

NOTICE OF PREPARATION

To: Interested Persons

From: Stanislaus County
Department of Planning and Community Development
1010 10th Street, Suite 3400
Modesto, CA 95354
(209) 525-6330

Contact: Joshua Mann, Associate Planner

Subject: Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Foster Farms Dairy 4 Expansion project – SCH# 2007042083

Stanislaus County will be the Lead Agency and will prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the proposed Foster Farms Dairy 4 Expansion project as described in the attached Initial Study. We need to know the views of interested persons and organizations as to the scope and content of the environmental information to be included in the EIR. Agencies should comment on the scope and content of the environmental information that is within the agency's statutory responsibilities in connection with the proposed project.

The project description, location, and the probable environmental effects are contained in the attached materials. A copy of the Initial Study is attached. Please note that copies of all project related documents can be obtained at the Department of Planning and Community Development.

Due to the time limits mandated by state law, your response must be sent at the earliest possible date, but **not later than 30 days** after receipt of this notice.

Please send your response to Joshua Mann, Associate Planner, at the Stanislaus County address shown above. If an organization or agency, please include the name of a contact person so that we have the ability to contact you further during the EIR preparation process.

Project Title: Foster Farms Dairy 4 Expansion

Project Location: Denair & Hickman Stanislaus
nearest communities *County*

Project Applicant: Foster Dairy Farms
415 Kansas Avenue
Modesto, CA 95351

Scoping Meeting: A public scoping meeting will be held on February 5, 2008 at 5:30 P.M. at the Denair Senior Center, located at 3756 Alameda Avenue in Denair, to take comments regarding the scope of the EIR to be prepared.

Date: _____ **Signature:** _____

Joshua Mann

cc: State Clearinghouse

PROJECT DESCRIPTION / LOCATION

The project description and location of the proposed Foster Farms Dairy 4 Expansion project are set forth in the attached Initial Study.

POTENTIAL AREAS OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

An initial evaluation of the proposed Foster Farms Dairy 4 Expansion project indicates that the project has the potential to result in significant adverse effects on the environment for the following issue areas:

- Air Quality
- Hazards (Nuisance Insects)
- Hydrology and Water Quality

The Environmental Impact Report will concentrate upon the impacts associated with these areas. In addition to the above, the Foster Farms Dairy 4 Expansion EIR will also include analysis of project alternatives and cumulative effects.

INITIAL STUDY AND ENVIRONMENTAL EVALUATION

Project Title: Foster Farms Dairy 4 Expansion

Lead Agency Entitlements Requested: Use Permit

Lead Agency Name and Address: Stanislaus County
Planning and Community Development Department
1010 10th Street, Suite 3400, 3rd Floor
Modesto, CA 95354

Contact Person and Phone Number: Joshua Mann, Associate Planner
Phone: (209) 525-6330

General Plan Designation: Agriculture

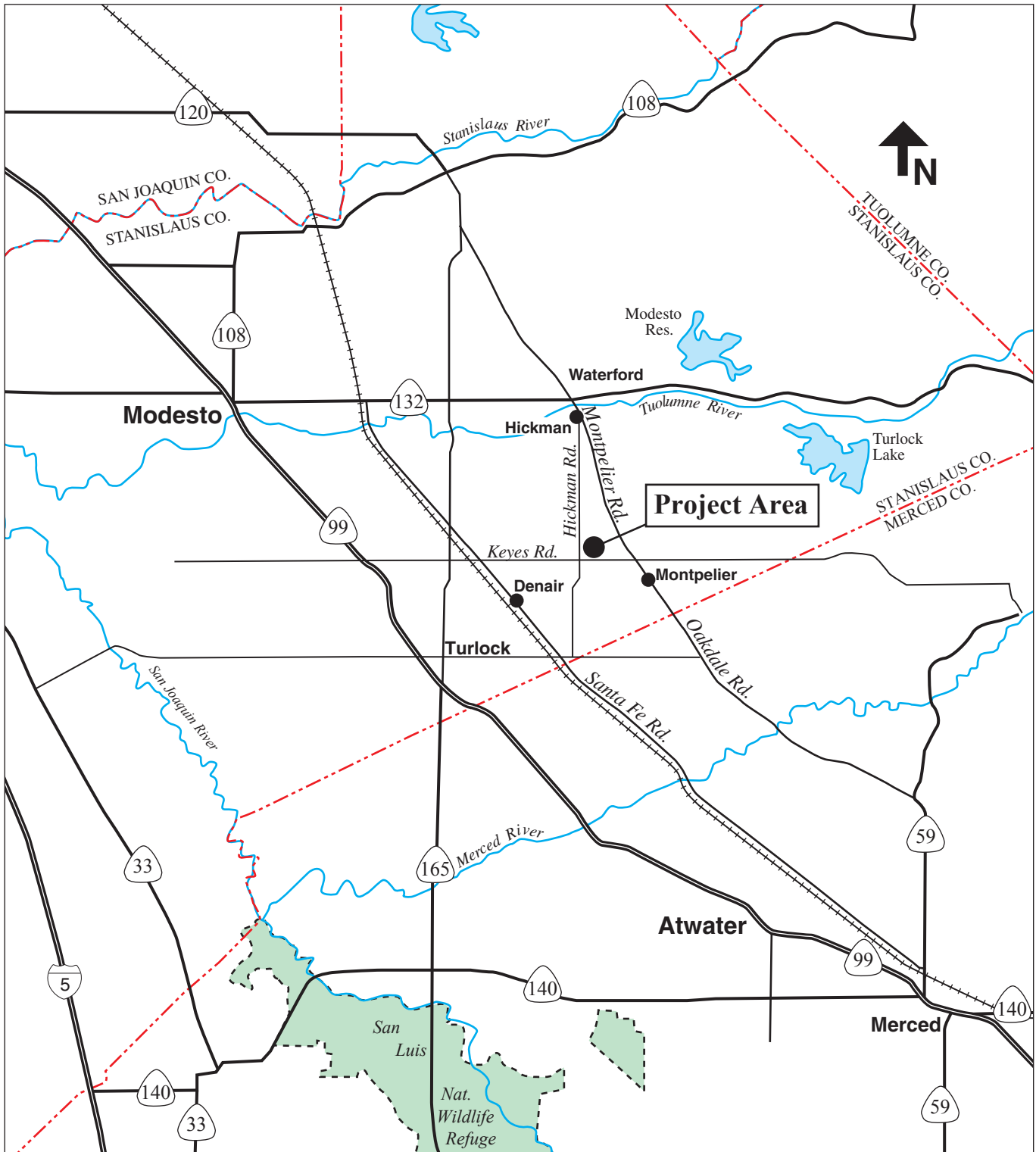
Zoning: General Agriculture District (A-2-40)

1. DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT

The project under evaluation in this Initial Study (IS) is the expansion of an existing dairy near the communities of Hickman and Denair in Stanislaus County.

LOCATION

The existing Foster Farms Dairy 4 and the proposed expansion are located on an approximate 38-acre portion of two larger parcels in an unincorporated area of Stanislaus County on the northeast corner of the intersection of Hickman Road and E. Keyes Road, south of Hickman and northeast of Denair. The project's location is within the central California region as shown in Figure 1, *Regional Location*. The existing and proposed expanded active dairy facilities of the Foster Farms Dairy 4 are located on two parcels, identified as Stanislaus County Assessor's Parcel Numbers 019-041-032 (322 acres) and 019-041-033 (288 acres) (See Figure 2). The remainder of the two parcels listed above would continue to be used for the application of manure process water and the growth of forage crops. The project site is located in Sections 22 and 27, Township 4 South, Range 11 East, Mount Diablo Base and Meridian.



SOURCE: Planning Partners, August 2007

Foster Farms Dairy 4 Expansion

Figure 1
Regional Location



SOURCE: Planning Partners, August 2007
Not to scale

Foster Farms Dairy 4 Expansion

Figure 2

Project Vicinity



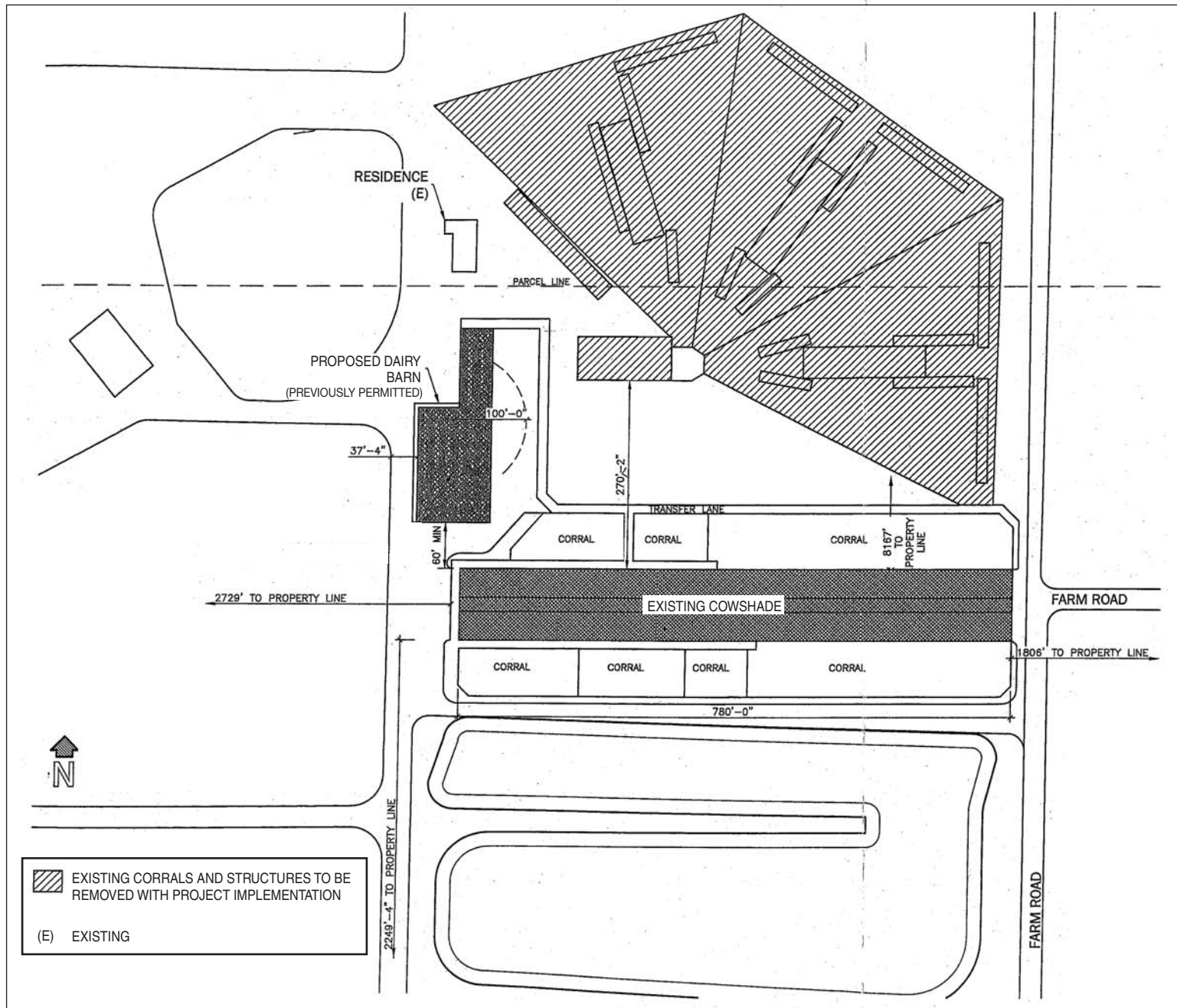
EXISTING CONDITIONS

The dairy has been operating on the site since the mid 1960s; no previous environmental analysis has been conducted for the dairy, nor have any County Use Permits been obtained. The facility has been operating as a pre-existing use (e.g., a use that predated the requirement of the Stanislaus County Zoning Ordinance for a Use Permit). The existing facility includes freestalls, corrals, a dairy barn, onsite residences, two settling basins and wastewater lagoons, and other operational areas and facilities. A new freestall barn has been constructed along the southern edge of the area of active dairy facilities, and permitting requirements for the proposed new dairy barn have been completed. The dairy currently houses 720 animals, including approximately 630 milk cows and 90 dry cows. The animal confinement facility is located on a 38-acre portion of two larger parcels. The project sponsor applies liquid or dry manure to a total of approximately 525 acres of cultivated land in the project vicinity (see Figure 2).

According to Stanislaus County Zoning Code, expansion of the facility as proposed requires that a Use Permit be obtained for the proposed expansion, since the Regional Water Quality Control Board requires compliance with CEQA for issuance of Waste Discharge Requirements for the facility expansion (Stanislaus County Code Section 21.20.030 F).

Adjacent existing land uses to the project site include a dairy and irrigated agriculture to the north; an almond orchard and several residences to the east; E. Keyes Road, poultry houses, a dairy, irrigated agriculture, almond orchards, and residences to the south; and almond orchards and residences to the west. Scattered rural residences are located in the general area of the project; most are associated with agricultural operations. The nearest offsite residences are located approximately 1,380 feet to the south (this residence is associated with the Foster Farms poultry ranch) and approximately 2,870 feet to the southwest from wastewater lagoons and ponds. There are two residences and two mobile homes located onsite associated with the existing dairy operations (see Figure 2). While these residences previously have been permitted, because several of the permits predate the establishment of the County's current zoning code, the County must determine whether any additional permitting for these residences is necessary to be included in the overall project Use Permit application. This will be included in the project description to be evaluated in the EIR.

Project details such as adjacent land uses and cropping patterns could change over the course of evaluation and from those existing at the time of this Initial Study; however, these changes would consist of agricultural and ancillary uses consistent with the Stanislaus County General Plan and would not affect the analysis contained in this Initial Study.



SOURCE: Valley Mountain Systems, July 2004
 Planning Partners, August 2007

Foster Farms Dairy 4 Expansion

Figure 3
 Existing Facilities

SURROUNDING LAND USES AND SETTING

Location	Land Use	General Plan	Zoning
ONSITE	Dairy / Irrigated agriculture / residences	Agricultural	General Agricultural A-2
NORTH	Dairy / irrigated agriculture	Agricultural	General Agricultural A-2
EAST	Almond orchard / residences	Agricultural	General Agricultural A-2
SOUTH	E. Keyes Road / Poultry houses / Dairy / Irrigated agriculture / almond orchards / residences	Agricultural	General Agricultural A-2
WEST	Almond orchard / residences	Agricultural	General Agricultural A-2

PROJECT CHARACTERISTICS

The project sponsor has applied for a Use Permit (defined below) to expand an existing dairy by adding three free stall barns and a special needs barn so that the modified dairy would house a total of 2,400 animals. This would represent an increase of 1,680 cows from existing numbers. All construction would occur within the existing footprint of the facility on land that has previously been graded for construction of the existing barns and corrals. Demolition of existing shade structures, open corrals, and a dairy barn would occur with project implementation (see Figure 3). No other modifications of the existing facility would be necessary to house the proposed increased herd. No additional irrigation facilities would be required. The locations of these proposed facilities are shown on Figure 4 and Figure 5.

Wastewater from dairy operations is currently piped into two settling basins and a retention lagoon. Available storage capacity within setting basins is estimated at approximately 359,000 cubic feet (approx. 2.6 million gallons) each, assuming two feet of freeboard. The existing settling basins and retention lagoon would not be increased in size with the proposed expansion. After solids are settled from the wastewater, wastewater effluent is transferred to the wastewater lagoon. The wastewater lagoon capacity is approximately 3.3 million cubic feet (approximately 24.7 million gallons). Wastewater is either re-circulated for use within dairy facilities or mixed with irrigation water and applied to the cropland.

Animal wastes from freestall and other concrete-surfaced areas are flushed to an onsite waste management system, except for solid manure within corral areas, which is scraped. The waste management system consists of a series of settling basins (to remove solids), a lagoon to store wastewater, and pipelines and irrigation facilities to apply the wastewater to irrigated crops on the remainder of the project site. Wastewater is mixed with irrigation water and applied to the land. There are 525 acres that are available for disposal of dairy wastewater and dry manure. Of the 525 acres, 308 acres are double cropped as corn silage and triticale. The remaining 217 acres are cropped with alfalfa, and currently are not being used for wastewater disposal. Receiving fields are graded to guide excess applied wastewater to an existing tailwater recovery system. Collected tailwater is recycled and used to complete irrigations (see Figure 4).

Dry animal wastes are scraped from the dairy site and collected from the settling basin several times annually or as needed. There is no mechanical manure separation system in place. All collected dry

wastes are maintained onsite. Solid manure is spread on adjacent fields for fertilizer or composted for use as animal bedding.

All crops grown onsite are utilized for the growth of dairy feed crops, and supplement imported grain and hay. Silage for feed is produced by fermenting green crops, together with supplemental agricultural materials, molasses, and other additives. Hay storage and the feed staging area for the dairy occurs offsite, at facilities located directly north of the project site.

The dairy currently employs a staff of 7 workers. With implementation of the proposed project, because of labor saving devices included in the dairy improvements, there would be no increase in the number of employees.

Circulation and Parking

Milk is collected from the dairy by tanker truck. Currently, the storage of concentrates, alfalfa hay, wheat hay, and most of the silage products occurs at Dairy 5 located north of the project site. These products are mixed in feed trucks at Dairy 5, and fed to both dairies from the same mixed loads. With the Dairy 4 Expansion project, the mixed loads would decrease and only full loads would go to the project site via Hickman Road and internal roadways. Therefore, feed and commodity deliveries would increase very slightly with the dairy expansion. Similarly, the milk truck splits loads with other Foster Farms dairies so that full loads are delivered to the creamery. With the proposed expansion, the dairy facility would have the capacity to store milk so that full truckloads could be scheduled and the need for partial loads would be eliminated. All trips access Hickman Road via an existing onsite driveway (see Figure 6). No modification of Hickman Road is proposed by the project. Regional access for the project site is via State Routes (SR) 99 or 132 (see Figure 1).

As stated above, no modifications of County roadways are proposed as part of this project; however, the County may require dedication of right-of-way along the entire project parcel on both Hickman and Keyes Roads for future roadway improvements. This dedication would provide adequate right-of-way to Stanislaus County to provide 40 feet north of the existing centerline of Keyes Road and 40 feet east of Hickman Road along the parcel's frontage. The potential environmental effects of potential roadway improvements in the dedicated frontage will be evaluated in this IS and in the EIR for the project.

PROJECT PHASING

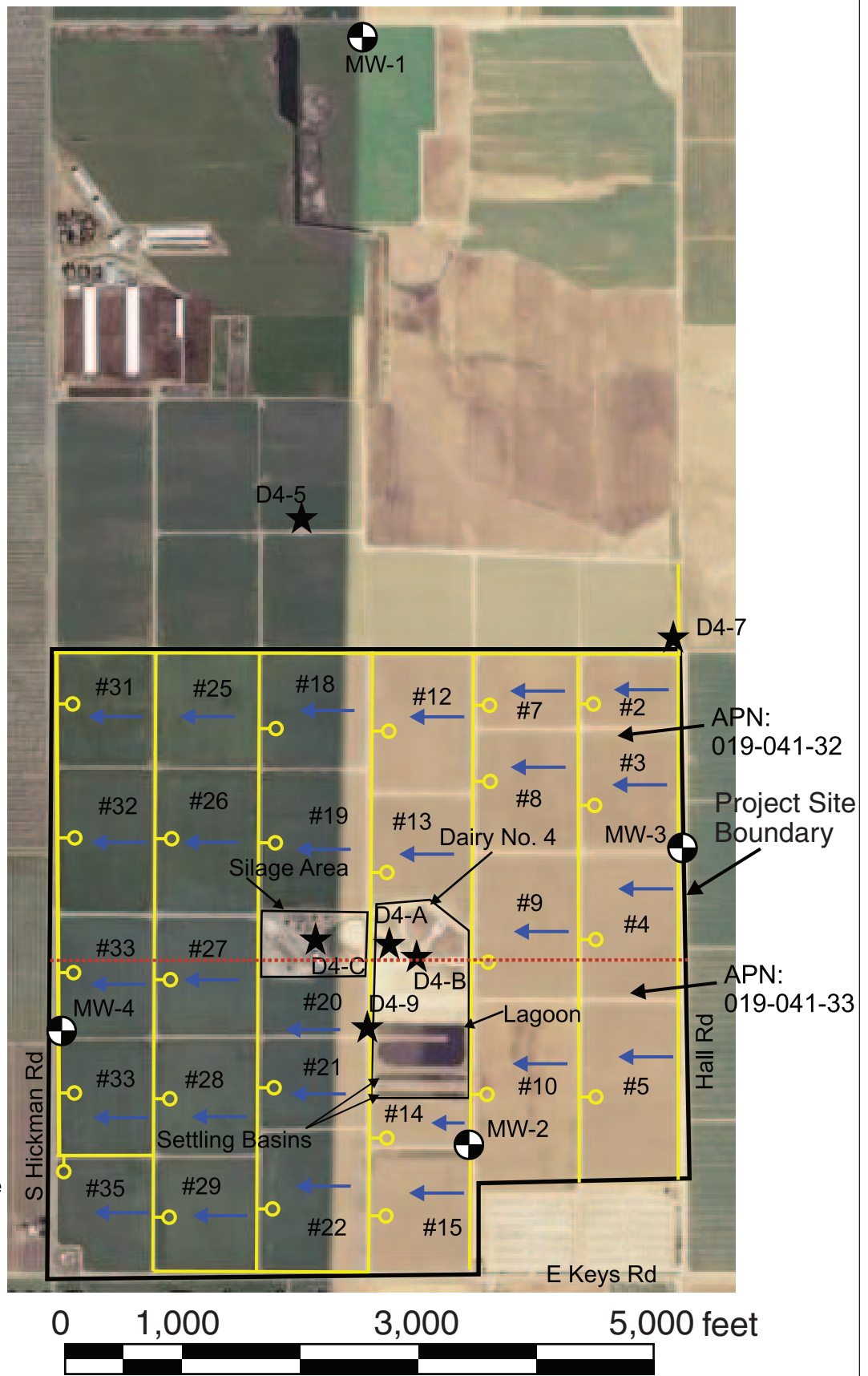
Construction of the new freestalls is scheduled to begin during summer 2008, with expanded operations to begin in winter 2008. The project would be constructed in a single phase.

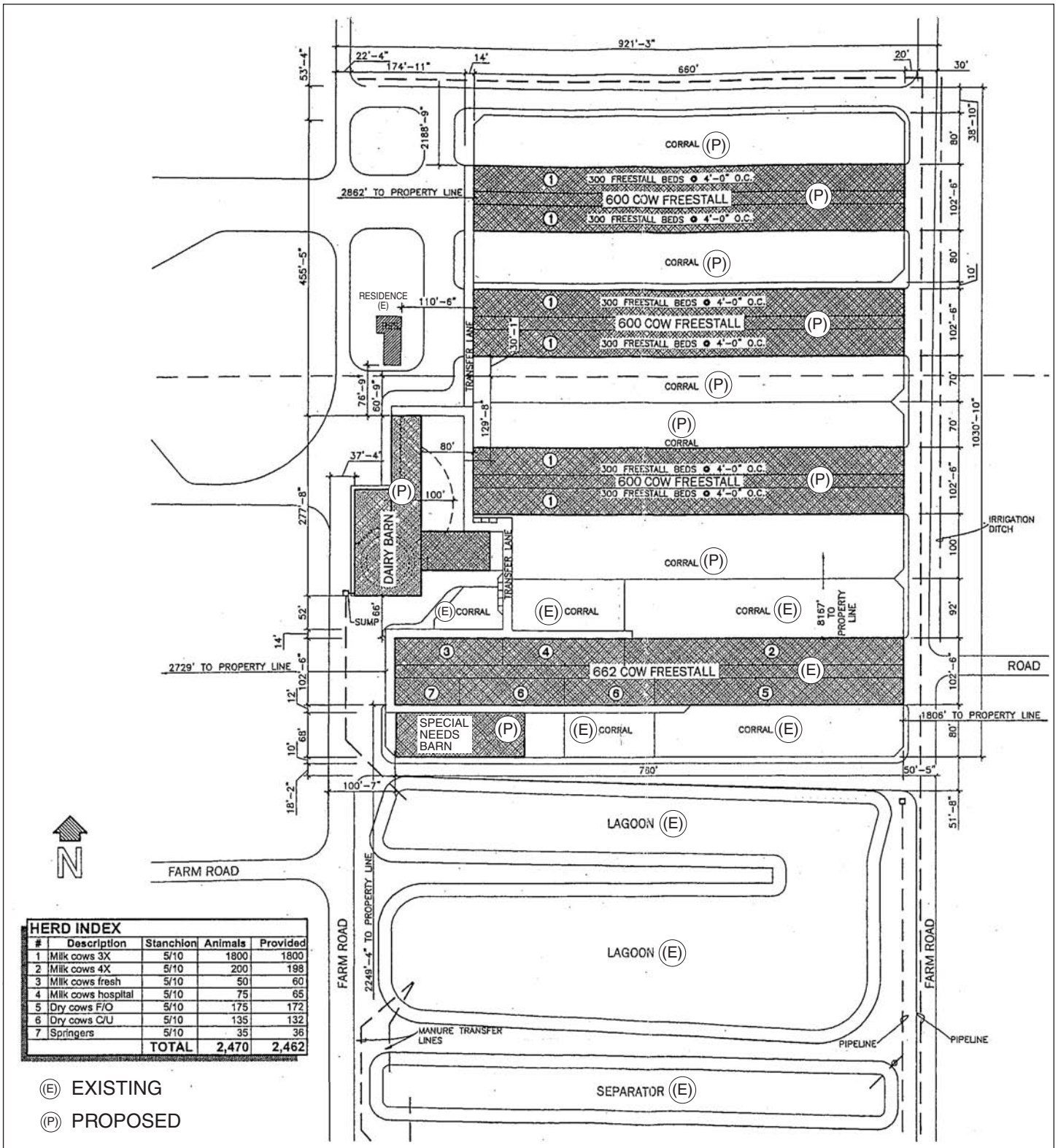
Cropable Acres	
Field No.	Acreage
#2	11.5 Ac
#3	19.0 Ac
#4	22.8 Ac
#5	28.9 Ac
#7	12.4 Ac
#8	19.7 Ac
#9	24.0 Ac
#10	31.8 Ac
#12	23.0 Ac
#13	17.8 Ac
#14	7.3 Ac
#15	20.6 Ac
#18	19.3 Ac
#19	23.5 Ac
#20	10.0 Ac
#21	15.2 Ac
#22	23.9 Ac
#25	19.1 Ac
#26	23.8 Ac
#27	19.5 Ac
#28	19.5 Ac
#29	19.0 Ac
#31	17.7 Ac
#32	22.4 Ac
#33	18.4 Ac
#34	18.1 Ac
#35	16.4 Ac
Total:	524.6 Ac

Dairy Facility Acres	
Silage Area	10.9 Ac
Dairy No. 4	28.9 Ac
Total:	39.8 Ac

Legend

- Monitoring Wells
- Irrigation and Domestic Wells
- Dairy 4 Tailwater Return Collection
- Dairy 4 Irrigation Pipe (Manure Mix)
- Irrigation Flow





SOURCE: Valley Mountain Systems, November 2004

Foster Farms Dairy 4 Expansion
Figure 5
Conceptual Dairy Plan



SOURCE: Planning Partners, November 2007

Foster Farms Dairy 4 Expansion

Figure 6
Foster Farms Dairy 4 Circulation

REQUIRED APPROVALS

A listing and brief description of the regulatory permits and approvals required to implement the proposed project is provided below. This environmental document is intended to address the environmental impacts associated with all of the following decision actions and approvals.

Stanislaus County

- Preparation and approval of an Environmental Impact Report - Stanislaus County will act as the lead agency as defined by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), and will have authority to determine if the Environmental Impact Report is adequate under CEQA.
- Approval of the Use Permit - Stanislaus County will require a "Use Permit" for the proposed dairy expansion project (Stanislaus County Zoning Code 21.20.030 F). The Use Permit must be approved by the Stanislaus County Planning Commission. However, any Planning Commission decision may be appealed to the Board of Supervisors. Use Permits are discretionary permits for uses of land that require special review to ensure that they are compatible with the neighborhood and surrounding residences. They are considered more likely to affect surrounding residences than uses permitted by right in a zoning district.

San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District

- Authority to Construct / Permit to Operate – The owner or operator of any facility or activity (including agricultural activities) that emits criteria air pollutants or their precursors above certain thresholds must first obtain an Authority to Construct from the SJVAPCD. All new sources exceeding thresholds will be required to apply for an Authority to Construct (ATC) and Permit to Operate (PTO); this essentially is one permit that is issued in two steps. The applicant first obtains an ATC with specific conditions for implementation during construction; then an inspection is completed and, if all the conditions of the ATC are met during construction, the applicant is issued a PTO. Beyond the ATC and PTO, preparation of an Air Quality Impact Assessment (AQIA) would be required, in addition to compliance with other district regulations.
- Conservation Management Practices (CMP) Plan – The owner or operator of any agricultural facility of 100 acres or more, or an animal confinement facility in excess of 500 mature cows (for a dairy operation), must submit a CMP plan to the SJVAPCD prior to June 30, 2004 for existing uses, and prior to operation for proposed uses. The CMP Plan requires that farm operators implement dust reduction practices for each of the following categories: harvest; unpaved roads; unpaved equipment/vehicle yards; and, other. One CMP Plan must be submitted for each crop currently grown or that will be grown within the two-year time frame of each Plan.

State of California – State Water Resources Control Board

- General Construction Activity (NPDES General Permit No. 99-08-DWQ) – The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) has adopted a General Construction Activity Storm Water Permit for storm water discharges associated with any construction activity, including clearing, grading, excavation, reconstruction, and dredge and fill activities, that results in the disturbance of at least one acre of total land area. This permit requires the preparation and implementation of a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP). The purpose of the SWPPP is to detail those measures that will be undertaken to prevent potential impacts to water quality during construction.

State of California – Regional Water Quality Control Board - Central Valley Region - Waste Discharge Requirements / NPDES Permit

- The owner or operator of any facility or activity that discharges, or proposes to discharge, waste that may affect groundwater quality or from which waste may be discharged in a diffused manner (e.g., erosion from soil disturbance) must first obtain a waste discharge requirements permit (WDR) from the RWQCB. The RWQCB regulates discharges from dairies and other confined animal facilities according to the anti-degradation requirements of the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act and the Water Quality Control Plan for the Sacramento River and San Joaquin River Basins (Basin Plan).

PURPOSE AND LEGAL BASIS FOR THE INITIAL STUDY

As a public disclosure document, this Initial Study also provides local decision makers and the public with information regarding the environmental impacts associated with the proposed project. According to Section 15063 of the CEQA Guidelines, the purpose of an Initial Study is to:

1. Provide the Lead Agency with information to use as the basis for deciding whether to prepare an EIR or a Negative Declaration.
2. Enable an applicant or Lead Agency to modify a project, mitigating adverse impacts before an EIR is prepared, thereby enabling the project to qualify for a Negative Declaration.
3. Assist in the preparation of an EIR, if one is required by:
 - a. Focusing the EIR on the effects determined to be significant,
 - b. Identifying the effects determined not to be significant,
 - c. Explaining the reasons for determining that potentially significant effects would not be significant, and
 - d. Identifying whether a program EIR, tiering, or another appropriate process can be used for analysis of the project's environmental effects.
4. Facilitate environmental assessment early in the design of a project.
5. Provide documentation of the factual basis for the finding in a Negative Declaration that a project will not have a significant effect on the environment.
6. Eliminate unnecessary EIRs.
7. Determine whether a previously prepared EIR could be used with the project.

INITIAL ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

Following each major category in the Initial Study are four determinations by which to judge the project's impact. These categories and their meanings are shown below:

“No Impact” means that it is anticipated that the project will not affect the physical environment on or around the project site. It therefore does not warrant mitigation measures.

“Less-than-Significant Impact” means the project is anticipated to affect the physical environment on and around the project site, however to a less-than-significant degree, and therefore not warranting mitigation measures.

“Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated” applies to impacts where the incorporation of mitigation measures into a project has reduced an effect from “Potentially Significant” to “Less Than Significant”. In such cases, and with such projects, mitigation measures will be provided including a brief explanation of how they reduce the effect to a less-than-significant level.

“Potentially Significant Impact” means there is substantial evidence that an effect is significant, and no mitigation is possible.

2. 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 Resources | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Air Quality |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Biological Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Geological / Soils |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hazards & Hazardous Materials | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hydrology / Water Quality | <input type="checkbox"/> Land Use / Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mineral Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Noise | <input type="checkbox"/> Population and Housing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public Services | <input type="checkbox"/> Recreation | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation / Traffic |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Utilities / Service Systems | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mandatory Findings of Significance | |

I. AESTHETICS:

Would the project:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
c) Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>

Question a: The project site is currently in agricultural use (agricultural crops and an existing dairy) and surrounded by agricultural uses and associated residences. Viewers are limited to motorists on perimeter roadways and residents of surrounding agricultural facilities and operations. No important scenic resources are located on the project site.

Question b, c: No scenic vista or state- or locally-designated scenic highway is visible from the project site; nor is the site visible from any nearby scenic vista or designated scenic highway (Caltrans 2007). Developed agricultural facilities in the vicinity range from irrigated pasture to confined animal facilities, such as dairies and poultry barns. Though the existing dairy facilities are visible from perimeter roads, their appearance is a common sight in rural areas, and the visual effects of the dairy are reasonable and expected effects in the context of the Agriculture land use designation. The proposed project would appear similar to existing facilities in the project area, and would be considered common and appropriate to the region by most viewers. Since the proposed project is consistent with the existing and planned agricultural uses of the area, implementation of the project would not degrade the existing visual character of the site or surroundings.

Question d: The project may add an additional source of light to the area for new security lighting. However, there are no sensitive receptors for nighttime light and glare located in the vicinity of

proposed active dairy operations (the nearest offsite residences are located approximately 1,380 feet to the south and approximately 2,870 feet to the southwest from wastewater lagoons and ponds). Distance to the nearest sensitive receptor would reduce any light and glare effects to less-than-significant levels.

Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
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II. AGRICULTURE RESOURCES:

In determining whether impacts to agriculture resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agriculture Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Dept. of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland.

Would the proposal:

- | | | | | |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 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-agriculture use? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | X | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Conflict with existing zoning for agriculture use, or a Williamson Act Contract? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | X | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c) Involve other changes in the existing environment, which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agriculture use? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | X |

Question a: According to the California Department of Conservation’s (DOC) Important Farmlands Map of Stanislaus County, the entirety of the project site is designated as Unique Farmland except for the area of existing active dairy facilities, which is designated Confined Livestock (FMMP 2004). Unique Farmland as defined by DOC is land of lesser quality soils used for the production of specific high economic value crops, and Confined Livestock as defined by DOC includes agricultural lands with poultry facilities, feedlots, dairy facilities, and fish farms. Because all construction proposed with the project would occur on the site of an existing dairy, implementation of the proposed project would not convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance to a non-agricultural use.

Predominant soils in the area of the project site as classified by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) consist of Alamo clay, 0 to 1 percent slopes (AcA), Madera sandy loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes (MdA), San Joaquin sandy loams, 0 to 3 percent slopes (SaA), San Joaquin sandy loams, 3 to 8 percent slopes (SaB), Whitney sandy loams, 3 to 8 percent slopes (WmB), Whitney and Rocklin sandy loams, 0 to 3 percent slopes (WrA), and Whitney and Rocklin sandy loams, 3 to 8 percent slopes (WrB). The ratings of the soils are set forth in the following table:

Soil	Acres in Project Site (approx.)	Irrigated Capability Class and Subclass	CA Revised Storie Index	Prime Soil?
Alamo clay, 0 to 1 percent slopes (AcA)	9	3w	6- nonagriculture	No
Madera sandy loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes (MdA)	9	4s	4-poor	No
San Joaquin sandy loams, 0 to 3 percent slopes (SaA)	131	4s	4-poor	No
San Joaquin sandy loams, 3 to 8 percent slopes (SaB)	80	4e	4-poor	No
Whitney sandy loams, 3 to 8 percent slopes (WmB)	7	3e/4e	4-poor	No
Whitney and Rocklin sandy loams, 0 to 3 percent slopes (WrA)	165	3e/4s	4-poor	No
Whitney and Rocklin sandy loams, 3 to 8 percent slopes (WrB)	209	3e/4e	4-poor	No

Source: Natural Resources Conservation Service, Soil Survey of Stanislaus County, 2007. Accessed at <http://soildatamart.nrcs.usda.gov> September 2007.

Question b, c: The project site and area are designated for agricultural uses by the Stanislaus County General Plan and Zoning Ordinance. The existing use, a dairy, is an agricultural use consistent with the General Plan and Zoning Ordinance. Adjacent properties are also in agricultural uses, ranging from field crops (north, south), orchards (east, south, west), and confined animal facilities including dairies and poultry houses (north, south). No feature of the project would preclude or limit the agricultural use of the project site or adjoining parcels. The nearest offsite residential use is located greater than 300 feet from the site of wastewater lagoons and ponds and is therefore compliant with setback requirements of the Stanislaus County Zoning Code (Section 21.20.030 F) (the nearest offsite residences are located approximately 1,380 feet to the south (this residence is associated with the Foster Farms poultry ranch) and approximately 2,870 feet to the southwest from wastewater lagoons and ponds), and therefore would not conflict with continued agricultural production on the site. Further, the County implements its Right-to-Farm notice (Stanislaus County Code Section 9.32.050) to minimize agricultural conflicts, which requires that residents near agricultural land recognize and be prepared to accept nuisances common to agricultural practices. Thus, the proposed project would be the continuation of an existing agricultural use consistent with County policies, and would not conflict with adjacent agricultural and/or non-agricultural uses. Both parcels that comprise the project site are currently under a Williamson Act Contract; however, the proposed dairy expansion would not modify conditions of that contract.

Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
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III. AIR QUALITY:

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

Would the proposal:

a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

c) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Air quality influences public health and welfare, the economy, and quality of life. Air pollutants have the potential to adversely impact public health, the production and quality of agricultural crops, visibility, native vegetation, and buildings and structures.

Stanislaus County is located in the San Joaquin Valley air basin (SJVAB) and air quality within the County is regulated by the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (SJVAPCD) under both federal and state Clean Air Acts. The Air Basin is in “severe” nonattainment for the state one-hour ozone standard, “serious” nonattainment for the federal eight-hour ozone standard (now applying to be reclassified as “extreme”), in attainment of federal PM₁₀, nonattainment of state PM₁₀, in attainment for federal 24-hour PM_{2.5} standards, and in nonattainment for federal annual PM_{2.5} standards.

A Final Draft 2007 ozone attainment plan was adopted on April 30, 2007 and was sent to EPA for review and adoption on June 15, 2007. The 2007 plan demonstrates 50 percent attainment in 2015, 90 percent attainment in 2020, and 100 percent attainment by 2023. Given that a “serious” non-attainment eight-hour ozone planning area must demonstrate attainment by 2013, the SJVAPCD is also applying for a change to an “extreme” non-attainment as part of its 2007 ozone plan.

A 2006 PM₁₀ Plan was adopted by the SJVAPCD in February 2006, and provides updated information and evaluation required by EPA’s Federal Register, and was submitted to the EPA March 31, 2006. Based on recent decline in PM₁₀ emissions, the San Joaquin Valley became the first air basin classified as “serious nonattainment” to be reclassified by EPA as in attainment of the PM₁₀ standards in late 2006. The San Joaquin Valley was recently classified as in attainment for federal 24-hour PM_{2.5} standards, and in nonattainment for federal annual PM_{2.5} standards. The PM_{2.5} attainment plan is due in 2008.

In response to SB700 and other state and federal attainment planning requirements, the SJVAPCD’s Rule 2010 now applies to agricultural uses, including dairies, and states that “any person who plans to or does operate, construct, alter, or replace any source of emission of air contaminants” must obtain approval of the Air Pollution Control Officer and receive the following permits: an Authority to Construct (ATC) and a Permit to Operate (PTO).

In addition to the ATC and PTO permits, dairies must comply with many other air district rules and regulations including at least Regulation VIII, New Source Review, and health risk assessments in compliance with AB2588. Developed as part of the 2003 PM₁₀ Planning process, Regulation VIII includes specific emission control strategies for fugitive dust from construction/demolition, Bulk materials, carryout, open areas, paved and unpaved roads, equipment on unpaved roads, paved road

dust, fugitive windblown dust, and farming operations. Regulation VIII and Rules 8011-8081, including preparation of a dust control plan, apply to the Foster Farms Dairy 4 Expansion project.

New sources of air pollution, and modifications of existing sources, must comply with District Rule 2201 (New and Modified Source Review), also known as New Source Review (NSR) and include Best Available Control Technology (BACT), Best Available Retrofit Control Technology (BARCT) and Offsets.

The health risk assessment addresses emissions from: ammonia; particulate matter and its toxic components (e.g., aluminum, lead, manganese, nickel, etc.); and xylenes, formaldehydes, carbon tetrachloride from Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs).

Question a-e: The proposed dairy expansion is anticipated to have potentially significant impacts from the following sources that will be evaluated further in the DEIR: construction-related emissions of reactive organic gases, nitrogen oxides and fugitive dust; operations-related emissions of carbon monoxide, ozone precursors, fugitive dust, hazardous pollutants, and greenhouse gases (including methane); and odors from project operations.

Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
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IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES:

Would the project:

a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
c) Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	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? (1)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X

A reconnaissance-level site visit of the project site was conducted on September 28, 2007 to assess existing biological conditions.

Question a, d: The project area has been used for dairy operation for more than 40 years and no natural habitat remains onsite. No habitat exists within the project site or roadways along the project site for special status species. The onsite man-made wastewater retention lagoon provides limited habitat for some bird species associated with water, but the lagoon would not be modified by the proposed project. Raptors, including hawks and owls may forage for rodents within the project area and adjacent crop fields. Raptor foraging is not expected to be adversely affected by implementation of the proposed project.

Question b, c: Sensitive habitats are those that are considered rare within the region, support sensitive plant and/or wildlife species, or function as corridors for wildlife movement. No sensitive habitats were present onsite. No riparian habitat or wetlands were identified onsite.

Question e, f: The project would not conflict with local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources nor conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan or other approved conservation plan since there are limited biological resources onsite, and the proposed dairy expansion would not result in the modification of natural habitat.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
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V. CULTURAL RESOURCES:

Would the project:

a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in § 15064.5?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to § 15064.5?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>

A records search by the Central California Information Center, California Historical Resources Information Center was conducted for the project area (CCIC 2007). The records search concluded that no prehistoric or historic archaeological resources have been reported to the CCIC, nor have any cultural resource studies been reported to the CCIC.

Question a: Mass grading of the areas proposed for construction occurred circa 1968 during construction of the existing dairy. Limited additional grading and ground disturbance would be necessary to prepare the construction areas for the erection of the proposed barns and potential frontage improvements to Hickman and Keyes Roads along the project parcel. All existing structures would be maintained and integrated into the proposed project facilities; therefore, this project would not alter or destroy a historic site or cause substantial adverse changes in the significance of a historical resource.

Question b: Archaeological resources are suspected to be minimal because the dominant land use has been for agricultural uses (including leveling, cultivation, grading, and construction of the

existing dairy). Thus, any archeological artifacts that might have been present may have been destroyed or have been moved off-site during the development of the site. Since limited new grading would occur, there would be no likelihood of disturbing unknown cultural resources.

Question c, d: Although all proposed project construction would occur approximately five miles from the nearest major stream or water body (Tuolumne River), and no excavation for building foundations would occur, activities on the construction site could result in the disturbance of unknown cultural resources. According to the Stanislaus County General Plan Conservation/Open Space Element:

Landmarks of historical consequence not only include old schoolhouses, and covered bridges, but also such sites as Native American burial grounds, cemeteries, pottery, rock carvings, and rock paintings. Normally, “sensitive” areas are often located near natural watercourses, springs or ponds, or on elevated ground. However, due to the silt build-up in the valley and the meandering of rivers, archaeological and historical sites may be found in unsuspected areas.

Though the entirety of the project site has been disturbed by previous agricultural activities, pursuant to §5097.98 of the State Public Resources Code, and Section 7050.5 of the State Health and Safety Code, if any historical resources are discovered during project-related construction activities, or in the event of the discovery of any human remains, 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. If remains are found, the County Coroner is to be notified, and if the remains are determined to be Native American, the Native American Heritage Commission, Sacramento (916-653-4082) shall be notified and recommended procedures shall be adhered to in the treatment and disposition of the remains. This regulatory measure will be included as a Condition of Approval by the County.

Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
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VI. GEOLOGY AND SOILS PROBLEMS:

Would the project:

- a) Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:
 - i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.
 - ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?
 - iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?
 - iv) Landslides?
- b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?

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

c) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994) creating substantial risks to life or property?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available for disposal of wastewater?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Question a: No faults or fault traces are located within the project area or the valley portion of Stanislaus County, therefore there would be no potential for fault rupture exposing persons or structures to substantial adverse effects. The 1997 Uniform Building Code (UBC) indicates the site lies within Seismic Zone 3. Though structures on the project site could be exposed to the effects of earthquake induced ground shaking, compliance with Stanislaus County and California Building Code requirements would reduce this potential impact to levels considered acceptable in the County and region. The proposed project is categorized as a low risk use that is considered suitable in all ground-shaking zones. With the small potential for harmful levels of groundshaking, there is little exposure to liquefaction or other seismically induced hazards. The project site is not within an area of known landslide potential. A field reconnaissance of the site indicated that the modified topography surrounding the active dairy facilities is generally level. Given this existing topography and the distance to active faults, landslides at this location are considered unlikely.

Question b: Since grading of the building sites was completed with original construction of the dairy, there would be little need for grading and excavation with implementation of the proposed expansion project. There would be no cut or fill necessary for implementation of the proposed project since the areas proposed for construction have previously been graded and the topography of the active dairy facilities is flat. However, construction of the proposed expansion would occur over a minimum 20-acre area, and stormwater runoff during the construction period could result in siltation and sedimentation of waterways draining the site. Construction activities disturbing one or more acres are required by the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) to obtain a General Construction Activity Stormwater Permit and a National Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. Prior to the initiation of grading, the project sponsor will prepare and implement a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) designed to reduce potential impacts to water quality during construction of the project. As required by regulations implementing the Construction Stormwater Permit, the SWPPP shall include:

- Specific and detailed Best Management Practices (BMPs) to mitigate construction related pollutants, including sediments. These controls would include practices to minimize the contact of construction materials, equipment, and maintenance supplies (e.g., fuels, lubricant, paints, solvents, and adhesives) with stormwater. The SWPPP would specify properly designed centralized storage areas that keep these materials out of the rain and/or protected from the wind.

- Dust control BMPs for the stabilization of exposed surfaces and to minimize activities that suspend or track dust particles. For heavily traveled and disturbed areas, wet suppression (watering), chemical dust suppression, gravel or asphalt surfacing, temporary gravel construction entrances, equipment wash-out areas, and haul truck covers can be employed as dust control applications. Permanent or temporary vegetation and mulching, and sand fences can be employed to prevent sediment-laden stormwater from reaching receiving waters, or to force stormwater to drop their sediment load onsite.
- The SWPPP is required to specify a monitoring program to be implemented by the construction site supervisor. SWRCB personnel, who may make unannounced site inspections, are empowered to levy appropriate fines if it is determined that the SWPPP has not been properly prepared and implemented.

Obtaining a General Construction Activity Stormwater Permit and a National Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit from the SWRCB and implementing all requirements of the permit, including those listed above, would avoid siltation effects.

Question c: Soils present in the area of the proposed expansion of active dairy facilities include Whitney and Rocklin sandy loams, 0 to 3 percent slopes (WrA), and Whitney and Rocklin sandy loams, 3 to 8 percent slopes (WrB). The agricultural ratings of the soils are set forth in Section II, Agriculture above. These soils generally do not have building limitations (NRCS 2007). The project area is not noted for unstable geologic formations susceptible to landslide or ground failure (Stanislaus County General Plan Safety Element). Because the area of the proposed expansion of active dairy facilities is not considered unstable, nor would construction of the dairy barns result in soil instability, this would be a less-than-significant impact.

Question d: The soils present in the area of the proposed expansion of active dairy facilities appear to exhibit relatively low plasticity and expansion characteristics. Due to the low expansion characteristics, with implementation of the Uniform Building Code, there would be a less-than-significant impact due to potential for soil expansion.

Question e: No new septic systems are proposed as a part of the dairy expansion. Thus, there would be no impact based on the capabilities of onsite soils to accommodate wastewater treatment systems.

Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
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VII. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS:

Would the project:

a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use or disposal of hazardous materials?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or wastes within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X

d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
g) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
h) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
i) Create significant nuisance conditions to the public or the environment through the generation of insects due to project operations?	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Question a, b, d: During project operation, the feed lanes, silage storage area, and wastewater collection ponds are treated with spray and biological controls to minimize nuisance insect populations. In addition, there would be continued use of fertilizers and biocides on the site for crop cultivation. The dairy and associated farming operations would continue to store and use agricultural chemicals, including fuels, biocides, fertilizers, and herbicides, in amounts common with other agricultural operations in the area, County, and State. The storage and use of such chemicals is regulated by the County Agricultural Commissioner, and State and Federal agencies. There is no aspect of the proposed dairy and farming operation that would require the use of unusual amounts or types of agricultural chemicals. All chemicals would be stored in an enclosed barn with a concrete floor prior to use. The potential risk of release is further reduced within the project area and region because nutrient-rich process water would be used to fertilize onsite crops, thereby precluding the need for large amounts of chemical fertilizers. Similarly, available dry manure would be used elsewhere in the region for fertilizer and soil amendment, in place of chemical fertilizers. The project site is not listed in the roll of hazardous waste sites maintained by the State of California and Stanislaus County for County addresses pursuant to Government Code §65962.5 (List consulted March 14, 2007).

Question c: The nearest existing school, Gratton Elementary School, is located approximately 2.2 miles away from the project site. Therefore, the dairy operations would not result in hazardous emissions or handle hazardous waste within 0.25 miles of an existing or proposed school.

Question e, f: Since the project site is not located in an area for which an Airport Land Use Plan has been prepared, and no public or private airfields are within two miles of the project area, employees of the Foster Farms Dairy 4 Expansion project would not be exposed to hazards due to aircraft overflight.

Question g: The Foster Farms Dairy 4 Expansion project would not result in the modification or blockage of any evacuation route, or result in an increased concentration of large numbers of persons in an at-risk location. Further, no modification of area intersections is proposed by the project, and the project would not add significant amounts of traffic that could interfere with emergency response.

Question h: The project area is not identified as an area of potential wildland fire by the Stanislaus County General Plan Safety Element.

Question i: While the existing agricultural character of the project vicinity tends to minimize incompatibility to existing uses, implementation of the Foster Farms Dairy 4 Expansion project could introduce an additional source of flies and other insects in the area of the adjacent residences. In efforts to minimize these conflicts, there is a required minimum setback between wastewater lagoons and individual offsite rural residents of 300 feet. For the Foster Farms Dairy 4 Expansion project, the nearest offsite residences are located approximately 1,380 feet to the south and approximately 2,870 feet to the southwest from wastewater lagoons and ponds. However, the operation of the Foster Farms Dairy 4 Expansion project may result in the potential for the creation of nuisance insects and related health hazards. These effects will be evaluated more fully in the EIR prepared for the project.

Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
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VIII. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY:

Would the project:

a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level which would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)?	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on or off site?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) 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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
f) Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

g)	Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance rate map or other hazard delineation map?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
h)	Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures which would impede or redirect flood flows?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
i)	Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
j)	Inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X

There are no natural water features on the site. The nearest natural water feature is the Tuolumne River located approximately 5 miles north of the project site. The Turlock Irrigation District (IID) High Line Irrigation canal is located approximately one half mile to the east of the project site, and the Turlock Main Canal is approximately three quarter mile to the west of the project site.

Question a, f: Dairy facilities pose a number of potential risks to water quality, primarily related to the amount of manure and process water that they generate. Manure and process water from dairy facilities can contribute pollutants such as nutrients (nitrogen), ammonia, organic matter, sediments, pathogens, hormones, antibiotics, and total dissolved solids (salts). These pollutants, if uncontrolled, can cause several types of water quality impacts, including contamination of drinking water, impairment of irrigation systems, and impairment of surface waters.

For the proposed Foster Farms Dairy 4 Expansion project, animal wastes from freestall and other concrete-surfaced areas are, and would continue to be, flushed to an onsite waste management system, except for solid manure within corral areas, which would be scraped. Liquid wastes from other portions of the facility, including silage and manure composting/storage areas, drain to the tailwater ponds in the irrigation system. The waste management system consists of a series of settling ponds (to remove solids), a lagoon to store wastewater, and pipelines and irrigation facilities to apply the wastewater to irrigated crops on the remainder of the project site. There are 525 acres that would continue to be available for disposal of dairy wastewater and dry manure. Receiving fields are graded to guide excess applied wastewater to an existing tailwater recovery system. Collected tailwater is recycled and used to complete irrigations (see Figure 4).

The manure management system, the irrigation plan, and the tailwater recovery system are used for protection of surface and groundwater quality. Nutrient-laden process water is applied to crops in accordance with UC Davis Extension nutrient management tools. Dairy process water contains many contaminants, including elevated levels of salts and nitrogen. Because of their environmental and chemical characteristics, nitrogen and salts are used as the chemical markers for assessing the safety and effectiveness of process water management for confined dairy and cattle facilities. For regulatory purposes, if all of the nitrogen and salt generated by a proposed dairy or other animal confinement facility are safely and effectively managed, the other lesser constituents of the process water would be controlled as well. While the above systems would act to prevent groundwater contamination, the operation of the Foster Farms Dairy 4 Expansion project may result in degradation of groundwater resources and potential adverse effects to surface water quality. This would be a potentially significant impact to be evaluated further in the EIR for the proposed project.

Question b: Water used by the project is currently provided by groundwater from onsite irrigation wells. The proposed expansion project includes the continued use of existing irrigation wells. Water

usage for the dairy would increase slightly with the proposed herd expansion. Groundwater levels are located at depths ranging between 33 to 115 feet (Dunn Environmental 2007). Project impacts to groundwater levels will be evaluated further in the EIR for the proposed project.

Question c, d, e: The project would result in the construction of additional freestall barns and corrals at a previously existing dairy, and the potential widening of Hickman and Keyes Roads. Since onsite soils are predominantly silts and clay, stormwater runoff during the construction period could result in siltation and sedimentation of waterways draining the site. Prior to the initiation of grading, the project sponsor will prepare and implement a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) designed to reduce potential impacts to water quality during construction of the project. For requirements of the SWPPP to be prepared for the project, please refer to Section VI of this document. Obtaining a General Construction Activity Stormwater Permit and a National Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit from the SWRCB and implementing all requirements of the permit would avoid siltation effects. Stormwater generated at the project site that has contacted manure from existing areas with impermeable surfaces is collected and routed to the existing wastewater management system, and would continue to be managed in this manner with project implementation. Uncontaminated stormwater is also routed to the wastewater management system. Because all stormwater generated by the project would be collected and maintained within the project proponent’s larger property, no adverse effects due to runoff would occur and no mitigation would be necessary.

Question g-j: The site of the Foster Farms Dairy 4 Expansion project is not located in a flood hazard zone as identified by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (ESRI/FEMA 2007). Although residences are located on the project site, since the project site is located outside of flood hazard areas, no residents would be exposed to the risk of flooding. According to the Stanislaus County General Plan, the project area is also outside of any dam failure inundation area. The project area is not near any ocean, lake, or other large waterway. Thus, implementation of the project would not expose housing to a risk of flood damage, expose persons or property to flood risks, place structures in a floodplain thereby redirecting flood flows, or expose persons or property to inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow.

All of the potentially significant hydrology and water quality impacts will be evaluated further in the EIR for this proposed dairy expansion.

IX. LAND USE AND PLANNING:

Would the project:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Physically divide an established community?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
b) Conflict with applicable land use plan policy or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to the general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X

Question a: The land surrounding the project site and in the vicinity is primarily developed for agriculture. Adjacent land uses include similar agricultural uses, such as row crops, orchards, and confined animal facilities including dairies and poultry houses. Scattered rural residences are located in the general area of the project; most are associated with agricultural operations. The nearest offsite residences are located approximately 1,380 feet to the south (this residence is associated with the Foster Farms poultry ranch) and approximately 2,870 feet to the southwest from wastewater lagoons and ponds. Other than scattered rural residences, there is no established community in the project area, nor is the site within the sphere of influence of any city. Because the project could not divide a community or conflict with an established sphere of influence, no adverse effects would result and no mitigation would be necessary.

Question b: Existing land uses on the project site include an existing dairy facility and irrigated crops. Land use within the project area is regulated by Stanislaus County through the various plans and ordinances adopted by the County. These adopted plans include the Stanislaus County General Plan and the zoning ordinance. The Stanislaus County General Plan designates the project site and the surrounding areas as Agricultural. The proposed dairy expansion would be consistent with this land use designation. The project site is within the Stanislaus County A-2-40 (General Agriculture – 40 acre minimum) zone district. It is the intent of the A-2 zone to support and enhance agriculture as the predominant land use in the unincorporated areas of the county and to protect open space lands (Zoning Code Section 21.20.010). Surrounding properties are also designated A-2-40. In Stanislaus County, new confined animal facilities and expansions of existing confined animal facilities requiring a new or modified permit, waiver, order or waste discharge requirements from the Regional Water Quality Control Board, where issuance requires compliance with CEQA, require a use permit (Zoning Code Section 21.20.030F). The proponents of the proposed Foster Farms Dairy 4 Expansion project have made application to Stanislaus County for a Use Permit to expand the dairy herd and construct the additional barns and corrals. The Zoning Ordinance also requires that wastewater lagoons or ponds must be located a minimum of fifty feet from any property line and 300 feet from any offsite residence; the existing and proposed expansion facilities would be compliant with these requirements. Thus, because the project complies with the requirements of the Stanislaus County Zoning Ordinance, no significant impact would occur, the project would not be incompatible with any existing uses in the project vicinity, and no mitigation would be necessary.

Question c: No habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan has been adopted within the project area. Since no NCCP or other conservation plan has been adopted for the area of the project, no conflict with such a plan would occur.

Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
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X. MINERAL RESOURCES:

Would the project:

- | | | | | |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|--------------------------|
| a) Result in the loss of availability of known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | X | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Result in the loss of an availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general, specific plan or other land use plan? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | X | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Question a, b: Key minerals commercially excavated in Stanislaus County are construction aggregates, primarily sand and gravel. To a large extent, aggregate areas are located in flood plains of rivers and streams, particularly the Tuolumne and Stanislaus Rivers and Orestimba Creek. Review of the Mineral Resource Areas maps contained in the Stanislaus County General Plan Conservation/Open Space Element indicates that the Foster Farms Dairy 4 Expansion project area is not located in a zone of known active mineral or aggregate resources. No important mineral deposits, Mineral Resource Zones, or existing or previous mines are located in the area or on the project site. Implementation of the proposed Foster Farms Dairy 4 Expansion project would not interfere with the extraction of any known, active mineral resource and would therefore have a less-than-significant mineral resource impact.

Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
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XI. NOISE:

Would the project result in:

a) Exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or ground borne noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X

Question a-d: The quietest areas of unincorporated Stanislaus County are those removed from major transportation-related noise sources and local industrial or other stationary noise sources, such as the project area (Stanislaus County 2005). The closest noise source to the project site is traffic along Hickman Road, although traffic levels on Hickman are not sufficient to cause adverse levels of noise at the proposed dairy location. There are no other major noise sources located in the project vicinity. Existing operations include dairy operations and crop cultivation. With project implementation, there would be little increase in existing noise levels in the project vicinity. Most noise events are associated with tractor and equipment operation. No new large machinery or other noise-producing activities would occur; no activities different than those currently occurring, or closer to nearby residences, are proposed. Noise levels produced during operation would not exceed those determined to be acceptable by the Stanislaus County General Plan (75 dB Ldn). No feature of the project would cause noticeable levels of ground borne vibration or noise. Because the project would not expose adjacent residents or other sensitive receptors to excessive levels of noise

or vibration, no adverse effect would result and no mitigation would be necessary. Because the proposed project is in an area compatible with existing noise levels, and there are no important sources of noise in the project vicinity, no adverse effects to the project from high noise levels would occur and no mitigation would be necessary.

Question e, f: There are no airports or private airstrips located in the project vicinity; thus, aircraft overflight noise in the project area would be limited.

Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
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XII. POPULATION AND HOUSING:

Would the project:

a) Induce substantial 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)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
c) Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X

Question a: The existing dairy currently employs a staff of 7 workers; the proposed dairy expansion would not result in an increase in the number of employees due to process efficiency improvements included in the proposed expansion project. Since there would be no new employees, no additional housing demands would be caused by project employees. The Foster Farms Dairy 4 Expansion project site is located in an agricultural region developed with other animal confinement operations, including other dairies. Thus, it does not result in a new or different type of use for the area. The project does not create or improve any infrastructure serving the site or region. The proposed project is consistent with Stanislaus County land use plans, and no modification of land use and development policies would be necessary. Therefore, the proposed project would not result in substantial direct or indirect growth inducement.

Question b, c: There are two residences and two mobile homes located onsite associated with the existing dairy operations. No direct loss or degradation of existing housing units would occur with project implementation. Since the existing residences would be unaffected by the proposed project, implementation of the project would not displace substantial numbers of people or existing housing units. The proposed project would not include any additional housing.

Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
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XIII. PUBLIC SERVICES:

Would the project result in:

a) 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,				
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response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services:

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

Question a: Operation of the Foster Farms Dairy 4 Expansion project would continue and would include expansion of a large, developed use in an area without developed fire safety facilities. Because of this, fire risk and hazard could increase. In response to this common condition in agricultural areas of the County, the Stanislaus County Fire Warden generally requires capacity for adequate fire flow (*Stanislaus County Safety Element*). There are onsite irrigation wells that can be used for fire flow at existing facilities and the new freestalls and corrals. Compliance with this standard as set forth by the Fire Warden would reduce fire risk and hazard to levels found acceptable by the County.

No feature of the project would result in the need for new or altered services for police protection, schools, libraries, or health services. Because no new residences are to be constructed onsite, and the number of existing employees would not change, no increase in population is expected to result from the proposed project. Thus, no increases in the demands for public services such as schools, libraries, or health services requiring the construction of new facilities are expected. Additionally, no feature of the proposed use would pose unusual police protection demands. This, coupled with the lack of population increase, indicates that no increased demands for police protection services would be expected. No significant impacts would occur and no mitigation would be necessary.

Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
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XIV. RECREATION:

Would the project:

a) Increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
b) Include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X

Question a, b: No substantial increase in population would occur with implementation of the project. Thus, there would be no increase in the demand for neighborhood or regional parks or other recreational facilities that would require the construction of new facilities or modification of existing recreation resources. No existing public recreational resources are located on the project site or in the vicinity. No adverse effect would occur, and no mitigation would be necessary.

XV. TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC:

Would the project:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Cause an increase in traffic which is substantial in relation to the existing traffic load and capacity of the street system (i.e. result in a substantial increase in either the number of vehicle trips, volume to capacity ratio on roads, or congestion at intersections)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Exceed, either individually or cumulatively, a level of service standard established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X
d) Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Result in inadequate emergency access?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
f) Result in inadequate parking capacity?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
g) Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation (e.g., bus turnouts, bicycle Racks)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X

Local access to the Foster Farms Dairy 4 Expansion project site is currently provided by a private driveway off of Hickman Road. Regional access for the project site is via State Routes (SR) 99 or 132 (see Figures 1 and 2). Hickman Road and private internal roads would continue to be used for the agricultural operations and movement of harvested crops from the fields to the dairy, and between Foster Farms Dairy 4 and Dairy 5.

Question a, b: There would be a very minimal increase in truck traffic with the proposed expansion, including light and heavy-duty truck traffic. Because of the existing low levels of traffic, and because minimal new trips would be generated by the proposed project expansion, there would be no reduction of the existing Level of Service on Hickman Road. As determined by the County Department of Public Works during the Early Consultation process, because there would be minimal increase in heavy truck traffic generated from the dairy expansion, proposed traffic would not adversely impact the County’s road system, and there would be a less-than-significant impact (Stanislaus County 2007b).

Question c: The proposed project would not result in the generation of air traffic. There would be no air traffic impacts.

Question d, e: No modifications to any existing roadway are proposed either during project construction or operation; however, the County may require dedication of right-of-way along the entire project parcel on both Hickman and Keyes Roads for future roadway improvements. This dedication would provide adequate right-of-way to Stanislaus County to provide 40 feet north of the existing centerline of Keyes Road and 40 feet east of Hickman Road along the parcel’s frontage. During construction of these improvements, vehicle traffic would be regulated to minimize

disruption and maximize safety pursuant to County Code Chapter 11.22. Construction of the proposed dairy facilities would allow for the access of emergency vehicles and would not increase roadway hazards from the design of project roads. There would be no impacts from hazards due to design features.

Question f: Parking for employee vehicles and feed and commodity delivery trucks is provided on the project site. No additional parking would be needed.

Question g: Because no alternative mode (bicycle, pedestrian, transit) transportation facilities are located in the project vicinity, the project would have no effect on such facilities. No adopted policies with respect to alternative modes of transportation adopted as part of the Stanislaus County General Plan apply to the proposed facility.

Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
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XVI. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS:

Would the project:

a) Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
f) Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>
g) Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X	<input type="checkbox"/>

Because confined animal facilities, including dairies, would be required to pay the most current adopted Public Facility Fees (PFF), and would not require additional public facilities beyond those typically provided in agricultural areas, the operations of facilities to serve the expanded herd would not be expected to increase the demand for public facilities beyond the levels provided and planned for by public utilities.

Question a, b, e: There are no new residences proposed with the dairy expansion; therefore no sanitary disposal system for domestic wastewater would be required with project implementation.

Question b, d: Water used by the project is currently provided by groundwater from onsite irrigation wells. The proposed project would continue to use these existing sources. The proposed project includes the continued use of existing irrigation wells. Implementation of the project would not require the development of any new or expanded surface water supply facilities on the project site or elsewhere. For additional information regarding the project’s water use and supplies, see Section VIII, above.

Question c: The project site receives minimal off-site storm run-on. All stormwater generated at the project site from existing and proposed areas with impermeable surfaces is, and would continue to be, collected and routed to the existing wastewater management system. All stormwater generated by the project would be collected and maintained within the project proponent’s larger property. Therefore, no adverse effects to storm drainage are expected, and no needs for, or modifications to, storm drainage systems in the project vicinity are necessary. For more information regarding storm drainage, see Section VIII, above.

Question f, g: Implementation of the proposed project would not require extra stops for solid waste removal since business uses on the site would be unchanged. (Disposal of manure is outside of the normal waste stream, and is provided by the project proponent. Since the manure is used to fertilize agricultural fields, there would be no effect on landfill capacity.) Provision of solid waste collection service to serve the proposed project is subject to the normal tariffs and requirements of the service provider, and would not result in the need for any major new systems or substantial alterations to these utility systems.

Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
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XVII. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE:

a) Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Does the project have environmental effects, which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Question a: Because of existing conditions on the project site, the comprehensive regulation of potential impacts by local and state agencies as discussed above, the project does not have the potential to substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community,

reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory. However, the project may: exceed SJVAPCD criteria for air emissions, degrade water quality, and result in nuisance levels of insects. These would be potentially significant impacts to be evaluated further in the EIR for the Foster Farms Dairy 4 Expansion project.

Question b: As discussed in this Initial Study, the Foster Farms Dairy 4 Expansion project has the potential to exceed criteria for air emissions, degrade water quality, and result in nuisance levels of insects. Thus, it may contribute to cumulative effects in these areas. After mitigation, the project has been determined not to have significant project level effects for any additional environmental issue. Thus, implementation of the project would not contribute to any cumulative effects in these other areas. Because of potential cumulative impacts to the areas listed above, such impacts will be evaluated further in the EIR for the proposed project.

Question c: Because of the potential environmental impacts identified in this Initial Study, the proposed Foster Farms Dairy 4 Expansion project may have the potential to cause substantial adverse effects on human beings. This would be a potentially significant impact to be evaluated further in the EIR for the proposed project.

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DETERMINATION

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

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

Date

Printed Name

Stanislaus County Planning Department