrimental or injurious to property and improvements in the neighborhood or to the general welfare of the County; and
- 2. The establishment as proposed will not be substantially detrimental to or in conflict with agricultural use of other property in the vicinity; and
- 3. The establishment as proposed will not create a concentration of commercial and industrial uses in the vicinity; and
- 4. It is necessary and desirable for such establishment to be located within the agricultural area as opposed to areas zoned for commercial or industrial usage.

Goal 5, Policy 27 of the Land Use Element of the General Plan requires that development which requires discretionary approval and is outside the sphere of influence of cities, but located within one mile of a city's adopted sphere of influence, and within a city's adopted general plan area, shall be referred out to the city for consideration. However, the County

reserves the right for final discretionary action. Accordingly, the project was referred to the City of Modesto, who responded with no comments.

General Plan Amendment No. 2011-01 - *Revised Agricultural Buffers* was approved by the Board of Supervisors on December 20, 2011, to modify County requirements for buffers on agricultural projects. As this is a Tier Two use, if not considered people intensive by the Planning Commission, the project is not subject to agricultural buffers. The operation employs 10 employees, and anticipates five customer visits per day, which is an increase of eight employees and five customer visits compared to the prior operation.

There is no indication this project will interfere or conflict with other agricultural uses in the area. The project will not physically divide an established community nor conflict with any habitat conservation plans. Project impacts to land use and planning are considered to be less-than significant.

Mitigation: None.

References: Application information; Referral response from the City of Ceres, dated December 10, 2020; Stanislaus County Zoning Ordinance; Stanislaus County General Plan and Support Documentation¹.

XII. MINERAL RESOURCES Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Included	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?			х	
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?			х	

Discussion: The location of all commercially viable mineral resources in Stanislaus County has been mapped by the State Division of Mines and Geology in Special Report 173. There are no known significant resources on the site, nor is the project site located in a geological area known to produce resources.

Mitigation: None.

References: Stanislaus County General Plan and Support Documentation¹.

XIII. NOISE Would the project result in:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Included	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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?			x	
b) Generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?			х	
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?				x

Discussion: The Stanislaus County General Plan identifies noise levels up to 55 dB Ldn (or CNEL) as the normally acceptable level of noise for residential uses. The nearest residence to the project site is approximately 265 feet to the

southwest, separated by the railroad and Grayson Road. Additionally, the site itself is impacted by the adjacent railroad, and surrounding agricultural uses, for which the acceptable noise level is up to 70 dB Ldn (or CNEL). Propose construction includes two awnings, 1,140 and 1,680 square-feet in size, to be affixed to existing buildings to be used for storage and/or shade, stripe the existing concrete with an additional eight parking spaces, and install two storm water basins adjacent to the north-eastern and south-eastern property line. On-site grading and construction resulting may result in a temporary increase in the area's ambient noise levels; however, noise impacts associated with on-site activities and traffic are not anticipated to exceed the normally acceptable level of noise. Conditions of approval will be placed on the project to ensure compliance with the General Plan's Noise Element and Chapter 10.46 of the County Code – Noise Control.

The site is not located within an airport land use plan. Noise impacts associated with the proposed project are considered to be less-than significant.

Mitigation: None.

References: Stanislaus County Noise Control Ordinance (Title 10); Stanislaus County General Plan and Support Documentation¹.

XIV. POPULATION AND HOUSING Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Included	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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)?			х	
b) Displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?			х	

Discussion: The site is not included in the vacant sites inventory for the 2016 Stanislaus County Housing Element, which covers the 5th cycle Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) for the county and will therefore not impact the County's ability to meet their RHNA. No population growth will be induced nor will any existing housing be displaced as a result of this project.

Mitigation: None.

References: Stanislaus County General Plan and Support Documentation¹.

XV. PUBLIC SERVICES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Included	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Would the project result in the 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:			x	
Fire protection?			X	
Police protection?			Х	
Schools?			Х	
Parks?			Х	
Other public facilities?			Х	

Discussion: The County has adopted Public Facilities Fees, as well as one for Fire Facility Fees on behalf of the appropriate fire district, to address impacts to public services. Such fees are required to be paid at the time of building permit issuance. Conditions of approval will be added to the project to ensure these requirements are met prior to the issuance of a building permit for two proposed awnings. The project was referred to the appropriate public service agencies, as well as the Stanislaus County Environmental Review Committee (ERC), which includes the Sheriff's Department.

This project was circulated to all applicable school, fire, police, irrigation, and public works departments and districts during the early consultation referral period and no concerns regarding impacts to County services were identified. The Turlock Irrigation District responded stating they had no comments on irrigation facilities and that the owner/developer must apply for a facility change for any pole or electrical facility relocation. A referral response received from the Department of Public Works indicated that a grading, drainage, and erosion/sediment control plan for the project shall be submitted prior to the issuance of the building permits for the proposed awnings or construction of the two drainage basins, and any future building permit that will create a larger or smaller building footprint. A Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) will be required for future construction prior to the approval of any grading. These comments will be applied as conditions of approval.

Mitigation: None.

References: Referral response from Stanislaus County Environmental Review Committee, dated December 22, 2020; Referral response from the Turlock Irrigation District, dated December 18, 2020; Referral response from the Department of Public Works, dated December 14, 2020; Stanislaus County General Plan and Support Documentation¹.

XVI. RECREATION	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Included	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?			Х	
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?			Х	

Discussion: The proposed project will not increase demands for recreational facilities, as such impacts typically are associated with residential development.

Mitigation: None.

References: Application information; Stanislaus County General Plan and Support Documentation¹.

XVII. TRANSPORTATION Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Included	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Conflict with a program plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities?			x	
b) Would the project conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3, subdivision (b)?			x	
c) Substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?			х	
d) Result in inadequate emergency access?			Х	

Discussion: The site has access to County-maintained E Grayson Road which is identified as a 110-foot wide Minor Arterial Road in the circulation Element of the General Plan.

Section 15064.3 of the CEQA Guidelines establishes specific considerations for evaluating a project's transportation impacts. The CEQA Guidelines identify vehicle miles traveled (VMT), which is the amount and distance of automobile travel attributable to a project, as the most appropriate measure of transportation impacts. A technical advisory on evaluating transportation impacts in CEQA published by the Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR) in December of 2018 clarified the definition of automobiles as referring to on-road passenger vehicles, specifically cars and light trucks. While heavy trucks are not considered in the definition of automobiles for which VMT is calculated for, heavy-duty truck VMT could be included for modeling convenience. According to the same technical advisory from OPR, projects that generate or attract fewer than 110 trips per-day generally may be assumed to cause a less-than significant transportation impact. The applicant anticipates a maximum of 1 truck trip per-day, 10 employees on a maximum shift, and up to five customers per-day for a total of 15 daily automobile trips and one truck trip. The VMT increase associated with the proposed project is less-than significant as the number of vehicle trips will not exceed 110 per-day.

It is not anticipated that the project would substantially affect the level of service on E Grayson Road. The project was referred to Public Works and a referral response was received requiring an irrevocable offer of dedication for half-width of the remaining right-of-way of Grayson Road, a grading and drainage plan, and an encroachment permit for any work done in the right-of-way. These requirements will be added to the project as conditions of approval.

Mitigation: None.

References: Application information; Governor's Office of Planning and Research Technical Advisory, December 2018; Referral response from Stanislaus County Public Works Department, dated December 14, 2020; Stanislaus County General Plan and Support Documentation¹.

XVIII. TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES Would the	Potentially	Less Than	Less Than	No Impact
project:	Significant Impact	Significant With Mitigation Included	Significant Impact	
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:			X	
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			Х	
ii) A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set for the in subdivision (c) of Public Resource 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.			X	

Discussion: It does not appear that this project will result in significant impacts to any archaeological or cultural resources. The project site is already improved with multiple buildings. In accordance with SB 18 and AB 52, this project was not referred to the tribes listed with the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) as the project is not a General Plan Amendment and no tribes have requested consultation or project referral noticing. While the site is already developed, if any resources are found during future construction of the awnings or drainage basins, construction activities would halt until a qualified survey takes place and the appropriate authorities are notified.

Mitigation: None.

References: Application information; Stanislaus County General Plan and Support Documentation¹.

XIX. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Included	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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?			x	
b) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years?			x	
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?			X	
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?			x	
e) Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?			x	

Discussion: Limitations on providing services have not been identified. The project proposes to utilize an existing well and existing septic facilities. Any intensity of these utilities will be subject to any regulatory requirements during the building permitting phase. The Department of Public Works commented that a grading, drainage, and erosion/sediment control plan for the project shall be submitted for the proposed awnings and drainage basins and any future building permit that will create a larger or smaller building footprint. A Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) will be required for future construction prior to the approval of any grading. These comments will be applied as conditions of approval. While there are no additional wells proposed as part of this request, the project was referred to the Environmental Review Committee (ERC), which indicated the project may constitute a new public water system which would be subject to SB1263 and could require CEQA review. Subsequently a revised referral response from the Department of Environmental Resources (DER) stated the project does not meet the definition of a public water system as defined in California Health and Safety Code Section 116275 (h) and it is the property owner's responsibility to notify DER if the water system ever meets the definition of a public water system.

The project site receives power from the Turlock Irrigation District (TID). The project was referred to the District who stated the owner/developer must apply for a facility change for any pole or electrical facility relocation. This comment will be added as a condition of approval. The project was also referred to the City of Ceres who responded with no comments.

The project is not anticipated to have a significant impact to utilities and service systems.

Mitigation: None.

References: Referral response from Stanislaus County Environmental Review Committee, dated December 22, 2020; Referral response from Stanislaus County Department of Environmental Resources, dated May 6, 2021; Referral response from Stanislaus County Public Works Department, dated December 14, 2020; Referral response from Turlock Irrigation District (TID), dated December 18, 2020; Referral response from the City of Ceres, dated December 10, 2020; Stanislaus County General Plan and Support Documentation¹.

XX. WILDFIRE – If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Included	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?			х	
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?			Х	
c) Require the installation of 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?			X	
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?			X	

Discussion: The Stanislaus County Local Hazard Mitigation Plan identifies risks posed by disasters and identifies ways to minimize damage from those disasters. The terrain of the site is relatively flat, and the site has access to a County-maintained road. The site is located in a Local Responsibility Area (LRA) for fire protection and is served by Ceres Fire Protection District. The project was referred to the District, and no comments have been received to date. California Building and Fire Code establishes minimum standards for the protection of life and property by increasing the ability of a building to resist intrusion of flame and burning embers. The building permit for the proposed awnings will be reviewed by the County's Building Permits Division and Fire Prevention Bureau to ensure all State of California Building and Fire Code requirements are met prior to construction. Wildfire risk and risks associated with postfire land changes are considered to be less-than significant.

Mitigation: None.

References: Application Material; California Fire Code Title 24, Part 9; California Building Code Title 24, Part 2, Chapter 7; Stanislaus County Local Hazard Mitigation Plan; Stanislaus County General Plan and Support Documentation¹.

XXI. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Included	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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?			x	
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.)			x	

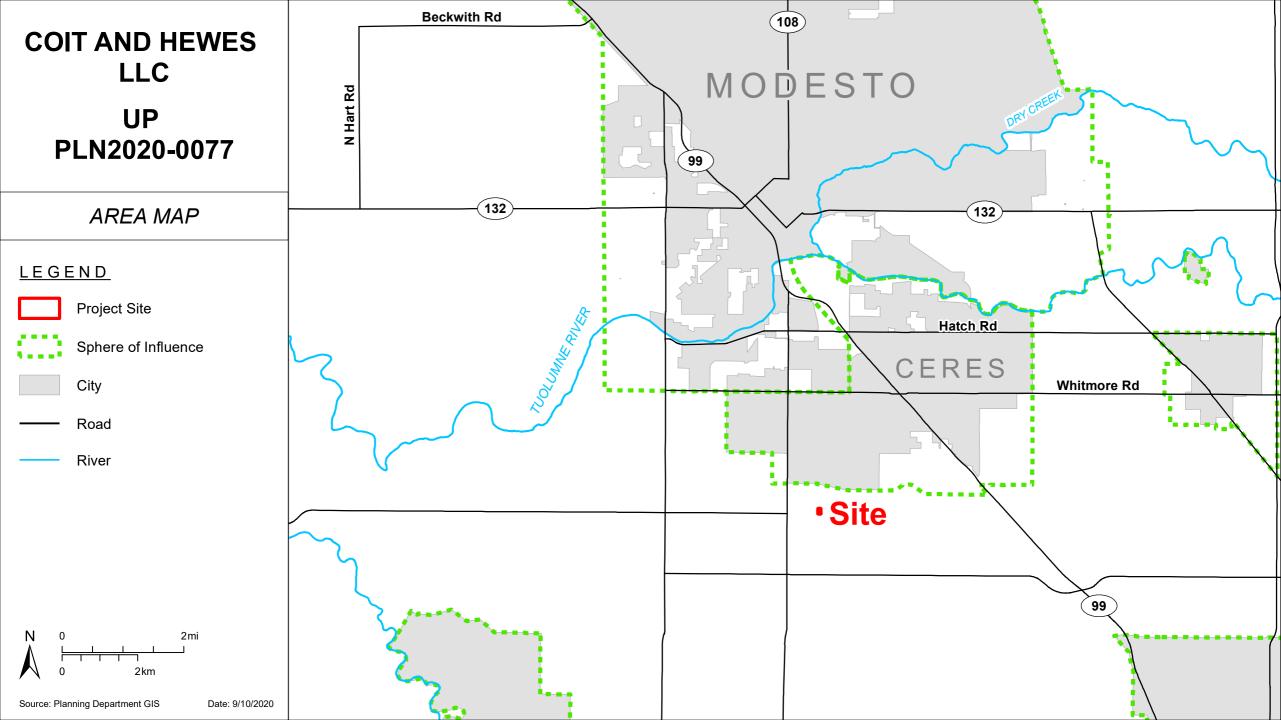
c) Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, eitherXdirectly or indirectly?X

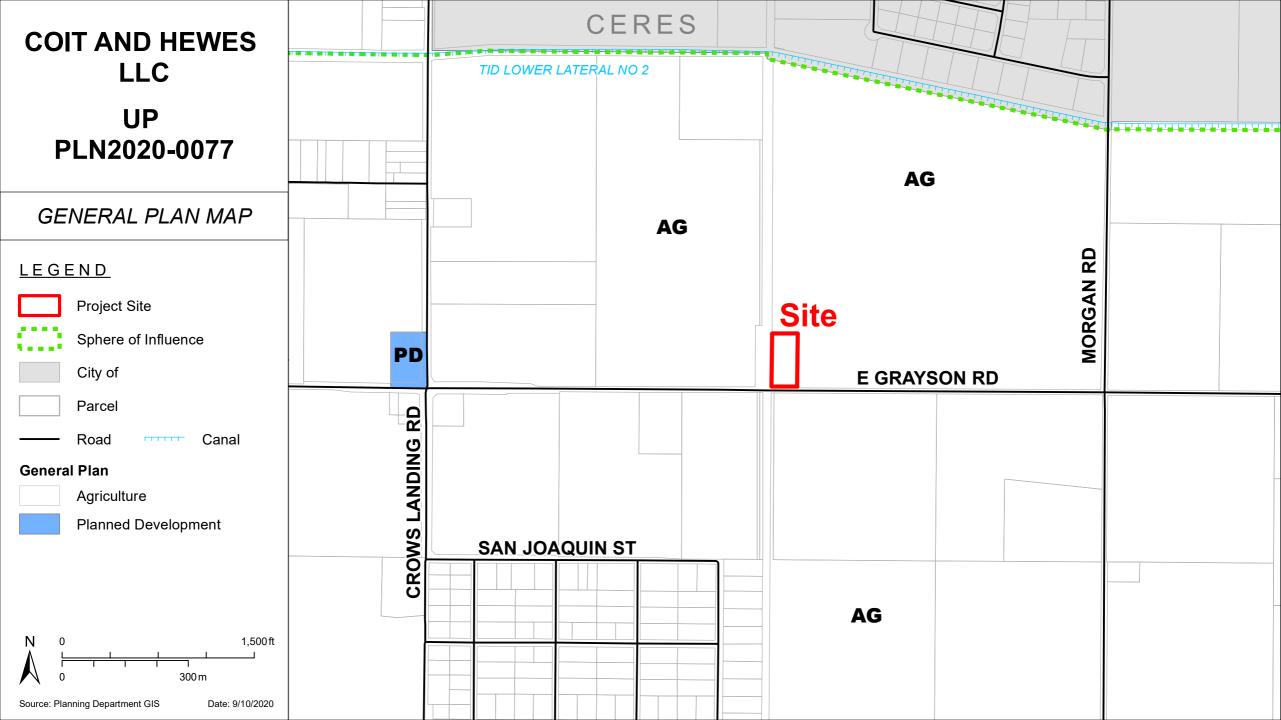
Discussion: The 1.91± acre project site is designated Agriculture by the Stanislaus County General Plan land use diagrams and zoned A-2-40 (General Agriculture). The surrounding area is comprised of orchards with scattered single-family dwellings, the City of Ceres is located to the north, a dairy exists to the east, and the Union Pacific railroad is adjacent to the west property line. The project was referred to the City per General Plan policy who responded with no comments. The proposed use is agricultural in nature and serves the agricultural community. Any development of the surrounding area would be subject to the permitted uses of the A-2 Zoning District or would require additional land use entitlements and environmental review; a General Plan Amendment and/or Rezone is required for any non-agricultural related development; residential proposals would be subject to Measure E, which requires that residential development be approved by a majority of the voting public. Review of this project has not indicated any features which might significantly impact the environmental quality of the site and/or the surrounding area.

Mitigation: None.

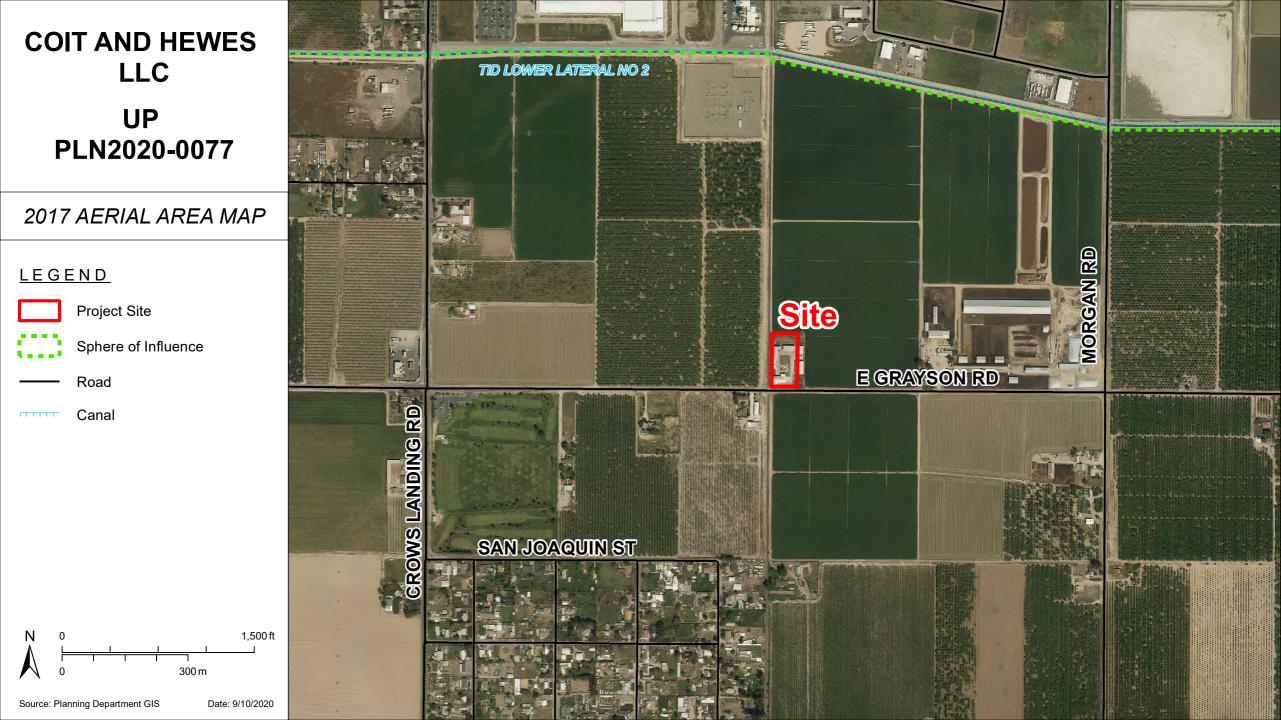
References: Initial Study; Referral response from the City of Ceres, dated December 10, 2020; Stanislaus County Zoning Ordinance; Stanislaus County General Plan and Support Documentation¹.

¹<u>Stanislaus County General Plan and Support Documentation</u> adopted in August 23, 2016, as amended. *Housing Element* adopted on April 5, 2016.





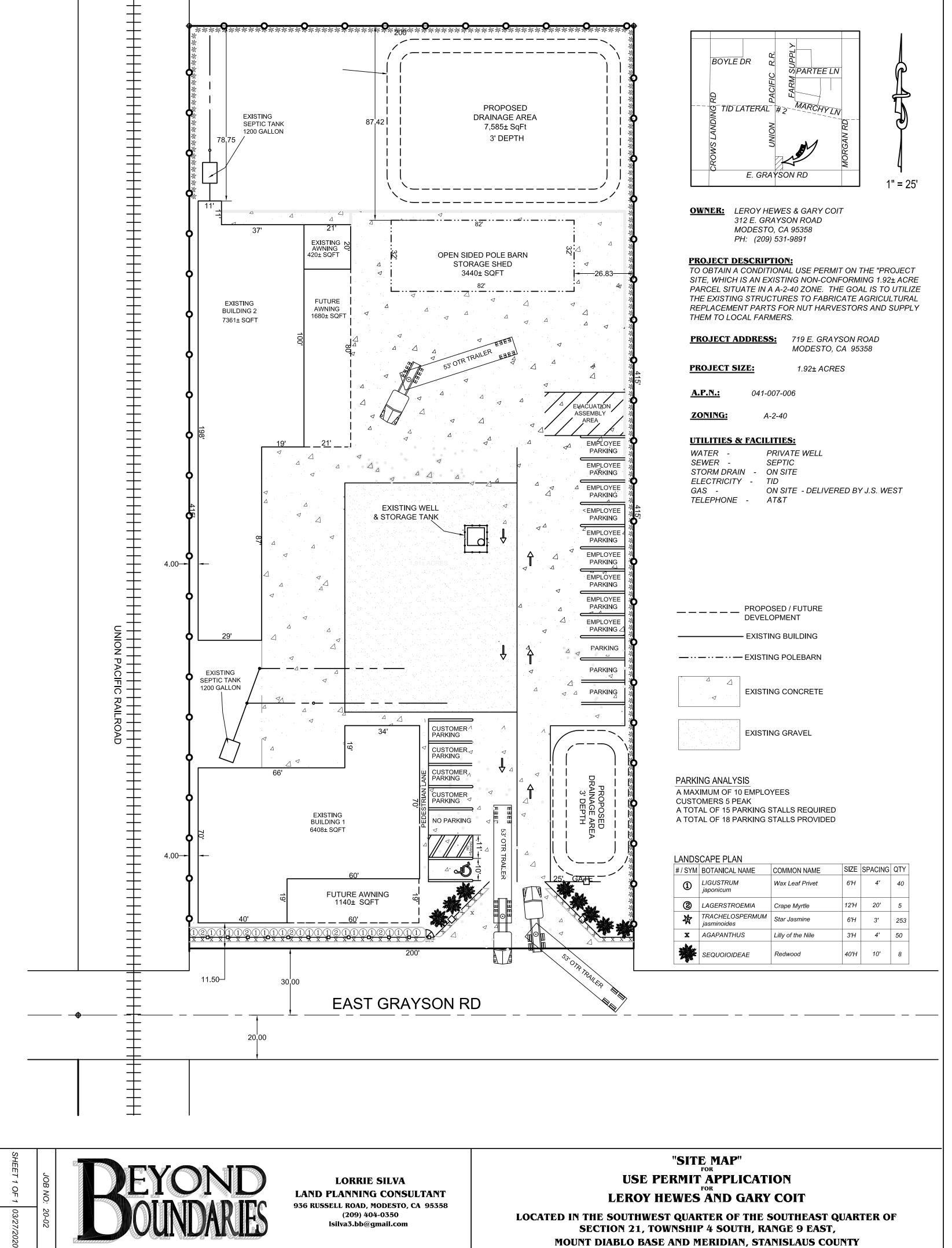


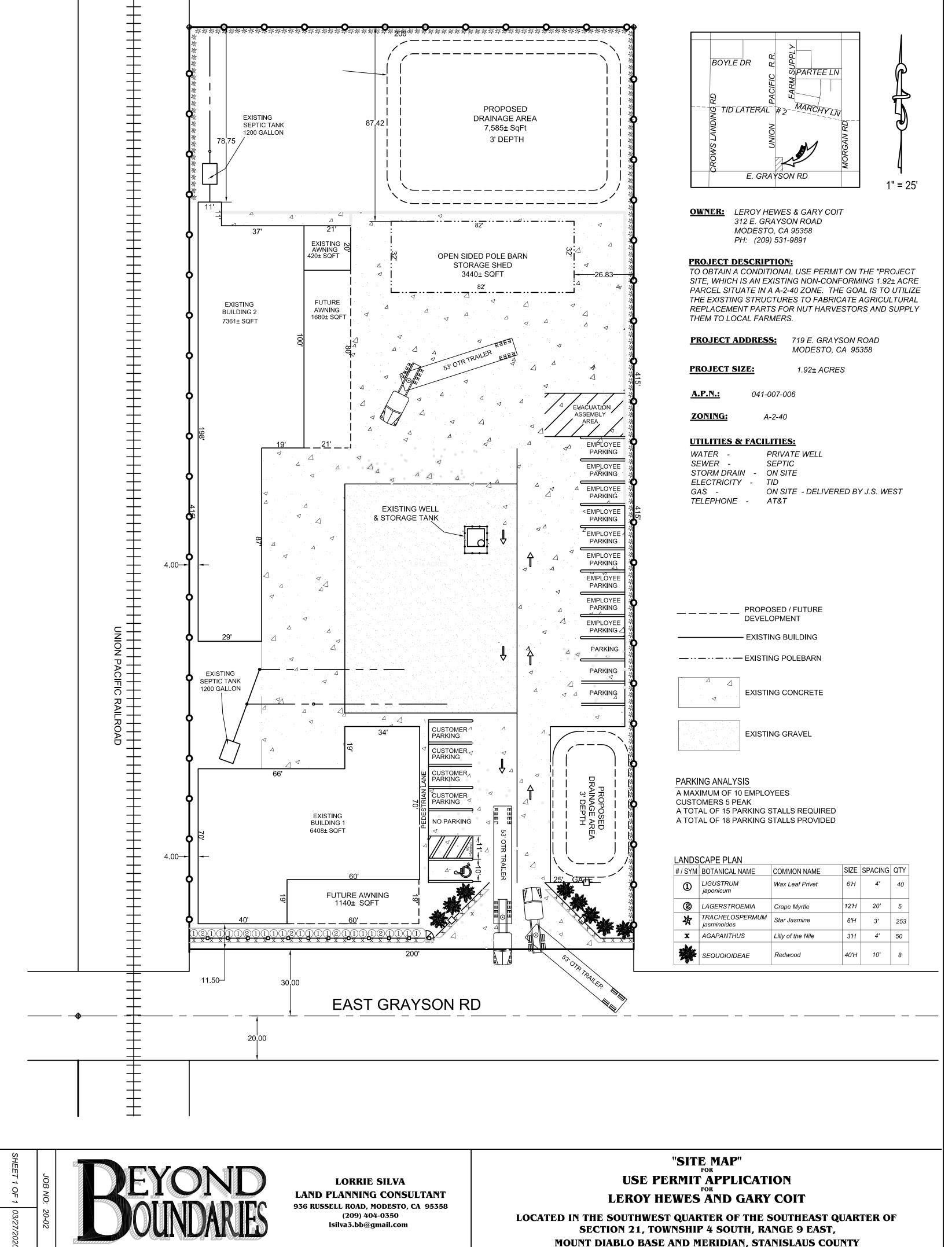


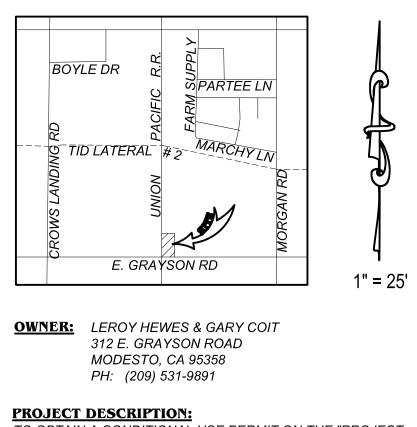


Source: Planning Department GIS

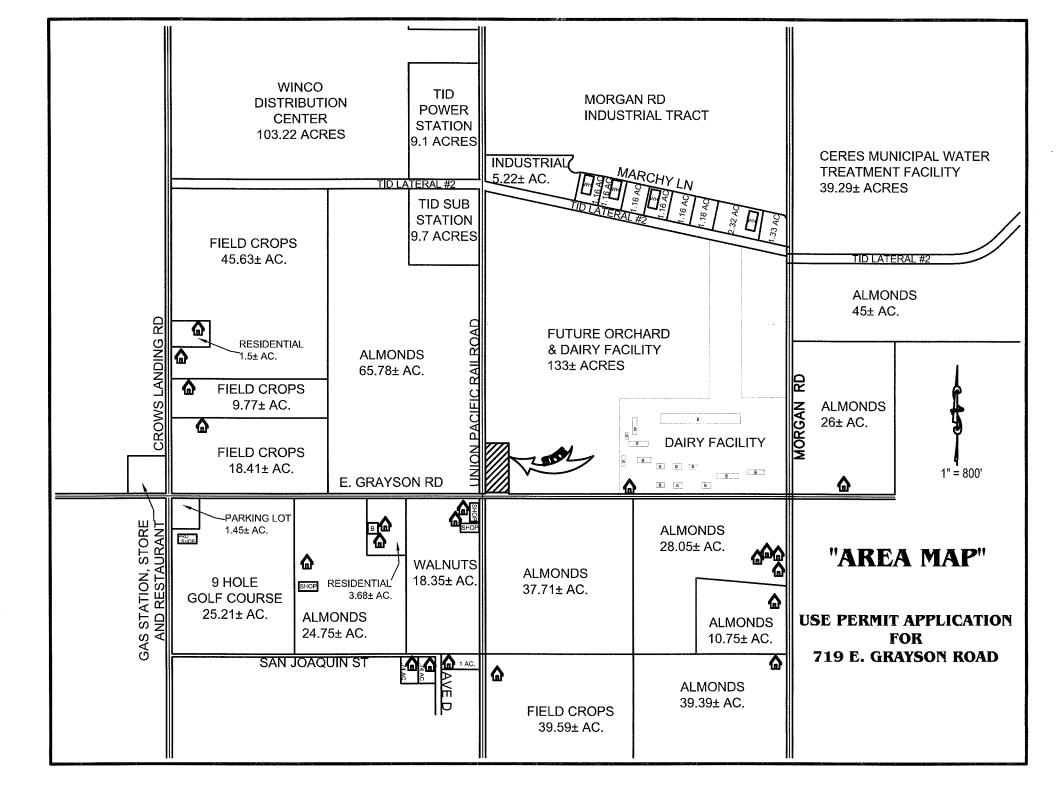






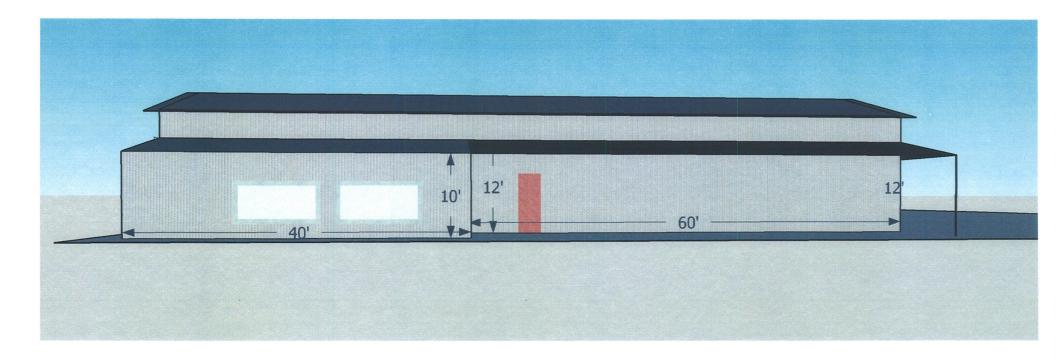


PROJECT ADDRESS:	719 E. GRAYSON ROAD MODESTO, CA 95358				
PROJECT SIZE:	1.92± ACRES				
<u>A.P.N.:</u> 041-007-	006				
ZONING: A-2-4	0				
UTILITIES & FACILITIES:					
SEWER - SEP STORM DRAIN - ON S ELECTRICITY - TID	SITE SITE - DELIVERED BY J.S. WEST				

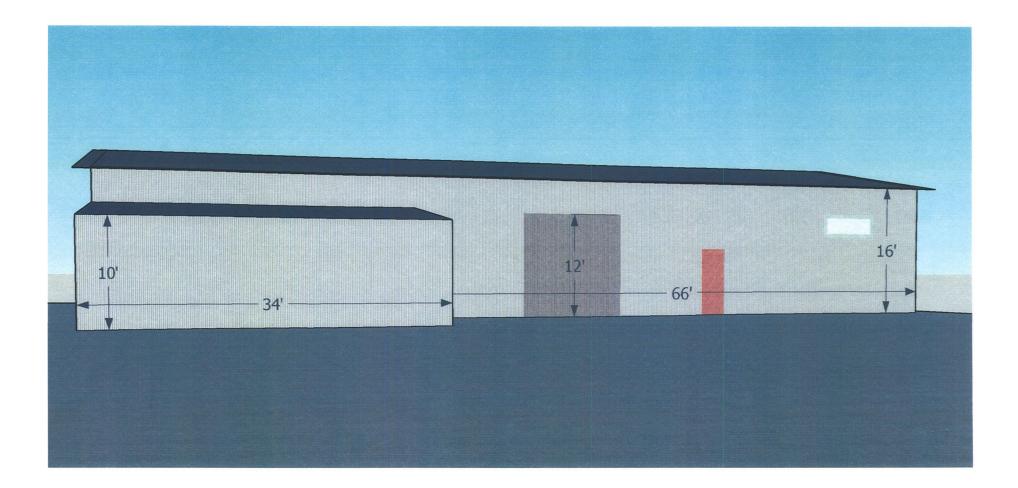


Elevations

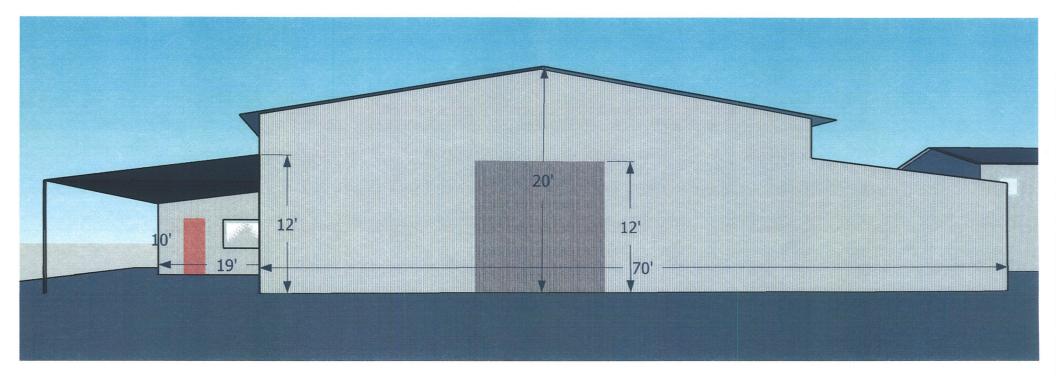
Building 1



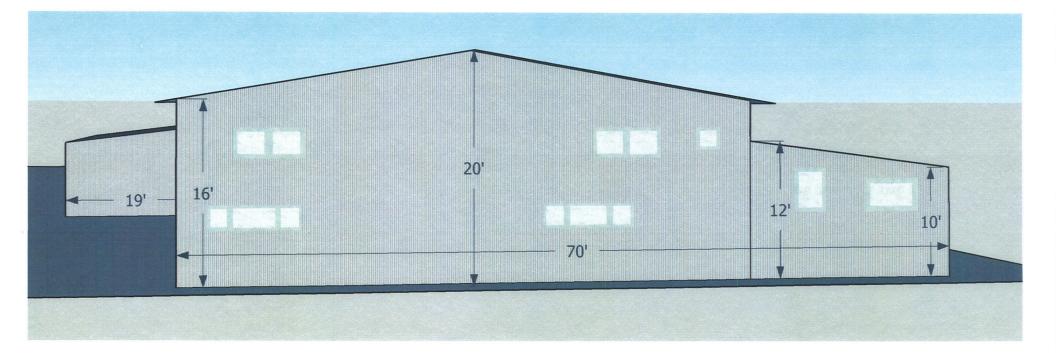
SOUTH SIDE OF BUILDING



NORTH SIDE OF BUILDING



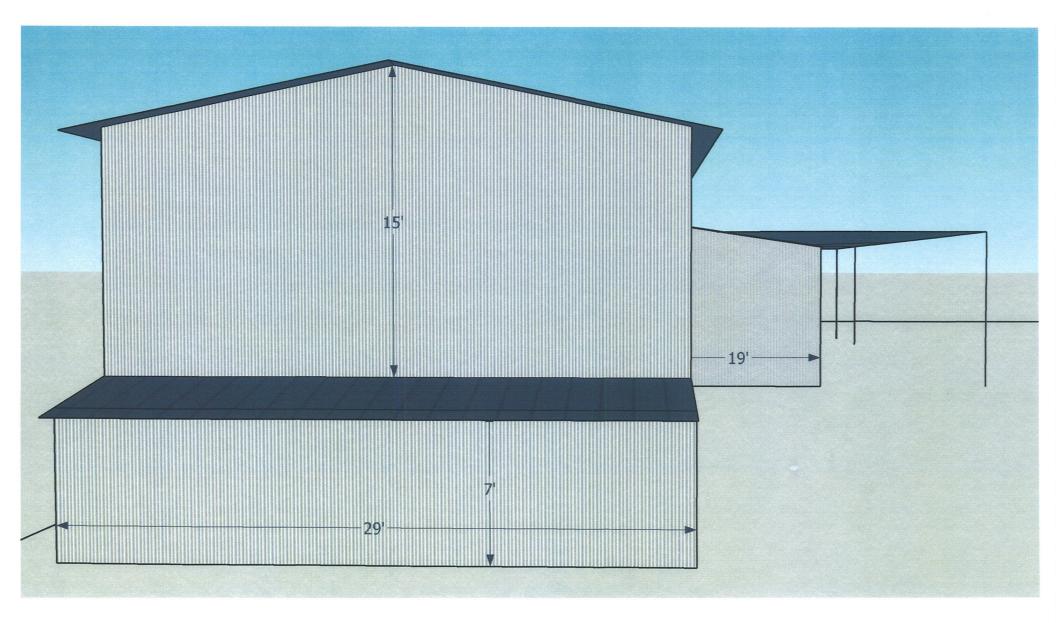
EAST SIDE OF BUILDING



WEST SIDE OF BUILDING

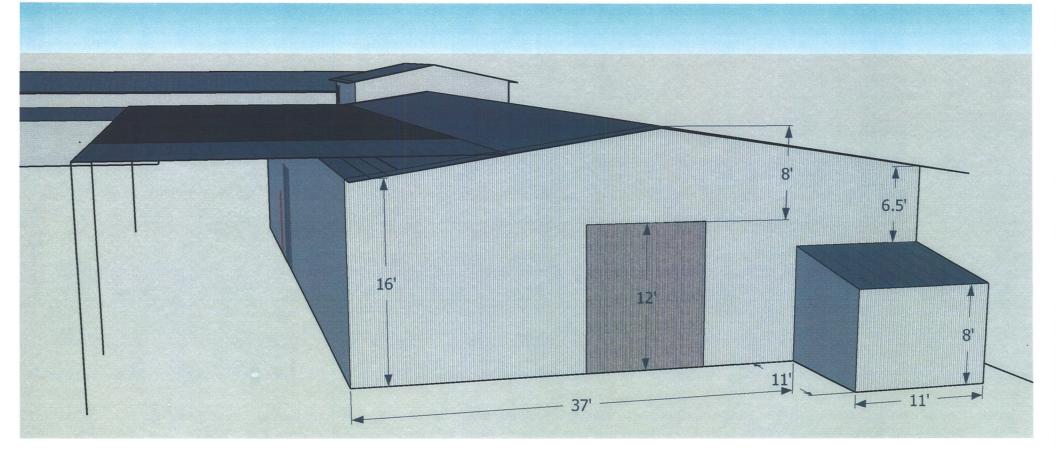
Elevations

Building 2

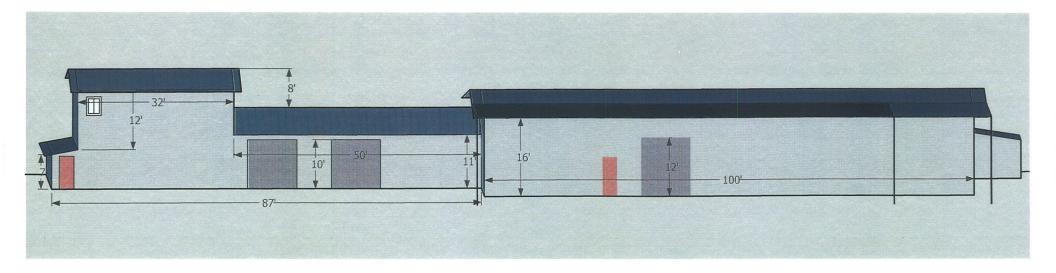


SOUTH SIDE OF BUILDING

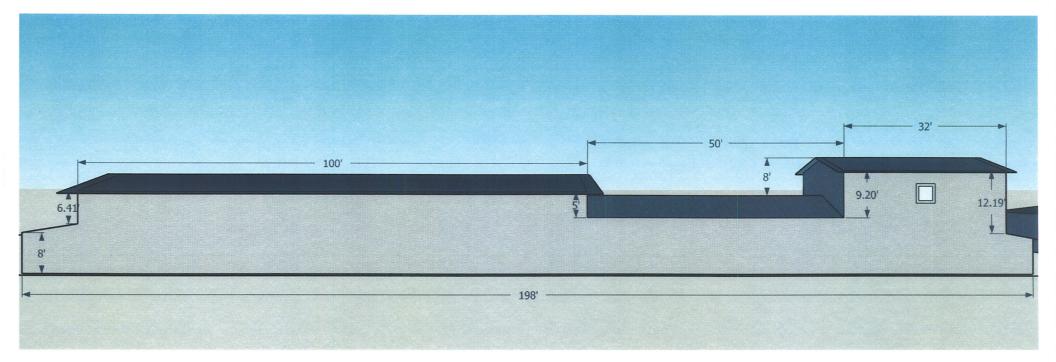
NORTH SIDE OF BUILDING



BUILDING 2



EAST SIDE OF BUILDING



WEST SIDE OF BUILDING