

# STANISLAUS COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

September 15, 2022

## STAFF REPORT

USE PERMIT APPLICATION NO. PLN2021-0102  
DARLING INGREDIENTS, INC.

**REQUEST:** TO EXPAND AN EXISTING LEGAL NON-CONFORMING (LNC) ANIMAL RENDERING PLANT, OPERATING ON A 9± ACRE PORTION OF A 74± ACRE PARCEL IN THE GENERAL AGRICULTURE (A-2-40) ZONING DISTRICT, BY ALLOWING AN INCREASE IN THE PERMITTED DAILY PROCESSING THROUGHPUT FROM 1,650,000 TO 1,850,000 POUNDS PER DAY AND FOR CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW 2,160± SQUARE-FOOT LOADOUT BUILDING, AN 800± SQUARE-FOOT BOILER ROOM ADDITION, A 23,300± SQUARE-FOOT SHELL BUILDING, AND INSTALLATION OF 10,780± SQUARE FEET OF EXTERIOR EQUIPMENT.

### APPLICATION INFORMATION

Applicant:	William McMurtry, Darling Ingredients, Inc.
Property owner:	Darling Ingredients, Inc. (see Exhibit F – <i>List of Individual Directors/Officers</i> )
Agent:	George Petrulakis, Petrulakis Law and Advocacy, APC
Location:	11946 South Carpenter Road, between Ruble Road and the TID Lateral No. 5, in the Crows Landing area.
Section, Township, Range:	30-5-9
Supervisory District:	Two (Supervisor Chiesa)
Assessor's Parcel:	058-022-005
Referrals:	See Exhibit M Environmental Review Referrals
Area of Parcel(s):	74± acres
Water Supply:	Private well
Sewage Disposal:	Septic system
General Plan Designation:	Agriculture
Community Plan Designation:	N/A
Existing Zoning:	General Agriculture (A-2-40)
Sphere of Influence:	N/A
Williamson Act Contract No.:	N/A
Environmental Review:	Negative Declaration
Present Land Use:	Animal rendering plant, irrigated row crops, and wastewater storage ponds.
Surrounding Land Use:	Confined animal facilities, irrigated agriculture, and scattered single-family dwellings in all directions; the TID Lateral No. 4 Canal to the east; the TID Lateral No. 5 to the south; and the San Joaquin River to the west.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends the Planning Commission approve this request based on the discussion below and on the whole of the record provided to the County. If the Planning Commission decides to approve this project, Exhibit A provides an overview of all of the findings required for project approval, which includes use permit findings.

## **BACKGROUND**

The project site was zoned Unclassified (A-1) until 1971 when it was rezoned to Exclusive Agriculture (A-2). Under the A-1 zoning, a use permit (Use Permit No. 1030) was granted in 1969 to permit the rebuilding of an animal rendering plant on the project parcel (see Exhibit D – *Use Permit No. 1030 Conditions of Approval*). In 1973, under the A-2 zoning, a second use permit (Use Permit No. 73-03) was obtained to allow the expansion of the plant by constructing a 9,100 square-foot structure (see Exhibit E – *Use Permit No. 73-03 Conditions of Approval*). In 1983, the current General Agriculture (A-2-40) zoning went into effect and, under the current zoning, the use is considered a legal non-conforming (LNC) use due to the zoning not allowing animal rendering plants as a permitted use or use requiring a use permit. The LNC use has been expanded over the years under several staff approval permits authorizing various improvements such as a 3,500 square-foot maintenance shop, a concrete loadout pit, various pipelines and cooling towers, and other appurtenances. In accordance with County Zoning Ordinance Section 21.80.080(A), LNC uses are allowed to expand, change, or be modified with issuance of a staff approval permit provided the change does not expand the area of the building or use by more than 25 percent. While several staff approval permits have been issued over the years, some of the improvements on the project site have been issued building permits without a staff approval permit having been obtained; however, all existing and proposed on-site improvements since 1973 have been evaluated in determining the type of entitlement needed for the proposed modifications. The plant's processing throughput was undocumented until 2007 when the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District's (Air District) records established the baseline for the plant's processing throughput at 1,250,000 pounds per day. Since 2007, the Air District has permitted the plant to operate at its current capacity of 1,650,000 pounds per day. Based on review of increases to both throughput and the structural footprint, the proposed modifications will expand the LNC use (Use Permit No. 73-03) by over the 25 percent allowed by a staff approval permit and, as such, a use permit is required.

## **PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The project is a request to expand an existing LNC animal rendering plant, operating on a 9± acre portion of a 74± acre parcel in the General Agriculture (A-2-40) zoning district. The plant renders beef and poultry animal byproduct received primarily from local farmers, slaughterhouses, and livestock producers, which consists of carcasses, offal, fat, and bone, into useable products such as: gelatin, edible fats, feed-grade fats, animal proteins and meals, plasma, pet food ingredients, organic fertilizers, fuel feedstocks, and yellow grease. The end fat and protein products produced by the plant are currently primarily sold to diesel refineries and to companies within the agriculture industry as ingredients for animal feed and fertilizers. The plant also converts used cooking oil and commercial bakery residuals into feed and fuel ingredients. The plant is registered in the California Environmental Reporting System (CERS) as a generator of hazardous materials, under CERS ID No. 10178145. Further, the plant is registered with and regulated by the California

Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) Meat, Poultry, and Egg Safety (MPES) Branch and is subject to state permitting and inspections.

The plant's processing throughput is regulated under the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (Air District) through Authority to Construct (ATC) Permits. The existing operations are limited to 1,650,000 pounds per day under ATC Permit No. N-2107-5-3. In addition to increasing the current permitted daily processing throughput to 1,850,000 pounds per day, this request also proposes to construct: a new single-story, 25-foot-tall±, 2,160± square-foot loadout building, which will serve to ship out finished segregated products; an 800± square-foot addition to the existing boiler structure, used to cook down the byproducts by eliminating moisture and separating fats from proteins; and outdoor equipment consisting of the following: a 10,000± square-foot wastewater treatment cell; two fat tanks totaling 226± square feet; a 314± square-foot protein storage silo; and a 240± square-foot wastewater equalization tank. Additionally, the project proposes future construction of a 23,300± square-foot shell building, for future use that has not yet been identified. Since use of the proposed shell building has not yet been identified, a condition of approval has been added to require approval of a Staff Approval Permit prior to issuance of a building permit. The applicant has not identified a construction schedule but will be seeking the necessary Air District permits to increase the daily throughput within the 18 months allowed by the County for implementation of a use permit.

The plant operates 24 hours per day, seven days per week, year-round with approximately 52 employees working at this location. A maximum shift consists of 12 employees, and a minimum shift of six. The requested improvements are anticipated to add up to 10 additional employees for the maximum shift. No changes to the hours and days of operation are proposed. The plant currently generates approximately 140 daily one-way truck trips (70 round trips) and proposes an increase of 18 additional one-way truck trips (nine round trips) per day. The existing plant has sufficient parking stalls to accommodate the proposed expansion; however, additional building-mounted exterior lighting, up to 25 feet tall, may be installed on the proposed structures, as needed.

## **SITE DESCRIPTION**

The 74± acre project site is located at 11946 South Carpenter Road, between Ruble Road and the Turlock Irrigation District (TID) Lateral No. 5, in the Crows Landing area. The project site consists of two parts: 1) a 35± acre western portion developed with the 9± acre plant and the associated wastewater holding ponds which are regulated by Waste Discharge Requirements through the Regional Water Quality Control Board; and 2) a 39± acre eastern portion that consists of undeveloped agricultural land planted in row crops. The southwestern 9± acres of the project site are developed with approximately 63,623± square feet of structures, tanks, silos, and pipelines. The buildings associated with the existing plant consist of the following: an office; an employee breakroom; a truck maintenance building; a plant maintenance building; a protein processing plant; a boiler house; a feather and blood processing plant; a protein finishing, storage and loadout building; and an equipment and supply warehouse.

The plant is improved with an 8-foot-tall vinyl fence and shrubs installed along the South Carpenter Road frontage and chain-link fencing around the remaining perimeter of the plant and the wastewater holding ponds. The plant footprint is partially paved with unpaved areas of the plant consisting of an employee parking area, with room for 35 parking spaces, and a truck/trailer parking area. A complete building and on-site infrastructure breakdown can be viewed in the

attached site plan (see Exhibit B – *Maps and Site Plan*). Treated wastewater generated by the plant is spread onto the agricultural land, which receives irrigation water from the Turlock Irrigation District (TID). The plant is also currently regulated by the Stanislaus County Department of Environmental Resources as an existing Public Water System (PWS) and the site is served by on-site wells for domestic and operational water purposes and an on-site wastewater treatment system (OWTS) for wastewater service. All vehicular traffic to the site takes access off County-maintained South Carpenter Road via a paved and gated driveway.

Surrounding land uses include confined animal facilities, irrigated agriculture, and scattered single-family dwellings in all directions; the TID Lateral No. 4 Canal is located to the east; the TID Lateral No. 5 abuts the site to the south; and the San Joaquin River is located to the west.

## **ISSUES**

During review of the project, it was noted that three building permits issued by the County from 2017 and 2018, for various improvements to the plant which have been constructed, have not yet been finalized. A condition of approval has been added to the project to address these outstanding building permits, requiring a final inspection to occur within three months of project approval. Additionally, a freestanding sign has been erected within the County right-of-way without permits. A photo of the sign is provided in Exhibit B – *Maps and Site Plan*. A condition of approval requiring relocation of the sign within three months of project approval has been added to the project.

Additionally, on July 29, 2022, pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), an Initial Study referral was circulated for the project to responsible agencies and surrounding landowners for a 30-day period. As part of the environmental review, a Greenhouse Gas Analysis (GHG) and Health Risk Assessment (HRA) was prepared to assess the project's potential impacts on air quality per the thresholds adopted by the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (Air District) (see Attachment I – *Air Quality and GHG Technical Report* of Exhibit G – *Initial Study, with Attachments*). The Air Quality and GHG Technical Report is discussed in greater detail in the Environmental Review section of this report.

On August 31, 2022, in response to the Initial Study referral, staff received a letter of opposition signed by 29 individuals, citing concerns with the proposed expansion for environmental and health reasons (see Exhibit I – *Letter of Opposition*). The letter expressed concerns over the odor produced by the plant, omission of certain air pollutants from the air quality studies prepared for the project, and the potential for retention of diseases and bacteria in the soil from the animal mortalities. The letter claims that land surrounding the plant is inundated with blood and waste infused into the soil, and that the water table is contaminated by pollutants which result in domestic water from nearby wells having a foul odor with an orange coloration from excess blood and iron. The letter also expresses concerns with the potential impacts to the San Joaquin River, located just west of the project site. The letter made reference to violations on record with both the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The letter also provided images showing standing puddles identified as blood in mud, and several images of infections and injuries allegedly resulting from minor wounds coming into contact with tap water contaminated by the plant.

Staff could not verify the locations of the residences of the individuals identified on the letter, nor link the injuries shown in the letter to water quality issues associated with the rendering plant. Although the comment letter complained that certain air pollutants were not evaluated in the

greenhouse gas analysis and health risk assessment, the studies were prepared pursuant to the Air District's guidelines pursuant to the District's Guidance for Assessing and Mitigating Air Quality Impacts (GAMAQI) and measured the criteria pollutants with thresholds established by the Air District, for both operations and construction sources.

Staff has consulted with several agencies in an effort to verify the claims regarding contamination. While the letter claims there have been 21 air violations and four water violations from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), after consulting with the EPA's Air Section Enforcement and Compliance Division staff, EPA staff have not identified any documented violations with respect to Clean Air Act violations. The EPA's Enforcement and Compliance History Online (ECHO) database identifies 14 air violations documented for the plant; however, per EPA staff, these violations were cited and enforced by the Air District, not the EPA. The Air District is the delegated authority by the EPA to administer and enforce federal, state, and local air regulations, and requires annual reporting from the plant operator to verify compliance with applicable air regulations. Upon a request by County staff for any complaints on record with the Air District, district staff noted a documented complaint, which occurred in 2018, for odor and smoke emitted from the plant. Additionally, the Air District noted that between 2018 and 2021 the following violations, which have since been resolved, were documented for the plant: failure to operate the existing regenerative thermal oxidizer (RTO) chamber which reduces hazardous air pollutants, volatile organic compounds and odorous emissions during industrial processes; failure to submit annual compliance certification on-time; and one instance each of failure to record the RTO temperature and failure to operate the odor control system. Air District staff stated that since December 2021, no further violations, complaints, or issues were on record for the operation. County staff was unable to reach the EPA's Water Section Enforcement and Compliance Division staff.

The County's Planning Department has no documented complaints for the plant. The plant is regulated by the County's Department of Environmental Resources (DER) for hazardous materials, public water, and septic systems. DER's Hazardous Materials Division staff conducted an inspection in mid-August 2022 in response to a complaint about standing water in an unlined pond. Per DER staff and the applicant, the standing water was the result of accidental overflow from a truck spilling water. As the on-site wastewater retention ponds are monitored by Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) staff, the operator was told to report the incident to the RWQCB. DER's inspection otherwise noted only minor issues, as described by DER staff, with respect to labeling of chemicals; however, there did not appear to be any contamination or issues that would elicit environmental concern. RWQCB staff has since confirmed that the incident was reported to their staff and that the existing Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) for the on-site ponds, which are lined in accordance with water regulations, have been complied with.

County staff have been made aware that in early August 2021 the RWQCB received a complaint from one of the individuals who signed the August 31, 2022 letter of opposition that was submitted to the County, outlining the same concerns. In the RWQCB complaint, the complainant identified their address as the parcel directly north of the plant, at 11612 South Carpenter Road. The engineering geologist assigned to inspections of the plant (which occur every 2-3 years) inspected the plant and did not identify significant issues with respect to the lined ponds and reiterated that the ponds are lined for the purpose of preventing percolation of wastewater into the soil, as regulated through WDRs. A 2021 RWQCB inspection report did not identify any significant issues with either the on-site groundwater monitoring wells nor the wastewater ponds (see Exhibit K – *Regional Water Quality Control Board Inspection Report, dated January 11, 2021*). RWQCB staff

also failed to link any of the complaints received to the Darling Ingredients plant specifically, suggesting that issues regarding the water and soil could be linked to an improperly maintained well or septic tank at the location of the complainant's parcel, or dairies in the area.

Additionally, Planning staff consulted with the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) Meat and Egg Safety Branch staff, which regulate rendering plants, and their staff were very supportive of the proposed expansion. They indicated they have not received any complaints regarding the plant, which is inspected quarterly to annually. Their staff indicated the plant is one of three in the Central Valley which is permitted to receive animal "deadstock," the alternative to which is to send animal mortalities to a landfill which, in their opinion, would pose a greater environmental concern. As mentioned earlier, staff has been unable to reach the EPA's Water Section to verify whether there were known water violations to date; however, the environmental assessment prepared for the project (Initial Study) was sent to responsible agencies, who are responsible for reviewing a project's potential impacts to air, water, and soil resources and no significant impacts were identified.

The applicant has provided responses to the concerns identified in the August 31, 2022 letter of opposition (see Exhibit J – *Applicant Response to Letter of Opposition*). In the applicant's response it is stated that the plant discharges all wastewater produced on-site to on-site synthetic-lined ponds which are heavily regulated by RWQCB, that on-site monitoring wells are regularly tested to verify groundwater quality and flow conditions, and that the plant conforms to the Air District's Best Available Control Technology standards for odor abatement. In response to the concerns with the increase in processing throughput and change from a "batch" to "continuous" cooking process, the applicant has responded that the modification will reduce staging time before raw materials can enter the conversion process, which adds more value to the finished fats and proteins. Additionally, the applicant has stated that the throughput increase is needed to meet market demands, which CDFA staff have corroborated. The applicant has also refuted claims that blood and "greenish brown matter" have permeated the soil off-site, stating that the wastewater is sealed in above-ground tanks with treated effluent discharged to lined ponds before being reused by the plant or for irrigation of on-site crops, and that the groundwater gradient in the area moves towards the river and not in the direction of the neighbor to the north. In a follow up conversation with the RWQCB staff geologist, the geologist has indicated that the applicant's statement regarding the groundwater gradient was not a fact that could be asserted when refuting the possibility of groundwater contamination; however, they also did not identify any issues with the monitoring wells or wastewater treatment on-site. Raw materials are processed on concrete per CDFA regulations.

Animal rendering and tallow plants are known to produce unpleasant odors and even with best practices in place to control odor, these facilities, the proposed project site included, will still emit some level of odor; however, neither the Stanislaus County Planning Division, DER Code Enforcement Division, nor Agricultural Commissioner's Office has any record of complaints, beyond the August 31, 2022 letter of opposition, regarding this plant. During the normal course of business, Planning staff will often travel past the plant and, as part of the project review, Planning staff has conducted several site visits from the County right-of-way, at various times of day and days of the week, specifically to assess odor conditions in the area around the plant. Odor detected from the Carpenter Road right-of-way has ranged from none to a noticeable smell detected up to three quarters of a mile away from the plant. No odors have been detected from the Crows Landing Road right-of-way. On September 9, 2022, a site visit was conducted to assess conditions during heat wave conditions when animal mortality is known to increase and

decay to accelerate. The site visit was conducted in the morning between 9:15 and 9:30 a.m. with the temperature in the mid-80's following a week of daytime temperatures exceeding 100°F. Per the applicant, the plant was operating at capacity and all processes were in operation at the time of the visit. Steam was visible from the site and deadstock was also visible from the road right-of-way. Per the applicant, the volume of deadstock on the site was higher than normal due to the extremely high ambient temperatures. Wind conditions at the time of the site visit were very calm. Several stops were made along the Crows Landing Road right-of-way, east and south of the plant, and no smell was detected. No smells were detected from Ruble Road located north of the plant as well. From the Carpenter Road right-of-way an odor was detectable along the frontage of the project site and approximately a half-mile south of the plant. No smell of decay was detected, but there was a heavy "processing" smell that would likely be found by some to be unpleasant; especially, if the person was aware of the source being a rendering plant.

In assessing the odor impacts of this project, staff has balanced personal observations with the lack of complaints and the recognition that this plant provides a critical function in support of the County's agricultural industry. A 30-day Notice of the Intent to adopt a Negative Declaration in accordance with CEQA and notice of the Planning Commission public hearing have been provided to surrounding landowners and published in The Modesto Bee and the only concerns that have been raised are those from the August 31, 2022 letter of opposition. While it is not anticipated that the proposed modifications to the plant will increase odors, a condition of approval has been added to the project allowing the use permit, if approved, to be brought back to the Planning Commission, at the Planning Director's discretion, for implementation of new or modified Conditions of Approval to address any future nuisance concerns that may arise.

No other issues have been identified as a part of this request. Standard conditions of approval have been added to the project.

### **GENERAL PLAN CONSISTENCY**

The site is currently designated "Agriculture" in the Stanislaus County General Plan. The agricultural designation recognizes the value and importance of agriculture by acting to preclude incompatible urban development within agricultural areas. This designation establishes agriculture as the primary use in land so designated, but allows dwelling units, limited agriculturally related commercial services, agriculturally related light industrial uses, and other uses which by their unique nature are not compatible with urban uses, provided they do not conflict with the primary use.

Goal Three, Policy 20 of the General Plan's Land Use Element recognizes nonconforming uses as an integral part of the County's economy and, as such, should be allowed to continue. The policy, as implemented through the County's Zoning Ordinance, permits replacement and expansion of nonconforming uses.

To minimize conflicts between agriculture operations and non-agricultural operations, Buffer and Setback Guidelines (Appendix A of the Agricultural Element) have been adopted. The purpose of these guidelines is to protect the long-term health of local agriculture by minimizing conflicts resulting from normal agricultural practices as a consequence of new or expanding uses approved in or adjacent to the General Agriculture (A-2) zoning district. Appendix A states: "All projects shall incorporate a minimum 150-foot-wide buffer setback. Projects which propose people intensive outdoor activities, such as athletic fields, shall incorporate a minimum 300-foot-wide

buffer setback.” Public roadways, utilities, drainage facilities, rivers and adjacent riparian areas, landscaping, parking lots, and similar low people-intensive uses are permitted uses within the buffer setback area. At full buildout, the project proposes a maximum shift of 22 employees.

The plant’s occupied facilities and areas of activity which are not excluded from the setback area (i.e. wastewater ponds, parking area, and utilities) are located at least 150 feet from the property line of parcels to the west, north, and east. The plant is located approximately 95 feet from the nearest property line of the farmed parcel to the south, which includes an existing 60-foot-wide Turlock Irrigation District (TID) irrigation lateral that runs along the entire southern boundary of the Darling Ingredients property; accordingly, the applicant is requesting a buffer alternative consisting of a reduced setback of 95 feet. The decision-making body (Planning Commission) shall have the ultimate authority to determine if a use is low people-intensive, and if an alternative buffer and setback standards may be approved provided the proposed alternative is found to provide equal or greater protection to the surrounding agricultural uses. This project was referred to the Stanislaus County Agricultural Commissioner’s office which considers the use low people-intensive and has identified no issues with the alternative agricultural buffer. Impacts to the adjacent agricultural uses are not anticipated to be greater as a result of this project. The application has provided a statement of compliance with buffer and setback guidelines (see Exhibit L – *Applicant Statement Regarding Findings*).

Staff believes that the proposed project is consistent with the General Plan policies discussed above.

### **ZONING ORDINANCE CONSISTENCY**

The site is currently zoned General Agriculture (A-2-40). Section 21.80.070 of the Stanislaus County Zoning Ordinance allows for the enlargement, expansion, or restoration of a nonconforming use, or a change to a different use of equal or lesser intensity than the legal nonconforming use, on the same parcel as the existing use, if it finds that the enlargement, expansion, restoration, or changes:

1. Will not, under the circumstances of the particular case, be detrimental to the health, safety, and general welfare of persons residing or working in the neighborhood of the use.
2. Will not be detrimental or injurious to property and improvements in the neighborhood or to the general welfare of persons residing or working in the neighborhood or to the general welfare of the county.
3. Is logically and reasonably related to the existing use and that the size or intensity of the enlargement, expansion, restoration, or changes is not such that it would be more appropriately moved to a zoning district in which it is permitted.

In this case, given the size of the existing plant and the fact that the overall boundary of the plant footprint is not increasing, staff believes the proposed enlargement is logically related to and appropriately located at the site given the use has been in service for numerous decades as an animal rendering plant, and that the proposed request is an expansion of an existing use which has not elicited a pattern of complaints throughout its history of operation and expansion at the same site. The project is required to meet all development standards with respect to parking, signage, and fencing of the A-2 zoning district. The site has sufficient parking stalls per the



County's off-street parking standards. Additionally, the project is conditioned to require that all signage be approved for setback and size. The plant provides a vital service to the agricultural industry in Stanislaus County and throughout the Central Valley and relocation to the Industrial (M) zone would similarly require a use permit for the establishment of a new use, in a likely more populated location where odors could be more problematic. Loss of this plant would require confined animal facilities to seek alternative businesses or methods for animal mortality disposal. The use has been in operation at its current location since prior to 1969, and there is no indication that the proposed expansion, as proposed and conditioned, will be detrimental to the health, safety, and general welfare of persons residing or working in the neighborhood of the use and that it will not be detrimental or injurious to property and improvements in the neighborhood or the general welfare of the County. It is expected that the proposed equipment will improve both processing efficiency and the existing odor abatement system. Staff believes that the findings necessary to approve this request can be made. The applicant submitted a statement regarding the required findings which can be found in Exhibit L, addressing each of the findings required for approval of this request.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW**

An environmental assessment for the project has been prepared in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The assessment included preparation of an Initial Study (see Exhibit G – *Initial Study, with Attachments*). At the request of the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (Air District), an Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Technical Report was prepared to assess the project's carcinogenic and non-carcinogenic health risk to nearby sensitive receptors from air pollutants, and to evaluate construction and operational emissions of criteria pollutants for which the Air District has established thresholds. The Report did not identify any significant impact with respect to either health risk or criteria pollutants and Air District staff have concurred with the findings. Pursuant to CEQA, the proposed project was circulated to interested parties and responsible agencies for review and comment and no significant issues were raised (see Exhibit M – *Environmental Review Referrals*).

A Negative Declaration has been prepared for adoption prior to action on the project itself as the project will not have a significant effect on the environment (see Exhibit H – *Negative Declaration*). Conditions of approval reflecting referral responses have been placed on the project (see Exhibit C – *Conditions of Approval*).

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**Note:** Pursuant to California Fish and Game Code Section 711.4, all project applicants subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) shall pay a filing fee for each project; therefore, the applicant will further be required to pay **\$2,605.00** for the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (formerly the Department of Fish and Game) and the Clerk-Recorder filing fees. The attached Conditions of Approval ensure that this will occur.

Contact Person: Kristen Anaya, Associate Planner, (209) 525-6330

#### Attachments:

- Exhibit A - Findings and Actions Required for Project Approval
- Exhibit B - Maps and Site Plan
- Exhibit C - Conditions of Approval

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- Exhibit D - Use Permit No. 1030 Conditions of Approval
- Exhibit E - Use Permit No. 73-03 Conditions of Approval
- Exhibit F - List of Individual Directors/Officers
- Exhibit G - Initial Study, with Attachments
- Exhibit H - Negative Declaration
- Exhibit I - Letter of Opposition
- Exhibit J - Applicant Response to Letter of Opposition
- Exhibit K - Regional Water Quality Control Board Inspection Report, dated January 11, 2021
- Exhibit L - Applicant Statement Regarding Findings
- Exhibit M - Environmental Review Referrals

\* Appendices A through D of Attachment I – Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Technical Report of Exhibit G have been redacted from the Staff Report. However, the Initial Study was circulated with all of the Appendices attached. Hard copies are available upon request. Please contact the Planning and Community Development Department by email at [planning@stancounty.com](mailto:planning@stancounty.com) or by phone at (209) 525-6330 to obtain a copy.

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## Findings and Actions Required for Project Approval






1. Adopt the Negative Declaration pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15074(b), by finding that on the basis of the whole record, including the Initial Study and any comments received, that there is no substantial evidence the project will have a significant effect on the environment and that the Negative Declaration reflects Stanislaus County's independent judgment and analysis.
2. Order the filing of a Notice of Determination with the Stanislaus County Clerk-Recorder pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21152 and CEQA Guidelines Section 15075.
3. Find That:
  - a. Will not, under the circumstances of the particular case, be detrimental to the health, safety, and general welfare of persons residing or working in the neighborhood of the use.
  - b. Will not be detrimental or injurious to property and improvements in the neighborhood or to the general welfare of persons residing or working in the neighborhood or to the general welfare of the county.
  - c. Is logically and reasonably related to the existing use and that the size or intensity of the enlargement, expansion, restoration, or changes is not such that it would be more appropriately moved to a zoning district in which it is permitted.
  - d. That the proposed use is "low-people intensive" and the alternative to the Agricultural Buffer Standards applied to this project provides equal or greater protection than the existing buffer standards.
4. Approve Use Permit Application No. PLN2021-0102 – Darling Ingredients, Inc., subject to the attached conditions of approval.

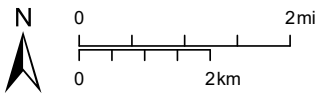
# DARLING INGREDIENTS INC

## UP PLN2021-0102

### AREA MAP

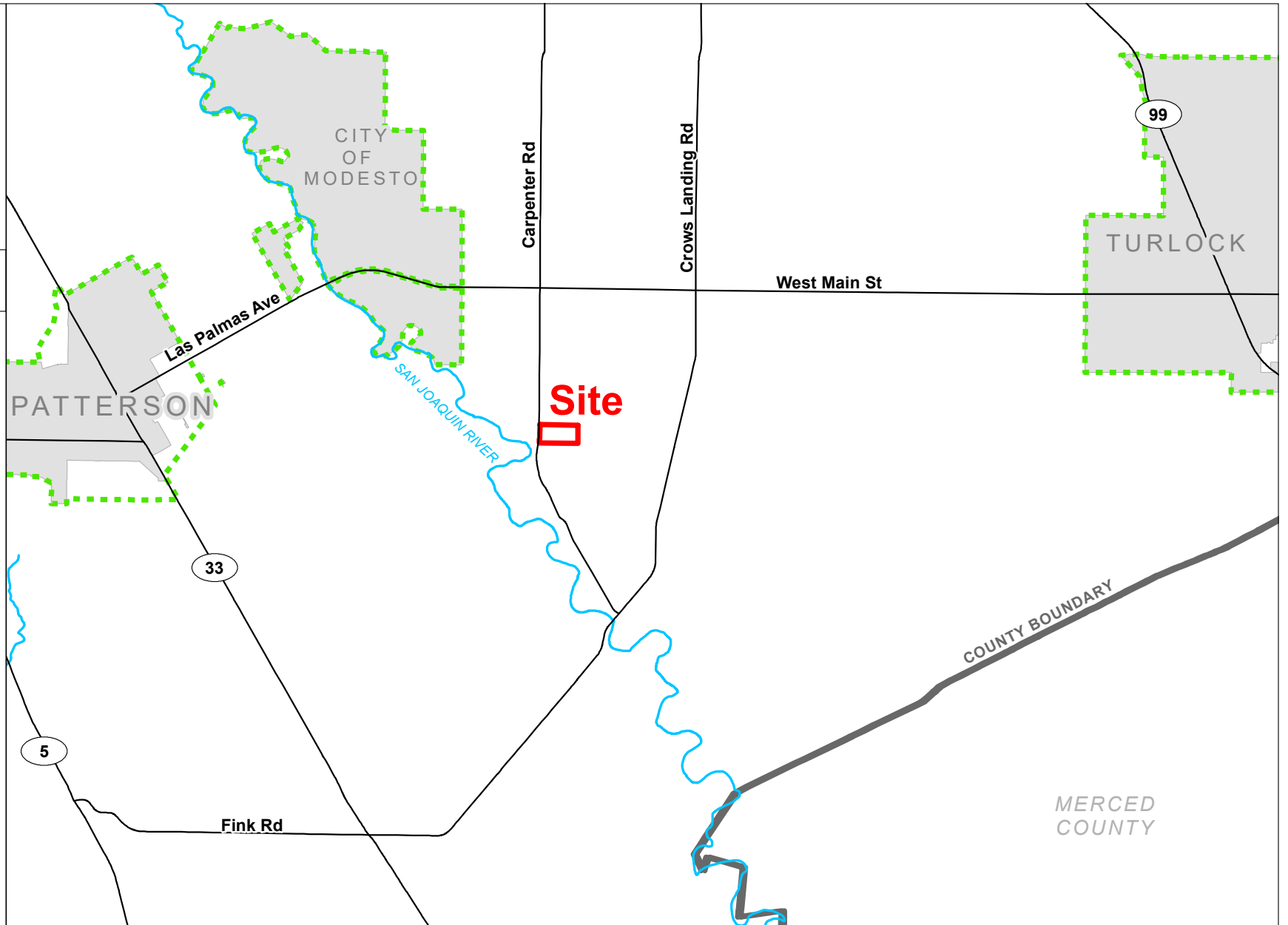
#### LEGEND

-  Project Site
-  Sphere of Influence
-  City
-  Road
-  River



Source: Planning Department GIS

Date: 11/15/2021



# DARLING INGREDIENTS INC

## UP PLN2021-0102

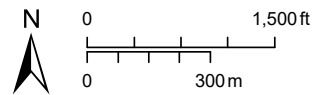
### GENERAL PLAN MAP

#### LEGEND

-  Project Site
-  Parcel
-  River
-  Road
-  Canal

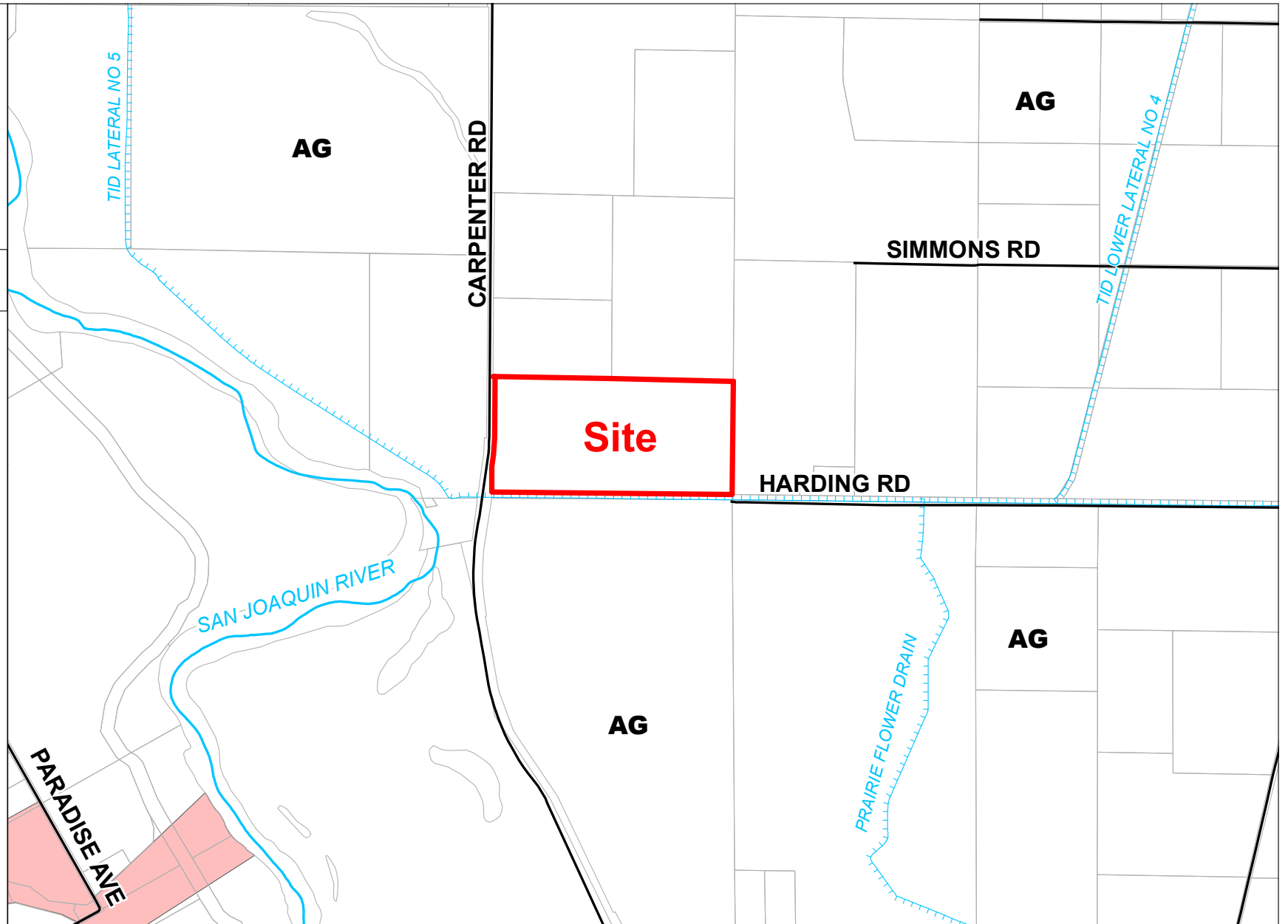
#### General Plan

-  Agriculture
-  Commercial



Source: Planning Department GIS

Date: 11/15/2021



# DARLING INGREDIENTS INC



## UP PLN2021-0102

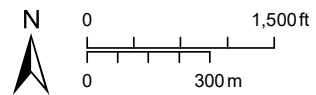
### ZONING MAP

#### LEGEND

-  Project Site
-  Parcel
-  River
-  Road
-  Canal

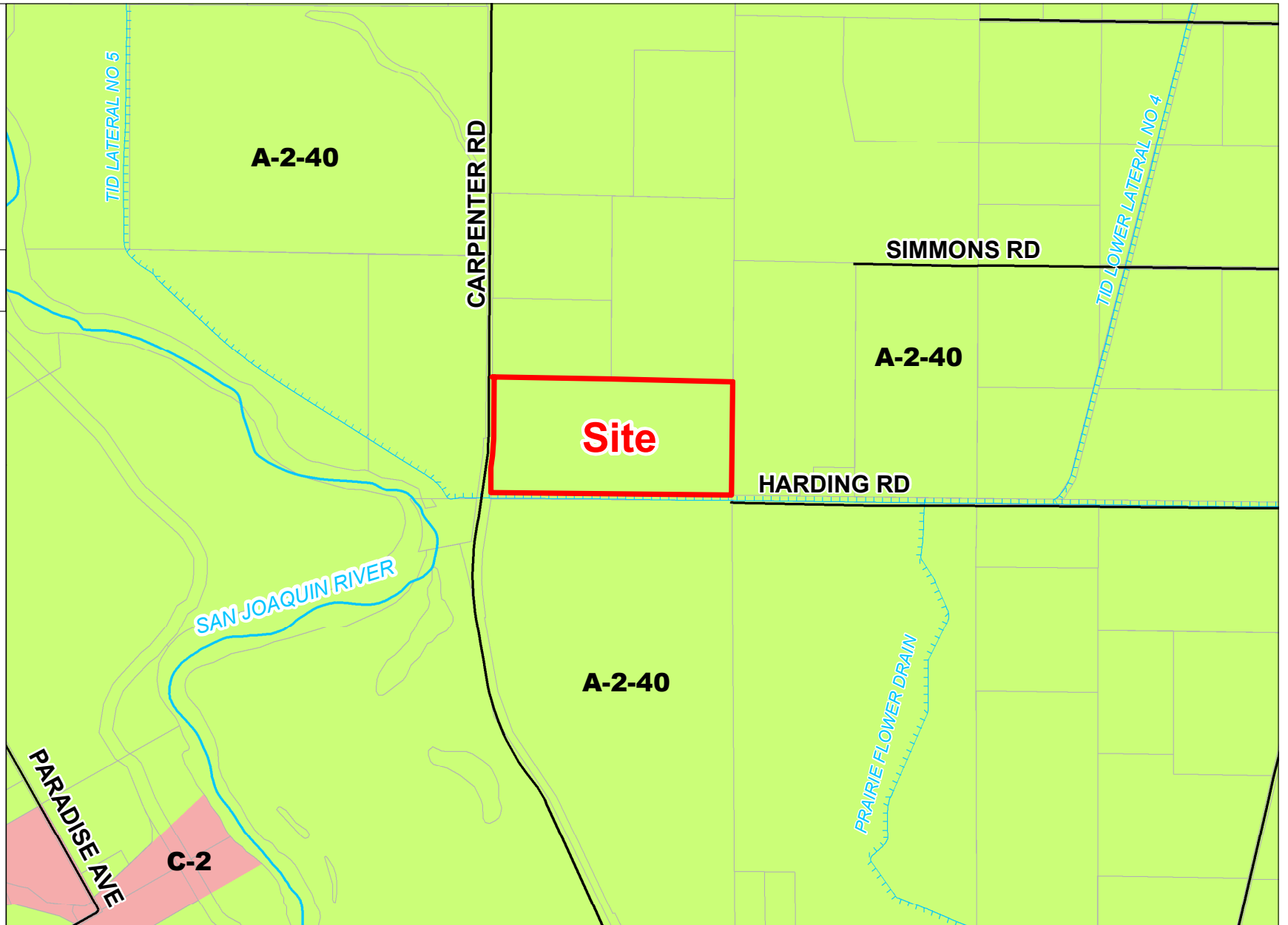
#### Zoning Designation

-  General Agriculture 40 Acre
-  General Commercial



Source: Planning Department GIS

Date: 11/15/2021







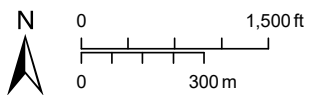
# DARLING INGREDIENTS INC

UP  
PLN2021-0102

## 2021 AERIAL AREA MAP

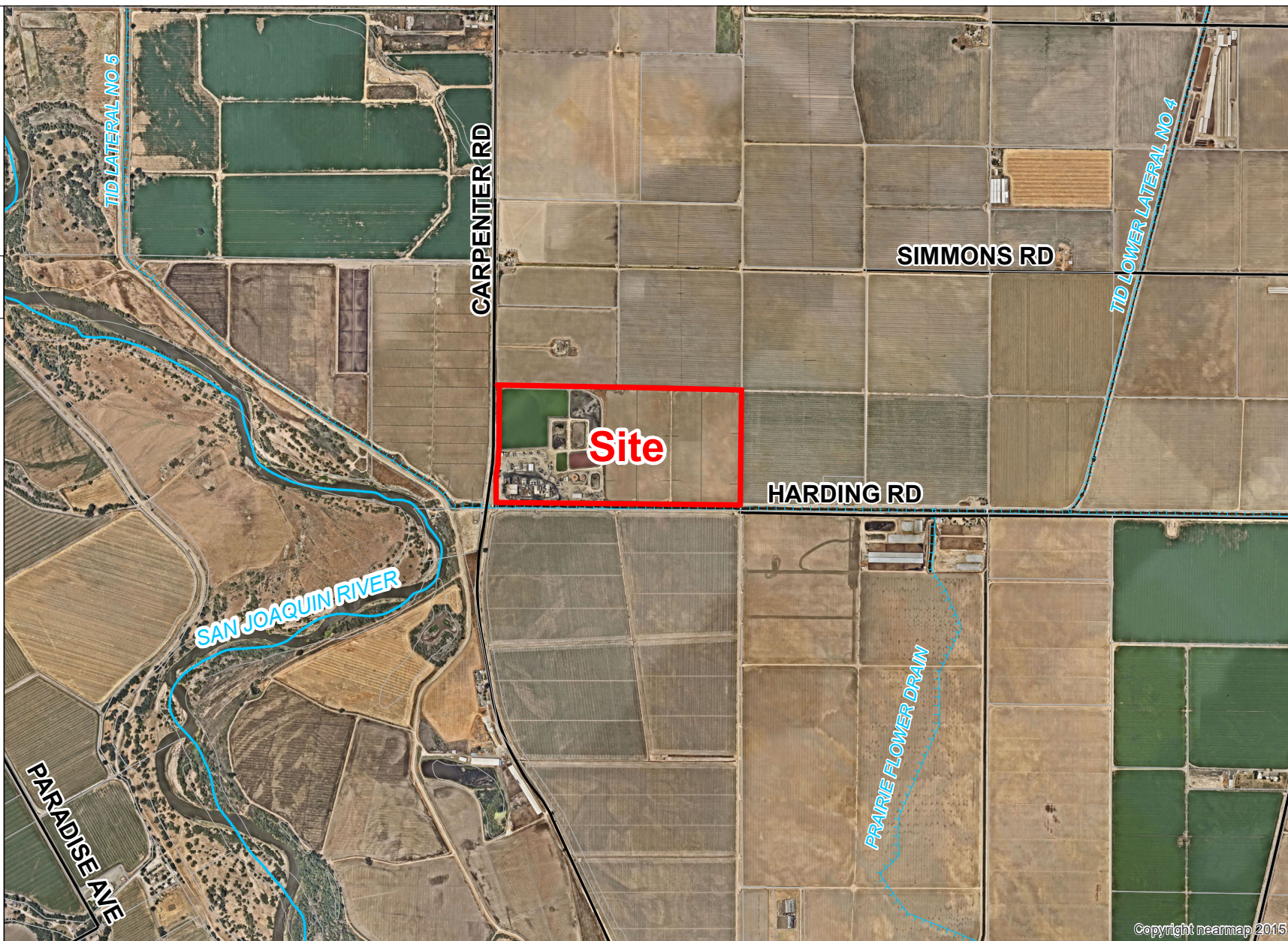
### LEGEND

-  Project Site
-  Road
-  River
-  Canal



Source: Planning Department GIS

Date: 11/15/2021






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# DARLING INGREDIENTS INC

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2021 AERIAL SITE MAP

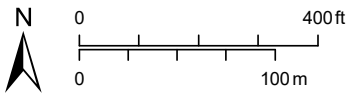
## LEGEND

-  Project Site
-  Road
-  Canal

CARPENTER RD

Site

TID LATERAL NO 5



Source: Planning Department GIS

Date: 11/15/2021

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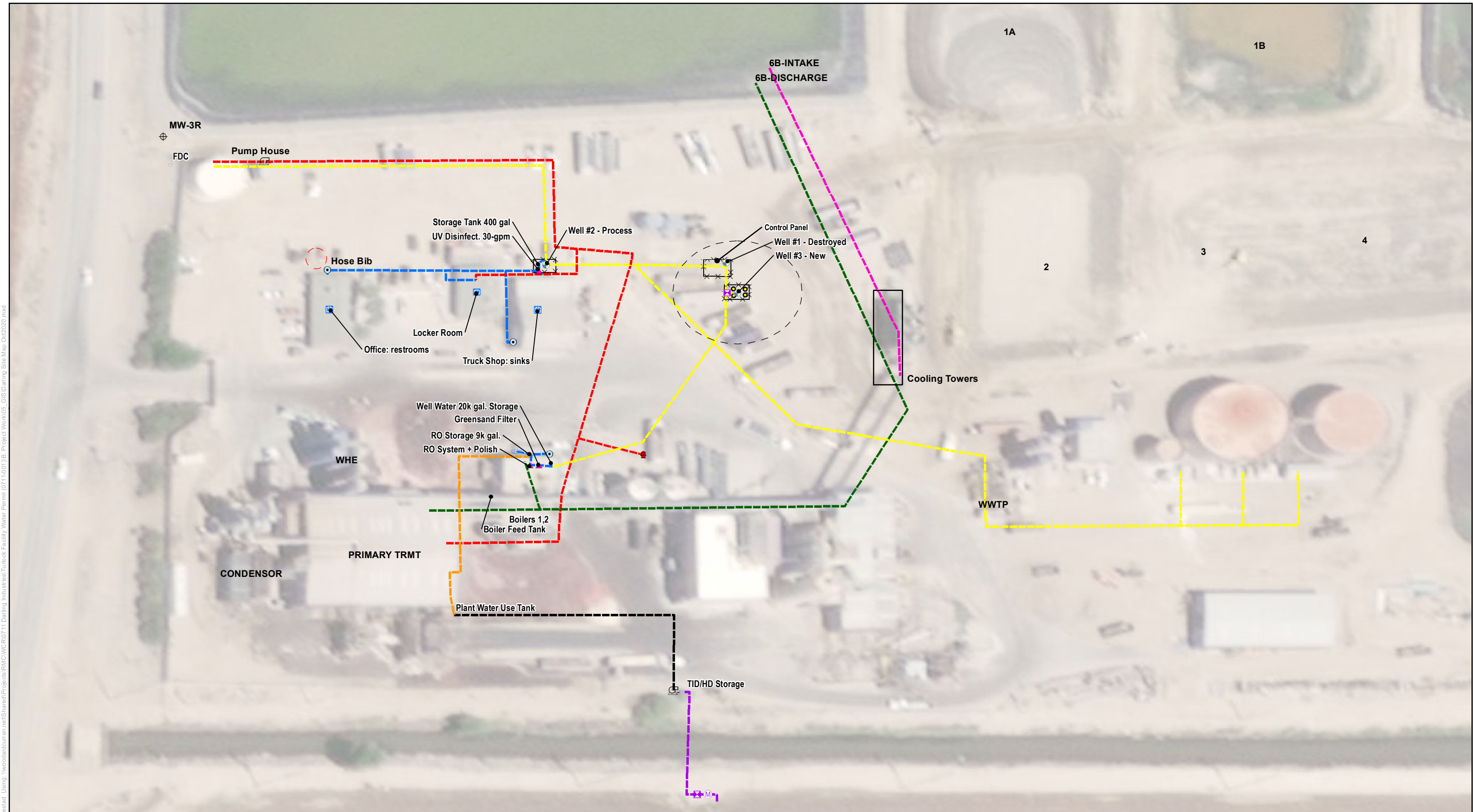


**DARLING  
INGREDIENTS INC**

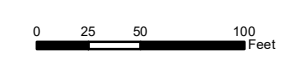
**UP  
PLN2021-0102**

*FACILITY SIGN*





<p><b>Site Plan</b> Darling Ingredients, Inc. 11946 Carpenter Road Crow's Landing, CA <b>Figure 2</b></p>	<p><b>Legend</b></p>	<p><b>Water Facilities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Production Well</li> <li>Domestic Uses</li> <li>Fire Dept Conn</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fire Hydrant</li> <li>Water Treatment</li> <li>Monitoring Well</li> <li>Hose Bib</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Eye Wash</li> <li>Meter</li> <li>Backflow Prevention</li> <li>Pump</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Well Water</li> <li>Water Line</li> <li>Fire Line</li> <li>Recycled Water</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>RO Reject</li> <li>CT Makeup Water</li> <li>Blowdown</li> <li>Plant</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bollards</li> <li>Fence</li> </ul>
		<p>Third Party GIS Disclaimer: This map is for reference and graphical purposes only and should not be relied upon by third parties for any legal decisions. Any reliance upon the map or data contained herein shall be at the users' sole risk. <b>Data Sources:</b></p>					

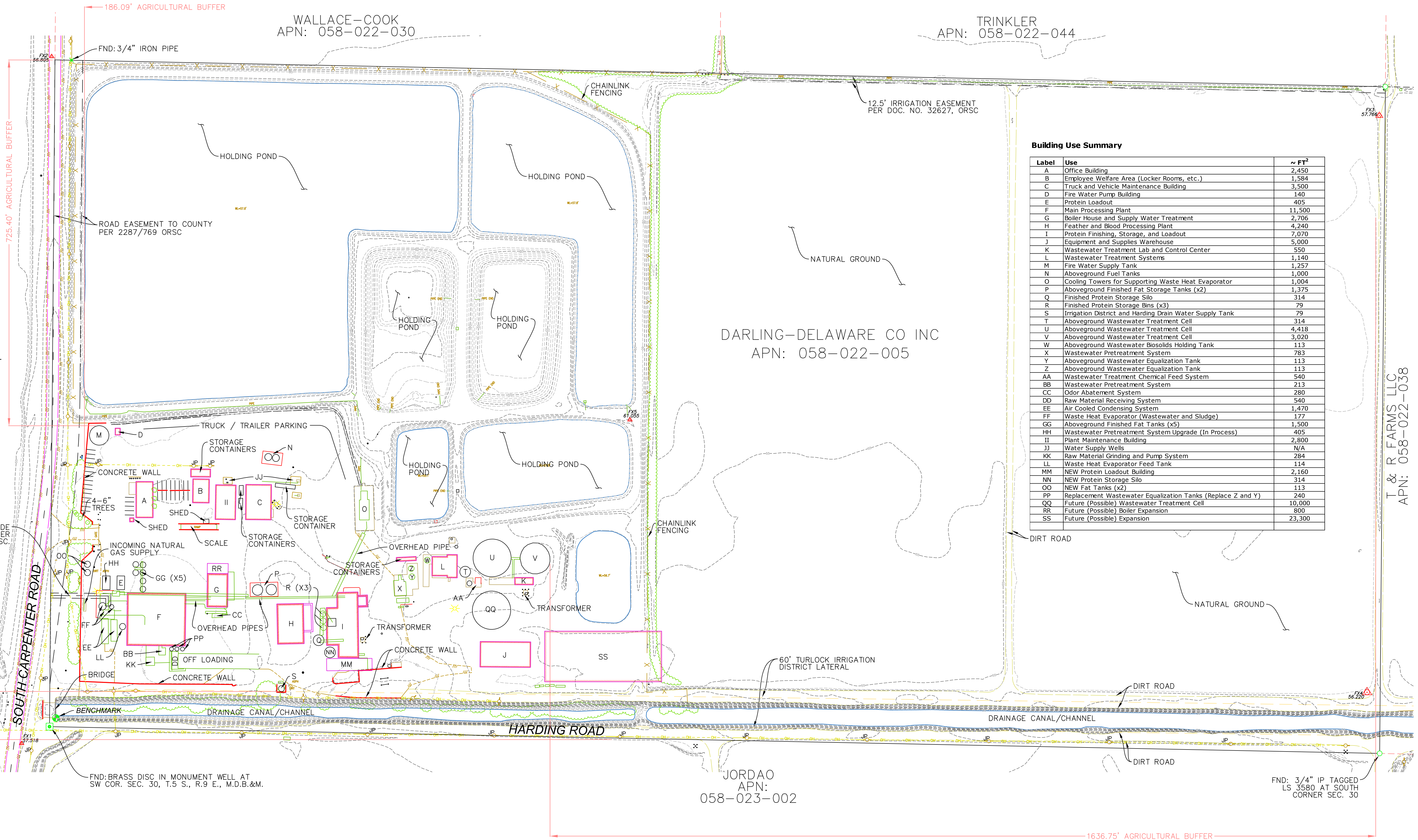


Project #: 0711001.01  
Map Created: October 2020

Figure Exported: 12/1/2020 8:47:00 AM Using: \\woodardcurran.net\Shared\Projects\RM\WCR\0711 Darling Ingredients\Turbok Facility Water Permit (0711-001) \B. Project Work\05\_GIS\Darling Site Map\_Oct2020.mxd

**LEGEND:**

- CENTERLINE
- BOUNDARY
- PARCEL LINES
- EASEMENT
- x - x - x - FENCE
- - - OH - - - OH - - - OVERHEAD ELECTRICAL POWER
- ==== CONCRETE WALL
- ✖ STREET LIGHT
- ⚡ JP JOINT POLE
- 58.23 ELEVATION POINT
- ⊗ SIGN
- TREE
- 1440 INDEX CONTOUR
- INTERMEDIATE CONTOURS
- ▭ BUILDING
- ⊕ BENCHMARK
- ⊗ FOUND IRON PIPE
- ⊗ FOUND MONUMENT IN WELL
- DIMENSION POINT - NOTHING FOUND OR SET
- ⊗ FLIGHT CROSS / CONTROL POINT



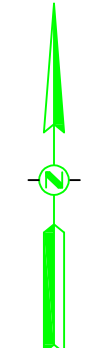
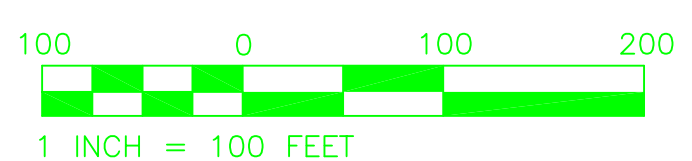
**Building Use Summary**

Label	Use	~ FT <sup>2</sup>
A	Office Building	2,450
B	Employee Welfare Area (Locker Rooms, etc.)	1,584
C	Truck and Vehicle Maintenance Building	3,500
D	Fire Water Pump Building	140
E	Protein Loadout	405
F	Main Processing Plant	11,500
G	Boiler House and Supply Water Treatment	2,705
H	Feather and Blood Processing Plant	4,240
I	Protein Finishing, Storage, and Loadout	7,070
J	Equipment and Supplies Warehouse	5,000
K	Wastewater Treatment Lab and Control Center	550
L	Wastewater Treatment Systems	1,140
M	Fire Water Supply Tank	1,257
N	Aboveground Fuel Tanks	1,000
O	Cooling Towers for Supporting Waste Heat Evaporator	1,004
P	Aboveground Finished Fat Storage Tanks (x2)	1,375
Q	Finished Protein Storage Silo	314
R	Finished Protein Storage Bins (x3)	79
S	Irrigation District and Harding Drain Water Supply Tank	79
T	Aboveground Wastewater Treatment Cell	314
U	Aboveground Wastewater Treatment Cell	4,418
V	Aboveground Wastewater Treatment Cell	3,020
W	Aboveground Wastewater Biosolids Holding Tank	113
X	Wastewater Pretreatment System	783
Y	Aboveground Wastewater Equalization Tank	113
Z	Aboveground Wastewater Equalization Tank	113
AA	Wastewater Treatment Chemical Feed System	540
BB	Wastewater Pretreatment System	213
CC	Odor Abatement System	280
DD	Raw Material Receiving System	540
EE	Air Cooled Condensing System	1,470
FF	Waste Heat Evaporator (Wastewater and Sludge)	177
GG	Aboveground Finished Fat Tanks (x5)	1,500
HH	Wastewater Pretreatment System Upgrade (In Process)	405
II	Plant Maintenance Building	2,800
JJ	Water Supply Wells	N/A
KK	Raw Material Grinding and Pump System	284
LL	Waste Heat Evaporator Feed Tank	114
MM	NEW Protein Loadout Building	2,160
NN	NEW Protein Storage Silo	314
OO	NEW Fat Tanks (x2)	113
PP	Replacement Wastewater Equalization Tanks (Replace Z and Y)	240
QQ	Future (Possible) Wastewater Treatment Cell	10,000
RR	Future (Possible) Boiler Expansion	800
SS	Future (Possible) Expansion	23,300

T & R FARMS LLC  
APN: 058-022-038

**ABBREVIATIONS:**

- |      |                            |      |                          |
|------|----------------------------|------|--------------------------|
| AC   | ASPHALT CONCRETE           | INV  | INVERT                   |
| BLDG | BUILDING                   | JP   | JOINT POLE               |
| CONC | CONCRETE                   | MAX  | MAXIMUM                  |
| C    | CENTERLINE                 | MH   | MAINTENANCE HOLE         |
| DI   | DRAIN / DROP INLET         | OH   | OVERHEAD                 |
| (E)  | EXISTING                   | (P)  | PROPOSED                 |
| EC   | END CURVE                  | PCC  | PORTLAND CEMENT CONCRETE |
| EP   | EDGE OF PAVEMENT           | PL   | PROPERTY LINE            |
| ETW  | EDGE OF TRAVELED WAY       | POC  | POINT OF CONNECTION      |
| FDC  | FIRE DEPARTMENT CONNECTION | PUE  | PUBLIC UTILITY EASEMENT  |
| FF   | FINISH FLOOR               | ROW  | RIGHT-OF-WAY             |
| FG   | FINISHED GROUND            | SDMH | STORM DRAIN MANHOLE      |
| FH   | FIRE HYDRANT               | SD   | STORM DRAIN              |
| FOC  | FACE OF CURB               | SE   | SOUTHEAST                |
| FP   | FINISH PAVEMENT            | SS   | SANITARY SEWER           |
| GB   | GRADE BREAK                | SSCO | SANITARY SEWER CLEAN OUT |
| GR   | GRATE ELEVATION            | SW   | SIDEWALK OR SOUTHWEST    |
| GV   | GATE VALVE                 | W    | WATER                    |
| IRR  | IRRIGATION                 | WV   | WATER VALVE              |



REV	COMMENTS	NAME	DATE	CHKD



4221 Alexandria Pike  
Cold Spring, Kentucky 41076-1821  
www.darlingi.com  
Phone: 859.781.2010  
Fax: 859.344.2250

DESCRIPTION  
BOUNDARY AND TOPOGRAPHIC SURVEY  
TURLOCK, CA

DRAWN BY  
GConley  
DATE  
9/23/2021  
ASSY NO.

APPROVED BY  
DATE  
OLD NO.

SIZE	SCALE	PLANT NO.	PAGE	OF	DRAWING NO.	REV
D	N/A	660	1	1	660 53 300	C

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NOTE: Approval of this application is valid only if the following conditions are met. This permit shall expire unless activated within 18 months of the date of approval. In order to activate the permit, it must be signed by the applicant and one of the following actions must occur: (a) a valid building permit must be obtained to construct the necessary structures and appurtenances; or, (b) the property must be used for the purpose for which the permit is granted. (Stanislaus County Ordinance 21.104.030)

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## **CONDITIONS OF APPROVAL**

### **USE PERMIT APPLICATION NO. PLN2021-0102 DARLING INGREDIENTS, INC.**

#### **Department of Planning and Community Development**

1. Use(s) shall be conducted as described in the application and supporting information (including the plot plan) as approved by the Planning Commission and/or Board of Supervisors and in accordance with other laws and ordinances.
2. That all Conditions of Approval from Use Permits No. 1030 and 73-03 shall remain in effect unless determined to be inapplicable by the Planning Director. If any of the Conditions of Approval conflict, the Planning Director shall determine which conditions shall govern.
3. Pursuant to Section 711.4 of the California Fish and Game Code (effective January 1, 2014), the applicant is required to pay a California Department of Fish and Wildlife (formerly the Department of Fish and Game) fee at the time of filing a "Notice of Determination." Within five (5) days of approval of this project by the Planning Commission or Board of Supervisors, the applicant shall submit to the Department of Planning and Community Development a check for **\$2,605.00**, made payable to **Stanislaus County**, for the payment of California Department of Fish and Wildlife and Clerk-Recorder filing fees.  
  
Pursuant to Section 711.4 (e) (3) of the California Fish and Game Code, no project shall be operative, vested, or final, nor shall local government permits for the project be valid, until the filing fees required pursuant to this section are paid.
4. Developer shall pay all Public Facilities Impact Fees and Fire Facilities Fees as adopted by Resolution of the Board of Supervisors. The fees shall be payable at the time of issuance of a building permit for any construction in the development project and shall be based on the rates in effect at the time of building permit issuance.
5. The applicant/owner is required to defend, indemnify, or hold harmless the County, its officers, and employees from any claim, action, or proceedings against the County to set aside the approval of the project which is brought within the applicable statute of limitations. The County shall promptly notify the applicant of any claim, action, or proceeding to set aside the approval and shall cooperate fully in the defense.
6. Prior to issuance of any building permit for any new lighting, a photometric lighting plan shall be submitted for review and approval by the Planning Department. All exterior

lighting shall be designed (aimed down and toward the site) to provide adequate illumination without a glare effect. This shall include, but not be limited to, the use of shielded light fixtures to prevent skyglow (light spilling into the night sky) and the installation of shielded fixtures to prevent light trespass (glare and spill light that shines onto neighboring properties). The height of the lighting fixtures should not exceed 25 feet above grade.

7. Should any archeological, cultural or tribal resources, or human remains be discovered during development, work shall be immediately halted within 150 feet of the find until it can be evaluated by a qualified archaeologist. If the find is determined to be historically or culturally significant, appropriate mitigation measures to protect and preserve the resource shall be formulated and implemented. The Central California Information Center shall be notified if the find is deemed historically or culturally significant.
8. Any construction resulting from this project shall comply with standardized dust controls adopted by the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (SJVAPCD) and may be subject to additional regulations/permits, as determined by the SJVAPCD.
9. The Department of Planning and Community Development shall record a Notice of Administrative Conditions and Restrictions with the County Recorder's Office within 30 days of project approval. The Notice includes: Conditions of Approval and a project area map.
10. Prior to issuance of a building permit for the 23,300 square-foot shell building, a Staff Approval Permit shall be obtained. Should other physical on-site improvements of equivalent or lesser size and intensity be requested in lieu of the single shell building, a Staff Approval Permit shall also be required.
11. Within three (3) months of project approval or prior to issuance of a new building permit, whichever comes first, applicant/operator shall obtain a passing final inspection for issued Building Permits No. BLD2018-1103, BLD2018-0587, and BLD2017-2346.
12. A sign plan for all existing and proposed on-site signs indicating the location, height, area of the sign(s), and message must be approved by the Planning Director or appointed designee(s) prior to installation. Within three (3) months of project approval, a sign plan for the existing freestanding sign shall be submitted for review and approval. The sign shall be relocated within the property lines of the facility. Any modification to approved existing signage or installation of new signage shall be submitted to the Planning Department for review. Building permits shall be obtained for all signage, if applicable.
13. At the discretion of the Planning Director, this Use Permit shall be subject to annual review by the Planning Commission. The Planning Commission, as part of the review, may amend conditions of approval, as necessary, to address nuisance concerns.
14. Existing screen landscaping shall be maintained along the west property line. Dead or dying plants along the road frontage shall be replaced with materials of equal size and similar variety. Any dead trees shall be replaced with a similar variety of a 15-gallon size or larger.

15. The existing 8-foot-tall vinyl fence shall be maintained in a clean, well-maintained fashion free from litter or debris. Any replacement of or alterations to the existing fencing shall be approved by the Planning Department prior to installation.

**Public Works**

16. All parking areas shall be installed in accordance with Public Works' Standards and Specifications:
  - A. Operator shall consult with the Stanislaus County Department of Public Works for standards regarding required ground covering and guidance on striping requirements and parking stall dimensions.
  - B. Parking areas should be graveled or paved as required by Public Works' standards and specifications.

**Department of Environmental Resources (DER) – Environmental Health Division**

17. It is the applicant's responsibility to notify the Stanislaus County Department of Environmental Resources (DER) of any proposal to modify, upgrade, or replace any portion of the existing on-site wastewater treatment system (OWTS), subject to approval by the DER.
18. If, or when there is an increase to the plant's drainage fixtures or the number of users, the existing OWTS shall be subject to review and required to be upgraded to accommodate the change in wastewater flows.
19. Any new building requiring an OWTS shall be designed according to type and/or maximum occupancy of the proposed structure to the estimated waste/sewage design flow rate.
20. All applicable County Local Agency Management Program (LAMP) standards and required setbacks are to be met.

**Department of Environmental Resources (DER) – Hazardous Materials Division**

21. The applicant shall contact the DER regarding appropriate permitting requirements for hazardous materials and/or wastes. Applicant and/or occupants handling hazardous materials or generating hazardous wastes must notify the DER relative to the following: (Calif. H&S, Division 20)
  - A. Requirements for registering as a handler of hazardous materials in the County and submittal of a Hazardous Materials Business Plan (HMBP) into the California Environmental Reporting System (CERS) by handlers of materials in excess of 55 gallons, 500 pounds of a hazardous material, or of 200 cubic feet of compressed gas.
    - i. If Hazardous Materials will be stored in new buildings and structures, the Hazardous Material inventory and site map in CERS shall be updated accordingly.

- B. Generators of hazardous waste must notify DER relative to the:
- i. quantities of waste generated; and
  - ii. proposed waste disposal practices. Generators of hazardous waste must also use the CERS data base to submit chemical and facility information to the DER.
22. Applicant/operator shall obtain and maintain an active EPA ID number with the California Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) using Permanent State ID Number Application DTSC Form 1358.

**Turlock Irrigation District**

23. The District currently has multiple services serving the project site, both overhead and underground. The applicant/operator shall consult with TID Electrical Engineering for clearances requirements for overhead and underground power lines, requests for facility relocations, and any new electrical service needs.
24. The applicant/developer shall apply for a facility change for any pole or electrical facility relocation. Facility changes are performed at developer's expense.

**Regional Water Quality Control Board**

25. The applicant shall contact and coordinate with the Regional Water Quality Control Board to determine if any permits or Water Board requirements shall be obtained/met.

**San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (Air District)**

26. Any construction resulting from this project shall comply with standardized dust controls adopted by the Air District and may be subject to additional regulations/permits, as determined by the Air District.
27. Prior to the start of construction, the property owner/operator shall contact the Air District to determine if any Air District permits or if any other Air District rules or permits are required, including, but not limited to, an Authority to Construct (ATC) for construction or demolition of structures. The project may also be subject to the following Air District rules: Regulation II (Permits), District permit requirements for Stationary Sources (Rule 2010 and Rule 2201), Regulation VIII, (Fugitive PM10 Prohibitions), Rule 4102 (Nuisance), Rule 4601 (Architectural Coatings), and Rule 4641 (Cutback, Slow Cure, and Emulsified Asphalt, Paving and Maintenance Operations).
28. Prior to commencing construction on any permit-required equipment or process, a finalized Authority to Construct (ATC) shall be issued to the property owner/operator by the Air District.

\*\*\*\*\*

*Please note: If Conditions of Approval/Development Standards are amended by the Planning Commission or Board of Supervisors, such amendments will be noted in the upper right-hand corner of the Conditions of Approval/Development Standards; new wording is in **bold**, and deleted wording will have a ~~line through it~~.*

CONDITIONS :

1. The industry, at all times, to be operated so as to not violate any of the provisions of the Health and safety codes as it relates to odors and air pollution emissions (Sec. 24242 and 24243).
2. Must not violate any of the Stanislaus County Air Pollution Control District's rules and regulations.
3. All waste materials on the premises that are attractive fly breeding sources and residue from the recent fire must be removed to an approved sanitary land fill.
4. All liquid wastes must be consolidated into an area properly constructed to pond such wastes in a manner which will not create a source of odors or fly breeding.
5. All discharge of liquid or other wastes into the Turlock Irrigation District Lateral No. 5 must be discontinued.
6. Applicant to contact the Water Quality Control Regional Board for revision of their discharge requirements.
7. Applicant to dedicate additional road right of way for Carpenter Road to provide for the widening to major arterial road standards (110-foot road width) along the entire road frontage of the applicant's property.
- ✓ 8. Concrete curb, gutter and matching pavement to be constructed adjacent to the developed area.
9. Onsite and offsite drainage facilities to be approved by the Department of Public Works.
10. Existing debris (scrap metal, etc.) in the ponding area to be removed from the property.



CONDITIONS:

1. The industry, at all times to be operated so as to not violate any of the provisions of the Health and Safety Codes as it relates to odors and air pollution emissions.  
(Sec. 24242 and 24243)
2. Must not violate any of the Stanislaus County Air Pollution Control Districts rules and regulations.
3. All waste materials on the premises that are attractive fly breeding sources must be removed to an approved sanitary land fill.
4. All liquid wastes must be consolidated into an area properly constructed to pond such wastes in a manner which will not create a source of odors or fly breeding.
5. No discharge of liquid or other wastes into the Turlock Irrigation District Lateral No. 5 is permitted.
6. Liquid discharge to comply with Regional Water Quality Control Board requirements.
7. That raw feathers presently stored in the open on a concrete slab to be stored in an enclosed structure as approved by the County Health Officer.

## **Darling Ingredients Inc.:**

Board of Directors:    Randall C. Stuewe  
                                 Charles Adair  
                                 Beth Albright  
                                 Celeste A. Clark  
                                 Linda Goodspeed  
                                 Enderson Guimaraes  
                                 Dirk Kloosterboer  
                                 Mary R. Korby  
                                 Gary W. Mize  
                                 Michael E. Rescoe

### Elected Officers:

Randall C. Stuewe\* – Chairman and Chief Executive Officer  
Brad Phillips\* – Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer  
Jim Long\* – Executive Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer  
Rick A. Elrod\* – Executive Vice President, Darling U.S. Rendering Operations  
Jan van der Velden\* – Executive Vice President, International Rendering and Specialties  
John Bullock\* – Executive Vice President, Chief Strategy Officer and Specialty  
                                 Ingredients (U.S.)  
Jos Vervoort\* – Executive Vice President, Rousselot  
John F. Sterling\* – Executive Vice President – General Counsel and Secretary  
Sandra Dudley\* - Executive Vice President, Renewables and U.S. Specialty Operations  
Joe Manzi\* – Senior Vice President, Global Controller and Chief Accounting Officer  
Michael L. Rath – Senior Vice President - Commodities and Chief Risk Officer  
Brandon Lairmore – Senior Vice President – Northeast Region  
Kelly Horne – Senior Vice President – Southeast Region  
Mike Molini – Senior Vice President – Midwest Region  
Shawn Griffin – Senior Vice President – Southwest Region  
Royal Witcher – Senior Vice President – East Region  
Mark Finnimore – Senior Vice President, Canada  
Martijn van Steenpaal – Senior Vice President and Treasurer  
Jeffrey Holder – Senior Vice President and Chief Information Officer  
Lyle Stevens – Senior Vice President – Chief Tax Officer and Assistant Secretary  
William McMurtry – Vice President, Environmental Affairs  
John Stracener – Vice President, Engineering  
Suann Guthrie – Vice President, Investor Relations, Sustainability and Global  
                                 Communications  
David Shackelford – Vice President – Internal Audit  
Christopher King – Vice President and Chief Compliance Officer  
Dave Van Dorselaer – Vice President, Restaurant Services  
Nick Kemphaus – Vice President and Associate General Counsel  
Bradley Barnett – Assistant Secretary  
Elizabeth Burns – Assistant Secretary

\* Section 16 Filers

\* Last Updated – 05/26/22



## CEQA INITIAL STUDY

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

1. **Project title:** Use Permit Application No. PLN2021-0102 – Darling Ingredients
2. **Lead agency name and address:** Stanislaus County  
1010 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 3400  
Modesto, CA 95354
3. **Contact person and phone number:** Kristen Anaya, Associate Planner  
(209) 525-6330
4. **Project location:** 11946 South Carpenter Road, between Ruble Road and the TID Lateral No. 5, in the Crows Landing area (APN: 058-022-005).
5. **Project sponsor's name and address:** Bill McMurtry, Darling Ingredients  
5601 North MacArthur Blvd.  
Irving, TX 75038
6. **General Plan designation:** Agriculture
7. **Zoning:** General Agriculture (A-2-40)
8. **Description of project:**

Request to expand an existing legal non-conforming (LNC) animal rendering plant, operating on a 9± acre portion of a 74± acre parcel in the General Agriculture (A-2-40) zoning district, by allowing an increase in the permitted daily processing throughput from 1,650,000 pounds to 1,850,000 pounds and for construction of a new 2,160± square-foot loadout building, an 800± square-foot boiler room addition, and a 36,000± square-foot shell building, and for installation of 10,700± square feet of exterior equipment. The existing facility consists of approximately 63,623± square feet of structures, tanks, silos, and pipelines, which serve to render beef and poultry animal byproduct received primarily from local farmers, slaughterhouses, and livestock producers, which consists of carcasses, offal, fat, and bone into useable products such as: gelatin, edible fats, feed-grade fats, animal proteins and meals, plasma, pet food ingredients, organic fertilizers, fuel feedstocks, and yellow grease. The end fat and protein products produced by the plant are currently primarily sold to diesel refineries and to companies within the agriculture industry as ingredients for animal feed and fertilizers. The facility also converts used cooking oil and commercial bakery residuals into feed and fuel ingredients. The LNC use has been expanded over the years under Use Permit No. 73-03 and several subsequent Staff Approval Permits. The proposed modifications exceed 25% expansion of an approved use (Use Permit No. 73-03) allowed with Staff Approval Permits in accordance with County Code Section 21.100.050(A) and consequently, a new Use Permit is required. The documented baseline processing throughput for the facility is 1,250,000 pounds per day and current-day operations are limited to 1,650,000 pounds per day. In addition to expanding the permitted daily processing throughput from the current 1,650,000 pounds per day to 1,850,000 pounds per day, this request proposes to construct a new single-story, approximately 25 feet tall, 2,160± square-foot loadout building, which will serve to ship out finished segregated products; two fat tanks totaling 226 square feet; a 314 square-foot protein storage silo, and a 240 square-foot wastewater equalization tank. Additionally, the project proposes future construction of a 800± square-foot addition to the boiler structure, which cooks down the byproducts by eliminating moisture and separating fats from proteins; a 10,000± square-foot wastewater treatment cell, and a 23,300 square-foot shell building, increasing the operational footprint by an additional 30% to provide flexibility for expansion, the use of which will be determined at a later date if constructed. At the time the facility proposes to expand in the future, a Staff Approval Permit will be required to specify the proposed use of the shell building.

The project site is improved with an 8-foot-tall vinyl wall and 4- to 6-foot-tall shrubs installed along the road frontage. Additionally, the site is partially paved with the exception of a dirt parking area comprised of 35 parking stalls and a dirt trailer parking area. A complete building and on-site infrastructure breakdown can be viewed in the attached site plan. The facility is also supported by on-site wastewater holding ponds which are regulated by Waste Discharge Requirements through the Regional Water Quality Control Board. The balance of the property, consisting of approximately 40 acres, is planted in row crops. Wastewater generated by the facility is spread onto the on-site row crops, which receive irrigation water from Turlock Irrigation District. The facility is currently regulated by the Stanislaus County Department of Environmental Resources as an existing Public Water System (PWS) and the site is served by on-site wells for domestic water purposes and an on-site wastewater treatment system for wastewater service. All vehicular traffic to the site takes access off South Carpenter Road via a paved and gated driveway. The facility operates 24 hours per day, seven days per week, year-round with approximately 52 employees working at this location. A maximum shift consists of 12 employees, and minimum shift of six. The requested improvements are anticipated to add up to 10 additional employees for the maximum shift. The facility currently has approximately 140 one-way truck trips (70 round trips) and proposes an increase of 18 additional one-way truck trips (nine round trips) per day. The existing facility has sufficient parking stalls to accommodate the proposed expansion; however, additional building-mounted exterior lighting, up to 25 feet tall, may be installed on the proposed structures as needed.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>9. Surrounding land uses and setting:</b>  | Confined animal agriculture, irrigated agriculture, and scattered single-family dwellings in all directions; the San Joaquin River to the west.                                    |
| <b>10. Other public agencies whose approval is required (e.g., permits, financing approval, or participation agreement.):</b> | Stanislaus County Department of Public Works<br>Department of Environmental Resources<br>San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District<br>Regional Water Quality Control Board |
| <b>11. Attachments:</b>   | I. Air Quality and GHG Technical Report, prepared by Yorke Engineering, LLC, dated May 2022  |

**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 & 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 on file.  
 Prepared by Kristen Anaya, Associate Planner

July 28, 2022  
 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, 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 Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Included	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?			X	
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 site itself is not considered to be a scenic resource or unique scenic vista. The only scenic designation in the County is along Interstate 5, which is located approximately 7.3 miles to the west. As the site is already developed with an animal rendering plant, aesthetics associated with the project site are not anticipated to change as a result of this project. The project site is improved with an 8-foot-tall vinyl wall and 4- to 6-foot-tall shrubs installed along the road frontage with no new signage proposed. There is existing pole- and structure-mounted lighting, up to 75 feet tall, installed throughout the site; however, additional building-mounted lighting, up to 25 feet tall, may be installed on the proposed structures as needed. Standard conditions of approval will be added to this project to address glare and skyglow from any proposed on-site lighting.

**Mitigation:** None.

**References:** Application information; Stanislaus County Zoning Ordinance; the Stanislaus County General Plan; and Support Documentation<sup>1</sup>.

II. AGRICULTURE AND FOREST RESOURCES: In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Department of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. In determining whether impacts to forest resources, including timberland, are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to information compiled by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection regarding the state’s inventory of forest land, including the Forest and Range Assessment Project and the Forest Legacy Assessment project; and forest carbon measurement methodology provided in Forest Protocols adopted by the California Air Resources Board. -- Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Included	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact

a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?			X	
b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?			X	
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))?				X
d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?				X
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?			X	

**Discussion:** The 9-acre project area is improved with an existing animal rendering plant and wastewater holding ponds which are regulated by Waste Discharge Requirements through the Regional Water Quality Control Board. Wastewater generated by the facility is spread on the remaining 40 acres of the property, which is planted in row crops. The project site and surrounding properties are zoned General Agriculture (A-2-40) and are designated Agriculture in the Stanislaus County General Plan.

The Stanislaus County's Williamson Act Uniform Rules defines prime farmland as land that qualifies for rating as class I or class II in the Natural Resource Conservation Service land use capability classification, land which qualifies for rating of 80 through 100 in the Storie Index Rating, irrigated pasture land which supports livestock used for the production of food and fiber, or land planted with crops that gross \$800 per acre for three of the last five years. The USDA uses the class system for soils which ranges from I to VIII to score the capability of the soils for agricultural production, with Class I soils being the most productive and Class VIII soils be non-agricultural. The California Revised Storie Index is a rating system based on soil properties, including texture, steepness, and drainage, that dictate the potential for soils to be used for irrigated agricultural production in California. This rating system grades soils with an index rating between 81-100 to be excellent (Grade 1), 61-80 to be good (Grade 2), 41-60 to be fair (Grade 3), 21-40 to be poor (Grade 4), 11-20 to be very poor (Grade 5), and 10 or less to be nonagricultural (Grade 6). The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service's Eastern Stanislaus County Soil Survey indicates that the entire parcel is made up of Waukena fine sandy loam, moderately saline-alkali (WbA), with 0 to 1 percent slopes, which has a Storie Index Rating of 38 (Grade 4) and is rated as Class 4s, which is not considered to be prime soil. The California Department of Conservation's Important Farmland Maps considers the western 2/5<sup>th</sup> portion of the site to be Urban and Built-Up Land and the eastern 3/5<sup>th</sup> portion of the site to be Unique Farmland.

The 40-acre portion of the site planted in row crops receives irrigation water from Turlock Irrigation District (TID). The TID Lateral Canal No. 5 borders the site to the south, South Carpenter Road to the west, and irrigated farmland to the north and east. Agricultural property ranging size from 25 to 260 acres, which are all farmed in row crops, surround the site. With the exception of the 1± acre parcel owned by City of Turlock to the southwest, all surrounding parcels are currently enrolled under Williamson Act Contracts.

The County's Agricultural Element's Agricultural Buffer Guidelines states that new or expanding uses approved by discretionary permit in the A-2 zoning district or on a parcel adjoining the A-2 zoning district should incorporate a minimum 150-foot-wide agricultural buffer setback, or 300-foot-wide buffer setback for people-intensive uses, to physically avoid conflicts between agricultural and non-agricultural uses. Public roadways, utilities, drainage facilities, rivers and adjacent riparian areas, landscaping, parking lots, and similar low people-intensive uses are permitted uses within the buffer setback area. The footprint of the rendering facility is located at least 150 feet from the western, northern, and eastern property lines abutting adjacent farmed parcels. The facility is located approximately 95 feet from the southern property line and



accordingly, the applicant is requesting a buffer alternative consisting of the existing 8-foot vinyl wall and shrubs, located along a portion of the southern property line along the facility footprint. Parking and wastewater ponds are a permitted use within the setback area. This agricultural buffer was referred to the Stanislaus County Agricultural Commissioner’s Office, who did not identify any issues with the buffer as proposed. Conflicts between surrounding agricultural uses is not anticipated to occur.

The project will have no impact to forest land or timberland. The project is an agricultural use and does not appear to conflict with any agricultural activities in the area and/or lands enrolled in the Williamson Act.

Based on the specific features and design of this project, it does not appear this project will impact the long-term productive agricultural capability of surrounding contracted lands in the A-2 zoning district. The animal rendering facility is existing and has been in operation prior to 1973. The requested project is to allow for a minor expansion to improve facility efficiency. There is no indication this project will result in the removal of adjacent contracted land from agricultural use.

**Mitigation:** None.

**References:** E-mail correspondence from the Stanislaus County Agricultural Commissioner’s Office, dated June 20, 2022; USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service Web Soil Survey; USDA Soil Conservation Service Soil Survey of Eastern Stanislaus Area CA; California Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program Data; Application Materials; Stanislaus County General Plan and Support Documentation<sup>1</sup>.

<b>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:</b>	<b>Potentially Significant Impact</b>	<b>Less Than Significant With Mitigation Included</b>	<b>Less Than Significant Impact</b>	<b>No Impact</b>
a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?			X	
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?			X	
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)?			X	

**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 documented baseline processing throughput for the facility is 1,250,000 pounds per day and current-day operations are limited to 1,650,000 pounds per day. In addition to expanding the permitted daily processing throughput from the current 1,650,000 pounds per day to 1,850,000 pounds per day, this request proposes to construct new buildings and other infrastructure which will improve odor abatement and processing efficiency. The 9-acre project area containing the existing animal rendering plant is also supported by on-site wastewater holding ponds which are regulated by Waste Discharge Requirements through the Regional Water Quality Control Board. The balance of the property, consisting of approximately 40 acres, is planted in row crops. All vehicular traffic to the site takes access off South Carpenter Road via a paved and gated driveway. The facility operates 24 hours per day, seven days per week, year-round with approximately 52 employees working at this location. A maximum shift consists of 12 employees, and minimum shift of six. The requested improvements

are anticipated to add up to 10 additional employees for the maximum shift. The facility currently has approximately 140 one-way truck trips (70 round trips) and proposes an increase of 18 additional one-way trips (nine round trips) per day.

A referral response was received from the SJVAPCD indicating that emissions resulting from construction and/or operation of the project may exceed the District's thresholds of significance for carbon monoxide (CO), oxides of nitrogen (NO<sub>x</sub>), reactive organic gases (ROG), oxides of sulfur (SO<sub>x</sub>), and particulate matter (PM<sub>10</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub>). The SJVAPCD recommended that a more detailed preliminary review of the project be conducted for the project's construction and operational emissions. Further, the Air District recommended other potential air impacts related to Toxic Air Contaminants, Ambient Air Quality Standards, and Hazards and Odors be addressed. The SJVAPCD recommended the project be evaluated for potential health impacts to surrounding receptors (on-site and off-site) resulting from operational and multi-year construction Toxic Air Contaminants (TAC) emissions, and stated that a Health Risk Assessment should evaluate the risk associated with sensitive receptors in the area and mitigate any potentially significant risk to help limit emission exposure to sensitive receptors. The SJVAPCD also recommended the County evaluate heavy-duty truck routing patterns to help limit emission exposure to sensitive receptors, reduce idling of heavy-duty trucks, and utilize zero emission equipment.

The Air District response also indicated that the project is subject to District Rule 2010 (Permits Required) and Rule 2201 (New and Modified Stationary Source Review). The project may also be subject to the following rules: Rule 9510 (Indirect Source Review), Regulation VIII (Fugitive PM<sub>10</sub> Prohibitions), Rule 4102 (Nuisance), Rule 4601 (Architectural Coatings), and Rule 4641 (Cutback, Slow Cure, and Emulsified Asphalt, Paving and Maintenance Operations). In the event an existing building will be renovated, partially demolished or removed, the project may be subject to District Rule 4002 (National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants). The project may be subject to other applicable District permits and rules, which must be met as part of the District's Authority to Construct (ATC) permitting process. A condition of approval will be added to the project requiring a finalized ATC Permit be issued and any other applicable Air District permits be obtained prior to issuance of a building permit.

In response to the SJVAPCD comments, an Air Quality and GHG Technical Report, including a Health Risk Assessment (HRA), was prepared by Yorke Engineering, LLC, dated May 2022 (see Attachment I). The document examined the combined impacts from construction and operations of the project, quantifying direct emissions from construction, as well as indirect emissions such as GHG emissions (such as carbon dioxide [CO<sub>2</sub>], methane [CH<sub>4</sub>], nitrous oxide [N<sub>2</sub>O], and total carbon dioxide equivalent [CO<sub>2</sub>e]) from energy use, solid waste disposal, vegetation planting or removal, and water use. The document also quantifies construction emissions such as diesel particulate matter (DPM), ozone precursors oxides of nitrogen (NO<sub>x</sub>), volatile organic compounds (VOCs), and respirable particulate matter (PM<sub>10</sub>) from fugitive dust and diesel engine exhaust resulting from various construction activities such as excavation, grading, demolition, and vehicle travel and exhaust. The document quantified these emissions through the California Emissions Estimator Model (CalEEMod) version 2020.4.0 as the modeling tool of project analysis.

A combination of Manufacturing, General Light Industry, and Unrefrigerated Warehouse – No Rail land use types was utilized in the CalEEMod analysis for operational emissions, which assumed low VOC paint usage, low-flow kitchen and bathroom plumbed fixtures, high efficiency lighting, off-road construction equipment consisting of cranes, forklifts, generator sets, graders, rubber-tired dozers, tractors, loaders, backhoes, cement and mortar mixers, pavers, rollers, air compressors, and welders. The construction emissions analysis assumed that during construction access roads would be watered twice daily and that construction equipment and vehicles would reach a maximum speed of 15 miles per hour on unpaved roads. The highest source of DPM emissions were found to be from diesel-fueled equipment at 0.806 pounds per year. Overall project emissions from construction and operations, including mobile (non-permitted) and stationary sources, did not exceed the Air District's screening thresholds for any of the criteria pollutants.

Future attainment of federal and State ambient air quality standards is a function of successful implementation of the SJVAPCD's attainment plans. Consequently, the application of significance thresholds for criteria pollutants is relevant to the determination of whether a project's individual emissions would have a cumulatively significant impact on air quality. Pursuant to the SJVAPCD's guidance, if project-specific emissions would be less than the thresholds of significance for criteria pollutants, the project would not be expected to result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the SJVAPCD is in nonattainment under applicable federal or State ambient air quality standards. As project emissions would be well below SJVAPCD significance thresholds as mentioned above, the project would not have impacts that are cumulatively considerable.

The net change of GHG emissions, including construction and operations for both mobile and stationary sources included the following: an increase of 30,627 metric ton (MT)/year of CO<sub>2</sub>e to a proposed total of 46,642 MT/year, an increase of 0.35 MT/year of N<sub>2</sub>O to a proposed total of 0.59 MT/year, an increase of 0.55 MT/year of CH<sub>4</sub> to a proposed total of 0.82 MT/year, and an increase of 30,507 MT/year of CO<sub>2</sub> to a proposed total of 46,442 MT/year. The SJVAPCD does not have numeric thresholds adopted for assessing GHG impacts on global climate change; instead, the Air District has adopted a three-tier approach to assessing cumulative impacts on global climate change through the Guide for Assessing and Mitigating Air Quality Impacts (GAMAQI). This approach identifies projects that (a) either comply with a formally-adopted GHG emission reduction plan within a geographic area; (b) projects which—where a GHG emission reduction plan has not been adopted—have implemented Best Performance Standards (BPS); or (c) projects—where neither an adopted region-wide GHG emission reduction plan nor BPS have been implemented—have quantified project-specific GHG emissions and demonstrate that project-specific GHG emissions would be reduced or mitigated by at least 29% compared to business as usual (BAU), including GHG emissions reductions achieved since the 2002-2004 baseline period, consistent with California Air Resource Board's (CARB) AB 32 Scoping Plan. Projects which achieve at least 29% GHG emissions reduction compared to BAU would be determined to have a less than significant individual and cumulative impact for GHG emissions. The capacity increase requested for this project will displace Darling International's Fresno-based animal rendering facility which will close as of December 2023, concurrent with the start of operations with the proposed project. Consequently, GHG emissions from the permitted and non-permitted sources associated with the Fresno facility will be substantially offset by the proposed expansion of the subject Turlock facility. Further, the proposed facility will reduce GHG emissions compared to alternative options for processing and rendering animal carcasses and produces renewable carbon-neutral green diesel fuel. A portion of the emissions that do occur from electricity usage or fuel combustion in vehicles are covered by California's Cap-and-Trade program utilized by electricity generation and fuel suppliers. Additionally, the Air District's CEQA Cap-and-Trade Policy states that "the District considers GHG emissions resulting from the combustion of all fuels supplied by those fuel suppliers not subject to the Cap-and-Trade Regulation to be insignificant. Therefore, it is reasonable to apply this policy to GHG emissions resulting from the combustion of all fuels in the State of California." Consequently, the proposed project will not have a significant adverse impact related to GHG emissions.

As mentioned in the referral response, their SJVAPCD recommended a screening that evaluates toxic air contaminant (TAC) emissions that may have a significant health impact with respect to both carcinogenic and non-carcinogenic health risks on nearby sensitive receptors. The screening method is calculated based on the procedures set forth in the California Air Pollution Control Officer's Association (CAPCOA) Prioritization Guidelines, which have been adopted by the SJVAPCD, and produces a "prioritization score." The prioritization score places consideration on potency, toxicity, and quantity of TAC emissions and proximity to sensitive receptors such as hospitals, daycare centers, schools, and residences. In the case of carcinogens, the threshold for cancer risk from emissions resulting from the project is expressed as excess cancer cases per one million exposed persons. Non-carcinogenic risk is expressed as a hazard index via a ratio of expected exposure levels to acceptable exposure levels. The nearest known sensitive receptor is a single residence approximately 0.25 miles to the north of the facility. There are no other residential or other sensitive receptors within a mile of the facility. Based on TAC emissions from the project and the distance to the nearest sensitive receptor, the facility's prioritization score for construction and operations associated with the project is 0.059 and 0.760 respectively, which is well below the threshold of 10 set by the SJVAPCD. The document found that the cancer risk at all receptor locations were predicted to be below the SJVAPCD significance threshold, and the Chronic Hazard Index (HIC) was well below the non-cancer thresholds at all locations.

Further, although the rendering industry has the potential to create an odor profile, the facility is an existing use and odor conditions will not be worsened by the proposed expansion. The odor abatement system is proposed to be upgraded to include additional scrubber pretreatment ahead of the existing Regenerative Thermal Oxidizer (RTO). This upgrade will help ensure the system is state of the art and meets all the regulatory conditions required by the SJVAPCD.

Because of this, the project is not considered to pose a potential health risk to nearby sensitive receptors. Additionally, air impacts associated with the project are considered to be less than significant with development standards requiring that all applicable Air District permits be obtained applied to the project. Based on the analysis prepared for the project impacts to air quality are considered to be less than significant.

**Mitigation:** None.

**References:** Referral response from the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District, dated March 31, 2022; Air Quality and GHG Technical Report, prepared by Yorke Engineering, LLC, dated May 2022; Response to Air Quality and GHG Technical Report from the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District, dated June 8, 2022; San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District - Regulation VIII Fugitive Dust/PM-10 Synopsis; San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District – APR-2025, CEQA Cap-and-Trade Policy; [www.valleyair.org](http://www.valleyair.org); and the Stanislaus County General Plan and Support Documentation<sup>1</sup>.

IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES -- Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Included	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?			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?			X	
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 proposed improvements will be located within the footprint of an existing animal rendering plant located within a 9± acre portion of a 74± acre parcel in the General Agriculture (A-2-40) zoning district. The project site is located approximately 750± feet from the San Joaquin River and abuts the Turlock Irrigation District (TID) Lateral Canal No. 5 to the north. Confined animal agriculture with wastewater lagoons and irrigated farmland routinely disturbed in conjunction with farming practices surround the site in all directions. The project site is located within the Crows Landing Quad of the United States Geological Survey 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle map. The California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB) identifies the following special-status species which are state or federally listed, threatened, or identified as a species of special concern and potentially occurring in the Crows Landing Quad: Swainson’s hawk, tricolored blackbird, California Ridgway’s rail, green sturgeon, steelhead, vernal pool smallscale and Delta button-celery. The San Joaquin River is physically separated from the project site by Crows Landing Road so no fish species exist on-site. The vernal pool smallscale and Delta button-celery are the nearest species listed in the CNDDDB; however, there is a low likelihood that the species are present on the project site as the land is already disturbed by annual farming practices and existing daily operations associated with the rendering plant. It does not appear this project will result in impacts to endangered species or habitats, locally designated species, or wildlife dispersal or mitigation corridors. There is no known sensitive or protected species or natural community located on the site.

The project will not conflict with a Habitat Conservation Plan, a Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other locally approved conservation plans. Impacts to endangered species or habitats, locally designated species, or wildlife dispersal or mitigation corridors are considered to be less than significant.

An Early Consultation was referred to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and no response was received.

**Mitigation:** None.

**References:** California Department of Fish and Wildlife's Natural Diversity Database Quad Species List; Stanislaus County General Plan and Support Documentation<sup>1</sup>.

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

**Discussion:** As this project is not a General Plan Amendment it was not referred to the tribes listed with the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC), in accordance with SB 18. Tribal notification of the project was not referred to any tribes in conjunction with AB 52 requirements, as Stanislaus County has not received any requests for consultation from the tribes listed with the NAHC. 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:** Stanislaus County General Plan and Support Documentation<sup>1</sup>.

<b>VI. ENERGY -- Would the project:</b>	<b>Potentially Significant Impact</b>	<b>Less Than Significant With Mitigation Included</b>	<b>Less Than Significant Impact</b>	<b>No Impact</b>
<b>a) Result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation?</b>			X	
<b>b) Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?</b>			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, total estimated daily vehicle trips to be generated by the project, and the additional energy consumed per-trip by mode, 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 San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (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.

All vehicular traffic to the site takes access off South Carpenter Road via a paved and gated driveway. The facility operates 24 hours per day, seven days per week, year-round with approximately 52 employees working at this location. A maximum shift consists of 12 employees, and minimum shift of six. The requested improvements are anticipated to add up to 10 additional employees for the maximum shift. The facility currently has approximately 140 one-way truck trips (70 round trips) and proposes an increase of 18 additional one-way trips (nine round trips) per day.

Energy consuming equipment and processes include equipment, trucks, and the employee and customer vehicles. 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.

A referral response was received from the SJVAPCD indicating that emissions resulting from construction and/or operation of the project may exceed the District’s thresholds of significance for carbon monoxide (CO), oxides of nitrogen (NOx), reactive organic gases (ROG), oxides of sulfur (SOx), (PM10), and particulate matter. The SJVAPCD recommended that a more detailed preliminary review of the project be conducted for the project’s construction and operational emissions. Construction and operational emissions were analyzed within an Air Quality and GHG Technical Report, prepared by Yorke Engineering and dated May 2022. The analysis evaluated construction and operational ROG, NOx, CO, SO2, PM10, PM25, CO2, CH4, and N2O emissions. A combination of Manufacturing, General Light Industry, and Unrefrigerated Warehouse – No Rail land use types was utilized in the California Emissions Estimator Model (CalEEMod) analysis for operational emissions, which assumed low VOC paint usage, low-flow kitchen and bathroom plumbed fixtures, high efficiency lighting, off-road construction equipment consisting of cranes, forklifts, generator sets, graders, rubber-tired dozers, tractors, loaders, backhoes, cement and mortar mixers, pavers, rollers, air compressors, and welders. The construction emissions analysis assumed that during construction access roads would be watered twice daily and that construction equipment and vehicles would reach a maximum speed of 15 miles per hour on unpaved roads. The highest source of Diesel Particulate Matter (DPM) emissions were found to be from diesel-fueled equipment at 0.806 pounds per year. Overall project emissions from construction and operations, including mobile (non-permitted) and stationary sources, did not exceed the Air District’s screening thresholds for any of the criteria pollutants. The analysis found that emissions for each of the pollutants associated with the construction and operation of the project are below the Air District’s thresholds of significance.

Impacts to energy are considered to be less than significant.

**Mitigation:** None.

**References:** Application information; Referral response from the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District, dated March 31, 2022; Air Quality and GHG Technical Report, prepared by Yorke Engineering, LLC, dated May 2022; Response to Air Quality and GHG Technical Report from the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District, dated June 8, 2022; San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District - Regulation VIII Fugitive Dust/PM-10 Synopsis; www.valleyair.org; Stanislaus County General Plan and Support Documentation<sup>1</sup>.

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 effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:				

i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.			X	
ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?			X	
iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?			X	
iv) Landslides?			X	
b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?			X	
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?			X	
d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property?			X	
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?			X	
f) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?			X	

**Discussion:** The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service’s Eastern Stanislaus County Soil Survey indicates that the property is comprised entirely of Waukena fine sandy loam, moderately saline-alkali, 0 to 1 percent slopes (WbA – California Revised Storie Index Rating: 38). 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. All construction must be designed and built according to building standards appropriate to withstand shaking for the area in which they are constructed which is verified with the building permit review process.

The proposed development will alter the existing drainage pattern of the site. Stormwater is proposed to be maintained on-site through on-site wastewater lagoons, captured for reuse in the conversion process, or utilized for crop irrigation. The project was referred to the Department of Public Works who had no comment on the project. However, a grading, drainage and erosion/sediment control plan for the project may be required during the building permitting phase as a regulatory requirement, to be reviewed by the Department of Public Works that includes drainage calculations and enough information to verify that runoff from the project will not flow onto adjacent properties and Stanislaus County road right-of-way and is in compliance with the current State of California National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Construction Permit.

The Stanislaus County Department of Environmental Resources (DER) indicated that any 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. DER’s Hazardous Materials (Hazmat) Division responded with a request that the applicant update their Hazardous Materials Business Plan into the California Environmental Reporting System (CERS) by handlers of materials in excess of 55 gallons, 500 pounds of hazardous material, or of 200 cubic feet of compressed gas, and notification of

Hazmat relative to quantities of waste generated and waste disposal practices, and obtain and maintain an active EPA ID numbers with the California Environmental Protection Agency Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), if applicable.

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 requested.

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

**Mitigation:** None.

**References:** Referral response from the Department of Environmental Resources – Hazardous Materials Division, dated March 23, 2022; Referral response from the Department of Environmental Resources (DER), dated July 8, 2022; Referral response from the Stanislaus County Department of Public Works, dated July 6, 2022; Stanislaus County General Plan and Support Documentation<sup>1</sup>.

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:** This is a request to expand an existing animal rendering plant by increasing the permitted daily processing throughput from 1,650,000 pounds per day to 1,850,000 pounds per day, constructing a new single-story, approximately 25 feet tall, 2,160± square-foot loadout building, constructing an 800± square-foot addition to the boiler structure, installing approximately 10,700± square feet of new exterior equipment consisting of silos, fat tanks, to improve processing efficiency and the existing odor abatement system, and constructing 23,300± square-foot shell building for future utilization. All vehicular traffic to the site takes access off South Carpenter Road via a paved and gated driveway. The facility operates 24 hours per day, seven days per week, year-round with approximately 52 employees working at this location. A maximum shift consists of 12 employees, and minimum shift of six. The requested improvements are anticipated to add up to 10 additional employees for the maximum shift. The facility currently has approximately 140 one-way truck trips (70 round trips) and proposes an increase of 18 additional one-way trips (nine round trips) per day. No vehicle maintenance and dumping services will occur on-site. Lighting will include, wall lighting up to 25 feet in height on the buildings. All construction must meet California Green Building Standards Code (CALGreen Code), which includes mandatory provisions applicable to all new residential, commercial, and school buildings. The intent of the CALGreen Code is to establish minimum statewide standards to significantly reduce the greenhouse gas emissions from new construction. The Code includes provisions to reduce water use, wastewater generation, and solid waste generation, as well as requirements for bicycle parking and designated parking for fuel-efficient and carpool/vanpool vehicles in commercial development. The code requires mandatory inspections of building energy systems for non-residential buildings over 10,000 square feet to ensure that they are operating at their design efficiencies. It is the intent of the CALGreen Code that buildings constructed pursuant to the Code achieve at least a 15 percent reduction in energy usage when compared to the State’s mandatory energy efficiency standards contained in Title 24. The Code also sets limits on volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and formaldehyde content of various building materials, architectural coatings, and adhesives. A development standard will be added to this project to address compliance with Title 24, Green Building Code, which includes energy efficiency requirements.



The principal Greenhouse Gasses (GHGs) are carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), methane (CH<sub>4</sub>), nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O), sulfur hexafluoride (SF<sub>6</sub>), perfluorocarbons (PFCs), hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), and water vapor (H<sub>2</sub>O). CO<sub>2</sub> 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 CO<sub>2</sub> equivalents (CO<sub>2</sub>e). In 2006, California passed the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 (Assembly Bill [AB] No. 32), which requires the California Air Resources Board's (CARB) 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.

Under its mandate to provide local agencies with assistance in complying with California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) in climate change matters, the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (SJVAPCD) developed its Guidance for Valley Land-Use Agencies in Addressing GHG Emissions Impacts for New Projects under CEQA. As a general principal to be applied in determining whether a proposed project would be deemed to have a less than significant impact on global climate change, a project must be in compliance with an approved GHG emission reduction plan that is supported by a CEQA-compliant environmental document or be determined to have reduced or mitigated GHG emissions by 29 percent relative to Business-As-Usual conditions, consistent with GHG emission reduction targets established in CARB's Scoping Plan for AB 32 implementation. The SJVAPCD guidance is intended to streamline the process of determining if project-specific GHG emissions would have a significant effect. The proposed approach relies on the use of performance-based standards and their associated pre-quantified GHG emission reduction effectiveness (Best Performance Standards, or BPS). Establishing BPS is intended to help project proponents, lead agencies, and the public by proactively identifying effective, feasible mitigation measures. Emission reductions achieved through implementation of BPS would be pre-quantified, thus reducing the need for project-specific quantification of GHG emissions.

The Air District response also indicated that the project is subject to District Rule 2010 (Permits Required) and Rule 2201 (New and Modified Stationary Source Review). The project may also be subject to the following rules: Rule 9510 (Indirect Source Review), Regulation VIII (Fugitive PM<sub>10</sub> Prohibitions), Rule 4102 (Nuisance), Rule 4601 (Architectural Coatings), and Rule 4641 (Cutback, Slow Cure, and Emulsified Asphalt, Paving and Maintenance Operations). In the event an existing building will be renovated, partially demolished or removed, the project may be subject to District Rule 4002 (National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants). The project may be subject to other applicable District permits and rules, which must be met as part of the District's Authority to Construct (ATC) permitting process. A condition of approval will be added to the project requiring a finalized ATC Permit be issued prior to issuance of a building permit.

In response to the SJVAPCD comments, an Air Quality and GHG Technical Report, including a Health Risk Assessment (HRA), was prepared by Yorke Engineering, LLC, dated May 2022. The document examined the combined impacts from construction and operations of the project, quantifying direct emissions from construction, as well as indirect emissions such as GHG emissions (such as carbon dioxide [CO<sub>2</sub>], methane [CH<sub>4</sub>], nitrous oxide [N<sub>2</sub>O], and total carbon dioxide equivalent [CO<sub>2</sub>e]) from energy use, solid waste disposal, vegetation planting or removal, and water use. The document also quantifies construction emissions such as diesel particulate matter (DPM), ozone precursors oxides of nitrogen (NO<sub>x</sub>), volatile organic compounds (VOCs), and respirable particulate matter (PM<sub>10</sub>) from fugitive dust and diesel engine exhaust resulting from various construction activities such as excavation, grading, demolition, and vehicle travel and exhaust. The document quantified these emissions through the California Emissions Estimator Model (CalEEMod) version 2020.4.0 as the modeling tool of project analysis.

The net change of GHG emissions, including construction and operations for both mobile and stationary sources included the following: an increase of 30,627 metric ton (MT)/year of CO<sub>2</sub>e to a proposed total of 46,642 MT/year, an increase of 0.35 MT/year of N<sub>2</sub>O to a proposed total of 0.59 MT/year, an increase of 0.55 MT/year of CH<sub>4</sub> to a proposed total of 0.82 MT/year, and an increase of 30,507 MT/year of CO<sub>2</sub> to a proposed total of 46,442 MT/year. The SJVAPCD does not have numeric thresholds adopted for assessing GHG impacts on global climate change; instead, the Air District has adopted a three-tier approach to assessing cumulative impacts on global climate change through the Guide for Assessing and Mitigating Air Quality Impacts (GAMAQI). This approach identifies projects that (a) either comply with a formally-adopted GHG emission reduction plan within a geographic area; (b) projects which—where a GHG emission reduction plan has not been adopted—have implemented Best Performance Standards (BPS); or (c) projects—where neither an adopted region-wide GHG emission reduction plan nor BPS have been implemented—have quantified project-specific GHG emissions and demonstrate that project-specific GHG emissions would be reduced or mitigated by at least 29% compared to business as usual (BAU), including GHG emissions reductions achieved since the 2002-2004 baseline period, consistent with CARB's

AB 32 Scoping Plan. Projects which achieve at least 29% GHG emissions reduction compared to BAU would be determined to have a less than significant individual and cumulative impact for GHG emissions. The capacity increase requested for this project will displace Darling International’s Fresno-based animal rendering facility which will close as of December 2023, concurrent with the start of operations with the proposed project. Consequently, GHG emissions from the permitted and non-permitted sources associated with the Fresno facility will be substantially off-set by the proposed expansion of the subject Turlock facility. Further, the proposed facility will reduce GHG emissions compared to alternative options for processing and rendering animal carcasses and produces renewable carbon-neutral green diesel fuel. A portion of the emissions that do occur from electricity usage or fuel combustion in vehicles are covered by California’s Cap-and-Trade program utilized by electricity generation and fuel suppliers. Specifically, the Air District’s CEQA Cap-and-Trade Policy states that “the District considers GHG emissions resulting from the combustion of all fuels supplied by those fuel suppliers not subject to the Cap-and-Trade Regulation to be insignificant. Therefore, it is reasonable to apply this policy to GHG emissions resulting from the combustion of all fuels in the State of California.” Consequently, the proposed project will not have a significant adverse impact related to GHG emissions.

Future attainment of federal and State ambient air quality standards is a function of successful implementation of the SJVAPCD’s attainment plans. Consequently, the application of significance thresholds for criteria pollutants is relevant to the determination of whether a project’s individual emissions would have a cumulatively significant impact on air quality. Pursuant to the SJVAPCD’s guidance, if project-specific emissions would be less than the thresholds of significance for criteria pollutants, the project would not be expected to result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the SJVAPCD is in nonattainment under applicable federal or State ambient air quality standards. As project emissions would be well below SJVAPCD significance thresholds as mentioned above, the project would not have impacts that are cumulatively considerable.

A referral response from the Turlock Irrigation District (TID) provided general safety information regarding existing electrical infrastructure on the site and requested that the applicant consult with TID’s Electrical Engineering Division for clearance requirements for power lines, requests for facility relocations, and new electrical service needs. These requirements will be reflected in the conditions of approval applied to the project.

Impacts associated with greenhouse gas emissions are expected to have a less than significant impact.

**Mitigation:** None.

**References:** Referral response from the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District, dated March 31, 2022; Air Quality and GHG Technical Report, prepared by Yorke Engineering, LLC, dated May 2022; Response to Air Quality and GHG Technical Report from the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District, dated June 8, 2022; Referral response from Turlock Irrigation District (TID), dated March 30, 2022; Stanislaus County General Plan and Support Documentation<sup>1</sup>.

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	

<p><b>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?</b></p>			<p>X</p>	
<p><b>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?</b></p>			<p>X</p>	
<p><b>f) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?</b></p>			<p>X</p>	
<p><b>g) Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires?</b></p>			<p>X</p>	

**Discussion:** The County Department of Environmental Resources is responsible for overseeing hazardous materials and has not indicated any particular concerns in this area. The facility is registered in the California Environmental Reporting System as a generator of hazardous materials, CERS ID #10178145. The project was referred to the Stanislaus County Department of Environmental Resources (DER) Hazardous Materials (Hazmat) Division responded with a request that the applicant update their Hazardous Materials Business Plan as required in the California Environmental Reporting System (CERS) for handlers of materials in excess of 55 gallons, 500 pounds of hazardous material, or of 200 cubic feet of compressed gas, notify Hazmat relative to quantities of waste generated and waste disposal practices, and obtain and maintain an active EPA ID numbers with the California Environmental Protection Agency Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), if applicable. Further, the facility is registered with and regulated by the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) Meat, Poultry, and Egg Safety (MPES) Branch and requires state permitting and inspections.

Pesticide exposure is a risk in areas located in the vicinity of agriculture. Sources of exposure include contaminated groundwater which is consumed, and drift from spray applications. Application of sprays is strictly controlled by the Agricultural Commissioner and can only be accomplished after first obtaining permits. All new or expanding uses approved by discretionary permit in the General Agriculture (A-2) zoning district or on a parcel adjoining the A-2 zoning district are required to incorporate an agricultural buffer, which is typically a 150-foot-wide setback, or 300-foot-wide setback for people-intensive uses, the purpose for which is to minimize conflicts that may occur between agricultural and non-agricultural uses involving pesticide drift, dust, noise, odor and similar nuisances. When these recommended distances are not met, an alternative may be proposed by the applicant. Public roadways, utilities, drainage facilities, rivers and adjacent riparian areas, landscaping, parking lots, and similar low people-intensive uses are permitted uses within the buffer setback area. The existing facility is located a minimum distance of 150 feet± from abutting parcels with production agriculture to the north, west and east. The facility is located approximately 95 feet from the southern property line and accordingly, the applicant is requesting a buffer alternative consisting of the existing 8-foot vinyl wall and shrubs, located along a portion of the southern property line along the facility footprint. E-mail correspondence received from the Stanislaus County Agricultural Commissioner's Office stated that their staff had no issues with the existing buffer setbacks and barriers for continued utilization of the project's agricultural buffer.

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 nearest school, Mountain View Middle School, is located 2¼ miles to the northeast. The groundwater is not known to be contaminated in this area. The project does not interfere with the Stanislaus County Local Hazard Mitigation Plan, which identifies risks posed by disasters and identifies ways to minimize damage from those disasters. The site is located in a Local Responsibility Area (LRA) for fire protection and is served by Mountain View Fire. The project was referred to the District; however, no response has been received to date.

Project impacts related to Hazards and Hazardous Materials are considered to be less than significant impact.

**Mitigation:** None.

**References:** E-mail correspondence from the Agricultural Commissioner’s Office, dated June 22, 2022; Referral from the Department of Environmental Resources – Hazardous Materials Division, dated March 23, 2022; Stanislaus County General Plan and Support Documentation<sup>1</sup>.

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;			X	
ii) substantially increase the rate of amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site.			X	
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?			X	
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:** 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 AE, which includes floodplain areas that present the 1% annual chance of flooding. All flood zone requirements will be addressed by the Building Permits Division during the building permit process. On-site areas subject to flooding have not been identified by the Federal Emergency Management Agency and/or County designated flood areas.

The project proposes to utilize an existing private septic system and domestic wells for wastewater and water services, respectively. An existing on-site industrial supply well provides the facility with water for operations. The site is served by an existing public water system, regulated by the Regional Water Quality Control Board and Department of Environmental Resources (DER) staff, which requires ongoing testing. A referral response from DER stated that the project applicant is responsible to notify DER staff in the event the existing on-site wastewater treatment system (OWTS) will be modified, upgraded, or replaced, that any increase in the facility’s drainage fixtures or number of users will trigger new OWTS review and upgrading, that any new building requiring an OWTS shall be designed according to type and occupancy of the proposed structure to the estimated waste/sewage design flow rate, and that all applicable Local Agency Management Program (LAMP) standards and setbacks shall be met. These requirements will be added to the project as conditions of approval.

The proposed development will alter the existing drainage pattern of the site. Stormwater is proposed to be maintained on-site through an on-site storm drainage basin. The project was referred to the Department of Public Works who did not comment on the project to date. However, as part of the building permit process, a grading, drainage, and erosion/sediment control plan for the project site may be required to be submitted for review and approval to the Department of Public Works that includes drainage calculations and enough information to verify that runoff from the project will not flow onto adjacent properties and Stanislaus County road right-of-way and is in compliance with the current State of California National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Construction Permit. If this is required, it would be triggered at building permit review.

The project site is located within the Turlock sub-basin which is jointly managed by the West Turlock Subbasin and East Turlock Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA). The Turlock basin isn't considered to be critically over drafted, but since most of the cities within the basin rely solely on groundwater, it is considered a high-priority basin. Due to that designation, the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) requires that the STRGBA GSA adopt and begin implementation of a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) by January 31, 2022.

A referral response received from the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control District provided a list of the Board's permits and programs that may be applicable to the proposed project. The developer will be required to contact Regional Water to determine which permits/standards must be met prior to construction as a development standard.

A referral response was received from the Turlock Irrigation District (TID) who did not provide comments on the project with respect to irrigation facilities on or near the site. The project was referred to the DER Hazardous Materials (Hazmat) Division who responded with a request that the applicant conduct a Phase I Environmental Site Assessment (ESA) prior to issuance of a grading permit, if required, and that the project applicant update their hazardous material inventory and site map in the California Environmental Reporting System (CERS) in the event that hazardous materials be stored in any new on-site buildings.

As a result of the development standards required for this project, impacts associated with drainage, water quality, and runoff are expected to have a less than significant impact.

**Mitigation:** None.

**References:** Referral response from the Department of Environmental Resources, dated July 8, 2022; Referral response from the Department of Environmental Resources – Hazardous Materials Division, dated March 23, 2022; Referral response from the Department of Public Works, dated July 6, 2022; Referral response from Turlock Irrigation District, dated March 30, 2022; Stanislaus County General Plan and Support Documentation<sup>1</sup>.

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?				X
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?			X	

**Discussion:** The project site is designated Agriculture by the Stanislaus County General Plan land use diagrams and zoned General Agriculture (A-2-40). The applicant is requesting to expand an existing legal non-conforming (LNC) animal rendering plant located within a 9± acre portion of a 74± acre parcel, further identified as Assessor's Parcel Number 058-022-005. The existing facility consists of approximately 63,623± square feet of structures, tanks, silos, and pipelines, which serve to render beef and poultry animal byproduct, which consists of carcasses, offal, fat, and bone into useable products such as: gelatin, edible fats, feed-grade fats, animal proteins and meals, plasma, pet food ingredients, organic fertilizers, fuel feedstocks, and yellow grease. The LNC use has been expanded over the years under Use Permit No. 73-03 and several subsequent Staff Approval Permits. The proposed modifications exceed 25% expansion of an approved use (Use Permit No. 73-03) allowed with Staff Approval Permits in accordance with County Code Section 21.100.050(A) and

consequently, a new Use Permit is required. Specifically, this request proposes to increase the permitted daily processing throughput from 1,650,000 pounds per day to 1,850,000 pounds per day; construct a new single-story, approximately 25 feet tall, 2,160± square-foot loadout building, which will serve to ship out finished segregated products; construct an 800± square-foot addition to the boiler structure, which cooks down the byproducts by eliminating moisture and separating fats from proteins; install approximately 10,700± square feet of new exterior equipment consisting of silos and fat tanks, to improve processing efficiency and the existing odor abatement system; and provide flexibility for future expansion by proposing an additional 30% increase in structural footprint consisting of a 23,300± square-foot shell building for future utilization. At the time the facility proposes to expand in the future, a Staff Approval Permit will be required to specify the proposed use of the shell structure.

The project site is improved with a block wall and trees installed along the road frontage. Additionally, the site is partially paved with the exception of a dirt parking area comprising 35 parking stalls and a dirt trailer parking area. A complete building and on-site infrastructure breakdown can be viewed in the attached site plan. The facility is also supported by on-site wastewater holding ponds which are regulated by Waste Discharge Requirements through the Regional Water Quality Control Board. The balance of the property, consisting of approximately 40 acres, is planted in row crops. Wastewater generated by the facility is spread on on-site row crops, which receive irrigation water from Turlock Irrigation District. The facility is currently regulated by the Stanislaus County Department of Environmental Resources as a Public Water System (PWS) and the site is served by on-site wells for domestic water and industrial supply purposes and an on-site wastewater treatment system for wastewater service. All vehicular traffic to the site takes access off South Carpenter Road via a paved and gated driveway. The facility operates 24 hours per day, seven days per week, year-round with approximately 52 employees working at this location. A maximum shift consists of 12 employees, and minimum shift of six. The requested improvements are anticipated to add up to 10 additional employees for the maximum shift. The facility currently has approximately 140 one-way truck trips (70 round trips) and proposes an increase of 18 additional one-way trips (nine round trips) per day.

The facility is considered an LNC use due to being established prior to the current General Agriculture (A-2) zoning going into effect in 1971 and not being permitted under the existing zoning. Consequently, modification to the LNC use exceeding 25 percent of the facility footprint or operational activities requires a Use Permit, pursuant to County Code Section 21.80.070(A). Specifically, in order to approve a Use Permit to expand an LNC use, the Planning Commission must find that the changes:

1. Will not, under the circumstances of the particular case, be detrimental to the health, safety and general welfare of persons residing or working in the neighborhood of the use; and
2. Will not be detrimental or injurious to property and improvements in the neighborhood or to the general welfare of persons residing or working in the neighborhood or to the general welfare of the county; and
3. Is logically and reasonably related to the existing use and that the size or intensity of the enlargement, expansion, restoration or changes is not such that it would be more appropriately moved to a zoning district in which it is permitted.

The County's Agricultural Element's Agricultural Buffer Guidelines states that new or expanding uses approved by discretionary permit in the A-2 zoning district or on a parcel adjoining the A-2 zoning district should incorporate a minimum 150-foot-wide agricultural buffer setback, or 300-foot-wide buffer setback for people-intensive uses, to physically avoid conflicts between agricultural and non-agricultural uses. Public roadways, utilities, drainage facilities, rivers and adjacent riparian areas, landscaping, parking lots, and similar low people-intensive uses are permitted uses within the buffer setback area. The footprint of the rendering facility is located at least 150 feet from the western, northern, and eastern property lines abutting adjacent farmed parcels. The facility is located approximately 95 feet from the southern property line; however, an existing 8-foot vinyl wall is located along a portion of the southern property line along the facility footprint. Parking and wastewater ponds are a permitted use within the setback area. This agricultural buffer was referred to the Stanislaus County Agricultural Commissioner's Office, who did not identify any issues with the buffer as proposed. Conflicts between surrounding agricultural uses is not anticipated to occur.

The project will not physically divide an established community nor conflict with any habitat conservation plans.

**Mitigation:** None.

**References:** Referral response from the Department of Environmental Resources, dated July 8, 2022; Stanislaus County General Plan and Support Documentation<sup>1</sup>.

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

**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 Documentation<sup>1</sup>.

<b>XIII. NOISE -- Would the project result in:</b>	<b>Potentially Significant Impact</b>	<b>Less Than Significant With Mitigation Included</b>	<b>Less Than Significant Impact</b>	<b>No Impact</b>
a) <b>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>			X	
b) <b>Generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?</b>			X	
c) <b>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?</b>				X

**Discussion:** The Stanislaus County General Plan identifies noise levels up to 70 dB Ldn (or CNEL) as the normally acceptable level of noise for industrial, manufacturing, utilities, and agriculture uses. The Stanislaus County General Plan identifies noise levels for residential or other noise-sensitive land uses of up to 55 hourly Leq, dBA and 75 Lmax, dBA from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. and 45 hourly Leq, dBA and 65 Lmax, dBA from 10 p.m. to 7 a.m. Pure tone noises, such as music, shall be reduced by five dBA; however, when ambient noise levels exceed the standards, the standards shall be increased to the ambient noise levels. The site itself is impacted by the noise generated from the San Joaquin River, equipment from adjacent agricultural operations, and traffic from South Carpenter Road. The nearest known sensitive receptor is a single residence approximately 0.25 miles to the north of the facility. There are no other residential or other sensitive receptors within a mile of the facility. On-site grading resulting from this project 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. Noise associated with the construction work would be temporary but required to meet the noise ordinance and Noise Element standards. The site is not located within an airport land use plan. Noise impacts are considered to be less than significant with mitigation included.

The site is not located within an airport land use plan.

**Mitigation:** None.

**References:** Application materials; Stanislaus County Noise Control Ordinance; General Plan; Stanislaus County General Plan and Support Documentation<sup>1</sup>.

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

**Discussion:** The site is not included in the vacant sites inventory for the 2016 Stanislaus County Housing Element, which covers the 5<sup>th</sup> 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.

Impacts related to Population and Housing are considered to be less than significant.

**Mitigation:** None.

**References:** Stanislaus County General Plan and Support Documentation<sup>1</sup>.

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:				
Fire protection?			X	
Police protection?			X	
Schools?			X	
Parks?			X	
Other public facilities?			X	

**Discussion:** The project site is served by the Mountain View Fire for fire protection services, the Chatom Union and Turlock Unified school districts for school services, the Stanislaus County Sheriff Department for police protection, Stanislaus County Parks and Recreation Department for parks facilities, and the Turlock Irrigation District (TID) for power. County adopted Public Facilities Fees, as well as fire and school fees are required to be paid based on the development



type prior to issuance of a building permit. Payment of the applicable district fees will be required prior to issuance of a building permit. This project was circulated to all applicable: school, fire, police, irrigation, public works departments, and districts during the Early Consultation referral period, and no concerns were identified with regard to public services.

The project proposes to utilize an existing private septic system and domestic wells for wastewater and water services, respectively. An existing on-site industrial supply well provides the facility with water for operations. The site is served by an existing public water system, regulated by the Regional Water Quality Control Board and Department of Environmental Resources (DER) staff, which requires ongoing testing. A referral response from DER stated that the project applicant is responsible to notify DER staff in the event the existing on-site wastewater treatment system (OWTS) will be modified, upgraded, or replaced, that any increase in the facility’s drainage fixtures or number of users will trigger new OWTS review and upgrading, that any new building requiring an OWTS shall be designed according to type and occupancy of the proposed structure to the estimated waste/sewage design flow rate, and that all applicable Local Agency Management Program (LAMP) standards and setbacks shall be met. These requirements will be added to the project as conditions of approval.

A referral response from the Turlock Irrigation District (TID) indicated that there are existing overhead and underground services, and requested that the developer/applicant contact the TID Electrical Engineering Department for clearance requirements for overhead and underground power lines, requests for facility relocations, and new electrical service needs.

No significant impacts related to Public Services were identified.

**Mitigation:** None.

**References:** Referral response from the Department of Environmental Resources, dated July 8, 2022; Referral response from Turlock Irrigation District, dated March 30, 2022; Stanislaus County General Plan and Support Documentation<sup>1</sup>.

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?				X
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?				X

**Discussion:** This project does not include any recreational facilities and is not anticipated to increase demands for recreational facilities, as such impacts typically are associated with residential development. Non-residential development pays parks fees through the payment of public facilities fees, which are collected during the issuance of a building permit. This requirement will be incorporated into the project as a development standard.

No significant impacts related to Recreation were identified.

**Mitigation:** None.

**References:** Stanislaus County General Plan and Support Documentation<sup>1</sup>.

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)?			X	
d) Result in inadequate emergency access?			X	

**Discussion:** All vehicular traffic to the project site takes access off South Carpenter Road via a paved and gated driveway. The facility operates 24 hours per day, seven days per week, year-round with approximately 52 employees working at this location. A maximum shift consists of 12 employees, and minimum shift of six. The requested improvements are anticipated to add up to 10 additional employees for the maximum shift. The facility currently has approximately 140 one-way truck trips (70 round trips) and proposes an increase of 18 additional one-way trips (nine round trips) per day. Increased traffic resulting from the proposed use of the site is insignificant; therefore, staff has no evidence to support that this project will significantly impact South Carpenter Road.

This project was referred to the Department of Public Works and City of Turlock, both of which responded to the project with no comment regarding the proposed project.

Although they responded with no comment to the project, a grading, drainage, and erosion/sediment control plan for the project site may be required to be submitted to the Department of Public Works in conjunction with the building permit submittal for the new structure, including drainage calculations and enough information to verify that runoff from the project will not flow onto adjacent properties and Stanislaus County road right-of-way and is in compliance with the current State of California National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Construction Permit.

Senate Bill 743 (SB743) requires that the transportation impacts under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) evaluate impacts by using Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) as a metric. Stanislaus County has currently not adopted any significance thresholds for VMT, and projects are treated on a case-by-case basis for evaluation under CEQA. However, the State of California - Office of Planning and Research (OPR) has issued guidelines regarding VMT significance under CEQA. One of the guidelines, presented in the December 2018 document Technical Advisory on Evaluating Transportation Impacts in CEQA, states that locally serving retail would generally redistribute trips from other local uses, rather than generate new trips. The proposed project fits this description of locally serving retail as it served local agricultural businesses for acceptance, handling, and rendering of deceased livestock and therefore is presumed to create a less than significant transportation impact related to VMT.

Impacts associated with Transportation are expected to have a less than significant impact.

**Mitigation:** None.

**References:** Referral response from Public Works, dated July 6, 2022; Referral response from City of Turlock, dated March 24, 2022; Stanislaus County General Plan and Support Documentation<sup>1</sup>.

XVIII. TRIBAL 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 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			X	
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:** 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. Tribal notification of the project was not referred to any tribes in conjunction with AB 52 requirements, as Stanislaus County has not received any requests for consultation from the tribes listed with the NAHC. A standard condition of approval will be added to the project which requires if any cultural or tribal resources are discovered during project-related activities, all work is to stop, and the lead agency and a qualified professional are to be consulted to determine the importance and appropriate treatment of the find.

Tribal Impacts are considered to be less than significant.

**Mitigation:** None.

**References:** Stanislaus County General Plan and Support Documentation<sup>1</sup>.

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 site is served by Turlock Irrigation District (TID) for electrical service and Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E) for natural gas. The project proposes to utilize an existing private septic system and domestic wells for wastewater and water services, respectively. An existing on-site industrial supply well provides the facility with water for operations. The site is served by an existing public water system, regulated by the Regional Water Quality Control Board and Department of Environmental Resources (DER) staff, which requires ongoing testing. A referral response from DER stated that the project applicant is responsible to notify DER staff in the event the existing on-site wastewater treatment system (OWTS) will be modified, upgraded, or replaced, that any increase in the facility's drainage fixtures or number of users will trigger new OWTS review and upgrading, that any new building requiring an OWTS shall be designed according to type and occupancy of the proposed structure to the estimated waste/sewage design flow rate, and that all applicable Local Agency Management Program (LAMP) standards and setbacks shall be met. These requirements will be added to the project as conditions of approval. The Department of Public Works will review and approve any required grading and drainage plans prior to construction. Conditions of approval will be added to the project to reflect this requirement.

The proposed development will alter the existing drainage pattern of the site. Stormwater is proposed to be maintained on-site through an on-site storm drainage basin. The project was referred to the Department of Public Works who did not comment on the project to date. However, as part of the building permit process, a grading, drainage, and erosion/sediment control plan for the project site may be required to be submitted for review and approval to the Department of Public Works that includes drainage calculations and enough information to verify that runoff from the project will not flow onto adjacent properties and Stanislaus County road right-of-way and is in compliance with the current State of California National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Construction Permit. If this is required, it would be triggered at building permit review.

A referral response from TID indicated that there are existing overhead and underground services, and requested that the developer/applicant contact the TID Electrical Engineering Department for clearance requirements for overhead and underground power lines, requests for facility relocations, and new electrical service needs. The project was referred to PG&E who has not provided comments on the project to date.

No significant impacts related to Utilities and Services Systems have been identified.

**Mitigation:** None.

**References:** Referral response from the Department of Environmental Resources, dated July 8, 2022; Referral response from Turlock Irrigation District, dated March 30, 2022; Stanislaus County General Plan and Support Documentation<sup>1</sup>.

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?			X	

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?			X	
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. With the Wildfire Hazard Mitigation Activities of this plan in place, impacts to an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan are anticipated to be less than significant. 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, the southern half is designated as urban and the northern half as nonurban and is served by Mountain View Fire Protection District. The project was referred to the District, but no response was received. California Building Code establishes minimum standards for the protection of life and property by increasing the ability of a building to resist intrusion of flame and embers. No construction is proposed, but if future construction does occur it will be required to meet fire code, which will be verified through the building permit review process. A grading and drainage plan may be required for the proposed new structures, and all fire protection, and emergency vehicle access standards met. These requirements will be applied as development standards for the project. Accordingly, wildfire risk and risks associated with postfire land changes are considered to be less than significant.

**Mitigation:** None.

**References:** Stanislaus County General Plan and Support Documentation<sup>1</sup>.

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	

<p><b>c) Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?</b></p>			<p><b>X</b></p>	
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**Discussion:** Review of this project has not indicated any features which might significantly impact the environmental quality of the site and/or the surrounding area.

The project site is improved with the existing animal rendering facility, wastewater lagoons, and approximately 40 acres of row crops. Both the San Joaquin River and South Carpenter Road border the project site to the west and the Turlock Irrigation District (TID) Lateral Canal No. 5 to the south. Agricultural property ranging in size from 25 to 260 acres, zoned General Agriculture (A-2-40), which are either farmed in irrigated row crops or improved with confined animal facilities, surround the site in all directions. No other commercially developed properties exist within at least a mile of the project site. Outside of the permitted uses for the A-2 zoning district, development of the surrounding properties would require discretionary approval and additional environmental review. Approval of the project is not anticipated to set a precedent for further development of the surrounding area.

**Mitigation:** None.

**References:** Initial Study; Stanislaus County General Plan and Support Documentation<sup>1</sup>.

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

**Darling Ingredients Inc.**

**11946 Carpenter Road  
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**May 2022**

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**Air Quality and GHG  
Technical Report  
For Use Permit Application**

# **Air Quality and GHG Technical Report For Use Permit Application**

Prepared for:

**Darling Ingredients Inc.  
11946 Carpenter Road  
Crows Landing, CA 95313**

May 2022



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## List of Acronyms and Abbreviations

AAQA	Ambient Air Quality Analysis
AAQS	Ambient Air Quality Standards
APN	Assessor's Parcel Number
APR	Application Review
AQAP	Air Quality Attainment Plan
ATC	Authority to Construct
BACT	Best Available Control Technology
BAU	Business as Usual
BPS	Best Performance Standards
CA	California
CAAQS	California Ambient Air Quality Standards
CalEEMod	California Emissions Estimator Model <sup>®</sup>
CAPCOA	California Air Pollution Control Officers Association
CARB	California Air Resources Board
CAS	Chemical Abstracts Service
CCR	California Code of Regulations
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CH <sub>4</sub>	Methane
CO	Carbon Monoxide
CO <sub>2</sub>	Carbon Dioxide
CO <sub>2e</sub>	Carbon Dioxide Equivalent
CV-SALTS	Central Valley Salinity Alternatives for Long-Term Sustainability
DPM	Diesel Particulate Matter
EIR	Environmental Impact Report
ERC	Emission Reduction Credit
GAMAQI	[SJVAPCD] Guidance for Assessing and Mitigating Air Quality Impacts
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
GWP	Global Warming Potential
HI	Hazard Index
hr	Hour
HRA	Health Risk Assessment
kg	Kilogram
lb	Pound
Mcf	Thousand cubic feet
MMBtu	Million British Thermal Units
MT	Metric Ton
N <sub>2</sub> O	Nitrous Oxide
NAAQS	National Ambient Air Quality Standards
NO <sub>x</sub>	Oxides of Nitrogen

NSPS	New Source Performance Standards
NSR	New Source Review
OEHHA	[California] Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment
PAH	Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbon
PM <sub>2.5</sub>	Fine Particulate Matter (Less Than 2.5 Microns in Size)
PM <sub>10</sub>	Respirable Particulate Matter (Less Than 10 Microns in Size)
PS	Prioritization Score
PTE	Potential to Emit
PTO	Permit to Operate
RTO	Regenerative Thermal Oxidizer
scf	Standard Cubic Foot
SJVAB	San Joaquin Valley Air Basin
SJVAPCD	San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District
SO <sub>x</sub>	Oxides of Sulfur
TAC	Toxic Air Contaminant
TPD	Tons per Day
TPY	Tons per Year
U.S. EPA	United States Environmental Protection Agency
U.S. FDA	United States Food and Drug Administration
VERA	Voluntary Emission Reduction Agreement
VOC	Volatile Organic Compound
VWC	Valley Water Collaborative
yr	Year

# Air Quality and GHG Technical Report for Use Permit Application

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background

Darling Ingredients, Inc. (Darling) is a global developer of sustainable natural ingredients from edible and inedible bionutrients, creating a wide range of ingredients and customized specialty solutions for customers in the pharmaceutical, food, pet food, feed, technical, fuel, bioenergy, and fertilizer industries. The Company collects and transforms all aspects of animal by-product streams into useable and specialty ingredients, such as gelatin, edible fats, feed-grade fats, animal proteins and meals, plasma, pet food ingredients, organic fertilizers, yellow grease, fuel feedstocks, and green energy. The Company also recovers and converts used cooking oil and commercial bakery residuals into valuable feed and fuel ingredients.

Darling is a critical service provider to the food production industry (e.g., dairy, poultry, beef, etc.) and has been a fully functioning essential business during the pandemic. Without Darling's services, there can be interruptions in the food supply chain, and the byproducts it processes have the potential to be mismanaged in ways that can have a significant adverse impact on public health and the environment.

Darling holds a Board Seat with the Valley Water Collaborative (VWC), and it is actively working with the VWC and the Central Valley Regional Water Board to meet its obligations to both the Salt and Nitrate initiatives under the Central Valley Salinity Alternatives for Long-Term Sustainability (CV-SALTS) program. This program includes providing a source of safe drinking water to impacted well owners in the Turlock Management Zone. There are several wastewater improvements driven by these initiatives currently in process at the Darling Turlock facility.

### 1.2 Project Overview

Darling operates the Turlock facility under Use Permit 73-13 and subsequent modifications by staff approval or building permit. Darling is proposing the following changes at the facility:

Increase the maximum daily processing throughput from 1,650,000 pounds per day (lb/day) [825 tons per day (TPD)] to 1,850,000 lb/day (925 TPD). The current 1,650,000 lb/day limit is memorialized in the facility's Permit to Operate (PTO) from the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (SJVAPCD). The proposed capacity upgrade will be accomplished by removing a "batch" cooking process and replacing it with a "continuous" cooking process. The continuous process is more efficient and allows for faster processing, facilitating the potential throughput increase.

This cooking process change will also allow for species (poultry and beef) segregation of the byproducts being processed. This segregation will add more value to the finished fat and protein ingredients produced.

In support of these changes, there will be enhancements to the byproduct receiving and feed system, and modifications to the water vapor condensing system, fat presses, and centrifuges. These changes will take place within the existing building footprint.

With the rendering industry having the potential to create an odor profile, the odor abatement system will be upgraded to include additional scrubber pretreatment ahead of the existing Regenerative Thermal Oxidizer (RTO). This upgrade will help ensure the system is state of the art and meets all the regulatory conditions required by the SJVAPCD.

To support the segregation of the finished fat and protein produced by the upgraded cooking process, some limited fat and protein storage will be added and the protein finishing system will be modified, including the curing, milling, and screening steps. These changes will be accommodated within an existing building, other than added finished ingredient bin/silo storage which will be installed outdoors, and a 2,160-square-foot loadout building that will be added to support the shipping of the segregated protein, as required by Darling's customers and the United States Food and Drug Administration (U.S. FDA).

The facility is frequently upgrading its wastewater treatment systems in an effort to comply with its Waste Discharge Requirements and to help ensure its land application practices align with the Water Boards CV-SALTS initiative.

The Darling facility operates at 11946 Carpenter Road on two legal parcels of approximately 74 acres with a combined Assessor's Parcel Number (APN) of 058-022-005. Approximately 40 acres on the eastern end of the site are farmed with rotating seasonal crops. Approximately 22 acres are used for storage of treated wastewater. The facility operations are clustered on approximately 8.5 acres at the southwest corner of the site. Existing building coverage is approximately 44,556 square feet. Due to the nature of the business, the facility is set up to operate on a full-time, year-round basis. There are currently 50 employees. The largest current maximum shift for the plant operation is 12 employees. The smallest current minimum shift is third shift, with 4 employees. A sizable portion of the staff is truck drivers who, in general, run routes to collect the raw materials.

At the current maximum permitted capacity of 1,650,000 lb/day<sup>1</sup>, raw material delivery and finished product shipment in heavy-duty trucks would require approximately 140 one-way trips per day (70 round trips); the proposed Project would add an additional 18 one-way trips (9 round trips) per day. However, the facility has been operating at less than maximum capacity for the last 2 years (i.e., the "Baseline" period). For the last 2 years, the facility has processed an average of approximately 775,000 lb/day, with approximately 82 one-way trips (41 round trips) associated with raw material delivery and finished product shipment. The proposed Project is expected to increase the workforce by approximately 10 full-time employees.

### **1.3 Project Location and Surrounding Land Uses**

The facility is located in Stanislaus County at 11946 Carpenter Road (APN 058-022-005). The facility is bounded by Carpenter Road to the west and Harding Road to the south and is located approximately 9 miles west of the City of Turlock. An area map indicating the general location of the facility in a regional context is provided as Figure 1-1. An aerial photograph of the facility and surrounding area is provided as Figure 1-2. A site layout drawing is provided as Figure 1-3.

### **1.4 Equipment Description**

Specifications for the proposed new equipment are summarized in Table 1-1, along with the proposed emission controls.

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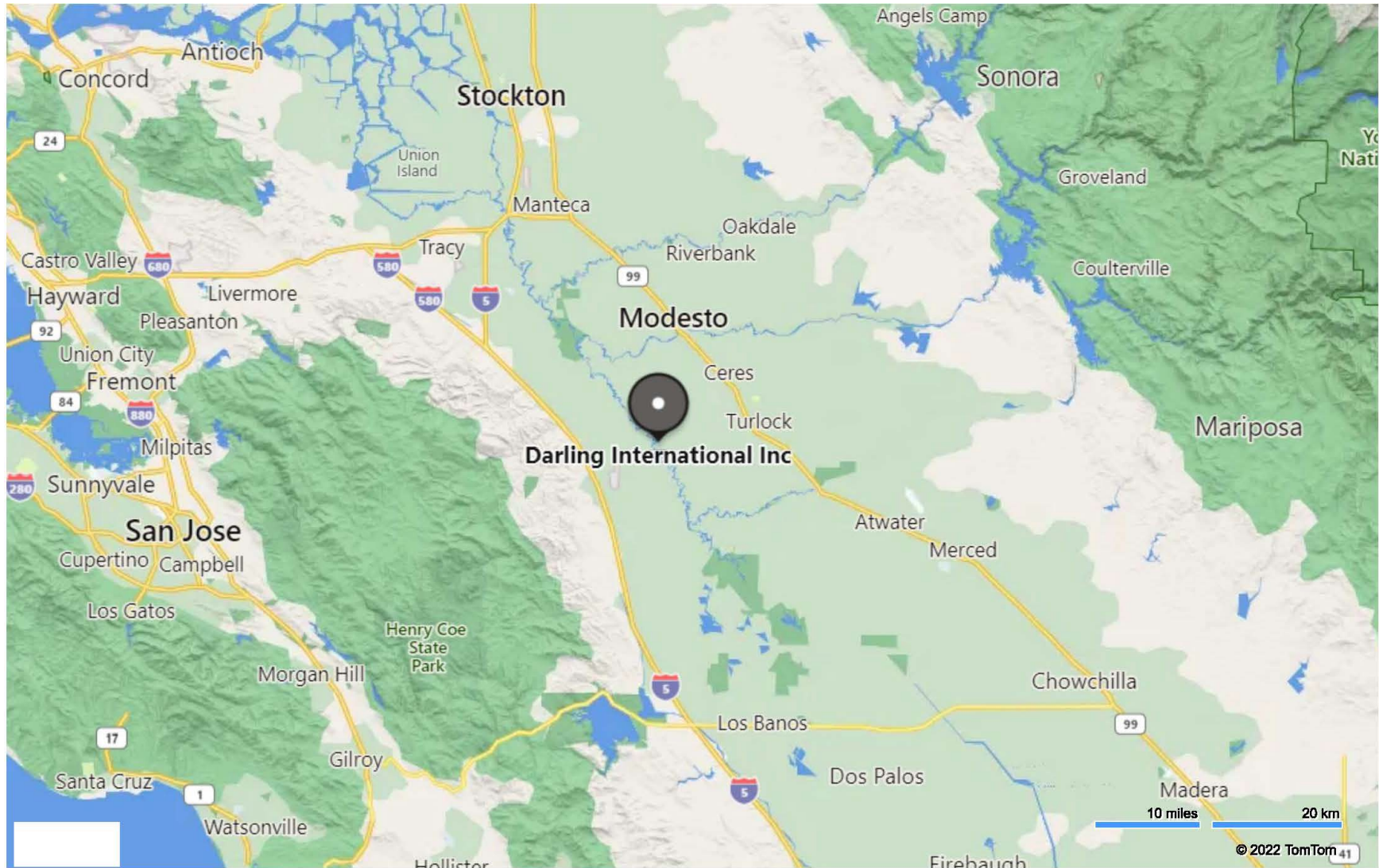
<sup>1</sup> SVJAPCD Permit N-2107-5-8, Condition 13; Permit N-2107-9-16, Condition 7.

**Table 1-1: Equipment Specifications**

<b>Device Description</b>	<b>Specification</b>	<b>Vented To:</b>
Raw material grinder and pump	Not available	Enclosed – not vented
Continuous Cooker	Dupps Model 200U	Odor Control System
Scrubbers	Custom built for Darling by Integrated Environmental Systems (IES): 1 x 6,000-CFM Venturi 1 x 6,000 CFM packed bed 1 x 4,000-CFM Venturi 1 x 4,000 CFM packed bed	Existing Odor Control System
Centrifuge	Elgin Model 1850	Odor Control System
Presses	3 x Dupps Model 12x10	Odor Control System
Fat Storage Tanks	15,000-gallons each	Atmosphere (no control)
Mechanical Protein Conveyance	Not available	Enclosed - not vented
Bucket Elevator	Not available	Enclosed - not vented
Curing bin	Not available	Atmosphere (no control)
Hammermill	Ottinger Model Mighty Samson	Enclosed – not vented
Protein Screen	Rotex	Aspirator consisting of cyclone with bag filter
Aspirator consisting of cyclone with bag filter	Not available	Inside Building
Load-out Bin (silo)	400-ton	Atmosphere (no control)



**Figure 1-1: Regional Location of Darling Ingredients**

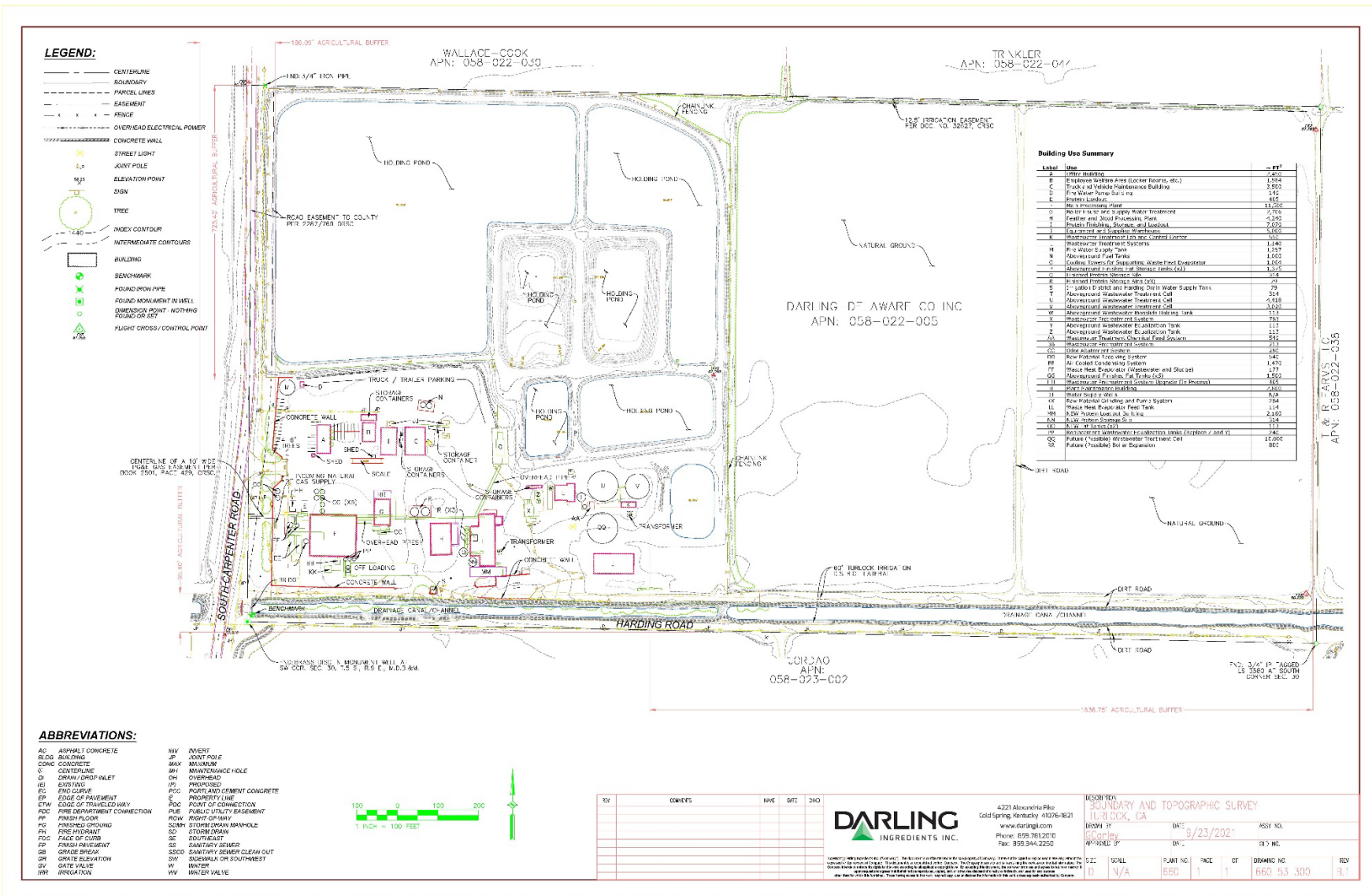


**Figure 1-2: Aerial Photograph of Darling Ingredients and Surrounding Properties**



# Air Quality and GHG Technical Report for Use Permit Application Darling Ingredients Inc.

### Figure 1-3: Plot Plan of Darling Ingredients



## 2.0 EMISSIONS

### 2.1 Construction Emissions

The construction emissions analysis was prepared using the California Emissions Estimator Model<sup>®</sup> (CalEEMod) version 2020.4.0 (CAPCOA 2021), the official statewide land use computer model designed to provide a uniform platform for estimating potential criteria pollutant and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions associated with construction of land use projects. The model quantifies direct emissions from construction (including vehicle use), as well as indirect emissions, such as GHG emissions from energy use, solid waste disposal, vegetation planting and/or removal, and water use. The mobile source emission factors used in the model include the Pavley standards and Low Carbon Fuel Standards. The model also identifies project design features, regulatory measures, and mitigation measures to reduce criteria pollutant and GHG emissions, along with calculating the benefits achieved from the selected measures.

A project’s construction phase produces many types of emissions, but respirable particulate matter (PM<sub>10</sub>), including fine particulate matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>), in fugitive dust and diesel engine exhaust are the pollutants of greatest concern. Fugitive dust emissions can result from a variety of construction activities, including excavation, grading, demolition, vehicle travel on paved and unpaved surfaces, and vehicle exhaust. The use of diesel-powered construction equipment emits ozone precursors oxides of nitrogen (NO<sub>x</sub>) and volatile organic compounds (VOCs), as well as diesel particulate matter (DPM). Asphalt paving and/or the use of architectural coatings and other materials associated with finishing buildings may also emit VOCs and toxic air contaminants (TACs).

Daily and total annual construction emissions of criteria pollutants are summarized in Table 2-1 in lb/day and tons per year (TPY). GHG emissions (carbon dioxide [CO<sub>2</sub>], methane [CH<sub>4</sub>], nitrous oxide [N<sub>2</sub>O], and total carbon dioxide equivalent [CO<sub>2</sub>e] in Metric Tons per year (MT/yr) are provided in Table 2-2. A complete discussion of methodology, data inputs, and emission calculations is provided in Appendix A.

**Table 2-1: Mitigated Construction Emissions Summary**

Pollutant	Daily Emissions (lb/day)	Annual Emissions (TPY)
VOC	19.68	0.14
NO <sub>x</sub>	12.03	0.43
CO	7.93	0.45
SO <sub>x</sub>	0.02	0.001
PM <sub>10</sub>	3.01	0.03
PM <sub>2.5</sub>	1.66	0.02

**Table 2-2: Annual Construction GHG Emissions Summary**

Pollutant	(MT/yr)
CO <sub>2</sub>	66.6
CH <sub>4</sub>	0.0
N <sub>2</sub> O	0.0
CO <sub>2</sub> e	67.2

## 2.2 Operational Mobile Source Emissions

Emissions estimates were prepared for the mobile sources required to support Darling's operations. The mobile sources include employee commute vehicles used for travel to and from the facility, support vehicle traffic, heavy-duty trucks to deliver feedstock to the facility, and heavy-duty trucks to deliver finished fats and proteins to customers.

The SJVAPCD has developed California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) significance thresholds for non-permitted sources, which include the mobile sources discussed herein. Mobile sources are not required to obtain permits from the SJVAPCD, and thus are not subject to the New Source Review (NSR) requirements of Rule 2201, such as Best Available Control Technology (BACT), modeling, or offsets. Mobile sources may be subject to State or federal emission standards, depending on the vehicle or equipment in question.

Mobile source emissions estimates have been prepared for the following source categories:

- Onroad Vehicle Exhaust Emissions;
- Fugitive Dust from Vehicle Travel on Paved Roads; and
- TAC Emissions:
  - Vehicle Exhaust TAC Emissions:
    - Diesel Exhaust Emissions, and
    - Gasoline Exhaust Emissions; and
  - Paved Road Dust and Particulate TAC Emissions.

Mobile source emissions estimates have been prepared for the Baseline and Project periods so that emissions increases due to the Project can be determined. Emissions estimates for the Baseline period are based on the vehicle activity required to support operations for the most recent 2-year period preceding the submittal of the Use Permit application. Emissions estimates for the Project are based on the vehicle activity required to support operations at the full requested capacity of 925 tons per day of feedstock.

Daily and annual operational mobile source emissions are summarized in Tables 2-3 and 2-4, respectively. Mobile source TAC emissions estimates are provided in Tables 2-5, 2-6, and 2-7. Mobile source GHG emissions are summarized in Table 2-8. A complete discussion of methodology, data inputs, and emission calculations is provided in Appendix B.

**Table 2-3: Summary of Daily Mobile Source Operating Emissions**

Activity	NO <sub>x</sub> (lb/day)	VOC (lb/day)	CO (lb/day)	SO <sub>x</sub> (lb/day)	PM <sub>10</sub> (lb/day)	PM <sub>2.5</sub> (lb/day)
<b>Proposed Project</b>						
Vehicle Emissions	32.53	1.47	17.39	0.22	1.88	0.80
Paved Road Dust	0.00	0	0	0	2.58	0.65
Total	32.53	1.47	17.39	0.22	4.46	1.44
<b>Baseline Period</b>						
Vehicle Emissions	13.48	0.86	8.78	0.09	1.69	0.62
Paved Road Dust	0	0	0	0	1.49	0.37
Total	13.48	0.86	8.78	0.09	3.18	0.99
<b>Net Increase</b>	<b>19.05</b>	<b>0.62</b>	<b>8.61</b>	<b>0.13</b>	<b>1.28</b>	<b>0.45</b>

**Table 2-4: Summary of Annual Mobile Source Operating Emissions**

Activity	NO <sub>x</sub> (lb/yr)	VOC (lb/yr)	CO (lb/yr)	SO <sub>x</sub> (lb/yr)	PM <sub>10</sub> (lb/yr)	PM <sub>2.5</sub> (lb/yr)
<b>Proposed Project</b>						
Vehicle Emissions	10,150	462	5,425	69	585	249
Paved Road Dust	0	0	0	0	805	201
Total (lb/yr)	10,150	462	5,425	69	1,391	451
<b>Baseline</b>						
Vehicle Emissions	4,207	269	2,738	29	527	194
Paved Road Dust	0	0	0	0	464	116
Total (lb/yr)	4,207	269	2,738	29	992	310
<b>Net Increase</b>						
Net Increase (lb/yr)	5,943	193	2,687	30	399	141
Net Increase (TPY)	2.97	0.10	1.34	0.02	0.20	0.07

**Table 2-5: DPM Emissions from Truck Exhaust**

Vehicle	Hourly DPM Emissions (lb/hr)		Annual DPM Emissions (lb/yr)	
	On-site Exhaust	Near-site Exhaust	On-site Exhaust	Near-site Exhaust
DPM (Net Increase = Project minus Baseline)	1.52E-04	1.52E-04	0.475	0.475

**Table 2-6: Net Increase in TAC Emissions from Onroad Gasoline Vehicles**

TAC	CAS#	Total Hourly (lb/hr)	Total Annual (lb/yr)
1,2,4-Trimethylbenzene	95636	2.41E-05	7.52E-02
1,3-Butadiene	106990	1.33E-05	4.14E-02
Acetaldehyde	75070	6.01E-06	1.88E-02
Acrolein	107028	3.37E-06	1.05E-02
Benzene	71432	6.42E-05	2.00E-01
Chlorine	7782505	1.86E-05	5.81E-02
Copper	7440508	1.35E-07	4.21E-04
Ethyl benzene	100414	2.63E-05	8.19E-02
Formaldehyde	50000	4.13E-05	1.29E-01
Hexane	110543	3.85E-05	1.20E-01
Manganese	7439965	1.35E-07	4.21E-04
Methanol	67561	9.90E-06	3.09E-02
Methyl ethyl ketone {2-Butanone}	78933	4.83E-07	1.51E-03
Methyl tert-butyl ether	1634044	4.70E-05	1.47E-01
m-Xylene	108383	8.88E-05	2.77E-01
Naphthalene	91203	1.21E-06	3.77E-03
Nickel	7440020	1.35E-07	4.21E-04
o-Xylene	95476	3.08E-05	9.62E-02
Styrene	100425	2.89E-06	9.02E-03
Toluene	108883	1.43E-04	4.47E-01

**Table 2-7: Net Increase in TAC from Paved Road Dust**

TAC	TAC Emissions	
	Hourly (lb/hr)	Annual (lb/yr)
Arsenic	7.14E-07	2.23E-03
Cadmium	1.65E-07	5.14E-04
Chromium	4.67E-08	1.46E-04
Cobalt	1.26E-06	3.94E-03
Copper	8.13E-06	2.54E-02
Lead	6.81E-06	2.13E-02
Manganese	4.40E-05	1.37E-01
Nickel	6.59E-07	2.06E-03
Mercury	4.94E-07	1.54E-03
Selenium	1.10E-07	3.43E-04
Vanadium	3.90E-06	1.22E-02

**Table 2-8: Summary of GHG Emissions from Mobile Sources**

Period	CO <sub>2</sub> (MT/yr)	CH <sub>4</sub> (kg/yr)	N <sub>2</sub> O (kg/yr)	Total CO <sub>2</sub> e (MT/yr)
Proposed Project	3,298	0.01	0.51	3,450
Baseline	1,384	0.01	0.21	1,446
Net Increase	–	–	–	2,004

### 2.3 Stationary Source Emissions

Darling is proposing modifications to its rendering facility to facilitate the proposed capacity upgrades. The proposed Project includes the following facility upgrades:

- Increase maximum daily throughput from 1,650,000 lb/day to 1,850,000 lb/day, with a corresponding increase in maximum annual throughput from 602,250,000 lb/year to 675,250,000 lb/year;
- Replace the three batch cookers (preheaters) with a Dupps Model 200U continuous cooker, condenser, and other supporting process equipment;
- Segregate the protein handling system to allow for the production of speciated finished product without increasing the current throughput limitations; and
- Upgrade the existing odor control system by adding two pretreatment venturi scrubbers and two pretreatment packed bed scrubbers prior to the existing scrubber and RTO. PM<sub>10</sub> emissions increases from the RTO due to the capacity upgrade will be abated by the installation of the new scrubber equipment on a potential to emit (PTE) basis.

In addition, Darling is proposing a change of conditions for each of its two existing boilers (SJVAPCD Permits N-2107-13-7 and N-2107-15-1) to change the PM<sub>10</sub> emission factor used to calculate emissions. The change in the boiler emission factors will result in a decrease in the permitted PTE of PM<sub>10</sub> from each of these devices.

#### 2.3.1 Process Information

Stationary source emissions are a result of either material throughput, e.g., PM<sub>10</sub> emissions from material handling, or natural gas combustion in the boilers or the RTO.

The facility is currently permitted to process up to a maximum daily throughput of 1,650,000 lb/day (602,250,000 lb/year). However, the facility has operated at levels below that maximum for several years. For the purpose of this analysis, the throughput activity for the past 2 years is used as the Baseline facility condition. Following implementation of the proposed Project, the maximum throughput will be 1,850,000 lb/day and 675,250,000 lb/year. Facility throughput is summarized in Table 2-9. These values are used to estimate Baseline and Project emissions.



**Table 2-9: Throughput Information**

Processing Step	Baseline 2-Year Average Throughput		Proposed Project Throughput	
	TPD	TPY	TPD	TPY
Raw Material Incoming	387	120,775	925	337,625
Fat Load-out	49	15,246	185	67,525
Protein Load-out	97	30,326	185	67,525

Baseline natural gas usage is determined from the utility bills for the facility. Because the gas usage is not monitored for each individual combustion device, some simplifying assumptions were made to estimate gas usage in the RTO and each boiler.

To estimate gas usage for the Project, the requested material throughput (i.e., 925 TPD) is multiplied by a gas consumption rate derived from Baseline data. Because gas usage and raw material throughput are known for the Baseline period, a gas consumption rate in units of cubic feet of gas per ton of throughput can be calculated. In this way, “projected actual” gas usage is estimated for use in the emission calculations. Projected actual gas usage is preferred to maximum potential gas usage because the boilers have excess capacity and will not be fully utilized at the requested material throughput. Gas usage information is summarized in Table 2-10.

**Table 2-10: Baseline and Projected Actual Gas Usage Information**

Unit	Max Heat Rate (MMBtu/hr)	Baseline Gas Usage Allocation (Mcf/yr)	Baseline Gas Usage Allocation (MMBtu/yr)	Projected Actual Annual Gas Use (scf/yr)	Projected Actual Annual Gas Use (MMBtu/yr)
RTO	3	12,782	13,140	25,564,202	26280.0
B&W	48	97,660	100,395	294,292,706	302532.9
Nebraska	76.93	156,521	160,903	471,665,372	484872.0
Total	124.93	266,963	274,438	791,522,281	813684.9

### 2.3.2 Emissions

Emissions are estimated using the following methodologies:

- Rendering process emissions for oxides of sulfur (SO<sub>x</sub>), PM<sub>10</sub>, and VOC are estimated based on the throughput information and permitted emission factors;
- Rendering process emissions for NO<sub>x</sub> and carbon monoxide (CO) are estimated based on the Baseline and Projected Actual gas usage information and permitted emission factors;
- Protein loadout emissions are estimated based on throughput information and permitted emission factors; and
- Boiler emissions are estimated based on the Baseline and Projected Actual gas usage information and permitted emission factors.

Daily Project and Baseline criteria pollutant emissions, along with the change in emissions, are summarized in Table 2-11. Annual Project and Baseline criteria pollutant emissions, along with the change in emissions, are summarized in Table 2-12. The net increase in TAC emissions from each of the stationary sources is provided in Table 2-13. Annual Project and Baseline GHG emissions, along with the change in emissions, are summarized in Table 2-14. A complete discussion and emission calculations are provided in Appendix C.

**Table 2-11: Daily Stationary Source Emissions**

Device	NO <sub>x</sub> (lb/day)	SO <sub>x</sub> (lb/day)	PM <sub>10</sub> (lb/day)	CO (lb/day)	VOC (lb/day)
<b>Project</b>					
Rendering	70.56	138.75	70.29	80.64	27.75
B&W Boiler	13.92	3.28	3.36	42.62	6.34
Nebraska Boiler	14.77	5.26	5.35	134.78	10.15
Total – Project	99.25	147.30	79.01	258.05	44.24
<b>Baseline</b>					
Rendering	70.56	58.06	37.79	80.64	11.61
B&W Boiler	13.92	3.28	8.76	42.62	6.34
Nebraska Boiler	14.77	5.26	14.03	134.78	10.15
Total – Base	99.25	66.61	60.58	258.05	28.10
<b>Net Change</b>	0.00	80.69	18.43	0.00	16.14

**Table 2-12: Annual Stationary Source Emissions**

Device	NO <sub>x</sub> (lb/yr)	SO <sub>x</sub> (lb/yr)	PM <sub>10</sub> (lb/yr)	CO (lb/yr)	VOC (lb/yr)
<b>Project</b>					
Rendering	25,754	50,644	25,657	29,434	10,129
B&W Boiler	2,932	862	882	11,194	1,664
Nebraska Boiler	3,879	1,382	1,406	35,396	2,667
Total – Project	32,565	52,888	27,946	76,023	14,459
<b>Baseline</b>					
Rendering	12,877	18,116	11,804	14,717	3,623
B&W Boiler	973	286	763	3,715	552
Nebraska Boiler	1,287	459	1,223	11,746	885
Total – Base	15,137	18,861	13,790	30,177	5,060
<b>Net Change</b>					
Net Change (lb/yr)	17,428	34,027	14,156	45,846	9,399
Net Change (TPY)	8.71	17.01	7.08	22.92	4.70

**Table 2-13: Net Change in Operational TAC Emissions**

Pollutant	RTO		B&W Boiler		Nebraska Boiler	
	(lb/hr)	(lb/yr)	(lb/hr)	(lb/yr)	(lb/hr)	(lb/yr)
Benzene	0.00	0.102	0.00	1.140	0.00	1.828
Formaldehyde	0.00	0.217	0.00	2.419	0.00	3.876
Total PAHs (excluding Naphthalene)	0.00	0.001	0.00	0.020	0.00	0.032
Naphthalene	0.00	0.004	0.00	0.059	0.00	0.095
Acetaldehyde	0.00	0.055	0.00	0.610	0.00	0.977
Acrolein	0.00	0.035	0.00	0.531	0.00	0.851
Ammonia	0.00	40.90	0.00	3539.4	0.00	5672.6
Ethyl Benzene	0.00	0.121	0.00	1.357	0.00	2.174
Hexane	0.00	0.081	0.00	0.905	0.00	1.450
Toluene	0.00	0.468	0.00	5.211	0.00	8.351
Xylene	0.00	0.348	0.00	3.874	0.00	6.208

**Table 2-14: Net Change in Operational GHG Emissions**

Device	CO <sub>2</sub> (MT/yr)	CH <sub>4</sub> (MT/yr)	N <sub>2</sub> O (MT/yr)	CO <sub>2</sub> e (MT/yr)
<b>Project</b>				
Rendering	1393.37	0.03	0.00	
B&W Boiler	16,040.29	0.30	0.03	
Nebraska Boiler	25,707.91	0.48	0.05	
Total – Project	43,141.57	0.81	0.08	
<b>Baseline</b>				
Rendering	696.68	0.01	0.00	
B&W Boiler	5,322.92	0.10	0.01	
Nebraska Boiler	8,531.09	0.16	0.02	
Total – Base	14,550.70	0.27	0.03	
<b>Net Change</b>	28,590.87	0.54	0.05	
Global Warming Potential (GWP)	1.00	21.00	310.00	
CO <sub>2</sub> e	28,591	11.32	16.72	28,619

### 3.0 AIR QUALITY SIGNIFICANCE FINDINGS AND MITIGATION

An analysis of the criteria pollutant and toxic air contaminant (TAC) emissions from the proposed Project and the consistency of the Project with relevant air quality plans and programs that are applicable to the project area are presented in this section. The air quality impact assessment is based upon a review of the emissions presented in Section 3 as well as an assessment of the Project’s potential to impact ambient air quality standards or cause unacceptable health risks.

Project impacts related to air quality are evaluated relative to the environmental checklist form in Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines. The findings of this report on the four questions in the checklist relevant to air quality impacts are summarized in Table 3-1.

**Table 3-1: Summary of Air Quality Significance Determinations**

Issue Area	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Impact Unless Mitigated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
<b>AIR QUALITY</b>				
Would the project:				
a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?			✓	
b) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard?			✓	
c) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?			✓	
d) Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?			✓	

#### 3.1 CEQA Significance Criteria

To assess the air quality impact, the SJVAPCD established Guidance for Assessing and Mitigating Air Quality Impacts (GAMAQI) which provides significance thresholds to assist Lead Agencies in determining whether a project may have the potential for a significant impact on air quality. If the project exceeds the significance threshold established for an effect, the project would be considered to have a significant impact on air quality. If, during the preparation of the Initial Study, the Lead Agency finds that any of the thresholds may be exceeded and cannot be mitigated, then a determination of significant air quality impact must be made, and an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is required. If the impacts can be mitigated to be less than significant after the implementation of mitigation measures, then a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) might be the appropriate CEQA document. Each of the Air Quality (AQ) significance criteria are analyzed in the subsections below.

### **3.2 Impact AQ-1: Would the Project Conflict with or Obstruct Implementation of the Applicable Air Quality Plan?**

#### **3.2.1 Evaluation Criteria**

The SJVAPCD GAMAQI does not list specific criteria for evaluating this impact area, so a qualitative approach is used to compare the Project design and emissions to applicable air quality plans.

#### **3.2.2 Discussion**

The SJVAPCD has prepared Air Quality Attainment Plans (AQAPs) for ozone and PM<sub>2.5</sub> and a maintenance plan for PM<sub>10</sub>. As a requirement of the Clean Air Act, an attainment plan must be prepared for pollutants which exceed the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS), and a maintenance plan has been prepared for pollutants for which the San Joaquin Valley is designated as attainment or unclassifiable with respect to the NAAQS. A maintenance plan is prepared to ensure that additional emissions of attainment/unclassified pollutants will not adversely affect air quality to the extent that it would result in a violation of the applicable air quality standard.

SJVAPCD Rule 2201, New Source Review, is a major component of the SJVAPCD's attainment strategy. NSR provides mechanisms, including emissions trade-offs, by which Authorities to Construct (ATCs) and PTOs may be granted without interfering with the attainment or maintenance of the NAAQS or the California Ambient Air Quality Standards (CAAQS). SJVAPCD implementation of NSR ensures that there is no net increase in operational emissions above specified thresholds from new and modified stationary sources for all nonattainment pollutants and their precursors. Permitted emissions above offset thresholds must be offset to below the rule threshold, adjusted for the distance of the source of emission reduction credits (ERCs) from the project, and adjusted by a factor to provide a net air quality benefit for ozone precursors. Furthermore, the SJVAPCD's NSR program is designed to ensure that project-specific emissions increases below NSR offset thresholds will not prevent the SJVAPCD from achieving attainment. The SJVAPCD's attainment plans demonstrate that this level of emissions increase will not interfere with attainment or maintenance of the NAAQS. Consequently, emissions impacts from sources permitted consistent with NSR requirements are consistent with the SJVAPCD's AQAPs and are not individually or cumulatively significant.

The SJVAPCD's attainment plans must account for emissions from existing projects and provide for future growth. The attainment plans must ensure that on a valley-wide basis (i.e., cumulative basis), there is no increase in emissions of nonattainment pollutants or precursors (NO<sub>x</sub>, VOC, and PM<sub>2.5</sub>). District plans must treat future growth as actual "in the air" emissions, and the plans must include control measures that achieve reductions needed to offset (mitigate) such growth and ensure reasonable further progress toward attainment of the NAAQS.

The 2018 Integrated PM<sub>2.5</sub> AQAP accounts for current and projected future growth of waste management-related emissions. For example, the Plan includes 0.3 TPD of PM<sub>2.5</sub> emissions for the Waste Management category starting in 2020. As shown in Tables 2-3 and 2-11, the PM<sub>10</sub> net emissions increase for the Project is 18.88 lb/day (= 0.45 lb/day for mobile sources + 18.43 lb/day for stationary sources) (0.006 TPD). PM<sub>2.5</sub> is a subset of

PM<sub>10</sub>. Using PM<sub>10</sub> as a surrogate for PM<sub>2.5</sub>, Project PM<sub>2.5</sub> emissions would represent only about 3.3% of the emissions accounted for in the PM<sub>2.5</sub> AQAP. Therefore, it is reasonable to assume that both the permitted and non-permitted PM<sub>2.5</sub> emissions associated with the proposed Project are accounted for and do not conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan.

The proposed Project will utilize two existing boilers and one existing RTO that are permitted to operate at full capacity by the SJVAPCD in compliance with the SJVAPCD's NSR rule. The proposed Project will not result in emissions exceeding currently permitted levels. The PTOs ensure that BACT is achieved on these existing sources, and the permit conditions ensure compliance with applicable federal New Source Performance Standards (NSPS) and SJVAPCD rules and regulations. The proposed Project includes the installation of new scrubbers ahead of the RTO to further reduce PM<sub>10</sub> emissions from the rendering process.

Finally, most of the capacity increase requested for this Project is displaced from Darling's Fresno facility, which is scheduled to close in December 2023, concurrent with the start of operations of the proposed Project. The permitted and non-permitted emissions associated with the Fresno facility will cease to occur, thus substantially or wholly offsetting the increases within the same air basin projected to occur at the Turlock facility due to this Project.

### ***3.2.3 Level of Significance***

The proposed Project will not conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan. Therefore, the proposed Project will have a less than significant impact on air quality.

### ***3.2.4 Proposed Mitigation***

None required.

## **3.3 Impact AQ-2: Would the Project 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?**

### ***3.3.1 Evaluation Criteria***

The Project is evaluated to determine if it is significant based on mass emissions, ambient air quality significance thresholds, and cumulative impacts.

#### ***3.3.1.1 Mass Emissions***

The SJVAPCD's thresholds of significance for criteria pollutant emissions are presented in Table 3-2.

**Table 3-2: Air Quality Thresholds of Significance**

Pollutant/ Precursor	Thresholds of Significance		
	Construction Emissions	Operational Emissions	
		Permitted Equipment and Activities	Non-Permitted Equipment and Activities
	(TPY)	(TPY)	(TPY)
CO	100	100	100
NO <sub>x</sub>	10	10	10
VOC	10	10	10
SO <sub>x</sub>	27	27	27
PM <sub>10</sub>	15	15	15
PM <sub>2.5</sub>	15	15	15

### 3.3.1.2 Ambient Air Quality

When assessing the significance of project-related impacts on air quality, the SJVAPCD recommends that an Ambient Air Quality Analysis (AAQA) be performed when on-site emissions increases from construction activities or operational activities exceed the 100 lb/day screening level for any criteria pollutant after implementation of all enforceable mitigation measures.

### 3.3.1.3 Cumulative Impacts

When assessing whether there is a new significant cumulative effect, the Lead Agency shall consider whether the incremental effects of the project are cumulatively considerable. “Cumulatively considerable” means that the incremental effects of an individual project are significant when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects [California Code of Regulations (CCR) Title 14 Section 15064(h)(1)].

Per CEQA Guidelines §15064(h)(3), a Lead Agency may determine that a project’s incremental contribution to a cumulative effect is not cumulatively considerable if the project will comply with the requirements in a previously approved plan or mitigation program, including but not limited to an air quality attainment or maintenance plan that provides specific requirements that will avoid or substantially lessen the cumulative impacts within the geographic area in which the project is located [14 CCR §15064(h)(3)].

Although the CEQA Guidelines allow for such a finding, Section 9.2 of the SJVAPCD GAMAQI indicates, “Design elements, mitigation measures, and compliance with District rules and regulations may not be sufficient to reduce project-related impacts on air quality to a less than significant level. In such situations, project proponents may enter into a Voluntary Emission Reduction Agreement (VERA) with the District to reduce the project related impact on air quality to a less than significant level. A VERA is a mitigation measure by which the project proponent provides pound-for-pound mitigation of nonattainment pollutant emissions increases through a process that funds and implements emission reduction projects. A VERA can be implemented to address impacts from both construction and operational phases of a project.”

### 3.3.2 Discussion

#### 3.3.2.1 Mass Significance Thresholds

Annual Project emissions are compared to the SJVAPCD mass annual CEQA significant thresholds in Table 3-3. As shown, construction, non-permitted operational, and permitted operational emissions do not exceed the significance threshold for any criteria pollutant.

**Table 3-3: Project Emissions Compared to Annual CEQA Emissions Thresholds**

Category	NO <sub>x</sub> (TPY)	VOC (TPY)	CO (TPY)	SO <sub>x</sub> (TPY)	PM <sub>10</sub> (TPY)	PM <sub>2.5</sub> (TPY)
Project Construction Emissions	0.43	0.14	0.45	0.00076	0.03	0.02
CEQA Construction Threshold	10	10	100	27	15	15
<i>Exceed Threshold?</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>No</i>
Project Permitted Source Emissions	8.71	4.70	22.92	17.01	7.08	7.08
CEQA Permitted Source Threshold	10	10	100	27	15	15
<i>Exceed Threshold?</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>No</i>
Project Non-Permitted Source Emissions	2.97	0.10	1.34	0.02	0.20	0.07
CEQA Non-Permitted Source Threshold	10	10	100	27	15	15
<i>Exceed Threshold?</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>No</i>

#### 3.3.2.2 Ambient Air Quality

Project permitted and non-permitted source emissions are compared to the SJVAPCD daily AAQA screening threshold in Table 3-4. As shown, construction, non-permitted operational, and permitted operational emissions are less than the screening level for all pollutants. In accordance with the GAMAQI and policy memorandum Application Review (APR) 2201, modeling is not required for the proposed Project.



**Table 3-4: Project Emissions Compared to Daily AAQA Screening Level**

Category	NO <sub>x</sub> (lb/day)	VOC (lb/day)	CO (lb/day)	SO <sub>x</sub> (lb/day)	PM <sub>10</sub> (lb/day)	PM <sub>2.5</sub> (lb/day)
Project Construction Emissions	12.03	19.68	7.93	0.02	3.01	1.66
AAQA Construction Screening Level	100	100	100	100	100	100
<i>Exceed Level?</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>No</i>
Project Permitted Source Emissions	0.00	16.14	0.00	80.69	18.43	18.43
AAQA Permitted Source Screening Level	100	100	100	100	100	100
<i>Exceed Threshold?</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>No</i>
Project Non-Permitted Source Emissions	19.05	0.62	8.61	0.13	1.28	0.45
AAQA Non-Permitted Source Screening Level	100	100	100	100	100	100
<i>Exceed Threshold?</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>No</i>

### 3.3.2.3 Cumulative Impacts

CEQA defines cumulative impacts as two or more individual effects which, when considered together, are either significant or “cumulatively considerable,” meaning they add considerably to a significant environmental impact. A cumulative impact analysis considers a project over time and in conjunction with other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future projects whose impacts might compound those of the project being assessed.

By its very nature, air pollution is largely a cumulative impact. The nonattainment status of regional pollutants is a result of past and present development. Future attainment of the CAAQS and NAAQS in the San Joaquin Valley Air Basin (SJVAB) will be a function of successful implementation of the SJVAPCD’s attainment plans. Consequently, the SJVAPCD’s application of thresholds of significance for criteria pollutants is relevant to the determination of whether a project’s individual emissions would have a cumulatively significant impact on air quality.

Per the GAMAQI (page 108), the District’s attainment plans demonstrate that project-specific net emissions increases below NSR offset requirements will not prevent the SJVAPCD from achieving attainment. As noted elsewhere, the stationary emissions sources associated with this Project, i.e., the RTO, the B&W boiler, and the Nebraska boiler, are existing sources, permitted at full capacity in full compliance with the District’s NSR requirements. Therefore, according to the GAMAQI guidance, these permitted sources are not individually or cumulatively significant.

As shown in Table 3-3, the proposed Project does not cause an exceedance of the SVJAPCD’s thresholds of significance for any criteria pollutant during construction or

operations. Per SJVAPCD policy, the Project would not be considered cumulatively significant.

Finally, as discussed elsewhere, most of the capacity increase requested for this Project is displaced from Darling’s Fresno facility, which is scheduled to close in December 2023, concurrent with the start of operations of the proposed Project. The permitted and non-permitted emissions associated with Darling’s Fresno facility will cease to occur, thus substantially or wholly offsetting the increases projected to occur at the Turlock facility as a result of this Project.

### 3.3.3 Level of Significance

As shown in Tables 3-3 and 3-4, criteria pollutant emissions from the proposed Project would be less than the defined CEQA significance criteria. Therefore, Project construction emissions, permitted stationary source emissions, and non-permitted (mobile source) emissions would be less than significant for all criteria pollutants. Therefore, the Project will have a less than significant impact on air quality.

The proposed Project will not have cumulative impacts during construction, as there are no known projects within 2 miles of the Project site that would be constructed or operated concurrent with Project construction. Because the Turlock facility operates permitted stationary sources, compliance with the SJVAPCD’s NSR program ensures that the emissions will not be cumulatively significant.

Based on the analyses conducted, the proposed Project is not expected to result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is in nonattainment under an applicable NAAQS or CAAQS. Therefore, the Project will have a less than significant cumulative impact on air quality.

### 3.3.4 Proposed Mitigation

None required.

## 3.4 Impact AQ-3: Would the Project Expose Sensitive Receptors to Substantial Pollutant Concentrations?

### 3.4.1 Evaluation Criteria

The SJVAPCD’s significance thresholds for TAC emissions from the operations of both permitted and non-permitted sources are presented in Table 3-5.

Carcinogenic (cancer) risk is expressed as excess cancer cases per one million exposed persons. Non-carcinogenic (acute and chronic) hazard indices (HIs) are expressed as a ratio of expected exposure levels to acceptable (reference) exposure levels.

**Table 3-5: Air Quality Thresholds of Significance – TAC**

Category	Significance Threshold
Carcinogens	Maximally Exposed Individual risk equals or exceeds 10 in one million
Non-Carcinogens	Acute HI equals or exceeds 1 for the Maximally Exposed Individual
	Chronic HI equals or exceeds 1 for the Maximally Exposed Individual

The California Air Pollution Control Officer’s Association (CAPCOA) guidelines outline a technique for calculating a “prioritization score” (PS) that helps air districts identify priority facilities for risk assessment, which involves consideration of potency, toxicity, quantity of emissions, and proximity to sensitive receptors such as hospitals, daycare centers, schools, worksites, and residences. If the PS exceeds the high risk level, or intermediate risk level after consideration of additional factors, a refined health risk assessment (HRA) is recommended to determine if the project’s potential health risks are significant. The PS hierarchy is explained below:

- Low Score: Projects having a total score less than 1 are low risk and are not likely to have an adverse health risk;
- Intermediate Score: Projects having a total score at least 1 and less than 10 need to evaluate additional factors to determine if the project’s TAC emissions will have a less than significant health risk; and
- High Score: Projects having a total score equal to or over 10 may have high risk. A refined HRA may be necessary to demonstrate that the project’s TAC emissions will have a less than significant health risk.

### 3.4.2 Discussion

To assess the potential acute, chronic, and carcinogenic health risks from a project, a two-step process can be followed, where initially a screening risk prioritization is conducted. If the potential for high health risks is found, then an HRA may be required.

Risk PSs were developed using the SJVAPCD’s Risk Prioritization worksheet. The worksheet assesses the potential health risk from the proposed Project by calculating a PS at the nearest residential and business receptors. The completed worksheets are included in Appendix D, and the results are summarized in Table 3-6. The PSs indicate low risk during both construction and operations.

**Table 3-6: Risk Prioritization Scores**

Project Phase	Prioritization Score	Rank
Construction	0.059	Low
Operations	0.760	Low

### 3.4.3 Level of Significance

Based on the low PS, the absence of any nearby sensitive receptors, and low population density in the vicinity of the Project, construction and operation of the proposed Project will not expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations or result in adverse health risks. Therefore, the Project will have a less than significant impact.

### 3.4.4 Proposed Mitigation

None required.

### **3.5 Impact AQ-4: Would the Project Result in Other Emissions (Such as Those Leading to Odors) Adversely Affecting a Substantial Number of People?**

#### ***3.5.1 Evaluation Criteria***

The Project should be evaluated to determine the likelihood that the Project would result in nuisance odors. Any project with the potential to frequently expose members of the public to objectionable odors should be deemed to have a significant impact. Nuisance odors may be assessed qualitatively, considering the design elements and proximity to off-site receptors that potentially would be exposed to objectionable odors.

Due to the subjective nature of odor impacts, the number of variables that can influence the potential for an odor impact, and the variety of odor sources, there are no quantitative or formulaic methodologies to determine if potential odors would have a significant impact. Rather, projects must be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

The SJVAPCD GAMAQI establishes the screening level for potential odor sources as a 1-mile setback for rendering facilities. The GAMAQI also recommends reviewing the odor complaint history for the facility.

#### ***3.5.2 Discussion***

The proposed Project may potentially be a source of odors. The proposed Project would increase the throughput of raw materials which could cause odors. The nearest residential receptor to Project site is a single residence approximately 0.25 miles to the north of the facility. There are no other residential or sensitive receptors within 1 mile of the facility.

Odors associated with the rendering process may occur due to the decomposition of raw materials prior to entry into the cookers. The facility has strict operational guidelines in place to minimize storage time and thus minimize decomposition and associated odors. While the proposed Project will increase the facility throughput, the Project also increases the production capacity by installation of a continuous cooker. The net effect is that the storage time of raw materials prior to cooking will not increase compared to current practice, and thus, odors due to decomposition are not expected to worsen.

The cooking process creates a vapor stream consisting of water and VOCs. The VOCs may be malodorous. This vapor stream is routed through condensers to remove water followed by an odor control system consisting of scrubbers and the RTO to prevent emissions of these malodorous compounds to the atmosphere. The odor control system has sufficient capacity for the additional material throughput. In addition, the proposed Project will install additional scrubbers to improve the odor removal efficiency of the system. Odors from the cooking process are not expected to worsen as a result of the Project.

#### ***3.5.3 Level of Significance***

The proposed Project will have a less than significant impact related to emissions which cause odors.

#### ***3.5.4 Proposed Mitigation***

None required.

## 4.0 GREENHOUSE GAS ANALYSIS

An analysis of GHG emissions from the proposed Project and the consistency of the Project with relevant plans and programs that are applicable to the project area are presented in this section. The impact assessment is based upon a review of relevant literature and technical reports that include, but are not limited to, information and guidelines from the California Air Resources Board (CARB), the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA), and SJVAPCD, as well as the applicable provisions of CEQA.

When evaluating the GHG emissions and impacts, it is important to consider that California law requires that inedible animal byproducts be rendered. Darling is not the generator of these wastes; it is the solution provider. Without Darling’s services, there is potential for the animal wastes to be mismanaged in ways that can present significant risk to human health and the environment. If, for example, Darling did not provide rendering services and the waste were disposed of illegally in a landfill, GHG emissions from waste decomposition in the landfill would far exceed the GHG emissions generated during the rendering of those materials. Further, all the fat currently produced at the Turlock facility is used in the production of renewable (green) diesel fuel, which substantially reduces GHG emissions compared to petroleum diesel.

The findings of this report on the two questions in the CEQA Appendix G environmental checklist relevant to greenhouse gas impacts are summarized in Table 4-1.

**Table 4-1: Summary of GHG Emissions Significance Determinations**

Issue Area	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Impact Unless Mitigated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
<b>Greenhouse Gas Emissions</b>				
Would the project:				
a) Would the Project Generate Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Either Directly or Indirectly, that May Have a Significant Impact on the Environment?			✓	
b) Would the Project Conflict with any Applicable Plan, Policy, or Regulation Adopted for the Purpose of Reducing the Emissions of Greenhouse Gases?			✓	

### 4.1 Summary of GHG Emissions

GHG emissions for construction, operational non-permitted sources, and operational permitted sources are presented in Tables 2-2, 2-8, and 2-14, and the detailed calculations are presented in Appendices A, B, and C. GHG emissions for the Project are summarized in Table 4-2.

**Table 4-2: GHG Emissions – Total Project**

Device	CO <sub>2</sub>	CH <sub>4</sub>	N <sub>2</sub> O	CO <sub>2</sub> e
	(MT/yr)	(MT/yr)	(MT/yr)	(MT/yr)
<b>Project</b>				
Construction (amortized over 30 years)	2	0.00	0.00	2
Mobile Sources	3,298	0.01	0.51	3,456
Rendering	1,393	0.03	0	1,394
B&W Boiler	16,040	0.3	0.03	16,056
Nebraska Boiler	25,708	0.48	0.05	25,733
Total – Project	46,442	0.82	0.59	46,642
<b>Baseline</b>				
Mobile Sources	1,384	0.01	0.21	1,449
Rendering	697	0.01	0	697
B&W Boiler	5,323	0.1	0.01	5,328
Nebraska Boiler	8,531	0.16	0.02	8,541
Total – Base	15,934	0.28	0.24	16,015
<b>Net Change</b>	<b>30,507</b>	<b>0.55</b>	<b>0.35</b>	<b>30,627</b>

## 4.2 GHG Significance Criteria

Climate change impacts are inherently global and cumulative and not project-specific. The SJVAPCD’s GAMAQI observes:

*“It is widely recognized that no single project could generate sufficient GHG emissions to noticeably change global climate temperature. However, the combination of GHG emissions from past, present and future projects could contribute substantially to global climate change. Thus, project specific GHG emissions should be evaluated in terms of whether or not they would result in a cumulatively significant impact on global climate change.”*

SJVAPCD’s GAMAQI states: “[I]n the absence of scientific evidence supporting establishment of a numerical threshold, the District policy applies performance based standards to assess project-specific GHG emission impacts on global climate change. The determination is founded on the principal that projects whose emissions have been reduced or mitigated consistent with the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006, commonly referred to as ‘AB 32’, should be considered to have a less than significant impact on global climate change.”

The SJVAPCD has adopted guidance documents for assessing and mitigating GHG impacts on global climate change. Rather than establishing specific numeric thresholds of significance (as in the case of criteria pollutant emissions), the SJVAPCD guidance utilizes a tiered approach to assess cumulative impacts on global climate change. The GAMAQI recommends a three-tier approach:

- Projects complying with an approved GHG emission reduction plan or GHG mitigation program which avoids or substantially reduces GHG emissions within the geographic area in which the project is located would be determined to have a less than significant

individual and cumulative impact for GHG emissions. Such plans or programs must be specified in law or approved by the Lead Agency with jurisdiction over the affected resource and supported by a CEQA-compliant environmental review document adopted by the Lead Agency. Projects complying with an approved GHG emission reduction plan or GHG mitigation program would not be required to implement Best Performance Standard (BPS).

- Projects implementing BPS would not require quantification of project-specific GHG emissions. Consistent with CEQA Guidelines, such projects would be determined to have a less than significant individual and cumulative impact for GHG emissions.
- Projects not implementing BPS would require quantification of project-specific GHG emissions and demonstration that project-specific GHG emissions would be reduced or mitigated by at least 29% compared to business as usual (BAU), including GHG emission reductions achieved since the 2002-2004 baseline period, consistent with GHG emission reduction targets established in CARB's AB 32 Scoping Plan. Projects achieving at least a 29% GHG emissions reduction compared to BAU would be determined to have a less than significant individual and cumulative impact for GHG emissions.

#### **4.3 Impact GHG-1: Would the Project Generate Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Either Directly or Indirectly, that May Have a Significant Impact on the Environment?**

##### ***4.3.1 Discussion***

The capacity increase requested for this Project is primarily displaced from Darling's Fresno facility, which is scheduled to close in December 2023, concurrent with the start of operations of the proposed Project. The GHG emissions from the permitted and non-permitted sources associated with the Fresno facility will cease to occur, thus substantially or wholly offsetting the GHG emissions increases projected to occur at the Turlock facility due to this Project.

California law requires inedible animal waste materials to be rendered. Thus, if Darling does not have the capacity to service the market, the waste materials would be diverted to an alternate rendering facility. GHG emissions from rendering at an alternate facility would likely be comparable to Darling's emissions, and transportation emissions would likely be higher. Alternative disposal options, such as landfill, would result in GHG emissions from waste decomposition that would far exceed the GHG emissions generated during the rendering of those materials.

In addition, as noted, the fat produced at the Turlock facility is used in the production of renewable (green) diesel fuel, which substantially reduces GHG emissions compared to petroleum diesel.

The facility is not subject to California's Cap-and-Trade program. However, while Project emissions do not create a compliance obligation for the Darling under Cap-and-Trade,

some of the emissions are covered by the Cap-and-Trade program in connection with the activities of other source categories, such as electricity generation and fuel suppliers.<sup>2</sup>

The SJVAPCD's CEQA Cap-and-Trade Policy also recommends that projects that are required to comply with CARB's GHG Cap-and-Trade program be determined to have a less than cumulatively significant impact on global climate change. This policy is included in the SJVAPCD's December 2009 CEQA GHG policies (described above) and 2015 GAMAQI, which states that a project whose emissions have been reduced or mitigated consistent with AB 32 should be considered to have a less than significant impact on global climate change (SJVAPCD 2015a). This approach would include both the CARB GHG Cap-and-Trade program and other GHG-reducing regulations (such as AB 341 and SB 605) as adopted GHG emissions reduction plans.

#### ***4.3.2 Level of Significance***

Under the SJVAPCD's tiered approach in assessing the significance of project-specific GHG emissions increases, projects complying with an approved GHG emission reduction plan or GHG mitigation program which avoids or substantially reduces GHG emissions within the geographic area in which the Project is located would be determined to have a less than significant individual and cumulative impact for GHG emissions (SJVAPCD 2015a).

Because the proposed Project will reduce GHG emissions compared to other waste management options, the proposed Project produces renewable carbon-neutral green diesel fuel, and some portion of the emissions that do occur (e.g., electricity usage, fuel combustion in vehicles) are covered by the Cap-and-Trade program, the proposed Project will not have a significant adverse impact related to GHG emissions.

#### ***4.3.3 Mitigation Measures***

None required. However, emissions covered under the Cap-and-Trade program (e.g., electricity usage, fuel combustion in vehicles) are considered mitigated emissions.

### **4.4 Impact GHG-2: Would the Project Conflict with any Applicable Plan, Policy, or Regulation Adopted for the Purpose of Reducing the Emissions of Greenhouse Gases?**

#### ***4.4.1 Discussion***

According to California law, inedible animal waste must be source-separated and processed at a rendering facility (or other authorized processor). As such, rendering of

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<sup>2</sup> CARB's Cap-and-Trade Regulation establishes a set of rules that limit GHG emissions from the State's largest sources of GHGs by applying a statewide aggregate GHG allowance budget to covered entities (17 CCR Sections 95800 to 96023). The Cap-and-Trade Program imposes an enforceable statewide cap on GHG emissions at covered facilities, including refineries, electric power providers, cement production facilities, oil and gas production facilities, and fuel suppliers, that steadily declines over time.

To the extent that fuels are supplied from fuel suppliers that are not subject to the Cap-and-Trade Regulation because emissions from the quantities of fuel supplied would not exceed the Cap-and-Trade applicability threshold, the SJVAPCD's CEQA Cap-and-Trade Policy states:

*"As did the CARB when excluding such sources from the Cap-and-Trade Regulation, the District considers GHG emissions resulting from the combustion of all fuels supplied by those fuel suppliers not subject to the Cap-and-Trade Regulation to be insignificant. Therefore, it is reasonable to apply this policy to GHG emissions resulting from the combustion of all fuels in the State of California."*



animal waste is not the subject of any applicable plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of GHGs.

#### ***4.4.2 Level of Significance after Mitigation***

The proposed Project does not conflict with any applicable plans, policies, or regulations adopted for the purpose of reducing GHG emissions. Therefore, the proposed Project will have a less than significant impact with respect to GHG emissions.

#### ***4.4.3 Mitigation Measures***

None required.

## 5.0 REFERENCES

- CAPCOA 2021. California Air Pollution Control Officers Association, California Emission Estimator Model (CalEEMod)<sup>®</sup> Version 2020.4.0<sup>®</sup>, Developed by BREEZE Software, A Division of Trinity Consultants.
- CAPCOA 2016. California Air Pollution Control Officers Association, CAPCOA Air Toxics “Hotspots Program” Facility Prioritization Guidelines (Draft), website: <http://www.capcoa.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/CAPCOA%20Prioritization%20Guidelines%20-%20April%202016%20Draft.pdf>. Accessed May 2022.
- SJVAPCD 2018a. San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District, APR-2030, Policy for Project Ambient Air Quality Analysis Applicability Determination under CEQA, June 12, 2018.
- SJVAPCD 2018b. San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District, APR-1906, Framework for Performing Health Risk Assessments, July 1, 2018.
- SJVAPCD 2015a. San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District, Guidance for Assessing and Mitigating Air Quality Impacts (GAMAQI), March 19, 2015.
- SJVAPCD 2015b. San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District, Update to District’s Risk Management Policy to Address OEHHA’s Revised Risk Assessment Guidance Document, May 28, 2015.
- SJVAPCD 2014. San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District, APR-2025, CEQA Cap-and-Trade Policy.
- SJVAPCD 2009c. San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District, District Policy Memo SSP-2050.

Appendices A through D of Attachment I – *Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Technical Report*, have been redacted from the Staff Report. However, the Initial Study was circulated with all of the Appendices attached.

Hard copies are available upon request. Please contact the Planning and Community Development Department by email at [planning@stancounty.com](mailto:planning@stancounty.com) or by phone at (209) 525-6330 to obtain a copy.



## NEGATIVE DECLARATION

**NAME OF PROJECT:** Use Permit Application No. PLN2021-0102 – Darling Ingredients, Inc.

**LOCATION OF PROJECT:** 11946 South Carpenter Road, between Ruble Road and the TID Lateral No. 5, in the Crows Landing area. APN 058-022-005.

**PROJECT DEVELOPERS:** William McMurtry, Darling Ingredients, Inc.  
5601 N. MacArthur Blvd.  
Irving, Texas 75038

**DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT:** To expand an existing Legal Non-Conforming (LNC) animal rendering plant, operating on a 9± acre portion of a 74± acre parcel in the General Agriculture (A-2-40) zoning district, by allowing an increase in the permitted daily processing throughput from 1,650,000 to 1,850,000 pounds per day and for construction of a new 2,160± square-foot loadout building, an 800± square-foot boiler room addition, a 23,300± square-foot shell building, and installation of 10,780± square feet of exterior equipment.

Based upon the Initial Study, dated **July 29, 2022**, the Environmental Coordinator finds as follows:

1. This project does not have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, nor to curtail the diversity of the environment.
2. This project will not have a detrimental effect upon either short-term or long-term environmental goals.
3. This project will not have impacts which are individually limited but cumulatively considerable.
4. This project will not have environmental impacts which will cause substantial adverse effects upon human beings, either directly or indirectly.

The Initial Study and other environmental documents are available for public review at the Department of Planning and Community Development, 1010 10th Street, Suite 3400, Modesto, California.

Initial Study prepared by: Kristen Anaya, Associate Planner

Submit comments to: Stanislaus County  
Planning and Community Development Department  
1010 10th Street, Suite 3400  
Modesto, California 95354

August 30, 2022

RE: Proposed Project at 11946 Carpenter Road, Crows Landing

From: Neighbors, Concerned citizens, people impacted by Darling directly

Dear Planning Commission:

Thank you for the opportunity to make a public comment regarding Darling Ingredients proposed project on Carpenter Road.

This is a collective comment by citizens most affected by the factory. We are the local residents who surround the factory or travel Carpenter Rd. regularly. None of us are scientists, but we all know agriculture, livestock, and the quality of our own life. We respectfully offer the following statement on the TRUE effects of the Darling factory.

Admittedly, the promoted image of Darling as a “green” company with an essential position in the meat industry seems environmentally responsible, sustainable even. The rendering process is not pretty, and no amount of PR or marketing can cover the foul odor or stacks of dead cattle visible from the road. There is a reason that rendering plants can not sell the land they have operated factories on; why localities oppose them from opening in their jurisdictions, why they are sequestered to areas near water treatment facilities or undesirable, uninhabited remote locations.

Darling Ingredients has enjoyed a 50 year reign at their Stanislaus rendering facility in Crow’s Landing. They have not been bothered by complaints from citizens (that reached any level of significance or importance) They have been under-supervised, free from un-biased third-party observation or governmental regulation. As such, the pollution of the soil, water, and air in and around the facility has gone unnoticed.

Some of us remember when Darling came to Crow’s Landing; we know the area before the epic stench and contamination of the river. We have watched children fall sick, neighbors move as health problems ensued, livestock die in huge numbers, crops all but fail, and pets develop strange conditions. We remember the soil when it was nutrient rich, and the water had no odor.

If it were possible to video smell, then we would be submitting video comment to show the actual impact that Darling has on the surrounding land. Visiting this location provides a clear understanding of the impact that rendering has on the environment. The in-person effect is 100% truth that is not susceptible to funding bias or testing error. Those of us closest to the factory commonly see bloody soil, stinky water, orange dyed sinks and faucets, and the familiar, putrid smell of death. Lacking a municipal water system, Crows Landing is completely on septic. All water comes from domestic wells, and all gray water, waste water, pesticides, solids return to the surrounding ground to be filtered by just the soil itself. The effect of this “sustainable” death recycler is complete contamination of air, soil, and water.

## 1. AIR

Unmistakable nauseating, foul odor is the first notable consequence of rendering at the Darling Factory. The heavy smell of death permeates the air, making a pungent, musty stench that is unlike any stink you will ever encounter. There are layers of putrid odor- some which have clear scientific identifiers. The cheesy/oily/decomposing flesh odor that comes from the dead livestock's fatty acids- a primary focus of the rendering process.- is hexanoic acid (caproic acid). The distinctive smell akin to foot odor is likely isovaleric acid (that is produced by bacteria of many varieties (as would be common culprits of mortality in livestock that die from sickness). Then there is valeric acid (a volatile component of livestock manure- and certainly part of the putrid melody).

The EIR created by Yorke Engineering states minimal or no impact on air quality; however, the focus of the report is on the *construction process*. Conspicuously missing is data from current levels of air pollution, and then projected data of the combined affect of ALL air pollutants: current rendering, increased rendering, construction, and water treatment. The report does not seem to account for the effects of isovaleric acid, valeric acid, caproic acid, dsimethyl sulfide, dimethyl disulfide, trimethylamine, aldehyde, benzene, quinoline, butylamine, isobutylamine. All of which are known compounds, chemicals, and gases emitted during the *rendering process*. The odor is more than a nuisance, it aggravates asthma, affects concentration and attitude, and fully impacts peaceful enjoyment at our private residence.

Where the engineering report explains, in general terms, that "the rendering industry has the potential to create an odor profile", they are in fact admitting that rendering makes odor that is noxious and a nuisance. **Bad smell can never have little or no impact**- the point of odor is to have impact!!!

There is a reason humans have a sense of smell: to spare the mouth from consuming anything dangerous. There is no doubt upon smelling the process of rendering, that the livestock which die from disease or infection are NOT FIT for consumption. Remember, the livestock handled at a rendering facility are NOT the beef cattle produced by ranchers for human consumption- those are butchered and sold. Likewise, old dairy cattle are also sent for slaughter and the meat processed into the "ground beef" priced more affordably at the grocery store. Therefore, the cattle that are rendered by Darling are the ones that died unexpectedly- from disease or infection (that may or may not have been avoidable with proper immunizations, adept attention to symptoms that could have been treated, or better management in general. Regardless, the cattle that make their way to Darling are rejects, riddled with sickness, and likely contagious. They certainly are host to any manner of blood-borne pathogen; bacteria, virus, fungi, and/or parasites. Bacteria are the most common, and several varieties lay dormant in soil for years and years, awaiting it's next victim. Unfortunately, many strains are shared between cattle and other livestock/animals, and humans.

While the reports states that upgraded equipment will control odor better, the black and white list of equipment itself shows that just 2 out of 15 aim at odor control- and those are

the centrifuge and press (which can not be the hefty components of the odor problem). Stating that odor control is a focus in descriptive narrative that is not supported by the evidence immediately following does not make the statement credible.

## **2. SOIL**

The ground around our home is completely infused with waste from the Factory next door. It does not take a scientist, or even a test, to observe this fact. There are regularly standing puddles of blood. We collected an entire jar full simply by scooping the top of the ground just last week.

There is some kind of solid matter that is greenish brown that collects in certain areas of our yard, whenever it rains or watering leaves standing puddles. Likewise, when the sun bakes the ground until it is good and hot, dry cracks will form that are all outlined by a deep reddish color (that along with the odor) evidence the blood that has permeated all around. As an experiment, we dug a hole about 4 feet deep, 2 1/2 feet wide, parallel to a spot that consistently pushes up blood as well as the greenish brown matter. We filled in with water 13 MONTHS AGO, and it HAS NOT REABSORBED BACK INTO THE SOIL!

In a gross example of conflict of interest, Darling holds a Board Seat with the Valley Water Collaborative (VWC). The VWC is working under state regulations and the Central Valley Regional Water Board to meet minimum Salt and Nitrate standards to ensure long term water safety and sustainability. Our requests to have well-water sampled, and utilize the fresh drinking water delivery program offered by VWC have been repeatedly ignored. After attending a virtual meeting of the group, there seemed to be a desire to reach out to rural community members- however, our efforts to do that for them, were not even noticed.

- *PLEASE NOTICE ACCOMPANYING PHOTOS OF THE SOIL IN OUR YARD, THE STANDING SOLID MATTER, PUDDLES OF BLOOD, AND JAR OF BLOOD COLLECTED FROM THE TOP OF THE GROUND LAST WEEK.*

## **3. WATER**

There is a foul odor, similar to rotten eggs- but worse, that comes from the water. Again, the tap water is supplied by domestic well. The water table clearly contaminated by the pollutants deposited back to the soil which never were intended to filter by sediment alone. Every sink is dyed orange by the excess iron and blood that the ground seeps into the well. Imagine taking a shower in stinky water that has an orange tinge. Imagine doing the dishes with the unmistakable smell of foul that Dawn dish soap can not even disguise. The result in less than often showers, and hand dish-washing followed by machine dish-washing for high-heat sterilization- anything less leads to sickness.

We realize that we are a small collective of concerned citizens, and that our discomfort may seem negligible amid the alleged benefits of rendering. We may be a necessary expense; however, please consider the millions of people affected by contamination of the San Joaquin river. Even if there is not direct waste deposit into the river (that we can prove), the

ground contamination is certainly infecting the water table. Millions of Californians depend on the San Joaquin River, and globally billions of people are connected by the produce and livestock grown in the Central Valley .

- *PLEASE NOTICE THE FOLLOWING PHOTOS OF 6 DIFFERENT SKIN RELATED BACTERIA INFECTIONS SHOWING CORRELATION AND CAUSATION SINCE EVIDENCE OF THE SAME BACTERIA WAS FOUND IN A CULTURE OF EACH WOUND AND THE WATER SUPPLY.*

You all have the unique responsibility of affecting directly the future of the County- and the State- by choosing carefully the projects that are *necessary, economically beneficial, and fundamentally sound within a sustainable framework*. From information provided by parties who have vested, personal , financial interest in the project they are proposing and your own subjective logic you must actually discern without bias the very best choices for the community at large. It is not always easy to foresee events or consequences, especially when you are armed with information that is procured by and for the same party.

**CONSIDER JUST A COUPLE OF MORE POINTS:**

**1. IF IT'S NOT BROKE, WHY FIX IT?**

The proposed plan aims to increase production roughly 200,000 lbs/day: from 1,675,000 lbs/day to 1.850,000 lbs/day by updating machine technology and changing the process from “batch” to “continuous”.

The effect is an increase in production of 125 cattle day, from 1024 to 1149.

Now consider that: “For the last 2 years, the facility has processed an average of approximately 775,000 lb/day, with approximately 82 one-way trips (41 round trips) associated with raw material delivery and finished product shipment. “

Meaning, the factory can still accommodate approximately 62 one-way trips per day or 900,000 lb/day (562 cattle) within their current operating capacity. So, the factory has the ability and flexibility, as well as operating authority, to INCREASE production 5x more than they are expecting to do if they expand their plant SIMPLY BY OPERATING at FULL CAPACITY- no construction, no expansion, no 24 hr continuous rendering necessary.

We are quite familiar with the rendering cycle, whereby the process is prepped during the week and day time hours mostly for weekend operation (so that the human employees are spared exposure to the noxious odors and harmful effects of the actual rendering). The dramatic difference between plant operation daily and on weekends is palpable. (Again, I will it were possible to video smells).



WHY BUILD BUILDINGS, CHANGE EQUIPMENT, RAMP PRODUCTION to increase just 125 cattle /day- when the CURRENT model can already accommodate an increase in production up to 562/ cattle day? Just operating at capacity would increase the production almost 5 fold.

WHY NOT JUST OPERATE AT CAPACITY?

## 2. **History and Track Record: A GROSS ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTER**

Below are results from searching well known government agencies regulating safety, and environment- just under “Darling Ingredients” (consider the vast number of smaller companies Darling has absorbed, and the the technical re-facing from Darling Ingredients to Darling International, and there is logical reason to conclude that avoidable violations under the same management likely did occur)

1. QSHA has documented 47 violations between 9/2017 and 7/2022.
2. EPA has documented 21 Air Violations and 4 Water Violations since 1985

Consider the multiple violations Darling has amassed across the country: California, New York, Minnesota, Michigan, New Jersey, Kentucky, Texas. Consider also that there are repeated same violations in the same areas: direct evidence that the company would rather violate and pay the minimal fine, than protect the environment or ecology where they operate. The fact that they have thus far operated without opposition from a voice that matters in Crows Landing is a decent indicator that violations are very likely.

*If they will violate after being caught, they will certainly violate while they are not being checked.*

The short term advantage for a planning commission must surely be the fees for permitting. The long term impact of a poor decision could be the incurred cost of soil regeneration (if possible), water de-contamination (if possible), and multiple measures and restrictions to get a handle on air pollution.

Instead of the short term benefit of permit fees, try testing the water, soil and air around Darling. Guaranteed, ***the fines from environmental violations will vastly exceed the fees that can be collected from permits.***

***Moreover, enforced compliance will dramatically improve Stanislaus County and Turlock Water District water quality.*** After the recent article claiming the worst water in the State is in the Central Valley and that “millions of Californians will experience long term health risks” as a consequence of exposure”, it would certainly couldn’t hurt.

AGAIN, thank you kindly for this opportunity to voice our experiences and concerns. We certainly recognize the formidable opponent that is the Meat Industry and Big Corporation Old Money. We would have moved years ago, if we didn’t love our house. Everything but the air, soil, and water is

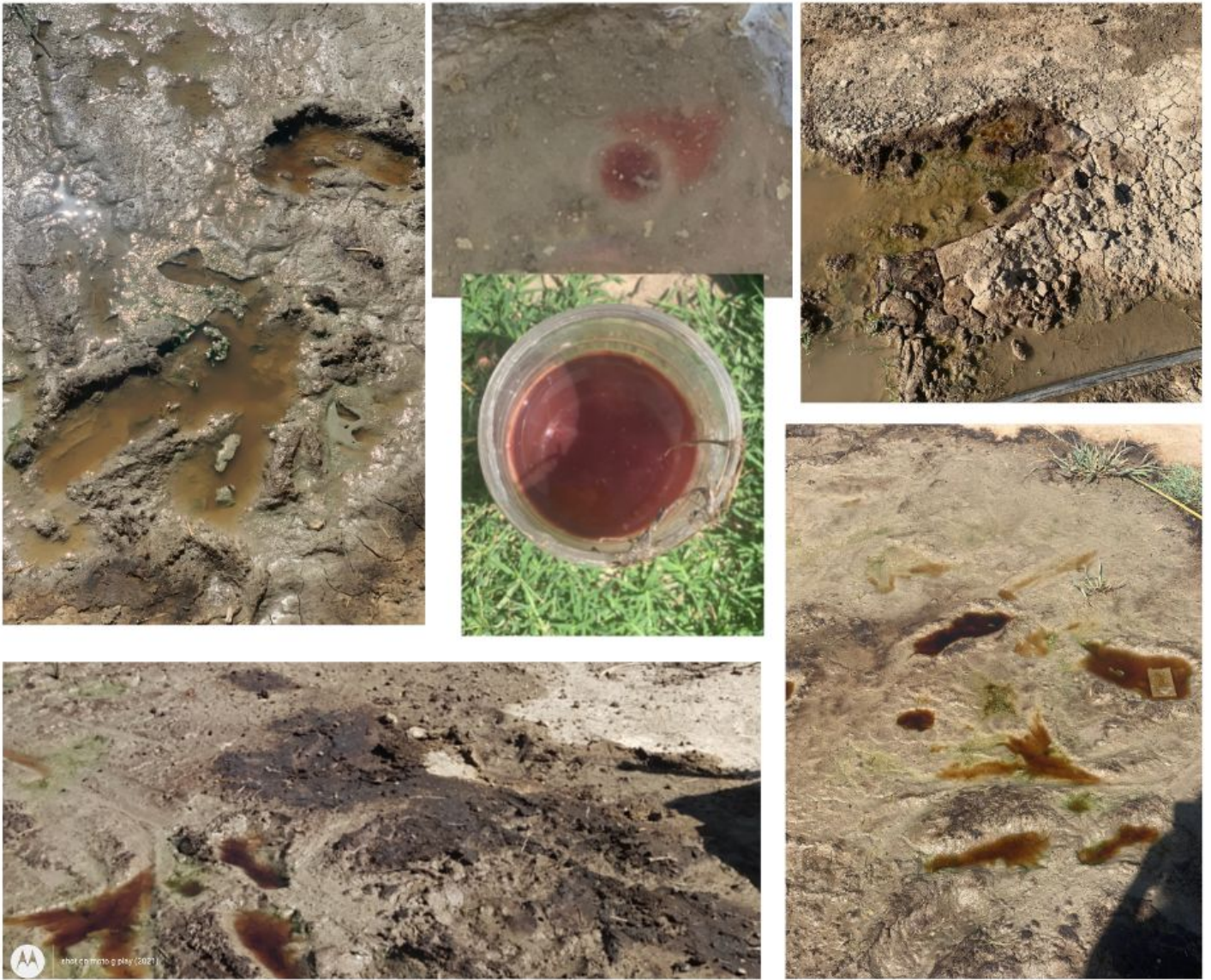
great. Please consider that the increased operation is of such insignificant benefit to the community- but such significant nuisance to the environment and ecology and DO NOT APPROVE THE PERMIT.

Signed by:

(Leah Summers, Shannon Summers, Joe Summers, Kevin Thomas, Dillon J Smith, Dennis Antez, Josh Oneall, Ashley Maia, Sebastian J. Charles, Clifford Hollis, LGuy, Allison Saunders, Zack Patrick, Jeffery Moore, Andrea Rodriguez, Liza Cars, DR Murphy, Jesus Mendoza, Courtney Capilla, Steven Murphy, Jay Brackett, Sean Foster, Sara Crawford, Jake Wickham, John Layton, David Chapa, Helen Tibone, Brian Thompson, Alfredo N.

Respectfully

Leah Summers  
Shannon Summers  
Joe Summers  
Kevin Thomas  
Dillon J Smith  
Dennis Antez  
Josh Oneall  
Ashley Maia  
Sebastian J. Charles  
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David Chapa  
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Brian Thompson  
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*Standing water surfaces blood in less than 10 minutes. Cup on blood in the center collected right from the ground. 8/25/22.*

*\*\*\*\*\* Each of the following infections began as a small wound that came in contact with our tap water and then erupted with out of control infection. Each one required hospital care, so we all were able to benefit from blood work and wound culture to identify the particular bacteria responsible for the infection in each case. . The infectious disease specialist analyzed separately each culture against water samples and determined that the matching presence of certain bacteria is evidence that water contamination was the cause of each infection. \*\*\*\*\* Pictures are graphic\*\*\*\*\**

# SEVERE BACTERIAL INFECTION

Required hospital visit, IV antibiotics and pill antibiotics. Resistant to first antibiotic attempts, required 28 full days of medicine to cure.



# SEVERE BACTERIAL INFECTION

Small contusion that exponentially grew in size after exposure to tap water. The apex of the infection was a 3" by 3.5" puss filled cyst, caused by bacteria, that required incision for draining and IV antibiotics to cure.



# SEVERE BACTERIAL INFECTION

"Cellulitis" - the common infection caused by bacteria (usually streptococcus and staphylococcus). This infection came on so fast, the initial wound was unnoticed. Treatment required hospitalization and IV antibiotics, and took relocating plus several months to heal.



# SEVERE BACTERIAL INFECTION

Requires multiple hospital visits; IV antibiotics and pill antibiotics. Began 6/2021- Recurring infection that is still on-going.



# SEVERE BACTERIAL INFECTION



**REQUIRED  
HOSPITALIZATION  
TO ADMINISTER IV  
ANTIBIOTICS UNDER  
THE CARE OF AN  
INFECTIOUS DISEASE  
SPECIALIST.**



**AFTER 8TH  
SURGERY- TO  
CLEAN  
INFECTION AND  
REMOVE ALL  
LAYERS OF  
SKIN.**



**THE INFECTION ATE STRAIGHT  
THROUGH THE HAND.**

# SEVERE BACTERIAL INFECTION

One small skin lesion progressed to fully critical infection after one shower. Being treated currently with IV antibiotics, in the hospital. If the infection made it all the way to the bone, the leg will require amputation. Surgery is scheduled for next week.



August 30, 2022

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*Darling strives to be a good neighbor and conducts its business in compliance with the law, including but not limited to, laws related to the environment, land use, and public health and safety. Often our operations are located where the rendering services are needed, which includes locations that are not rural (e.g. the City of Los Angeles). We are protective of the land we utilize, and our operations seldom change locations. As mentioned below the facility has been in operation for many decades.*

Darling Ingredients has enjoyed a 50 year reign at their Stanislaus rendering facility in Crow’s Landing. They have not been bothered by complaints from citizens (that reached any level of significance or importance) They have been under-supervised, free from un-biased third-party observation or governmental regulation. As such, the pollution of the soil, water, and air in and around the facility has gone unnoticed.

*Darling operates in a highly-regulated service industry. The regulatory oversight of the facility environmentally is conducted primarily by the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB), the San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District (SJVAPCD), and the County of Stanislaus. These agencies perform inspections periodically and the company also conducts internal environmental reviews and assessments. The facility utilizes odor abatement systems that meet the SJVAPCD’s Best Available Control Technology standards, and all our wastewater is treated through a biological treatment plant to remove pollutants before reuse at the facility in the industrial processes and for beneficial use in crop irrigation under the oversight of the RWQCB. The facility is a net water producer which limits our demands for fresh water.*

Some of us remember when Darling came to Crow's Landing; we know the area before the epic stench and contamination of the river. We have watched children fall sick, neighbors move as health problems ensued, livestock die in huge numbers, crops all but fail, and pets develop strange conditions. We remember the soil when it was nutrient rich, and the water had no odor.

*The facility does not discharge to the San Joaquin River.*

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*As mentioned previously the facility meets Best Available Control Technology standards from an odor abatement perspective and the proposed changes at the facility include voluntary upgrades to these abatement systems. The byproducts the facility manages, including the byproducts from the slaughter of animals for human consumption and animal mortalities, if not managed by service providers like Darling can be mismanaged in ways that can have a negative impact on the environment. None of these byproducts are disposed of on property or flow over land off the property. The primary processing areas are surfaced in concrete, which see regular housekeeping, and wastewater from the processing operation and the treated effluent are managed in sealed aboveground tanks and ponds with synthetic liners.*

## **1. AIR**

Unmistakable nauseating, foul odor is the first notable consequence of rendering at the Darling Factory. The heavy smell of death permeates the air, making a pungent, musty stench that is unlike any stink you will ever encounter. There are layers of putrid odor- some which have clear scientific identifiers. The cheesy/oily/decomposing flesh odor that comes from the dead livestock's fatty acids- a primary focus of the rendering process.- is hexanoic acid (caproic acid). The distinctive smell akin to foot odor is likely isovaleric acid (that is produced by bacteria of many varieties (as would be common culprits of mortality in livestock that die from sickness). Then there is valeric acid (a volatile component of livestock manure- and certainly part of the putrid melody).

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*The facility is a solution provider for byproducts generated by the food and agricultural industries. These materials include, but are not limited to, byproducts from the slaughter of animals for human consumption and animal mortalities from the dairy, beef and poultry industries. Our workers are in contact with these materials, their potential odors, and fluids daily and there are no known health impacts. One of the keys to successful management of these byproducts is to process them as efficiently as possible. There is no incentive to delay these materials from entering the conversion process as it can negatively influence the value of the finished fat and protein produced. Darling recognizes the facility has a potential to create an odor profile and because of this significant investments are made in odor abatement technology. As mentioned, the facility odor abatement system meets Best Available Control Technology as required by the SJVAPCD and the proposed project will include voluntary upgrades to these systems to enhance our odor abatement efforts. Sources of odor in an agricultural area like the San Joaquin Valley are numerous including cattle farms, dairy farms, fish farms and other food production related industries.*

## **2. SOIL**

The ground around our home is completely infused with waste from the Factory next door. It does not take a scientist, or even a test, to observe this fact. There are regularly standing puddles of blood. We collected an entire jar full simply by scooping the top of the ground just last week.

There is some kind of solid matter that is greenish brown that collects in certain areas of our yard, whenever it rains or watering leaves standing puddles. Likewise, when the sun bakes the ground until it is good and hot, dry cracks will form that are all outlined by a deep reddish color (that along with the odor) evidence the blood that has permeated all around. As an experiment, we dug a hole about 4 feet deep, 2 1/2 feet wide, parallel to a spot that consistently pushes up blood as well as the greenish brown matter. We filled in with water 13 MONTHS AGO, and it HAS NOT REABSORBED BACK INTO THE SOIL!

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- PLEASE NOTICE ACCOMPANYING PHOTOS OF THE SOIL IN OUR YARD, THE STANDING SOLID MATTER, PUDDLES OF BLOOD, AND JAR OF BLOOD COLLECTED FROM THE TOP OF THE GROUND LAST WEEK.

*There is no known run off leaving the Darling property. All the fluids and/or wastewater generated at the facility are captured for treatment onsite. The treatment steps take place in sealed above ground tanks and the treated effluent produced is staged in ponds constructed with synthetic liners before it reused by the plant, or it goes for beneficial use to irrigate crops. A monitoring well network is managed in connection with the Waste Discharge requirements issued by the RWQCB and the historical analysis of these wells does not support the claims alleged. It is also important to note that the groundwater gradient in the area of the facility is understood to move towards the river and not in the direction of the residence in question. Darling is an active member of the Valley Water Collaborative (VWC) and is committed to helping find solutions for the historical nitrate and salt issues in the region which were potentially influenced by hundreds of years of agricultural and food production related activity. The work by the VWC is being driven by the RWQCB under the CV-SALTS initiative. Of the many actions required under this initiative the VWC provides access to free potable water and private well testing. Upon our request, the VWC has reviewed the applications for the free services offered and it does not appear that an application has been submitted from property neighboring the facility. Note that landowners must approve well testing before any work can proceed.*

### **3. WATER**

There is a foul odor, similar to rotten eggs- but worse, that comes from the water. Again, the tap water is supplied by domestic well. The water table clearly contaminated by the pollutants deposited back to the soil which never were intended to filter by sediment alone.

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We realize that we are a small collective of concerned citizens, and that our discomfort may seem negligible amid the alleged benefits of rendering. We may be a necessary expense; however, please consider the millions of people affected by contamination of the San Joaquin river. Even if there is not direct waste deposit into the river (that we can prove), the ground contamination is certainly infecting the water table. Millions of Californians depend on the San Joaquin River, and globally billions of people are connected by the produce and livestock grown in the Central Valley .

- *PLEASE NOTICE THE FOLLOWING PHOTOS OF 6 DIFFERENT SKIN RELATED BACTERIA INFECTIONS SHOWING CORRELATION AND CAUSATION SINCE EVIDENCE OF THE SAME BACTERIA WAS FOUND IN A CULTURE OF EACH WOUND AND THE WATER SUPPLY.*

*See the comments in the SOIL section above. Note that the facility does not discharge to the San Joaquin River and the treated wastewater is reused onsite or goes to beneficial use for crop irrigation, and all these activities are regulated by the RWQCB.*

You all have the unique responsibility of affecting directly the future of the County- and the State- by choosing carefully the projects that are *necessary, economically beneficial, and fundamentally sound within a sustainable framework*. From information provided by parties who have vested, personal , financial interest in the project they are proposing and your own subjective logic you must actually discern without bias the very best choices for the community at large. It is not always easy to foresee events or consequences, especially when you are armed with information that is procured by and for the same party.

#### **CONSIDER JUST A COUPLE OF MORE POINTS:**

##### **1. IF IT'S NOT BROKE, WHY FIX IT?**

The proposed plan aims to increase production roughly 200,000 lbs/day: from 1,675,000 lbs/day to 1.850,000 lbs/day by updating machine technology and changing the process from "batch" to "continuous".

The effect is an increase in production of 125 cattle day, from 1024 to 1149.

*The proposed project includes a process change from batch processing to continuous processing which will enhance our processing efficiencies resulting in the ability to run more production daily and shorten the timeframe for raw materials to be staged before entering the conversion process. The project will also allow for the segregation of certain byproducts for processing in a species specific way, which can add more value to the finished fats and proteins produced. Currently most of the fats produced are used as feedstock in Darlings renewable fuel business and the proteins are used in organic fertilizer and animal feed. The planet's population continues to grow and so does food production. As animal growers and*

*slaughter operations continue to expand to meet the increasing world demand for food the services provided by Darling must also grow to keep pace.*

Now consider that: “For the last 2 years, the facility has processed an average of approximately 775,000 lb/day, with approximately 82 one-way trips (41 round trips) associated with raw material delivery and finished product shipment. “

Meaning, the factory can still accommodate approximately 62 one-way trips per day or 900,000 lb/day (562 cattle) within their **current operating capacity**. So, the factory has the ability and flexibility, as well as operating authority, to INCREASE production 5x more than they are expecting to do if they expand their plant SIMPLY BY OPERATING at FULL CAPACITY- no construction, no expansion, no 24 hr continuous rendering necessary.

We are quite familiar with the rendering cycle, whereby the process is prepped during the week and day time hours mostly for weekend operation (so that the human employees are spared exposure to the noxious odors and harmful effects of the actual rendering). The dramatic difference between plant operation daily and on weekends is palpable. (Again, I will it were possible to video smells).

WHY BUILD BUILDINGS, CHANGE EQUIPMENT, RAMP PRODUCTION to increase just 125 cattle /day- when the CURRENT model can already accommodate an increase in production up to 562/ cattle day? Just operating at capacity would increase the production almost 5 fold.

WHY NOT JUST OPERATE AT CAPACITY?

*The current permitted capacity of the facility is 1,650,000 lbs/day and the proposed upgrades will expand the permitted capacity to 1,850,000 lbs/day. The 1,850,000 lbs/day is the projected processing capacity needed to meet the demands being made by our customers. The production process typically begins on a Monday when the byproducts begin to arrive at the facility. Processing of the byproducts commences the same day and continues until Saturday when customer production ceases. Animal mortalities are not on a schedule and slaughter operations, depending on their customer demands, can extend their slaughter schedules beyond what can be accommodated over a 5-Day week. There is no scenario where Darling holds incoming byproducts for processing only on the weekends.*

## 2. **History and Track Record: A GROSS ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTER**

Below are results from searching well known government agencies regulating safety, and environment- just under “Darling Ingredients” (consider the vast number of smaller companies Darling has absorbed, and the the technical re-facing from Darling Ingredients to Darling International, and there is logical reason to conclude that avoidable violations under the same management likely did occur)

1. QSHA has documented 47 violations between 9/2017 and 7/2022.
2. EPA has documented 21 Air Violations and 4 Water Violations since 1985

Consider the multiple violations Darling has amassed across the country: California, New York, Minnesota, Michigan, New Jersey, Kentucky, Texas. Consider also that there are repeated same violations in the same areas: direct evidence that the company would rather violate and pay the minimal fine, than protect the environment or ecology where they operate. The fact that they have thus far operated without opposition from a voice that matters in Crows Landing is a decent indicator that violations are very likely.

*If they will violate after being caught, they will certainly violate while they are not being checked.*

The short term advantage for a planning commission must surely be the fees for permitting. The long term impact of a poor decision could be the incurred cost of soil regeneration (if possible), water de-contamination (if possible), and multiple measures and restrictions to get a handle on air pollution.

Instead of the short term benefit of permit fees, try testing the water, soil and air around Darling. Guaranteed, ***the fines from environmental violations will vastly exceed the fees that can be collected from permits.***

***Moreover, enforced compliance will dramatically improve Stanislaus County and Turlock Water District water quality.*** After the recent article claiming the worst water in the State is in the Central Valley and that “millions of Californians will experience long term health risks” as a consequence of exposure”, it would certainly couldn’t hurt.

*Darling is a global company with over 230 operations on 5 continents. As such the Company is a party to various lawsuits, claims and loss contingencies arising in the ordinary course of its business. When compliance issues arise, which are often associated with human error, mechanical failure, or other circumstances, we take immediate action to facilitate a resolution. We are committed to providing a safe and healthy workplace for our employees and to comply with all applicable environmental rules and regulations. To accomplish this, we consistently strive to improve our programs, practices, services, products and compliance. This commitment is in the best interest of our employees, customers, suppliers, shareholders, and the communities in which we operate.*

AGAIN, thank you kindly for this opportunity to voice our experiences and concerns. We certainly recognize the formidable opponent that is the Meat Industry and Big Corporation Old Money. We would have moved years ago, if we didn’t love our house. Everything but the air, soil, and water is great. Please consider that the increased operation is of such insignificant benefit to the community- but such significant nuisance to the environment and ecology and DO NOT APPROVE THE PERMIT.

Signed by:

(Leah Summers, Shannon Summers, Joe Summers, Kevin Thomas, Dillon J Smith, Dennis Antez, Josh Oneall, Ashley Maia, Sebastian J. Charles, Clifford Hollis, LGuy, Allison Saunders, Zack Patrick, Jeffery Moore, Andrea Rodriguez, Liza Cars, DR Murphy, Jesus Mendoza, Courtney Capilla, Steven Murphy, Jay Brackett, Sean Foster, Sara Crawford, Jake Wickham, John Layton, David Chapa, Helen Tibone, Brian Thompson, Alfredo N.

Respectfully,

---

## Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

11 January 2021

William R. McMurty  
Darling Ingredients, Inc.  
251 O'Conner Ridge Blvd, Suite 300  
Irving, TX 75038

Sent via email only:  
bmcmurtry@darlingii.com

Colton Clifford  
Darling Ingredients, Inc.  
P.O. Box 1608  
Turlock, CA 95381

Sent via email only:  
cclifford@darlingii.com

### ***REPORT OF 22 SEPTEMBER 2020 INSPECTION, DARLING INTERNATIONAL RENDERING PLANT, STANISLAUS COUNTY***

The Darling International Rendering Plant Wastewater Treatment and Disposal Facility is regulated by the Central Valley Regional Water Board under Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) R5-2012-0104, and Order R5-2016-0078, which amends the WDRs.

The plant receives animal mortalities and meat processing products that include fat, bone, and offal. Waste streams at the plant include condensate from the cooker, plant cleaning wash water, boiler blowdown, reverse osmosis reject water, feather plant knockdown tower wastewater, and any overflow from a venturi system associated with the plant odor abatement system. The wastewater treatment system consists of a paddle wheel skimmer dissolved air flotation (DAF) system used to remove fats. From the primary DAF tank, the wastewater is discharged into three above ground tanks for biological treatment. From the tanks, the wastewater is pumped to a secondary DAF prior to being discharged to a series of four HDPE lined wastewater ponds. From the ponds, the wastewater can then be applied to land application areas totaling 369 acres. Figure 1 is a location map of the facility.

On 22 September 2020, Board staff conducted an inspection of facility and was accompanied by Mr. Brad Fleeman (Vice President – Southern California), Mr. Colton Clifford (General Manager), and Mr. Matthew Havens a Grade 2 Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator. A site inspection photograph log is enclosed with this letter.

The following summarizes the observations and information obtained during the inspection.

1. The facility was secured with an electronic gate and surrounding fencing (Photo 1).
2. Mr. Havens indicated that the water for the facility is provided by two water supply wells and water from the Turlock Irrigation District (TID) canal. The water from TID is also used as irrigation water on the land application areas.
3. Mr. Havens indicated that fats from the primary DAF unit are placed into a trailer and then returned to the processing plant for additional refinement.
4. The chemicals used at the at plant are magnesium hydroxide and flocculants. The magnesium hydroxide is used to control pH, and the flocculants are used to enhance solids removal from the waste stream.
5. Flows at the plant are measured by an influent flow meter, a recycle rate flow meter, and two waste return system flow meters. One of the flow meters is shown in photo 4. Mr. Havens indicated that the meters are calibrated on an annual basis.
6. Board staff observed two wastewater ponds (ponds 1A and 1B) that were unlined. Mr. Havens indicated that as allowed by the WDRs, these ponds can only be used for emergency situations. These ponds are shown in photos 15 and 16.
7. The freeboard measurements in HDPE lined wastewater ponds 2, 345, 6A and 6B ranged from 2.5 to 3 feet. The ponds are shown in photos 17 through 21.
8. Six groundwater monitoring wells (MW-1R, MW-2R, MW-3R, MW-4, MW-5, and MW-6) are present at the site. Mr. Havens indicated that all wells were locked. One of the monitoring wells is shown in photo 23.

### **Monitoring and Reporting Program**

Board staff has reviewed the first quarter 2019 through second quarter 2020, first semi-annual 2019 through first semi-annual 2020, and the 2019 annual monitoring reports. The reports include all information required by the Waste Discharge Requirements MRP. However, the following violations were identified during the review.

1. Discharge Specification F.8 of the WDRs states: *“As a means of discerning compliance with Discharge Specification F.7, the dissolved oxygen content in any wastewater pond shall not be less than 1.0 mg/L for three consecutive sampling events.”* The table below shows DO limit exceedances.



Monitoring Quarter	Date of Violation	Location	Dissolved Oxygen Concentrations (mg/L)
First Quarter 2019	28 January 2019	Pond 6A	0.7
First Quarter 2019	4 February 2019	Pond 6A	0.7
First Quarter 2019	19 February 2019	Pond 6A	0.4
First Quarter 2019	25 February 2019	Pond 6A	0.7
Second Quarter 2019	4 March 2019	Pond 6A	0.4
Second Quarter 2019	6 May 2019	Pond 6A	0.9
Second Quarter 2019	20 May 2019	Pond 6A	0.9
Third Quarter 2019	1 July 2019	Pond 6A	0.9
Third Quarter 2019	8 July 2019	Ponds 6A, 6B	0.3, 0.0
Third Quarter 2019	15 July 2019	Ponds 6A, 6B	0.6, 0.7
Third Quarter 2019	29 July 2019	Pond 6A	0.0, 0.0
Third Quarter 2019	6 August 2019	Pond 6A	0.4, 0.4
Third Quarter 2019	12 August 2019	Pond 6A	0.9, 0.4
Third Quarter 2019	19 August 2019	Pond 6A	0.4, 0.5
Third Quarter 2019	26 August 2019	Pond 6B	0.8
Third Quarter 2019	3 September 2019	Ponds 6A, 6B	0.7, 0.4
Third Quarter 2019	9 September 2019	Pond 6A	0.5, 0.7
Third Quarter 2019	16 September 2019	Pond 6A	0.8
Third Quarter 2019	23 September 2019	Pond 6A	0.7
Fourth Quarter 2019	2 October 2019	Pond 6A	0.7
Fourth Quarter 2019	7 October 2019	Pond 6A	0.8
Fourth Quarter 2019	14 October 2019	Ponds 6A, 6B	0.4, 0.6
Fourth Quarter 2019	22 October 2019	Ponds 6A, 6B	0.5, 0.6
Fourth Quarter 2019	28 October 2019	Pond 6A	0.9
First Quarter 2020	9 March 2020	Pond 345	0.6
First Quarter 2020	30 March 2020	Pond 345	0.9

2. Discharge Specification F.9 of the WDRs states: “...the operating freeboard in any pond shall never be less than two feet (measured vertically from the lowest possible point of overflow...)” The freeboard in Pond 2 during the first week in January 2020 was reported at 1.2 feet which is a violation of the WDRs.
  
3. Groundwater Limitations E.1 of the WDRs states: “Effective immediately, except as noted, release of waste constituents from any portion of the facility and land application areas shall not cause groundwater to contain total dissolved solids, chloride, nitrate nitrogen, arsenic, iron and manganese in concentrations greater than background groundwater quality.” The First Semi Annual Groundwater Monitoring Report states that TDS was reported in Monitoring Well 3R at 1600 mg/L which exceeded the 2019 calculated background limit concentration of 1,541 mg/L.

### **Requested Submittal**

By **1 March 2021**, please provide a technical report with measures being taken to the address the low dissolved oxygen levels in the wastewater ponds.

The technical report submittal shall be converted to a searchable Portable Document Format (PDF) and e-mailed to [centralvalleysacramento@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:centralvalleysacramento@waterboards.ca.gov). The e-mail shall contain the following: (a) Darling Ingredients, Inc., (b) Darling International Rendering Plant, (c) Title and Date of the Report, and (d) CIWQS Place ID No. 219116. Documents that are 50 MB or larger should be transferred to a CD, DVD, or flash drive and mailed to our office, attention "ECM Mailroom."

If you have any questions, please contact me at (916) 464-4648 or at [guy.childs@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:guy.childs@waterboards.ca.gov).



GUY CHILDS, P.G.#7671  
Engineering Geologist  
Title 27 and WDR Compliance and Enforcement Unit

Enclosure: Inspection photographs

cc: Parminder Dhillon, Stanislaus County Environmental Department of  
Environmental Resources, Modesto  
Brad Fleeman, Dar Pro Solutions, Fresno

CWIQS Inspection Report No. 41962124

CIWQS Violation ID Nos: 1083818, 1083819, 1083820, 1083821, 1083822



**Figure No. 1:** Location map of the facility (Source: Google Earth)



**Photo No. 1:** Electronically controlled access gate to the facility.



**Photo No. 2:** Looking southeast at the rendering plant.



**Photo No. 3:** Influent lift station.



**Photo No. 4:** Influent flow meter.



**Photo No. 5:** Wastewater treatment system.



**Photo No. 6:** Dissolved Air Flotation Unit.



**Photo No. 7:** Flocculation tank at the treatment system.



**Photo No. 8:** Building containing the decanter/dewatering unit and Gas Energy Mixing Flocculation and Flotation Unit.



**Photo No. 9:** Decanter/dewatering unit.



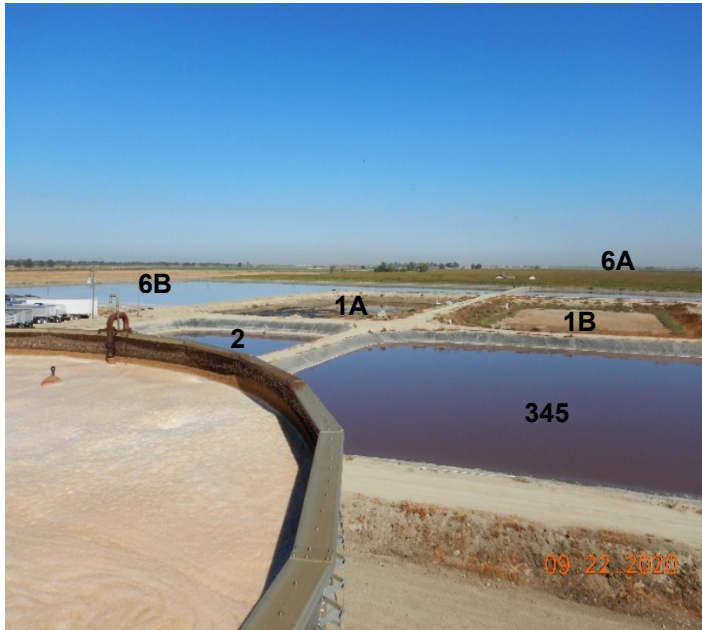
**Photo No. 10:** Clean Water Technologies, Inc – Gas Energy Mixing Flocculation and Flotation Unit.



**Photo No. 11:** Bioreactor treatment tanks. The small tank contains magnesium hydroxide.



**Photo No. 12:** Aerator operating in one of the of the bioreactor treatment tanks.



**Photo No. 13:** Looking north from a bioreactor treatment tank at the wastewater ponds 1A, 1B, 2, 345, 6A and 6B.



**Photo No. 14:** Looking northeast from a bioreactor treatment tank at the wastewater ponds.



**Photo No. 15:** Looking north at Wastewater Pond 1A.



**Photo No. 16:** Looking north at Wastewater Pond 1B.



**Photo No. 17:** Looking north at Pond 2 which is HDPE lined.



**Photo No. 18:** Looking east at Pond 345 which is HDPE lined.



**Photo No. 19:** Freeboard markings on flow structure in one of the HDPE lined ponds.



**Photo No. 20:** Looking east at wastewater pond 6A which is HDPE lined.





**Photo No. 21:** Looking west at wastewater pond 6B which is lined.



**Photo No. 22:** Looking west at portion of the Azavedo Ranch land application area.



**Photo No. 23:** One of the groundwater monitoring wells at the facility.

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Guy Childs, P.G., Engineering Geologist

**Project Findings – Darling Ingredients Inc.  
11946 Carpenter Road  
(APN 058-022-005)**

**FINDINGS FOR EXPANISON OF NON-CONFORMING USE PURSUANT TO STANISLAUS COUNTY CODE §21.80.070.**

**The proposal will not, under the circumstances of this particular case, be detrimental to the health, safety and general welfare of persons residing or working in the neighborhood of the use.** The proposal is for the same use that has successfully co-existed with persons residing or working in the same neighborhood for many decades. The proposal does not enlarge or expand uses to a level that would prove detrimental to the health, safety, or general welfare of these persons. The expansion is limited to increasing throughput and adding a modest building footprint combined with the ability to enlarge or expand uses by up to thirty percent (30%) in the future to respond to regulatory or industry changes, and customer demands. The throughput is proposed to increase from 1,650,000 lb/day to 1,850,000 lb/day. The increase in throughput does not add to conditions that would affect the health, safety or general welfare of persons residing or working near the facility. The footprint of buildings will only be increased by one (1) building of 2,160 square feet although. The increase in building footprint does not add to conditions that would detrimentally affect persons as the parcel is of adequate size for the expanded use without exacerbating any detrimental conditions. Future enlargement or expansion of uses by up to thirty percent likewise does not add to conditions that would affect the health, safety or general welfare of persons residing or working near the facility as there is sufficient capacity at the site to handle such an enlargement or expansion without exacerbating detrimental conditions. Darling operates a highly regulated business where regulation by multiple government agencies, together with the County’s land use approval process, ensures that operations are not detrimental to the health, safety and general welfare of persons in the neighborhood. See Stanislaus County Code, §21.80.070.A.1).

**The proposal will not be detrimental or injurious to property and improvements in the neighborhood or to the general welfare of persons residing or working in the neighborhood or to the general welfare of the county.** The proposal is for the same use that has successfully co-existed with neighboring property, improvements, and persons residing or working in the same neighborhood for many decades. The proposal does not enlarge or expand uses to a level that would prove detrimental or injurious to neighboring property or improvements nor to the general welfare of persons residing or working in the neighborhood. The expansion is limited to increasing throughput and adding a modest building footprint combined with the ability to enlarge or expand uses by up to thirty percent (30%) in the future to respond to regulatory or industry changes, and customer demands. The throughput is proposed to increase from 1,650,000 lb/day to 1,850,000 lb/day. The increase in throughput does not add to conditions that would be noticeable to neighboring property or improvements nor adversely affect the general welfare of persons residing or working near the facility. The footprint of buildings will only be increased by one (1) building adding ~ 2,160 square feet of footprint. This increase in building footprint does not add to conditions that would be noticeable to neighboring property or improvements nor adversely affect the general welfare of persons residing or working near the facility. Future enlargement or expansion of uses by up to thirty percent likewise does not enlarge or expand uses to a level that would prove detrimental or injurious to neighboring property or improvements nor to the general welfare of persons residing or working in the neighborhood. Darling operates a highly regulated business where regulation by multiple

government agencies, together with the County's land use approval process, ensures that operations do not have a detrimental or injurious effect to property and improvements or to the general welfare of persons in the neighborhood.

Further, the proposal is not detrimental nor injurious to the general welfare of the County. The facility provides an essential service to County's farms, and agricultural and food production businesses. . The use can be difficult to locate despite the vast improvements the industry has made in responding to modern regulation, so the general welfare of the County is served by the proposed enlargement of use at the current location so that the County's farms and agriculture and food production industries can be properly served. (See Stanislaus County Code, §21.80.070.A.2).

**The proposal is logically and reasonably related to the existing use and that the size or intensity of the enlargement, expansion, restoration or changes is not such that it would be more appropriately moved to a zoning district in which it is permitted.** The proposal is logically and reasonably related to the existing use because the proposal continues the existing use at the site, namely, as a rendering facility which has operated for many decades at the same site. The expansion is limited to increasing throughput and adding a modest building footprint combined with the ability to enlarge or expand uses by up to thirty percent (30%) in the future to respond to business or regulatory changes, and customer demands. The throughput is proposed to increase from 1,650,000 lb/day to 1,850,000 lb/day initially. The footprint of buildings will only be increased initially by one (1) building adding 2,160 square feet of footprint. Consequently, the expansion of use is appropriately located at the site that has been in service for many decades with the General Agriculture 40 Acre zoning rather than being relocated. See Stanislaus County Code, §21.80.070.A.3).

#### **STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE WITH BUFFER AND SETBACK GUIDELINES, APPENDIX A, STANISLAUS COUNTY GENERAL PLAN**

The project as proposed complies with Appendix A of the Stanislaus County General Plan setting out guidelines for buffers and setbacks between agricultural and non-agricultural uses. The purpose of the guidelines "is to protect the long-term health of local agricultural by minimizing conflicts resulting from normal agricultural practices as a consequence of . . . expanding uses approved in or adjacent to the A-2 (General Agricultural) zoning district." The project site and the parcels that surround the project site are zoned A-2 (General Agricultural). The project provides critical and necessary support to our agricultural businesses that involve animals.

Since the use requested is for an expanding use, the "Buffer and Setback Design Standards for Expanding Uses" apply as shown on the second page of Appendix A. These standards contain two requirements. First, "(w)here existing development on a project site will allow, accommodation of a buffer as required for new uses shall be provided." So, this first requirement refers to the "Buffer Design Standards for New Uses" as shown on the first and second pages of Appendix A. Second, "(w)here existing development on a project site will not allow a buffer as required for new uses, the expansion may be permitted only if it does not intensify on-site activities, or an alternative buffer and setback design standard is approved for the expansion."

Darling has submitted an AG Buffer Site Plan to show the 150-foot buffer area from the property boundaries at the site. For purposes of the discussion below, the approximate 60% of the site on the eastern portion of the project area shall be referred to as the "Farming

Area” and the approximate 40% of the site on the western portion of the project area shall be referred to as the “Facilities and Pond Area”. The site complies with the buffer requirements as follows:

**NORTH:** the northern buffer area consists of farming in the Farming Area and water ponds in the Facilities and Ponds Area. The farming operation grows a variety of seasonal row crops (no orchards or vineyards) utilizing some of the water reclaimed from our processes. The pond areas are low people intensive uses” like those listed in Section 1) a of the Buffer Design Standards for New Uses.

**EAST:** the eastern buffer area consists of farming in the Farming Area. The farming operation grows a variety of seasonal row crops (no orchards or vineyards) utilizing some of the water reclaimed from our processes.

**SOUTH:** the southern buffer consists of a combination of road right-of-way (Harding Road), a Turlock Irrigation District (“TID”) drainage canal/channel, a dirt road and farming in the Farming Area and a combination of road right-of-way (Harding Road), the TID drainage canal/channel, bare ground, and various facilities in the Facilities and Ponds Area. The farming operation grows a variety of seasonal row crops (no orchards or vineyards) utilizing some of the water reclaimed from our processes for irrigation. The road-right-of way, TID drainage canal/channel, dirt road, bare ground and much of the activities in the Facilities and Ponds Area are low people intensive uses.

**WEST:** the western buffer area consists of the Carpenter Road right-of-way and a pond in the northern portion of this western boundary and consists of the Carpenter Road right-of-way, utilities, bare ground, landscaping, parking, and facilities such as a fire water supply tank. The road right-of-way, pond, utilities, bare ground, landscaping, parking, and facilities are low people intensive uses.

The Facilities and Ponds Area has a six-foot chain link fence around its western, northern, and eastern perimeter.

###

**SUMMARY OF RESPONSES FOR ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW REFERRALS**

**PROJECT: USE PERMIT APPLICATION NO. PLN2021-0102 - DARLING INGREDIENTS, INC.**

REFERRED TO:	PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE			RESPONDED		RESPONSE			MITIGATION MEASURES		CONDITIONS	
	2 WK	30 DAY		YES	NO	WILL NOT HAVE SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	MAY HAVE SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	NO COMMENT NON CEQA	YES	NO	YES	NO
CA DEPT OF FISH & WILDLIFE	X	X	X		X			X		X		X
CA OPR STATE CLEARINGHOUSE	X	X	X		X			X		X		X
CA RWQCB CENTRAL VALLEY REGION	X	X	X	X				X		X	X	
CITY OF: TURLOCK	X	X	X	X				X		X		X
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION	X	X	X		X			X		X		X
FIRE PROTECTION DIST: MT VIEW FIRE	X	X	X		X			X		X		X
GSA: WEST TURLOCK SUBBASIN GSA	X	X	X		X			X		X		X
IRRIGATION DISTRICT: TURLOCK	X	X	X	X				X		X	X	
MOSQUITO DISTRICT: TURLOCK	X	X	X		X			X		X		X
MT VALLEY EMERGENCY MEDICAL	X	X	X		X			X		X		X
PACIFIC GAS & ELECTRIC	X	X	X		X			X		X		X
SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY APCD	X	X	X	X		X				X	X	
SCHOOL DISTRICT 1: CHATOM UNIFIED	X	X	X		X			X		X		X
SCHOOL DISTRICT 2: TURLOCK UNIFIED	X	X	X		X			X		X		X
STAN CO AG COMMISSIONER	X	X	X	X				X		X		X
STAN CO BUILDING PERMITS DIVISION	X	X	X		X			X		X		X
STAN CO CEO	X	X			X			X		X		X
STAN CO DER	X	X	X	X		X				X	X	
STAN CO ERC	X	X	X	X				X		X		X
STAN CO FARM BUREAU	X	X	X		X			X		X		X
STAN CO HAZARDOUS MATERIALS	X	X	X	X		X				X	X	
STAN CO PUBLIC WORKS	X	X	X	X				X		X	X	
STAN CO SHERIFF	X	X	X		X			X		X		X
STAN CO SUPERVISOR DIST 2: CHIESA	X	X	X		X			X		X		X
STAN COUNTY COUNSEL	X	X	X		X			X		X		X
STANISLAUS FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU	X	X	X		X			X		X		X
STANISLAUS LAFCO	X	X	X		X			X		X		X
SURROUNDING LAND OWNERS		X	X		X			X		X		X
TELEPHONE COMPANY: AT&T	X	X	X		X			X		X		X
US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS	X	X	X		X			X		X		X
CA DEPT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE		X	X		X			X		X		X
WATER DISTRICT: TURLOCK	X	X	X		X			X		X		X

I:\Planning\Staff Reports\UP\2021\PLN2021-0102 - Darling Ingredients Inc\Planning Commission\September 15, 2022\Staff Report\Exhibit M - Summary of Responses - Environmental Review Referrals