



County of Fresno

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

EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

- APPLICANT: Sar 1, LLC
- APPLICATION NOS.: Initial Study No. 7998 and Unclassified Conditional Use Permit Application No. 3696
- DESCRIPTION: Allow an anaerobic digester and biomethane facility to produce pipeline compliant biomethane gas for delivery to a utility owner pipeline point of connection on a 98.14-acre parcel and 48.48-acre parcel in the AE-20 (Exclusive Agricultural, 20-acre minimum parcel size) Zone District. The proposed pipeline will run approximately 3.2 miles southwest to a point of connection with an approved biogas facility.
- LOCATION: The subject parcel is located on the northeast corner of the W. Nebraska Avenue and S. Bishop Avenue alignment approximately 0.76 miles west of S. Jameson Avenue and is located approximately 9 miles west of the city limits of the City of Caruthers (11511 W. Floral Avenue) (041-030-47S and 48S) (Sup. Dist. 4).

I. AESTHETICS

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

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

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

The subject project site is located in a mainly agricultural area. A dairy operation is sited on the parcel northerly adjacent to the project site. There are no scenic vistas or other scenic resources in the vicinity of the project site that would be negatively impacted as a result of the project.

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

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

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

The subject property is located in a mainly agricultural setting. As noted, an existing dairy operation is located on the northern adjacent parcel with the proposal designed to operate closely with the dairy. The subject site is located approximately 0.76 miles east of S. Jameson Avenue which is the nearest public right-of-way. In between the subject property and S. Jameson Avenue are orchards that would screen the use from public views. In considering the location of the proposed use and its proximity to public right-of-way, the proposed development of the site would not substantially degrade the existing agricultural visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings.

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

FINDING: LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT WITH MITIGATION INCORPORATED:

The Applicant does not specify the utilization of outdoor lighting or other sources of substantial light or glare. In considering the proposed development, if outdoor site lighting is proposed on the site, a mitigation measure will be implemented to ensure that outdoor lighting is positioned downward and hooded so as to ensure that any outdoor lighting reduces its impact on adjacent properties or public right-of-way.

* **Mitigation Measure(s)**

1. *All outdoor lighting shall be hooded and directed downward so as not to shine on adjacent properties or public right-of-way.*

II. AGRICULTURAL AND FORESTRY RESOURCES

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

- A. Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance, as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?

FINDING: LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT:

Per the 2016 Fresno County Important Farmland Map from the Department of Conservation, the subject site is comprised of land designated Prime Farmland, Land of Statewide Importance, and Confined Animal Agriculture. The proposed development will be located in the northern portions of the subject parcels where the land is designated for Confined Animal Agriculture. Conversion of Prime Farmland and Farmland of Statewide Importance will be minimal as a majority of the facility will be located on Confined Animal Agriculture designated land. The subject project will process manure produced from the northerly adjacent dairy to become a source of renewable natural gas. The majority of the land of the subject parcels will still be utilized for agricultural purposes and therefore have a less than significant impact in terms of the minimal conversion of farmland associated with this project.

- B. Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act Contract?

FINDING: LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT:

The proposal is an allowable use in the AE-20 (Exclusive Agricultural, 20-acre minimum parcel size) Zone District, subject to an Unclassified Conditional Use Permit and therefore the request is consistent with the underlying zone district. Both subject properties are Williamson Act Contracted and subject to additional provisions and requirements to be compliant with the Williamson Act. The Policy Planning Section requires under the provisions of the Williamson Act that the portions of the subject parcel proposed to be improved be removed from the Williamson Act through the Nonrenewal process. Land proposed to be utilized for the pipeline require review and clearance from the Policy Planning Section for compliance with the provisions of the Williamson Act prior to construction. A Statement of Intended Use for the pipeline has been cleared by the Policy Planning Section for consistency with the Williamson Act. The Nonrenewal process has been started by the Applicant and will be concluded if the project proposal is approved.

- C. Conflict with existing zoning for forest land, timberland or timberland zoned Timberland Production; or
- D. Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

The project proposal is not located on land zoned for forest land, timberland or timberland zoned Timberland Production and will not result in the loss of conversion of forest land to non-forest use.

- E. Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?

FINDING: LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT:

The subject application is for an anaerobic digester and biogas upgrading facility located adjacent to an existing dairy operation. The proposed facility will utilize refuse produced from the dairy operation to produce biogas. Future expansion of the operation would require further review. In considering the existing agricultural environmental, the proposal would not propagate further conversion of the surrounding farmland to non-agricultural uses as this specific use is in conjunction with the existing dairy operation.

III. AIR QUALITY

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

- A. Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable Air Quality Plan; or
- B. Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard?

FINDING: LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT:

The San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (SJVAPCD) has reviewed the project and determined that construction and operation emissions resulting from the project would not exceed thresholds established by the SJVAPCD and would have a less than significant impact. As indicated by the results of the project review by the SJVAPCD, additional rules and regulations established by the SJVAPCD would apply. These rules and regulations include further review and permitting by the SJVAPCD. In considering the determinations by the responsible agency and further compliance with rules and regulations of the SJVAPCD, the project is expected to have a less than significant impact on criteria pollutant generation and does not conflict with or obstruct implementation of an applicable Air Quality Plan.

- C. Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations; or
- D. Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?

FINDING: LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT:

Calculations for a Health Risk Assessment were provided by the Applicant with assistance from the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (SJVAPCD). Further review of the calculations indicate that project emissions would not result in substantial pollutant concentrations or other emissions that would adversely affect sensitive receptors in the vicinity of the project site.

IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Would the project:

- A. Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special-status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; or
- B. Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

The project is located on land used for agricultural purposes. Aerial images of the project site suggest that the site is used in conjunction with the northerly adjacent dairy and would experience human disturbance on a daily basis. Although the project site is clear of any structural improvements, the sites utilization in combination with the existing dairy would likely deter special-status species from occupying the subject site. There is no riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified on the project site. Additionally, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service did not express concerns with the project to indicate adverse impacts on special status species.

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

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

Per the National Wetlands Inventory, there are no identified wetlands located on the project site. Therefore, the project would not affect any state or federally-protected wetlands.

- D. Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

As noted, the subject site is utilized in conjunction with an existing dairy. The project will not interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or wildlife species. There are no identified wildlife corridor or wildlife nursery site identified in close proximity of the project site.

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

- F. Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state Habitat Conservation Plan?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

There were no identified local policies or ordinance, or adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan or other approved local, regional, or state Habitat Conservation Plan that would be in conflict with the project.

V. CULTURAL RESOURCES

Would the project:

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

FINDING: LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT WITH MITIGATION INCORPORATED:

The subject application requests to construct an anaerobic digester and biogas upgrading facility, and a pipeline to deliver the upgraded biogas for ultimate delivery into the gas grid system. Notified tribal governments under the provisions of Assembly Bill 52 did not express concern with the subject application to indicate the presence of cultural resources. There was no indication that a historical or archaeological resource is located on the subject parcel. A Mitigation Measure will be implemented to address cultural resources in the unlikely event they are unearthed during project construction.

* **Mitigation Measure(s)**

1. *In the event that cultural resources are unearthed during ground-disturbing activities, all work shall be halted in the area of the find. An Archeologist shall be called to evaluate the findings and make any necessary mitigation recommendations. If human remains are unearthed during ground-disturbing activities, no further disturbance is to occur until the Fresno County Sheriff-Coroner has made the necessary findings as to origin and disposition. All normal evidence procedures should be followed by photos, reports, video, etc. If such remains are determined to be Native American, the Sheriff-Coroner must notify the Native American Commission within 24 hours.*

VI. ENERGY

Would the project:

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

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

The project proposes to develop a renewable natural gas facility utilizing dairy refuse from the nearby dairy operation. The facility will convert the resource to biogas and will be delivered via pipeline ultimately into the PG&E statewide gas grid. The facility will have a beneficial impact on energy resources by providing renewable natural gas into the state grid for utilization. The project will not result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources and will not conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency.

VII. GEOLOGY AND SOILS

Would the project:

- A. Directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:
 - 1. Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

Per the Earthquake Hazards Zone Application from the California Department of Conservation, there are no known earthquake faults or other evidence to indicate the presence of a fault in vicinity of the project site.

- 2. Strong seismic ground shaking?
- 3. Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?

FINDING: LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT:

Per the Fresno County General Plan Background report, Fresno County is situated in an area of relatively low seismic activity. Faults and fault systems along the eastern and western boundaries of Fresno County as well as other regional faults have the potential to produce intense ground shaking. The project site is not located in close proximity of a known fault that would subject the site to strong seismic shaking or seismic-related ground failure. Although identified faults and fault systems do have the potential of producing intense ground shaking, the ground shaking caused by the faults

in the eastern or western boundaries of Fresno County would likely be experienced County-wide. Per Figure 9-5, assuming a seismic hazard with a 10% probability in 50 years, the project would experience the minimum peak horizontal ground acceleration of 0% to 20%. Therefore, the project would result in a less than significant impact.

4. Landslides?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

The project site is located in a region that is flat and mainly utilized for agricultural purposes. There is no landform in the vicinity that would suggest risk of being impacted by landslide. Per Figure 9-6 of the FCGPBR, the project site is not located near land identified as having potential landslide hazards.

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

FINDING: LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT:

The project site is situated on flat agricultural land. The proposed development will result in the loss of topsoil, but will not have a substantial effect in terms of the stability of land after development. Therefore, a loss of topsoil will occur and have a less than significant impact. Additionally, the project will not result in substantial soil erosion.

C. Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction, or collapse; or

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

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

Per Figure 7-1 of the Fresno County General Plan Background Report (FCGPBR) the subject site is not located near an identified area exhibiting moderately high to high expansion potential. There were no geologic unit or unstable soil identified on the subject site.

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

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

Review of the project proposal and submitted site plan indicates that the project does not propose construction and utilization of a septic tank or alternative wastewater disposal system.

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

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

No paleontological resource or unique geologic feature was identified on the subject parcel.

VIII. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

Would the project:

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

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

The project intends to utilize refuse produced by the adjacent dairy to produce renewable natural gas. A Benefits Calculator produced by the California Air Resources Board (CARB) and utilized for by the Applicant indicates that the project would have a beneficial impact by reducing total greenhouse gas emissions of CO₂ emission by 205,838 metric tons. In considering the potential reduction of GHG emissions resulting from the project, it can be seen that the project would have a beneficial impact on greenhouse gas emissions and would not conflict with applicable plans, policies, or regulations adopted for the purpose of reducing greenhouse gas emission.

VIII. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

Would the project:

- A. Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials; or
- B. Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?

FINDING: LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT:

The Department of Public Health, Environmental Health Division has reviewed and provided comments addressing the reporting and handling of potential hazardous materials. As these requirements are regulatory and mandatory in nature, the project is not expected to create a significant hazard through the routing use and/or disposal of hazardous materials and would not create a significant hazard to the public or environment through upset and accident conditions.

- C. Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

The subject parcel is not located within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school.

- D. Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

Per the NEPAssist database, the subject site is not a listed hazardous materials/waste facility.

- E. For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard or excessive noise for people residing or working in the project area?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

The project site is not located within an airport land use plan or within two miles of a public airport or public use airport.

- F. Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan; or

- G. Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

Agency and Department review of the project did not generate any concerns that the project would impact implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan. The project site is located in a large agricultural area and would not be subject to increased risk related to wildland fires.

X. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

Would the project:

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

FINDING: LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT:

The Department of Public Health, Environmental Health Division has commented that the land application rates of liquid and solid waste from the digester shall be applied in accordance with the approval and water quality standards enforced by the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB). The RWQCB were included on the project routing and given the opportunity to provide comment on the proposal. As the RWQCB is a state regulatory agency, their requirements for permitting/updating their permit for the proposed change in operational characteristics of the adjacent dairy is mandatory and would be pursued by the RWQCB.

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

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

The State Water Resources Control Board and the Water and Natural Resources Division reviewed the subject application and did not express concern with the project to indicate substantial decreases in groundwater supplies or recharge would result from operation of the proposed project.

- C. Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on or off site?

- 1. Result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site;

FINDING: LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT:

Review of the proposal indicates the addition of impervious surface on the project site that will change the existing drainage flow of the site. The subject site is located on flat agricultural land with no changes in slope or streams/rivers in the vicinity that would be affected by the project. Therefore, although the project would change existing drainage patterns that may result in erosion, the project would not result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site.

- 2. Substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or offsite?

FINDING: LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT:

The project will result in the addition of impervious surface where existing surface runoff patterns would be affected. Per Fresno County Ordinance, surface runoff is to be kept onsite and not cross property lines. Construction of the project site will be subject to review and permit from the Development Engineering Section of Fresno County which would ensure proper development of the site in accordance with State and local rules

and regulations. Therefore, although addition of impervious surface will occur, the project is not expected to increase the rate or amount of surface runoff where onsite or offsite flooding would occur.

3. 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?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

The project site is located in a mainly agricultural area. Ponds utilized for the existing dairy operation located northerly adjacent to the project site would potentially be utilized by the proposed operation as both are under common ownership in addition to the proposed project being run in conjunction with the existing dairy site. Review of the project indicates that runoff water resulting from the addition of impervious surface related to the project would not exceed existing capacity, therefore no impact is seen.

4. Impede or redirect flood flows?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

Per FEMA FIRM Panel C2575H, the project site is not located in a flood hazard zone and would not impact flood flows.

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

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

Per FEMA FIRM Panel C2575H, the project site is not located in a flood hazard zone. Additionally, the project site is not located near a body of water to indicate increased risk of release of pollutants due to project inundation from tsunami or seiche hazards.

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

FINDING: LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT:

The Water and Natural Resources Division and the State Water Resources Control Board did not express concern with the project to indicate possible conflicts or obstruction of implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan.

With the project's compliance with the Regional Water Quality Control Board's regulations, the project will not adversely affect a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan.

XI. LAND USE AND PLANNING

Would the project:

- A. Physically divide an established community?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

The project is located in a mainly agricultural area. The project site is proposed to be located along the southern property line of an existing dairy operation. The project will not physically divide an established community.

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

FINDING: LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT:

Development in Fresno County is required to be consistent with the Fresno County General Plan. Goal LU-A reads "To promote the long-term conservation of productive and potentially productive agricultural lands and to accommodate agricultural-support services and agriculturally-related activities that support the viability of agriculture and further the County's economic development goals." This goal relates to the environmental impacts of the loss of farmland. The subject parcels are enrolled in the Williamson Act Program. Review of the proposed use by the Policy Planning Section resulted in the determination that the anaerobic digester facility is not considered a compatible use on land enrolled in the Program,. Therefore, the areas proposed for the anaerobic digester and biogas upgrading facility within the subject parcel must be removed from the program through the Nonrenewal Process. It was determined by review of the Statement of Intended Uses for parcels affected by the pipeline project that the pipelines are allowed without any further Williamson Act requirements.

As the proposed use has been determined to be incompatible with the Williamson Act Program, the nonrenewal process for the contract establishes a 10-year wind-down period during which time the applicant is still subject to the terms of the agreement. The Applicant has already filed the non-renewal. The loss of land associated with the development of the proposed facility is not a significant loss of agricultural resources and will have a less than significant impact based on the identified goal of conservation of productive agricultural land.

XII. MINERAL RESOURCES

Would the project:

- A. Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state; or

- B. Result in the loss of availability of a locally-important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local General Plan, Specific Plan or other land use plan?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

According to Figure 7-7 and 7-8 of the Fresno County General Plan Background Report (FCGPBR), the project site is not located in any designated resource area and not located in a mineral resource recovery site.

XIII. NOISE

Would the project result in:

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

FINDING: LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT:

Noise levels will increase as a result of the project. The majority of equipment utilized for the project would be within the proposed structures. The Department of Public Health, Environmental Health Division indicated in their review of the project, is that the operation is expected to comply with the Fresno County Noise Ordinance. Review of aerial images also indicate that there are no sensitive receptors in the immediate vicinity of the project site. Therefore, in considering the projects compliance with the Fresno County Noise Ordinance and the projects distance from sensitive receptors, the noise generation is expected to be less than significant.

- C. For a project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels; or

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

The project site is not located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or an airport land use plan or within two miles of a public airport or public use airport.

XIV. POPULATION AND HOUSING

Would the project:

- A. Induce substantial unplanned population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?; or

- B. Displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

The project site is located on an undeveloped agricultural utilized parcel. The project proposes to construct an anaerobic digester and biomethane facility and would not induce substantial unplanned population growth in the area. There is no displacement of people or housing occurring with the proposed construction of the project.

XV. PUBLIC SERVICES

Would the project:

- A. Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically-altered governmental facilities, or the need for new or physically-altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services?

- 1. Fire protection;

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

The Fresno County Fire Protection District has reviewed the subject application and did not express concern with the project to indicate that impacts to service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives would occur as a result of the project.

- 2. Police protection;

- 3. Schools;

- 4. Parks; or

- 5. Other public facilities?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

Reviewing agencies and departments did not provide comments to indicate that impacts to service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives would occur as a result of the project.

XVI. RECREATION

Would the project:

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

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

The project would not result in the increased use of existing neighborhood and regional parks, or other recreational facilities. The project does not include or require construction of expansion of recreational facility.

XVI. TRANSPORTATION

Would the project:

- A. Conflict with a program, plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities; or
- B. Would the project conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3, subdivision (b)?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

The Transportation Design Division and the Road Maintenance and Operations Division has reviewed the project and determined through their review that the project will not result in conflict with the County's circulation system and would not result in additional trip generation during operation of the use.

- C. Substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?; or
- D. Result in inadequate emergency access?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

Review of the project's design did not identify any hazards or incompatible use. The project is expected to comply with local and State regulations for emergency access. The Fresno County Fire Protection District to not identify any deficiencies as a result of their review.

XVIII. TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES

Would the project:

- A. Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code section 21074 as either a site,

feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is:

1. Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code section 5020.1(k), or
2. A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resource Code Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe?

FINDING: LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT WITH MITIGATION INCORPORATED:

Under the provisions of Assembly Bill 52 (AB 52), participating California Native American Tribes were notified of the project proposal and given the opportunity to enter into consultation with the County of Fresno on addressing potential cultural resources. No requests for consultation were received and no concerns were expressed by reviewing tribal governments. As no evidence was supplied to verify presence of tribal cultural resources and in considering the subject sites past use as agricultural production and supportive of the adjacent dairy, there is minimal likelihood that a cultural resource is present on the subject site. A mitigation measure shall be implemented to properly address a cultural resource in the unlikely event that such a resource is unearthed during ground-disturbing activities associated with the project.

* **Mitigation Measure(s)**

1. See Section V. Cultural Resources A., B., and C. Mitigation Measure #1

XIX. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS

Would the project:

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

FINDING: LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT:

The project will result in the construction of an anaerobic digester facility, a biomethane upgrading facility, and pipeline that would deliver compliant gas for ultimate delivery to the public utility gas grid. The construction of the proposed facility does not appear to result in significant environmental effects. The pipeline intends to connect with an existing pipeline that would ultimately hook into the public utility gas grid. Outside of the pipelines needed to connect with the existing pipeline, no addition construction or

relocation of the existing pipeline is needed. Additional utilities and service systems would not be required.

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

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

The Water and Natural Resources Division has reviewed the project proposal and determined that the water supply for the area is adequate to support the project.

- C. Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

Review of the site plan and proposed improvements, the project would not include construction of a wastewater treatment system. If a system were to be constructed, the system would be subject to review and permit under the provision of the Fresno County Local Area Management Program (LAMP) which include design standards and regulations for permitting of private septic systems. Therefore, as no wastewater treatment system is proposed, and in considering local regulations for the permitting of septic systems, the project would have no impact.

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

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

Reviewing agencies and departments did not express concern with the project to indicate that construction and operation of the proposal would generate solid waste in excess of State or local standards or conflict with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste.

XX. WILDFIRE

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

- A. Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan, or telecommunications facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects; or

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

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

Per the Fire Hazard Severity Zones in LRA 2007 Map, the project site is not located within a State Responsibility Area nor located within a very high fire hazard severity zone.

XXI. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

Would the project:

- A. Have the potential to substantially degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

As noted in Section IV. *Biological Resources*, the project site is located adjacent to a dairy operation and has historically been utilized for agricultural purposes. Although the subject site is clear of any structural improvements, the sites utilization with the existing dairy would likely deter wildlife species from occupying the site. Therefore, the project is not likely to substantially degrade the quality of the environment or substantially reduce the habitat of a wildlife species.

- B. Have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? (“Cumulatively considerable” means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)?

FINDING: LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT:

As a result of this analysis, it was determined that impacts associated with Aesthetics, Cultural Resources, Hydrology and Water Quality, and Tribal Cultural Resources were determined to be less than significant with implementation of mitigation measures. With

implementation of identified mitigation measures, the project would not have a cumulatively considerable impact.

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

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

Based on the completed analysis, no substantial adverse effects on human beings were identified.

CONCLUSION/SUMMARY

Based upon the Initial Study prepared for Unclassified Conditional Use Permit Application No. 3696, staff has concluded that the project will not have a significant effect on the environment. It has been determined that there would be no impacts to Biological Resources, Energy, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Mineral Resources, Population and Housing, Public Services, Recreation, Transportation, Wildfire.

Potential impacts related to Agricultural and Forestry Resources, Air Quality, Geology and Soils, Hydrology and Water Quality, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, Land Use Planning, Noise, Utilities and Service Systems have been determined to be less than significant. Potential impacts relating to Aesthetics, Cultural Resources, and Tribal Cultural Resources have determined to be less than significant with compliance with implementation of recommended mitigation measures.

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

TK

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County of Fresno

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

INITIAL STUDY ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST FORM

1. Project title:

Initial Study No. 7998 and Unclassified Conditional Use Permit Application No. 3696

2. Lead agency name and address:

County of Fresno, Department of Public Works and Planning
2220 Tulare Street, 6th Floor
Fresno, CA 93721

3. Contact person and phone number:

Thomas Kobayashi, Planner
(559) 600-4224

4. Project location:

The subject parcel is located on the northeast corner of the W. Nebraska Avenue and S. Bishop Avenue alignment approximately 0.76 miles west of S. Jameson Avenue and is located approximately 9 miles west of the city limits of the City of Caruthers (11511 W. Floral Avenue) (041-030-47S and 48S) (Sup. Dist. 4).

5. Project sponsor's name and address:

SAR 1, LLC.
2512 W. Sierra Avenue
Fresno, CA 93711

6. General Plan designation:

Agriculture

7. Zoning:

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

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

Allow an anaerobic digester and biomethane facility to produce pipeline compliant biomethane gas for delivery to a utility owner pipeline point of connection on a 98.14-acre parcel and 48.48-acre parcel in the AE-20 (Exclusive Agricultural, 20-acre minimum parcel size) Zone District. The proposed pipeline will run approximately 3.2 miles southwest to a point of connection with an approved biogas facility.

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

The project site is located in a mainly agricultural area. There is an existing dairy operation located northerly adjacent to the project site.

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

County of Fresno, Department of Public Works and Planning
County of Fresno, Department of Public Health
San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District
Regional Water Quality Control Board

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

Under the provision of Assembly Bill 52 (AB 52), participating California Native American Tribes were notified of the project and given the opportunity to enter into consultation with the County of Fresno on addressing potential cultural resources. Participating California Native American Tribes either did not enter into consultation or did not express concern with the project.

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

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED:

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

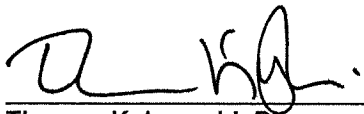
- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aesthetics | <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture and Forestry Resources |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Air Quality | <input type="checkbox"/> Biological Resources |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Energy |
| <input type="checkbox"/>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

DETERMINATION OF REQUIRED ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT:

On the basis of this initial evaluation:


- I find that the proposed project **COULD NOT** have a significant effect on the environment. **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 the Mitigation Measures described on the attached sheet have been added to the project. **A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION WILL BE PREPARED.**
- I find the proposed project **MAY** have a significant effect on the environment, and an **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT** is required
- I find that as a result of the proposed project, no new effects could occur, or new Mitigation Measures would be required that have not been addressed within the scope of a previous Environmental Impact Report.

PERFORMED BY:



 Thomas Kobayashi, Planner
 Date: 11/3/21

REVIEWED BY:



 David Randall, Senior Planner
 Date: 10.29.21

**INITIAL STUDY
ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST FORM
(Initial Study No. 7998 and
Unclassified Conditional Use Permit
Application No. 3696)**

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

1 = No Impact

2 = Less Than Significant Impact

3 = Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated

4 = Potentially Significant Impact

I. AESTHETICS

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

- 1 a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?
- 1 b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?
- 1 c) In non-urbanized areas, substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings? (Public views are those that are experienced from publicly accessible vantage point). If the project is in an urbanized area, would the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?
- 3 d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare that would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?

II. AGRICULTURAL AND FORESTRY RESOURCES

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

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

III. AIR QUALITY

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

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

IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Would the project:

- 1 a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special-status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?
- 1 b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?
- 1 c) Have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally-protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?
- 1 d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?
- 1 e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?
- 1 f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state Habitat Conservation Plan?

V. CULTURAL RESOURCES

Would the project:

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

VI. ENERGY

Would the project:

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

VII. GEOLOGY AND SOILS

Would the project:

- a) Directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:
 - 1 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?
 - 2 ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?
 - 2 iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?
 - 1 iv) Landslides?
- 2 b) Result in substantial soil erosion or loss of topsoil?
- 1 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?
- 1 d) Be located on expansive soil as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property?
- 1 e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?
- 1 f) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?

VIII. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

Would the project:

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

IX. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

Would the project:

- 2 a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?
- 2 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?
- 1 c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?
- 1 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?
- 1 e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard or excessive noise for people residing or working in the project area?
- 1 f) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?
- 1 g) Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires?

X. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

Would the project:

- 2 a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or ground water quality?
- 1 b) Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?
- 2 c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on or off site?
 - 2 i) Result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site;
 - 2 ii) Substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or offsite;
 - 1 iii) Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff; or
 - 1 iv) Impede or redirect flood flows?
- 1 d) In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?
- 2 e) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?

XI. LAND USE AND PLANNING

Would the project:

- 1 a) Physically divide an established community?
- 2 b) Cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?

XII. MINERAL RESOURCES

Would the project:

- 1 a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?
- 1 b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally-important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local General Plan, Specific Plan or other land use plan?

XIII. NOISE

Would the project result in:

- 2 a) Generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?
- 2 b) Generation of excessive ground-borne vibration or ground-borne noise levels?
- 1 c) For a project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?

XIV. POPULATION AND HOUSING

Would the project:

- 1 a) Induce substantial unplanned population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and

businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?

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

XV. PUBLIC SERVICES

Would the project:

- 1 a) Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically-altered governmental facilities, or the need for new or physically-altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services:
- 1 i) Fire protection?
1 ii) Police protection?
1 iii) Schools?
1 iv) Parks?
1 v) Other public facilities?

XVI. RECREATION

Would the project:

- 1 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?
- 1 b) Include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities, which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?

XVII. TRANSPORTATION

Would the project:

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

XVIII. TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES

Would the project:

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

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

XIX. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS

Would the project:

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

XX. WILDFIRE

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

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

XXI. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

Would the project:

- 1 a) Have the potential to substantially degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?
- 2 b) Have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)
- 1 c) Have environmental effects, which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?

Documents Referenced:

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

Fresno County General Plan, Policy Document and Final EIR
Fresno County Zoning Ordinance
Important Farmland 2010 Map, State Department of Conservation
California Air Resources Board, GHG Benefits Calculator
Health Risk Assessment, Applicant Calculations

TK

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Notice of Completion & Environmental Document Transmittal

Mail to: State Clearinghouse, P.O. Box 3044, Sacramento, CA 95812-3044 (916) 445-0613
For Hand Delivery/Street Address: 1400 Tenth Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

SCH #

Project Title: Initial Study No. 7998 and Unclassified Conditional Use Permit Application No. 3696
Lead Agency: County of Fresno, Department of Public Works and Planning
Mailing Address: 2220 Tulare Street, 6th Floor
City: Fresno Zip: 93721 County: Fresno
Contact Person: Thomas Kobayashi
Phone: (559) 600-4224

Project Location: County: Fresno City/Nearest Community: Caruthers
Cross Streets: W. Nebraska Avenue and S. Bishop Avenue Zip Code: 93721
Longitude/Latitude (degrees, minutes and seconds): ... N / ... W Total Acres: 146.62
Assessor's Parcel No.: 041-030-47S and 48S Section: 3 Twp.: 16S Range: 18E Base:
Within 2 Miles: State Hwy #: Waterways:
Airports: Railways: Schools:

Document Type:
CEQA: [] NOP [] Draft EIR [] Early Cons [] Supplement/Subsequent EIR [] Neg Dec [] Mit Neg Dec
NEPA: [] NOI [] EA [] Draft EIS [] FONSI
Other: [] Joint Document [] Final Document [] Other:

Local Action Type:
[] General Plan Update [] Specific Plan [] Rezone [] Annexation
[] General Plan Amendment [] Master Plan [] Prezone [] Redevelopment
[] General Plan Element [] Planned Unit Development [X] Use Permit [] Coastal Permit
[] Community Plan [] Site Plan [] Land Division (Subdivision, etc.) [] Other:

Development Type:
[] Residential: Units Acres
[] Office: Sq.ft. Acres Employees
[] Commercial: Sq.ft. Acres Employees
[] Industrial: Sq.ft. Acres Employees
[] Educational:
[] Recreational:
[] Water Facilities: Type MGD
[] Transportation: Type
[] Mining: Mineral
[] Power: Type MW
[] Waste Treatment: Type MGD
[] Hazardous Waste: Type
[X] Other: Anaerobic Digester and Biomethane facility

Project Issues Discussed in Document:
[X] Aesthetic/Visual [] Fiscal [X] Recreation/Parks [] Vegetation
[X] Agricultural Land [X] Flood Plain/Flooding [X] Schools/Universities [X] Water Quality
[X] Air Quality [X] Forest Land/Fire Hazard [X] Septic Systems [X] Water Supply/Groundwater
[X] Archeological/Historical [X] Geologic/Seismic [X] Sewer Capacity [X] Wetland/Riparian
[X] Biological Resources [X] Minerals [X] Soil Erosion/Compaction/Grading [X] Growth Inducement
[] Coastal Zone [X] Noise [X] Solid Waste [X] Land Use
[X] Drainage/Absorption [X] Population/Housing Balance [X] Toxic/Hazardous [X] Cumulative Effects
[] Economic/Jobs [X] Public Services/Facilities [X] Traffic/Circulation [X] Other: Wildfire / Emery

Present Land Use/Zoning/General Plan Designation:
Agriculture / AE-20 (Exclusive Agricultural, 20-acre minimum parcel size) / Agriculture

Project Description: (please use a separate page if necessary)
Allow an anaerobic digester and biomethane facility to produce pipeline compliant biomethane gas for delivery to a utility owner pipeline point of connection on a 98.14-acre parcel and 48.48-acre parcel in the AE-20 (Exclusive Agricultural, 20-acre minimum parcel size) Zone District. The proposed pipeline will run approximately 3.2 miles southwest to a point of connection with an approved biogas facility. The subject parcel is located on the northeast corner of the W. Nebraska Avenue and S. Bishop Avenue alignment approximately 0.76 miles west of S. Jameson Avenue and is located approximately 9 miles west of the city limits of the City of Caruthers.

Reviewing Agencies Checklist

Lead Agencies may recommend State Clearinghouse distribution by marking agencies below with an "X".
 If you have already sent your document to the agency please denote that with an "S".

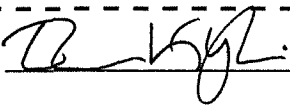
- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Air Resources Board | <input type="checkbox"/> Office of Historic Preservation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Boating & Waterways, Department of | <input type="checkbox"/> Office of Public School Construction |
| <input type="checkbox"/> California Emergency Management Agency | <input type="checkbox"/> Parks & Recreation, Department of |
| <input type="checkbox"/> California Highway Patrol | <input type="checkbox"/> Pesticide Regulation, Department of |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Caltrans District # <u>Fresno</u> | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Utilities Commission |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Caltrans Division of Aeronautics | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Regional WQCB # <u>Fresno</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Caltrans Planning | <input type="checkbox"/> Resources Agency |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Central Valley Flood Protection Board | <input type="checkbox"/> Resources Recycling and Recovery, Department of |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Coachella Valley Mtns. Conservancy | <input type="checkbox"/> S.F. Bay Conservation & Development Comm. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Coastal Commission | <input type="checkbox"/> San Gabriel & Lower L.A. Rivers & Mtns. Conservancy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Colorado River Board | <input type="checkbox"/> San Joaquin River Conservancy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation, Department of | <input type="checkbox"/> Santa Monica Mtns. Conservancy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Corrections, Department of | <input type="checkbox"/> State Lands Commission |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Delta Protection Commission | <input type="checkbox"/> SWRCB: Clean Water Grants |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Education, Department of | <input type="checkbox"/> SWRCB: Water Quality |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Energy Commission | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SWRCB: Water Rights |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fish & Game Region # <u>Fresno</u> | <input type="checkbox"/> Tahoe Regional Planning Agency |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Food & Agriculture, Department of | <input type="checkbox"/> Toxic Substances Control, Department of |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Forestry and Fire Protection, Department of | <input type="checkbox"/> Water Resources, Department of |
| <input type="checkbox"/> General Services, Department of | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: <u>U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Health Services, Department of | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Housing & Community Development | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Native American Heritage Commission | |

Local Public Review Period (to be filled in by lead agency)

Starting Date November 3, 2021 Ending Date December 3, 2021

Lead Agency (Complete if applicable):

Consulting Firm: <u>County of Fresno</u>	Applicant: <u>SAR 1, LLC.</u>
Address: <u>2220 Tulare Street, 6th Floor</u>	Address: <u>2512 W. Sierra Avenue</u>
City/State/Zip: <u>Fresno, CA 93721</u>	City/State/Zip: <u>Fresno, CA 93711</u>
Contact: <u>Thomas Kobayashi</u>	Phone: <u>(208) 284-2441</u>
Phone: <u>(559) 600-4224</u>	

Signature of Lead Agency Representative:  Date: 10/28/21

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

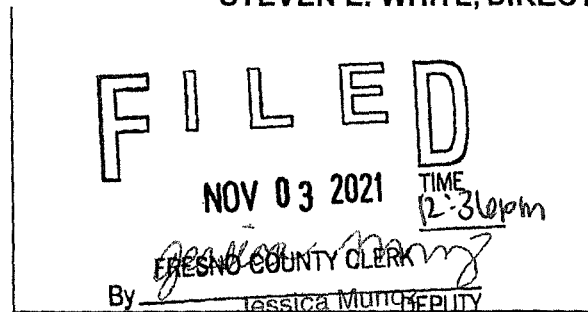


E202110000284

County of Fresno

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

NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION



For County Clerk's Stamp

Notice is hereby given that the County of Fresno has prepared Initial Study (IS) No. 7998 pursuant to the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act for the following proposed project:

INITIAL STUDY NO. 7998 and UNCLASSIFIED CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT APPLICATION NO. 3696 filed by **SAR 1, LLC.**, proposing to allow an anaerobic digester and biomethane facility to produce pipeline compliant biomethane gas for delivery to a utility owner pipeline point of connection on a 98.14-acre parcel and 48.48-acre parcel in the AE-20 (Exclusive Agricultural, 20-acre minimum parcel size) Zone District. The proposed pipeline will run approximately 3.2 miles southwest to a point of connection with an approved biogas facility. The subject parcel is located on the northeast corner of the W. Nebraska Avenue and S. Bishop Avenue alignment approximately 0.76 miles west of S. Jameson Avenue and is located approximately 9 miles west of the city limits of the City of Caruthers (11511 W. Floral Avenue) (041-030-47S and 48S) (Sup. Dist. 4). Adopt the Mitigated Negative Declaration prepared for Initial Study No. 7998 and take action on Unclassified Conditional Use Permit Application No. 3696 with Findings and Conditions.

(hereafter, the "Proposed Project")

The County of Fresno has determined that it is appropriate to adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Proposed Project. The purpose of this Notice is to (1) provide notice of the availability of IS No. 7998 and the draft Mitigated Negative Declaration, and request written comments thereon; and (2) provide notice of the public hearing regarding the Proposed Project.

Public Comment Period

The County of Fresno will receive written comments on the Proposed Project and Mitigated Negative Declaration from November 5, 2021 through December 6, 2021.

Email written comments to TKobayashi@fresnocountyca.gov, or mail comments to:

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

IS No. 7998 and the draft Mitigated Negative Declaration may be viewed at the above address Monday through Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. (except

E202110000284

holidays), or at www.co.fresno.ca.us/initialstudies An electronic copy of the draft Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Proposed Project may be obtained from Thomas Kobayashi at the addresses above.

PROGRAM ACCESSIBILITY AND ACCOMMODATIONS: The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Title II covers the programs, services, activities and facilities owned or operated by state and local governments like the County of Fresno ("County"). Further, the County promotes equality of opportunity and full participation by all persons, including persons with disabilities. Towards this end, the County works to ensure that it provides meaningful access to people with disabilities to every program, service, benefit, and activity, when viewed in its entirety. Similarly, the County also works to ensure that its operated or owned facilities that are open to the public provide meaningful access to people with disabilities.

To help ensure this meaningful access, the County will reasonably modify policies/ procedures and provide auxiliary aids/services to persons with disabilities. If, as an attendee or participant at the meeting, you need additional accommodations such as an American Sign Language (ASL) interpreter, an assistive listening device, large print material, electronic materials, Braille materials, or taped materials, please contact the Current Planning staff as soon as possible during office hours at (559) 600-4497 or at Jpotthast@fresnocountyca.gov. Reasonable requests made at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting will help to ensure accessibility to this meeting. Later requests will be accommodated to the extent reasonably feasible.

Public Hearing

The Planning Commission will hold a public hearing to consider approving the Proposed Project and the Mitigated Negative Declaration on December 16, 2021 at 8:45 a.m., or as soon thereafter as possible, in Room 301, Hall of Records, 2281 Tulare Street, Fresno, California 93721. Interested persons are invited to appear at the hearing and comment on the Proposed Project and draft Mitigated Negative Declaration.

For questions please call Thomas Kobayashi (559) 600-4224.

Published: November 5, 2021

File original and one copy with: Fresno County Clerk 2221 Kern Street Fresno, California 93721		Space Below For County Clerk Only. CLK-2046.00 E04-73 R00-00	
Agency File No: IS 7998	LOCAL AGENCY PROPOSED MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION		County Clerk File No: E-
Responsible Agency (Name): Fresno County	Address (Street and P.O. Box): 2220 Tulare St. Sixth Floor	City: Fresno	Zip Code: 93721
Agency Contact Person (Name and Title): Thomas Kobayashi Planner	Area Code: 559	Telephone Number: 600-4224	Extension: N/A
Project Applicant/Sponsor (Name): SAR 1, LLC.	Project Title: Unclassified Conditional Use Permit Application No. 3696		
Project Description: Allow an anaerobic digester and biomethane facility to produce pipeline compliant biomethane gas for delivery to a utility owner pipeline point of connection on a 98.14-acre parcel and 48.48-acre parcel in the AE-20 (Exclusive Agricultural, 20-acre minimum parcel size) Zone District. The proposed pipeline will run approximately 3.2 miles southwest to a point of connection with an approved biogas facility.			
Justification for Negative Declaration: Based upon the Initial Study prepared for Unclassified Conditional Use Permit Application No. 3696, staff has concluded that the project will not have a significant effect on the environment. It has been determined that there would be no impacts to Biological Resources, Energy, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Mineral Resources, Population and Housing, Public Services, Recreation, Transportation, Wildfire. Potential impacts related to Agricultural and Forestry Resources, Air Quality, Geology and Soils, Hydrology and Water Quality, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, Land Use Planning, Noise, Utilities and Service Systems have been determined to be less than significant. Potential impacts relating to Aesthetics, Cultural Resources, and Tribal Cultural Resources have determined to be less than significant with compliance with implementation of recommended mitigation measures.			
FINDING: The proposed project will not have a significant impact on the environment.			
Newspaper and Date of Publication: Fresno Business Journal – November 3, 2021		Review Date Deadline: Planning Commission – December 16, 2021	
Date:	Type or Print Signature: David Randall Senior Planner	Submitted by (Signature): Thomas Kobayashi Planner	

State 15083, 15085

County Clerk File No.: _____

**LOCAL AGENCY
MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION**



County of Fresno

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

DATE: February 22, 2021

TO: Department of Public Works and Planning, Attn: Steven E. White, Director
Department of Public Works and Planning, Attn: Bernard Jimenez, Assistant Director
Department of Public Works and Planning, Attn: John R. Thompson, Assistant Director
Development Services and Capital Projects, Attn: William M. Kettler, Division Manager
Development Services and Capital Projects, Attn: Chris Motta, Principal Planner
Development Services and Capital Projects, Current Planning, Attn: David Randall, Senior Planner
Development Services and Capital Projects, Policy Planning, ALCC, Attn: Mohammad Khorsand, Senior Planner
Development Services and Capital Projects, Zoning & Permit Review, Attn: Daniel Gutierrez/James Anders
Development Services and Capital Projects, Site Plan Review, Attn: Hector Luna
Development Services and Capital Projects, Building & Safety/Plan Check, Attn: Dan Mather
Development Engineering, Attn: Laurie Kennedy, Grading/Mapping
Road Maintenance and Operations, Attn: John Thompson/Nadia Lopez/Martin Querin/Wendy Nakagawa
Design Division, Transportation Planning, Attn: Mohammad Alimi/Dale Siemer/Brian Spaunhurst/Gloria Hensley
Water and Natural Resources Division, Attn: Glenn Allen, Division Manager; Roy Jimenez
Department of Public Health, Environmental Health Division, Attn: Deep Sidhu/Steven Rhodes
Agricultural Commissioner, Attn: Melissa Cregan
County Counsel, Attn: Alison Samarin, Deputy County Counsel
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, San Joaquin Valley Division, Attn: Matthew Nelson, Biologist
CA Regional Water Quality Control Board, Attn: Dale Harvey
CALTRANS, Attn: Dave Padilla
CA Department of Fish and Wildlife, Attn: Craig Bailey, Environmental Scientist & R4CEQA@wildlife.ca.gov
State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water, Fresno District, Attn: Jose Robledo, Caitlin Juarez
Dumna Wo Wah Tribal Government, Attn: Robert Ledger, Tribal Chairman/Eric Smith, Cultural Resources Manager/Chris Acree, Cultural Resources Analyst
Picayune Rancheria of the Chukchansi Indians, Attn: Heather Airey/Cultural Resources Director
Santa Rosa Rancheria Tachi Yokut Tribe, Attn: Ruben Barrios, Tribal Chairman/Hector Franco, Director/Shana Powers, Cultural Specialist II
San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District (PIC-CEQA Division), Attn: PIC Supervisor
McMullin GSA, Attn: Matthew H. Hurley, General Manager at www.mcmullinarea.org

Raisin City Water District, Attn: Randy Hopkins
Kings River Conservation District, Attn: Rick Hoelzel
Fresno County Fire Protection District, Attn: Jim McDougald, Division Chief

FROM: Thomas Kobayashi, Planner
Development Services and Capital Projects Division

SUBJECT: Initial Study Application No. 7998 and Unclassified Conditional Use Permit Application
No. 3696

APPLICANT: SAR1, LLC

DUE DATE: March 9, 2021

The Department of Public Works and Planning, Development Services and Capital Projects Division is reviewing the subject application proposing to allow an anaerobic digester and biomethane facility to produce pipeline and complaint biomethane gas for delivery to a utility owned pipeline point of connection and will utilize cattle waste produced from the existing dairy on a 98.14-acre and 48.48-acre parcel in the AE-20 (Exclusive Agricultural, 20-acre minimum parcel size) Zone District (APN: 041-030-48S and 47S). The associated pipeline project will be located on the parcels listed in the project description.

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

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

We must have your comments by **March 9, 2021**. Any comments received after this date may not be used.

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

Please address any correspondence or questions related to environmental and/or policy/design issues to me, Thomas Kobayashi, Planner, Development Services and Capital Projects Division, Fresno County Department of Public Works and Planning, 2220 Tulare Street, Sixth Floor, Fresno, CA 93721, or call (559) 600-4224, or email TKobayashi@FresnoCountyCA.gov.

TK
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Activity Code (Internal Review): 2384

Enclosures



Fresno County Department of Public Works and Planning

Date Received: 1/25/21

CLIP 3696

IS 7998

(Application No.)

MAILING ADDRESS:

Department of Public Works and Planning
Development Services Division
2220 Tulare St., 6th Floor
Fresno, Ca. 93721

LOCATION:

Southwest corner of Tulare & "M" Streets, Suite A
Street Level
Fresno Phone: (559) 600-4497
Toll Free: 1-800-742-1011 Ext. 0-4497

APPLICATION FOR:

- Pre-Application (Type) Anaerobic Digester and RNG Plant
Amendment Application
Amendment to Text
Conditional Use Permit
Variance (Class)/Minor Variance
Site Plan Review/Occupancy Permit
No Shoot/Dog Leash Law Boundary
General Plan Amendment/Specific Plan/SP Amendment
Time Extension for

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED USE OR REQUEST:

Please see attached Project Description

CEQA DOCUMENTATION: Initial Study PER N/A

PLEASE USE FILL-IN FORM OR PRINT IN BLACK INK. Answer all questions completely. Attach required site plans, forms, statements, and deeds as specified on the Pre-Application Review. Attach Copy of Deed, including Legal Description.

LOCATION OF PROPERTY: South side of West Floral Avenue
between Jameson and Goldenrod
Street address: 11511 West Floral Ave. Fresno, CA 93706

APN: 041-030-48s & 041-030-47s Parcel size: 98.14 and 48.48 Section(s)-Twp/Rg: S 3 - T 16 S/R 18 E

ADDITIONAL APN(s): none

I, (signature), declare that I am the owner, or authorized representative of the owner, of the above described property and that the application and attached documents are in all respects true and correct to the best of my knowledge. The foregoing declaration is made under penalty of perjury.

Table with 5 columns: Name, Address, City, Zip, Phone. Rows include John Verwey, SAR1, LLC, and SCS Energy.

CONTACT EMAIL: tstewart@scsengineers.com

OFFICE USE ONLY (PRINT FORM ON GREEN PAPER)

UTILITIES AVAILABLE:

Application Type / No.: CLIP 3696 Fee: \$19,123.00
Application Type / No.: Pre-App 20-104254 Fee: \$ - 247.00
Application Type / No.: Fee: \$
Application Type / No.: Fee: \$
PER/Initial Study No.: IS 7998 Fee: \$5,151.00
Ag Department Review: Fee: \$ 93.00
Health Department Review: Fee: \$ 992.00
Received By: Thomas K. Invoice No.: 137725 TOTAL: \$15,112.00

WATER: Yes [] / No []
Agency:
SEWER: Yes [] / No []
Agency:

STAFF DETERMINATION: This permit is sought under Ordinance Section:

Sect-Twp/Rg: - T S/R E

Related Application(s):

APN # - -

Zone District: AE-20

APN # - -

Parcel Size: 98.14 acres + 48.48 acres

APN # - -

APN # - -



Development Services
and
Capital Projects
Division

Email To:
Todd Stewart,
TStewart@scseng
ineers.com

Pre-Application Review
Department of Public Works and Planning

NUMBER: 20-104254
APPLICANT: SAR1, LLC c/o CHRISTIAN DRAKE
PHONE: (208) 284-2441

PROPERTY LOCATION: 11511 W. FLORAL AVE., FRESNO, California, 93706, USA
APN: 041-030-47S & 48S ALCC: No Yes # AP-4704 VIOLATION NO. N/A
CNEL: No X Yes (level) LOW WATER: No X Yes WITHIN 1/4 MILE OF CITY: No X Yes
ZONE DISTRICT: AE-20; SRA: No X Yes HOMESITE DECLARATION REQ'D.: No X Yes
LOT STATUS:

Zoning: (X) Conforms; () Legal Non-Conforming lot; () Deed Review Req'd (see Form #236)
Merger: May be subject to merger: No X Yes ZM# Initiated In process
Map Act: () Lot of Rec. Map; (X) On '72 rolls; () Other ; () Deeds Req'd (see Form #236)

SCHOOL FEES: No Yes X DISTRICT: Caruthers Trustee Area 1 PERMIT JACKET: No Yes X
FMFCD FEE AREA: (X) Outside () District No.: FLOOD PRONE: No X Yes

PROPOSAL UCUP to Allow the Use of an Anaerobic Digester/Biomethane Facility to Produce Biomethane Gas for Delivery Via Pipeline to a Utility Company on APN's 041-030-47S & 48S Approximate 144.98 Acres [to be Combined by "Grant" Deed Under Common Ownership] Prior to Land Use Approval.

COMMENTS: A Grant Deed Shall Be Recorded for APNs 041-030-47S & 48S Under Common Ownership Prior to Land Use Approval.
ORD. SECTION(S): 853.-B.14 BY: O. Ramirez DATE: 07/17/2020

GENERAL PLAN POLICIES:	PROCEDURES AND FEES:
LAND USE DESIGNATION: <u>Agriculture</u> () JGA: <u> </u> () MINOR VA: <u> </u>	COMMUNITY PLAN: () JAA: <u> </u> () HD: <u>\$ 992.00</u>
REGIONAL PLAN: <u> </u> (X) CUP: <u>\$9,250.00</u> (X) JAG COMM: <u>\$ 93.00</u>	SPECIFIC PLAN: () JDR: <u> </u> () JALCC: <u> </u>
SPECIAL POLICIES: <u> </u> () JVA: <u> </u> (X) IS/PER*: <u>\$5,151.00</u>	SPHERE OF INFLUENCE: () JAT: <u> </u> () Viol. (35%): <u> </u>
ANNEX REFERRAL (LU-G17/MOU): <u> </u> () JTT: <u> </u> () Other: <u> </u>	

COMMENTS:
Filing Fee: \$
Pre-Application Fee: - \$247.00
Total County Filing Fee: \$15,112.00

FILING REQUIREMENTS:

- (X) Land Use Applications and Fees
- (X) This Pre-Application Review form
- (X) Copy of Deed / Legal Description
- (X) Photographs
- () Letter Verifying Deed Review
- (X) IS Application and Fees* * Upon review of project materials, an Initial Study (IS) with fees may be required.
- (X) Site Plans - 4 copies (folded to 8.5"x11") + 1 - 8.5"x11" reduction
- (X) Floor Plan & Elevations - 4 copies (folded to 8.5"x11") + 1 - 8.5"x11" reduction
- (X) Project Description / Operational Statement (Typed)
- () Statement of Variance Findings
- () Statement of Intended Use (ALCC)
- () Dependency Relationship Statement
- () Resolution/Letter of Release from City of
Referral Letter #

OTHER FILING FEES:

- () Archaeological Inventory Fee: \$75 at time of filing
(Separate check to Southern San Joaquin Valley Info. Center)
- (X) CA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife (CDFW): (\$50) (\$50+\$2,406.75)
(Separate check to Fresno County Clerk for pass-thru to CDFW.
Must be paid prior to IS closure and prior to setting hearing date.)

BY: Thomas Kobayashi DATE:
PHONE NUMBER: (559) (600) - 4224

NOTE: THE FOLLOWING REQUIREMENTS MAY ALSO APPLY:

() COVENANT	(X) SITE PLAN REVIEW
() MAP CERTIFICATE	(X) BUILDING PLANS
() PARCEL MAP	(X) BUILDING PERMITS
() FINAL MAP	() WASTE FACILITIES PERMIT
() FMFCD FEES	() SCHOOL FEES
(X) ALUC or ALCC	() OTHER (see reverse side)

PLU # 113 Fee: \$247.00
Note: This fee will apply to the application fee if the application is submitted within six (6) months of the date on this receipt.

RECEIVED
COUNTY OF FRESNO
JAN 25 2021
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
AND PLANNING
DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DIVISION

OVER.....



County of Fresno

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

INITIAL STUDY APPLICATION

INSTRUCTIONS

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

OFFICE USE ONLY	
IS No.	7998
Project No(s).	CUP 3696
Application Rec'd.:	1/25/21

GENERAL INFORMATION

- Property Owner :** John Verwey **Phone/Fax:** 559-779-9863
Mailing Address: 11511 West Floral Avenue, Fresno, CA 93706
Street City State/Zip
- Applicant :** SAR1, LLC Christian Drake **Phone/Fax:** 208-284-2441
Mailing Address: 2512 W. Sierra Avenue Fresno CA / 93711
Street City State/Zip
- Representative:** SCS Engineers, Todd Stewart, PE, PMP **Phone/Fax:** 925-200-0629
Mailing Address: 4683 Chabot Drive, Suite 200 Pleasanton CA/ 94588
Street City State/Zip
- Proposed Project:** Design and construct a dairy manure to renewable natural gas (RNG) plant at the Johann Dairy. Project will consist of a DVO concrete plug-flow digester to produce approximately 500 scfm of biogas to be delivered to a clean up plant to remove H2S, CO2 and other impurities to create pipeline quality gas. Please see attached "SAR1 Biomethane Plant - Project Description 12232020.pdf"
- Project Location:** The subject property is located on the south side of Floral Avenue approximately 2,642 feet west of its intersection with S. Jameson Ave. and 5.2 miles northeast of the unincorporated community of Helm. (Sup. Dist. 1) .
- Project Address:** Johann Dairy, 11511 West Floral Avenue, Fresno, CA 93706
- Section/Township/Range:** 3 / 16south / 18east **Parcel Size:** 159.26 acres
- Assessor's Parcel No.** (APN 041-030-20S, 47S & 48S)

10. Land Conservation Contract No. (If applicable): _____

11. What other agencies will you need to get permits or authorization from:

_____ LAFCo (annexation or extension of services)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	SJVUAPCD (Air Pollution Control District)
_____ CALTRANS	_____	Reclamation Board
_____ Division of Aeronautics	_____	Department of Energy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Water Quality Control Board	_____	Airport Land Use Commission
_____ Other _____		

12. Will the project utilize Federal funds or require other Federal authorization subject to the provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969? _____ Yes No

If so, please provide a copy of all related grant and/or funding documents, related information and environmental review requirements.

13. Existing Zone District¹: AE-20 (Agriculture Exclusive) 20 acre minimum parcel size _____

14. Existing General Plan Land Use Designation¹: Agriculture _____

ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION

15. Present land use: Dairy Farm
Describe existing physical improvements including buildings, water (wells) and sewage facilities, roads, and lighting. Include a site plan or map showing these improvements:
Stalls, Farm structures, Single-family residences, Lagoons, Solid separation area, Milking parlor, pond, Overhead power transmission lines, water well.

Describe the major vegetative cover: None _____

Any perennial or intermittent water courses? If so, show on map: N/A _____

Is property in a flood-prone area? Describe:

No _____

16. Describe surrounding land uses (e.g., commercial, agricultural, residential, school, etc.):

North: Dairy Farm _____

South: Farmland _____

East: Farmland _____

West: Farmland _____

17. What land use(s) in the area may be impacted by your Project?: None

18. What land use(s) in the area may impact your project?: None

19. Transportation:

NOTE: The information below will be used in determining traffic impacts from this project. The data may also show the need for a Traffic Impact Study (TIS) for the project.

A. Will additional driveways from the proposed project site be necessary to access public roads?
 Yes X No

B. Daily traffic generation:

I. Residential - Number of Units	<u> </u> n/a
Lot Size	<u> </u> n/a
Single Family	<u> </u> n/a
Apartments	<u> </u> n/a

II. Commercial - Number of Employees	<u> </u> 1
Number of Salesmen	<u> </u> 0
Number of Delivery Trucks	<u> </u> 0
Total Square Footage of Building	<u> </u> 3,200

III. Describe and quantify other traffic generation activities: None

20. Describe any source(s) of noise from your project that may affect the surrounding area: Compressors
blowers, and coolers will emit noise at up to 90dB at 3 feet from equipment. Noise at property line will have an insignificant impact.

21. Describe any source(s) of noise in the area that may affect your project: None

22. Describe the probable source(s) of air pollution from your project: Low NOx boilers to heat the digester,
permeate (primarily CO2) vent on membrane skid, CH4 from venting of off-spec gas less than 500 hours/year, and
deminimus CH4 from gas chromatograph and analyzer

23. Proposed source of water:
 private well
 community system³--name:

24. *Anticipated volume of water to be used (gallons per day)*²: Water to be used for maintenance of site only.
25. *Proposed method of liquid waste disposal:*
 () *septic system/individual*
 () *community system*³-name Liquid digestate is not a waste.
26. *Estimated volume of liquid waste (gallons per day)*²: 185,000 gpd of liquid digestate; 400 gpd of condensate
27. *Anticipated type(s) of liquid waste:* The liquid digestate is a nutrient rich soil amendment. Digestate and condensate will be routed to existing lagoon for temporary storage and then utilized by Dairy or others as a natural crop nutrient.
28. *Anticipated type(s) of hazardous wastes*²: None
29. *Anticipated volume of hazardous wastes*²: None
30. *Proposed method of hazardous waste disposal*²: None
31. *Anticipated type(s) of solid waste:* Digestate solids, activated carbon, iron oxide media, sand and grit in digester
32. *Anticipated amount of solid waste (tons or cubic yards per day):* Approx. 1 cubic yard/week digestate solids, media will be replaced annually. (Misc)
33. *Anticipated amount of waste that will be recycled (tons or cubic yards per day):* Approximately 1 cubic yard/week
34. *Proposed method of solid waste disposal:* Digestate solids will be utilized as bedding for cows or a soil amendment
35. *Fire protection district(s) serving this area:* Fresno County Fire Protection District
36. *Has a previous application been processed on this site? If so, list title and date:* Initial Study Appl. No. 7286 and Classified Conditional Use Permit Application No. 3574.
37. *Do you have any underground storage tanks (except septic tanks)?* Yes No
38. *If yes, are they currently in use?* Yes No

TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE, THE FOREGOING INFORMATION IS TRUE.



12/23/2020

SIGNATURE

DATE

¹Refer to Development Services Conference Checklist

²For assistance, contact Environmental Health System, (559) 600-3357

³For County Service Areas or Waterworks Districts, contact the Resources Division, (559) 600-4259

(Revised 5/2/16)

NOTICE AND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

INDEMNIFICATION AND DEFENSE

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

STATE FISH AND WILDLIFE FEE

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

The following projects are exempt from the fees:

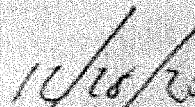
1. All projects statutorily exempt from the provisions of CEQA (California Environmental Quality Act).
2. All projects categorically exempt by regulations of the Secretary of Resources (State of California) from the requirement to prepare environmental documents.

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

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



Applicant's Signature



Date



RECEIVED
COUNTY OF FRESNO

JAN 25 2021

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
AND PLANNING
DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DIVISION

County of Fresno

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

AGENT AUTHORIZATION

AUTHORIZATION OF AGENT TO ACT ON BEHALF OF PROPERTY OWNER

The Agent Authorization form is required whenever a property owner grants authority to an individual to submit and/or pursue a land use entitlement application on their behalf. This form must be completed by the property owner and submitted with the land use entitlement application to confirm that the property owner has granted authority to a representative to sign application forms on their behalf and represent them in matters related to a land use entitlement application.

The below named person is hereby authorized to act on my behalf as agent in matters related to land use entitlement applications associated with the property listed below.

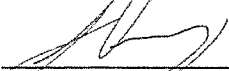
Christopher Drake	SAR1, LLC
Agent Name (Print or Type)	Company Name (Print or Type)
2512 West Sierra, Ave,	Fresno, CA 93711
Mailing Address	City / State / Zip Code
208-284-2441	cdrakefinance@gmail.com
Phone Number	Email Address
041-020-29 and 041-020-30	11511 W. Floral Fresno, CA 93706
041-030-47 and 041-030-48	Project Street Address
Project APN	

A list consisting of ____ additional properties is attached (include the APN for each property).

Project Description (Print or Type):

Anaerobic Digester and RNG plant to convert cattle manure into renewable natural gas. Project includes a pipeline from Johann Dairy to Maddox Dairy where RNG will be interconnected with CEE meter station and pipeline

The undersigned declares under penalty of perjury that they own, possess, control or manage the property referenced in this authorization and that they have the authority to designate an agent to act on behalf of all the owners of said property. The undersigned acknowledges delegation of authority to the designated agent and retains full responsibility for any and all actions this agent makes on behalf of the owner.


Owner Signature

12-17-2020
Date

John Verwey
Owner Name (Print or Type)

559-779-9863
Phone Number

Johnverwey@hotmail.com
Email Address

** If the legal owner of the property is a corporation, company, partnership or LLC, provide a copy of a legal document with this authorization form showing that the individual signing this authorization form is a duly authorized partner, officer or owner of said corporation, company, partnership or LLC.*

G:\4360Devs&Pin\FORMS\F410 Agent Authorization 8-14-19.doc

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES AND CAPITAL PROJECTS DIVISION
2220 Tulare Street, Sixth Floor / Fresno, California 93721 / Phone (559) 600-4497 / 600-4022 / 600-4540 / FAX 600-4200
The County of Fresno is an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer

**AGENT AUTHORIZATION
ADDITIONAL PROPERTY LIST**

Project APN

Project Street Address

Project APN

Project Street Address

Project APN

Project Street Address

Project APN

Project Street Address

Project APN

Project Street Address

Project APN

Project Street Address

G:\4360Devs&Pin\FORMS\F410 Agent Authorization 8-14-19.doc



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JAN 25 2021

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
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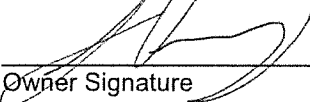
<p>Todd Stewart</p> <hr/> <p>Agent Name (Print or Type)</p> <p>4683 Chabot Drive, Suite 200</p> <hr/> <p>Mailing Address</p> <p>925-200-0629</p> <hr/> <p>Phone Number</p> <p>041-020-29 and 041-020-30 041-030-47 and 041-030-48</p> <hr/> <p>Project APN</p>	<p>SCS Energy</p> <hr/> <p>Company Name (Print or Type)</p> <p>Pleasanton, CA 94588</p> <hr/> <p>City / State / Zip Code</p> <p>tstewart@scsengineers.com</p> <hr/> <p>Email Address</p> <p>11511 W. Floral Fresno, CA 93706</p> <hr/> <p>Project Street Address</p>
--	--

A list consisting of ____ additional properties is attached (include the APN for each property).

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Owner Signature

12-17-2020

Date

John Verwey

Owner Name (Print or Type)

559-779-9863

Phone Number

Johnverwey@hotmail.com

Email Address

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**AGENT AUTHORIZATION
ADDITIONAL PROPERTY LIST**

Project APN

Project Street Address

Project APN

Project Street Address

Project APN

Project Street Address

Project APN

Project Street Address

Project APN

Project Street Address

Project APN

Project Street Address

G:\4360Devs&PIn\FORMS\F410 Agent Authorization 8-14-19.doc

Fresno County Recorder
Paul Dictos, CPA

2020-0157667

Recorded at the request of:
CHICAGO TITLE BAKERSFIELD -

11/04/2020 08:56 58

Titles: 1 Pages: 3

Fees: \$45.00

CA SB2 Fees:\$75.00

Taxes: \$0.00

Total: \$120.00

RECORDING REQUESTED BY:

Chicago Title Company

**When Recorded Mail Document
and Tax Statement To:**

Johann Farming, L.P. a California limited
partnership
11511 W. Floral
Fresno, CA 93706

SPACE ABOVE THIS LINE FOR RECORDER'S USE

Escrow Order No.: FWFM-TO20002225

APN/Parcel ID(s): 041-020-29
041-020-30
041-030-47
041-030-48

GRANT DEED

The undersigned grantor(s) declare(s)

* This document is being recorded to comply with the subdivision map act

This transfer is exempt from the documentary transfer tax.

The documentary transfer tax is \$_0.0* and is computed on:

the full value of the interest or property conveyed.

the full value less the liens or encumbrances remaining thereon at the time of sale.

The property is located in an Unincorporated area.

FOR A VALUABLE CONSIDERATION, receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, Johann Farming, L.P. a California limited partnership

hereby GRANT(S) to Johann Farming, L.P. a California limited partnership

the following described real property in the Unincorporated Area of the County of Fresno, State of California:

For APN/Parcel ID(s): 041-020-29, 041-020-30, 041-030-47 and 041-030-48

THE LAND REFERRED TO HEREIN BELOW IS SITUATED IN THE UNINCORPORATED AREA IN COUNTY OF FRESNO, STATE OF CALIFORNIA AND IS DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

See attached Exhibit A

PROPERTY COMMONLY KNOWN AS: 041-020-29, 041-020-30, 041-030-47 and 041-030-48, Fresno, CA 93706

MAIL TAX STATEMENTS AS DIRECTED ABOVE

GRANT DEED
(continued)

APN/Parcel ID(s): 041-020-29
041-020-30
041-030-47
041-030-48

Dated: October 27, 2020

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned have executed this document on the date(s) set forth below.

Johann Farming, L.P. a California limited partnership

BY: [Signature]
John Verwey, Authorized signer

BY: [Signature]
Ann Verwey, Authorized Signer

BY: [Signature]
John Verwey, Jr, Authorized Signer

A notary public or other officer completing this certificate verifies only the identity of the individual who signed the document to which this certificate is attached, and not the truthfulness, accuracy, or validity of that document.

State of California
County of Fresno

On October 29, 2020 before me, Anna G Guerra, Notary Public,
(here insert name and title of the officer)

personally appeared John Verwey, Ann Verwey and John Verwey, Jr.
who proved to me on the basis of satisfactory evidence to be the person(s) whose name(s) ~~is~~ are subscribed to the within instrument and acknowledged to me that ~~he~~ she/they executed the same in ~~his~~ her/their authorized capacity(ies), and that by ~~his~~ her/their signature(s) on the instrument the person(s), or the entity upon behalf of which the person(s) acted, executed the instrument.

I certify under PENALTY OF PERJURY under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing paragraph is true and correct.

WITNESS my hand and official seal.

[Signature]
Signature

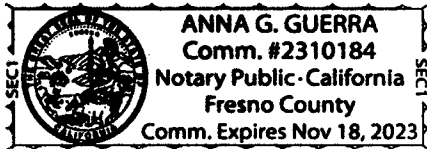


EXHIBIT A

LEGAL DESCRIPTION

APN: 041-020-29 AND 041-020-30

THAT PORTION OF THE EAST HALF OF FRACTIONAL SECTION 4, TOWNSHIP 16 SOUTH, RANGE 18 EAST, MOUNT DIABLO MERIDIAN, IN THE UNINCORPORATED AREA OF THE COUNTY OF FRESNO, STATE OF CALIFORNIA, MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

THE EAST HALF OF SAID SECTION 4;

EXCEPT THE NORTH 2627.88 FEET THEREOF.

APN: 041-030-47 AND 041-030-48

THAT PORTION OF THE WEST HALF OF FRACTIONAL SECTION 3, TOWNSHIP 16 SOUTH, RANGE 18 EAST, MOUNT DIABLO MERIDIAN, IN THE UNINCORPORATED AREA OF THE COUNTY OF FRESNO, STATE OF CALIFORNIA, MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

THE WEST HALF OF SAID SECTION 3;

EXCEPT THE NORTH 2627.88 FEET THEREOF.



R. J. Van de Valk
10/30/20

SAR1 Dairy Digester/Biomethane Facility
Project Description
12/23/2020

The project development consists of an anaerobic digester/biomethane facility on the Johann Dairy site to produce pipeline quality and compliant biomethane gas for delivery to a utility owned pipeline point of connection. The process will require power supplied by extending the existing 12KV overhead electrical lines located on the dairy property. Produced biomethane will be delivered to the utility where the expected uses include RNG for vehicles among others.

The project development involves a 159.26-acre parcel (identified by APN 041-030-20S) developed with improvements related to the dairy and 98.14-acre and 48.48-acre undeveloped parcels identified by APNs 041-030-48s and 041-030-47s, respectively, further defined as LAT/LONG N36°34'04" W120°00'13". Please see Figure 3-2 below for a project site location on the Johann Dairy property.

The existing site improvements consist of a solid separation area and lagoons. These are to be used in conjunction with this proposal and are located on the dairy site. Integration is described within the Digester Facilities description below.

The proposed project improvements are addressed as two project elements below:

Digester Facilities: Facilities at Johann Dairy for which this Project Description document focuses upon will consist of a 44,210 square-foot DVO designed digester, an approximate 3,200 square-foot mechanical building to house the digester control system, boilers, pumps, blowers, etc. The digester process will utilize an approximate 4-acre portion of the two undeveloped parcels. Please see Figure 3-2.

Digester Process Description: The DVO digester is a U-shaped concrete vessel mixed plug-flow system with a 22-day retention time. The plug-flow design means that circulation is facilitated by cattle waste being continuously added to the digester with an equal amount leaving the digester. A series of sub 2MM Btu/hour pre-certified hydronic boilers will supply heat to elements in the digester to allow the bacteria to generate biogas in a mesophilic process. Recirculation of a portion of the biogas is used for mixing to help maintain digestate consistency in the digester.

The flushed cow manure feedstock to the digester first goes through a vibratory screen with solids directed into a receiving pit (See Figures 1-1 and 1-2) where heavy, non-digestible sediments such as sand and rocks from the open lot feed lanes are removed from the process. The remaining optimized slurry of 6-10% total solids is pumped into the digester vessel. Remaining undigested liquids from the pit system are recirculated as flush water resulting in water savings. This separation step negates the need for composting thus reducing odors, vectors and emissions.

Within the digester vessel, the manure slurry will be mixed and heated to 100° F where methanogenic bacteria convert the feedstock into a biogas, consisting primarily of methane and CO₂ with smaller amounts of hydrogen sulfide (H₂S), oxygen, and water.

The biogas collected from the digester vessel is directed toward the biomethane facility described below to produce pipeline quality renewable natural gas (RNG).

During service intervals or times when the system is down for any reason, excess biogas will be directed to a permitted flare. Please see Figure 1-3 for Flare specification.

After digestion, a mechanical manure screen separates the effluent (digestate) into solid and liquid fractions. The solids are dried via a screw press to 30-35% dry solids content for use by the dairy for bedding replacement, land application on dairy-owned lands, or sold to other dairies, nurseries, or composters, as a soil amendment. The digested liquid will gravity flow to a buffer facility for direct land application via the farm’s irrigation system in accordance with the dairy’s Nutrient Management Plan & Waste Discharge Requirements.

Biomethane Facility and Pipeline: The facility consists of blowers, compressors, coolers, scrubbers, filters, and a separation skid that together accept raw digester biogas and purify it into pipeline quality Renewable Natural Gas (RNG). (See Figures 2-1a and 2-1b) The biomethane facility will initially be designed to accept up to 600 scfm of digester biogas, which provides a level of conservativeness over the expected 495 scfm of biogas that is currently expected.

The biogas quality from the DVO digester is expected to be approximately 55-64% methane, 35-41% CO2, with the remaining being nitrogen and oxygen. The upgrading process will precondition the biogas at its onset by compressing it to 2-3 psig, and then chilling to remove most of the water entrained in the biogas (See Figure 2-2). Then as shown in Figure 2-3, the biogas will go through “iron sponge” technology to lower H2S content to less than 50ppm. At this point the biogas is further compressed to 205-210 psig and chilled and filtered to remove the remaining water. The gas is then “polished” in an activated carbon vessel to reduce H2S concentration to less than 10ppm, and sent through a membrane separation skid that removes the remaining H2S, the CO2, and approximately 75% percent of the O2 in order to create biomethane compliant with utility gas quality requirements. A final compression and cooling stage conditions the gas to be delivered at a pressure and temperature compliant with the requirements of the California Energy Exchange (CEE) specifications at the point of reception, currently planned for at the Maddox Dairy.

Production: The summary production estimates for the SAR1 RNG facility are based upon an approximate herd size of 11,500 head of dairy cows, and are listed below. Details as to how the production estimates below were formed are available upon request.

Location	Production from digesters		Delivery to pipeline ⁽¹⁾	
	SCFM	MSCFH	SCFM	MSCFH
Johann Dairy	495	30	312	19

Note 1: Assumes that DVO digester produces biogas at 63 percent methane content

Electrical Load Requirement at Johann Dairy for the SAR1 Facilities: The site requires approximately 550KW of electrical power for continuous operations. Please see Tables 4-1 and 4-2 for projected electrical load requirements. The largest motors will be equipped with VFD’s or soft start to reduce in-rush current. This new load will be served by extending the existing PG&E service at the Johann Dairy from the northeast corner of the dairy site near Floral Avenue and separately metering the power delivered to the SAR1 Biomethane Plant.

Natural Gas Supply for the New Boilers: The digester boilers will utilize natural gas from SoCalGas (SCG) via an extension of the existing 4-inch service to the Johann Dairy.

Biomethane Delivery to Commercial Gas Pipeline: The project will deliver the RNG to a pipeline owned by California Energy Exchange (CEE) located approximately 2 miles west of the Maddox Dairy Operation. The CEE pipeline is interconnected with the PG&E gas transmission system at PG&E’s Helm facility.

To accomplish this, the project will build a pipeline from the Johann Dairy to the Maddox Dairy on the route shown below in Figure 3-3. The pipeline routing is approximately 12,000 feet in length and will transport biogas from Johann Dairy to a CEE owned injection station located at Maddox Dairy. The Johann to Maddox pipeline will reside 100 percent on land owned either by Johann Dairy or Maddox Dairy, so no public easements or ROW's will be required.

The pipeline from Maddox to the CEE commercial gas transmission system will be owned and installed by CEE and is not part of this project.

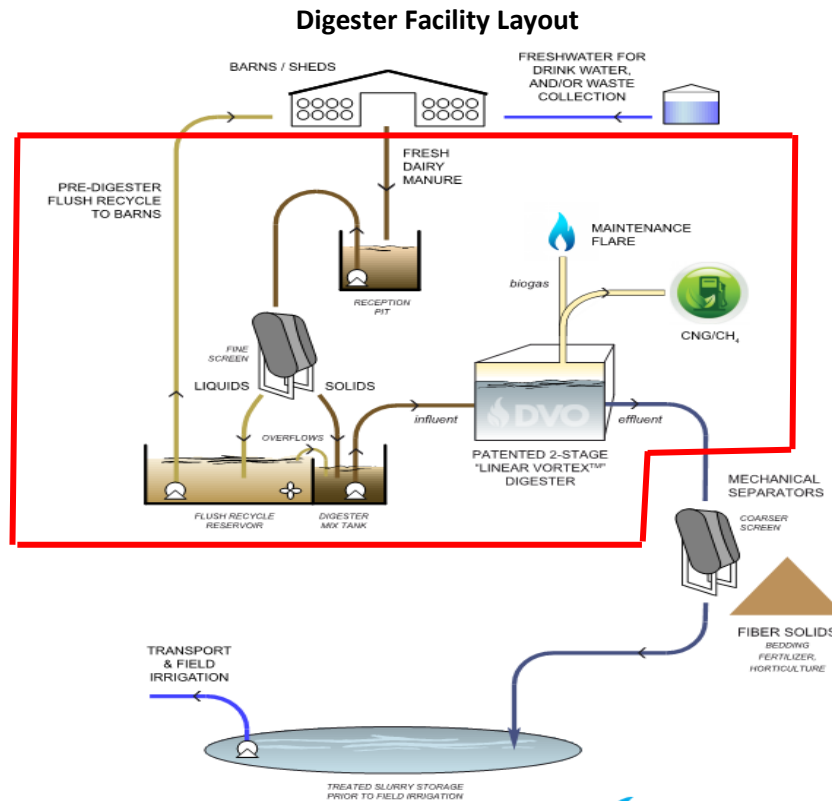
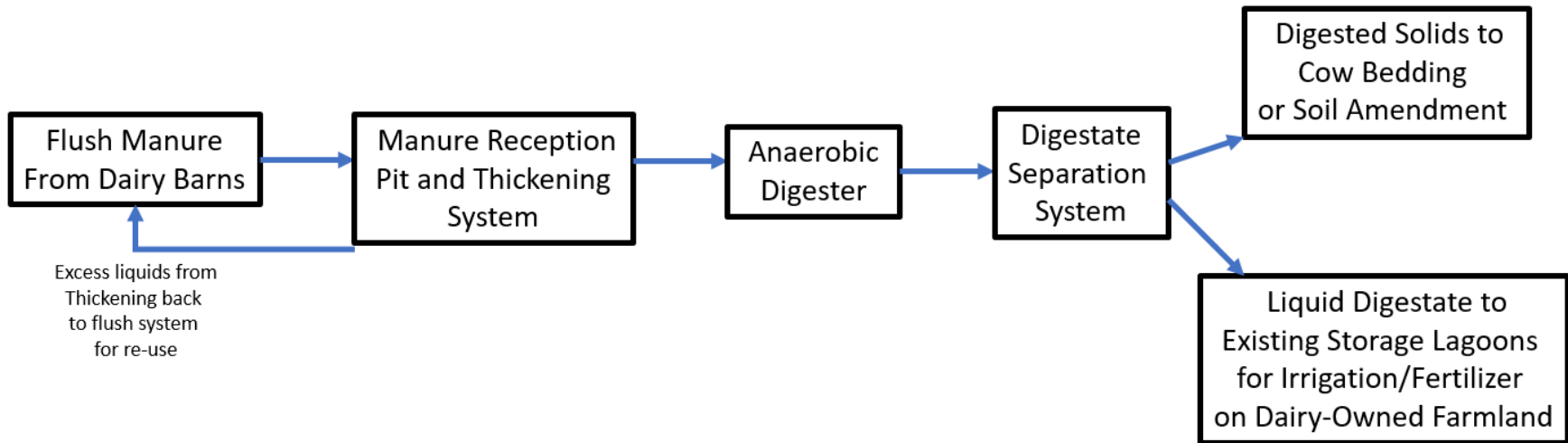


Figure 1-1

Digester Facility Process Flow Diagram

— Denotes scope of new equipment



Digester System Block Flow Diagram
Figure 1-2

Johann Dairy Anaerobic Digester Emission Calculations Digester Flare

Note:

The flare serves as biogas control device for the digester system. Emissions from open flares cannot be tested with conventional testing methods because the combustion occurs in the open. Therefore, emissions from the proposed flare are based on Tables 13.5-1 and 13.5-2 in the USEPA's AP-42 for industrial flares.

The flare operates when there is excess biogas in the digester vessel. The CNG system is estimated to utilize approximately 95% of the digester biogas. Therefore, the flare will combust approximately 5% of the biogas.

Based on the volume of the digester and feedstock consisting of manure from 6,140 milking cow equivalents, the digester has the potential to produce:

$$405.9 \text{ MMBtu/day} \times 1 \text{ day/24hr} = 16.91 \text{ MMBtu/hr of digester biogas}$$

Calculations based on USEPA AP-42 Table 13.5-1 emission factors
and estimated total biogas fuel production

NO_x

$$0.068 \text{ lb/MMBtu} \times 16.91 \text{ MMBtu/hr} \times 8760 \text{ hrs/yr} \times 1 \text{ ton/2000 lb} = \mathbf{5.04 \text{ tons/yr}}$$

(at 5% flare utilization = 0.25 tons/yr)

CO

$$0.37 \text{ lb/MMBtu} \times 16.91 \text{ MMBtu/hr} \times 8760 \text{ hrs/yr} \times 1 \text{ ton/2000 lb} = \mathbf{27.41 \text{ tons/yr}}$$

(at 5% flare utilization = 1.37 tons/yr)

NMHC (Non-Methane Hydrocarbons) (AP-42 Table 13.5-2 - 45% of 0.14 lb/MMBtu)

$$0.063 \text{ lb/MMBtu} \times 16.91 \text{ MMBtu/hr} \times 8760 \text{ hrs/yr} \times 1 \text{ ton/2000 lb} = \mathbf{4.67 \text{ tons/yr}}$$

(at 5% flare utilization = 0.23 tons/yr)

SO₂

Assumptions:

4000 ppm H₂S average concentration in biogas from the digester
29159 scf/hr fuel consumption at 100% of total biogas production
Reaction when H₂S is combusted: 2 H₂S + 3 O₂ -> 2 SO₂ + 2 H₂O

$$4000 \text{ ppm} \times \frac{34 \text{ molecular weight of H}_2\text{S}}{24.45} = 5562 \text{ mg/m}^3$$

$$29159 \text{ scf/hr} \times \frac{1 \text{ m}^3}{35.28 \text{ ft}^3} = 826.52 \text{ m}^3/\text{hr}$$

$$5562 \text{ mg/m}^3 \times 826.52 \text{ m}^3/\text{hr} \times \frac{1 \text{ g}}{1000 \text{ mg}} \times \frac{1 \text{ lb}}{454 \text{ g}} = 10.13 \text{ lb/hr H}_2\text{S}$$

$$10.13 \text{ lb/hr H}_2\text{S} \times \frac{64 \text{ molecular weight of SO}_2}{34 \text{ molecular weight of H}_2\text{S}} = 19.06 \text{ lb/hr SO}_2$$

$$19.06 \text{ lb/hr SO}_2 \times 8760 \text{ hrs/yr} \times \frac{1 \text{ ton}}{2000 \text{ lb}} = \mathbf{83.49 \text{ tons/yr SO}_2}$$

(at 5% flare utilization = 4.17 tons/yr SO₂)

PM/PM_{2.5}/PM₁₀ [worst case emission factor]

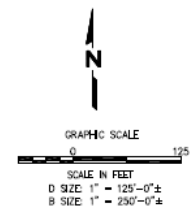
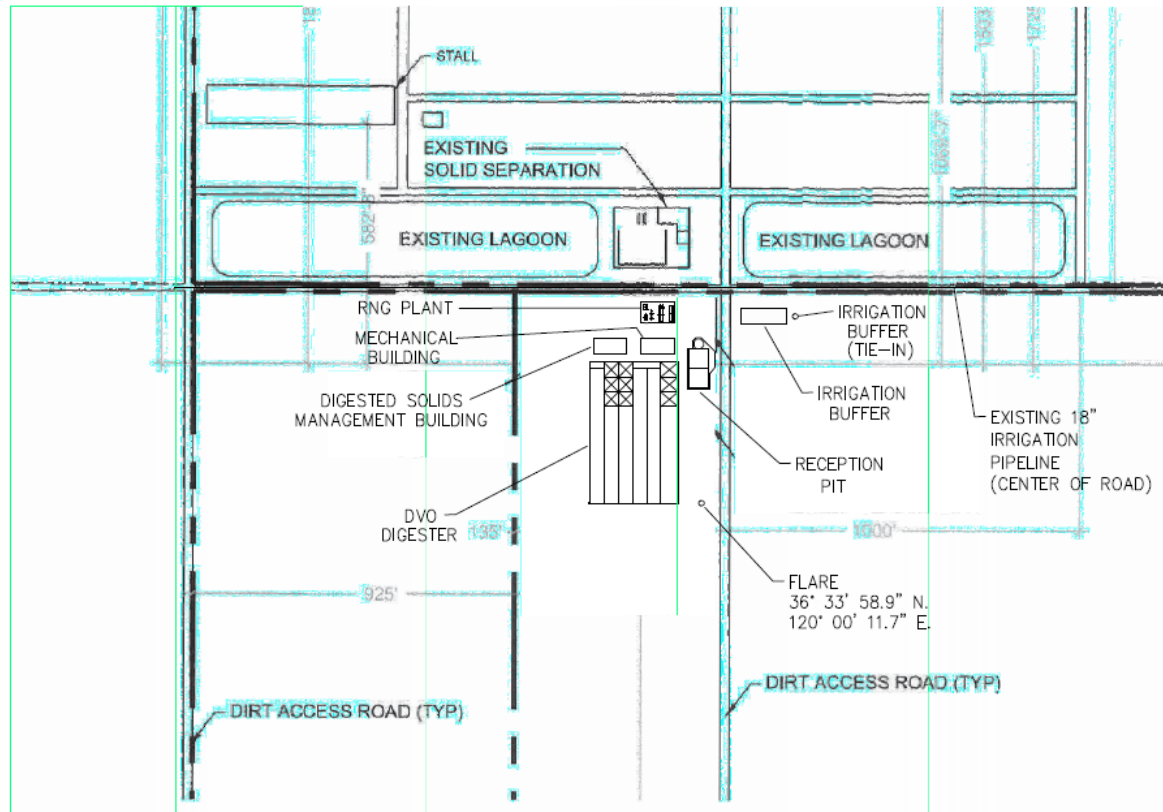
$$< 0.15 \text{ lb/MMBtu} \times 16.91 \text{ MMBtu/hr} = < 2.54 \text{ lb/hr}$$

$$< 2.54 \text{ lb/hr} \times 8760 \text{ hrs/yr} \times \frac{1 \text{ ton}}{2000 \text{ lb}} = < \mathbf{11.11 \text{ tons/yr}}$$

(at 5% flare utilization = < 0.56 tons/yr)

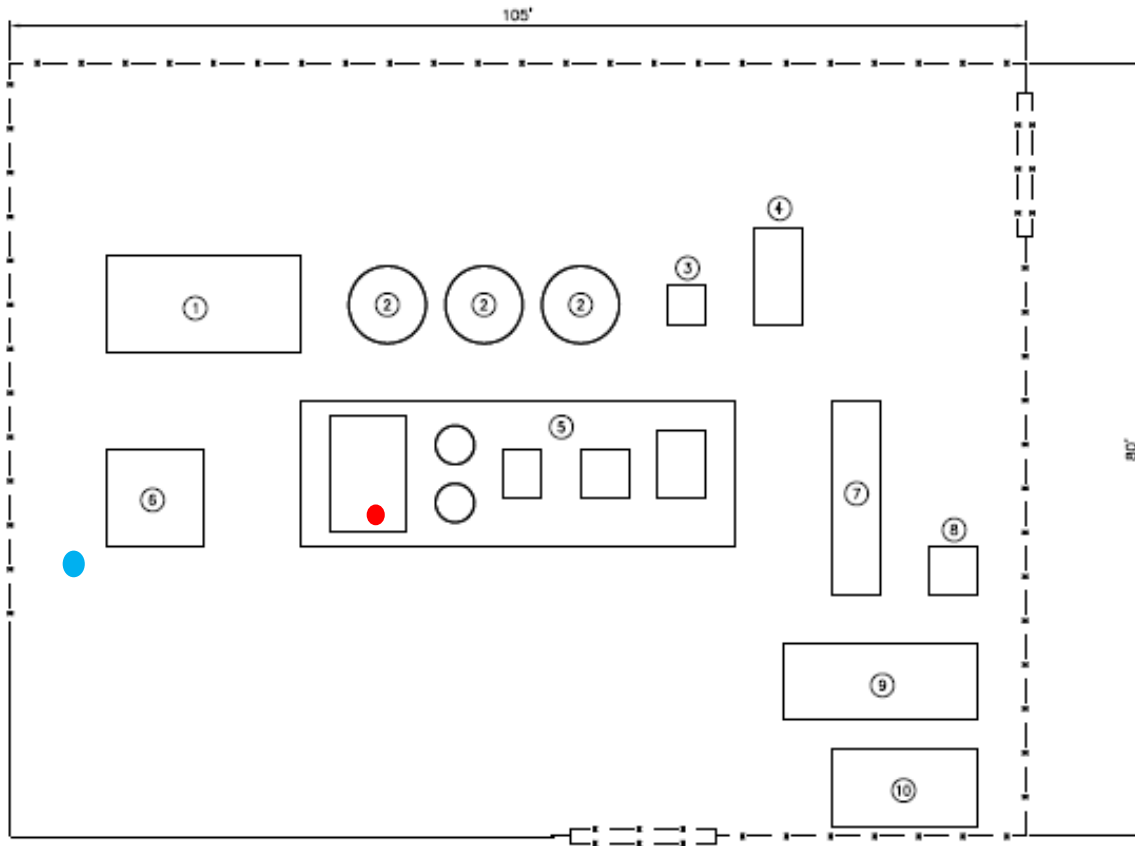
Estimated Emissions

Figure 1-3



 SCS ENERGY <small>3810 ALABAMA AVENUE, SUITE 100 LONG BEACH, CA 90801 (562) 422-9344</small>	CLIENT SA ENERGY X X	SHEET TITLE BITE PLAN		NO. 1	REVISION ISSUED FOR REVIEW	DATE 09/04/20	PROJECT DATE 07/16/2020
		PROJECT TITLE JOHANN DAIRY MODULAR DG TO RNG FACILITY		SCALE AS SHOWN		DRAWING NO. G-101	
PREP. BY DL	DESIGNED BY DL	CHECKED BY TS	APPROVED BY TS				

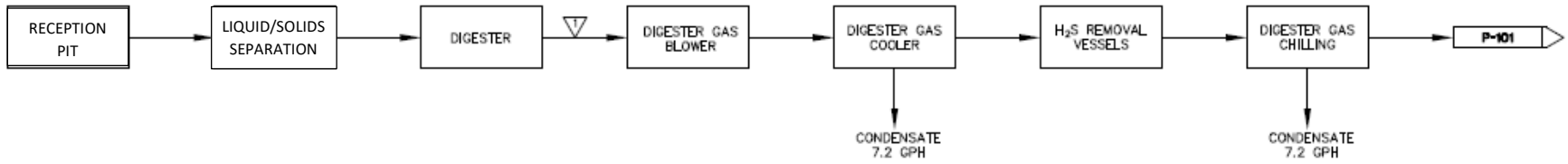
**Biomethane Facility Overall Layout -
Figure 2-1a**



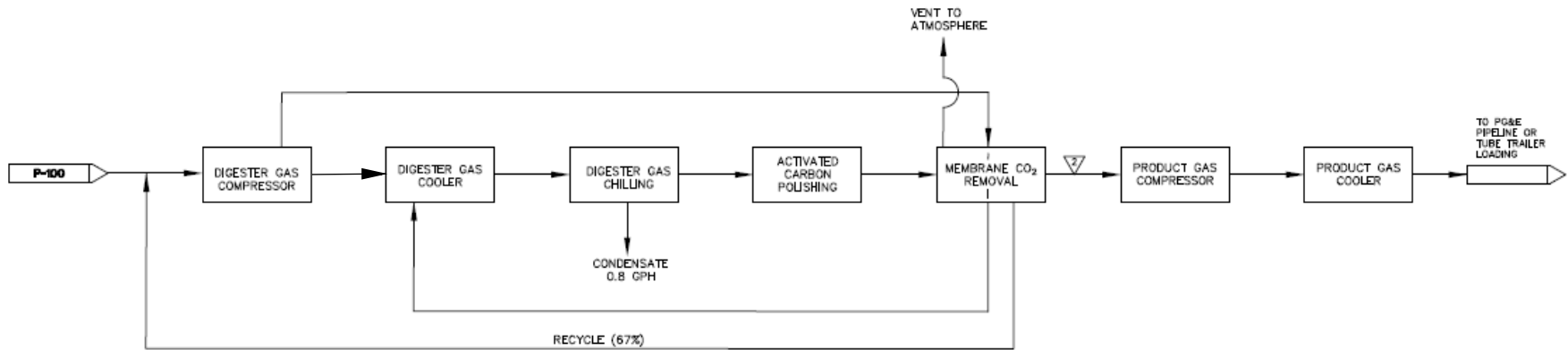
NO	EQUIPMENT DESCRIPTION
①	BLOWER SKID
②	IRON SPONGE VESSEL
③	HEAT EXCHANGER
④	CHILLER
⑤	DG COMPRESSION / MEMBRANE SKID
⑥	PRODUCT GAS COMPRESSOR
⑦	SWITCHGEAR/ MCC
⑧	TRANSFORMER
⑨	MODULAR OFFICE
⑩	STORAGE UNIT

● Is off spec gas vent; ● is membrane system CO2 vent.

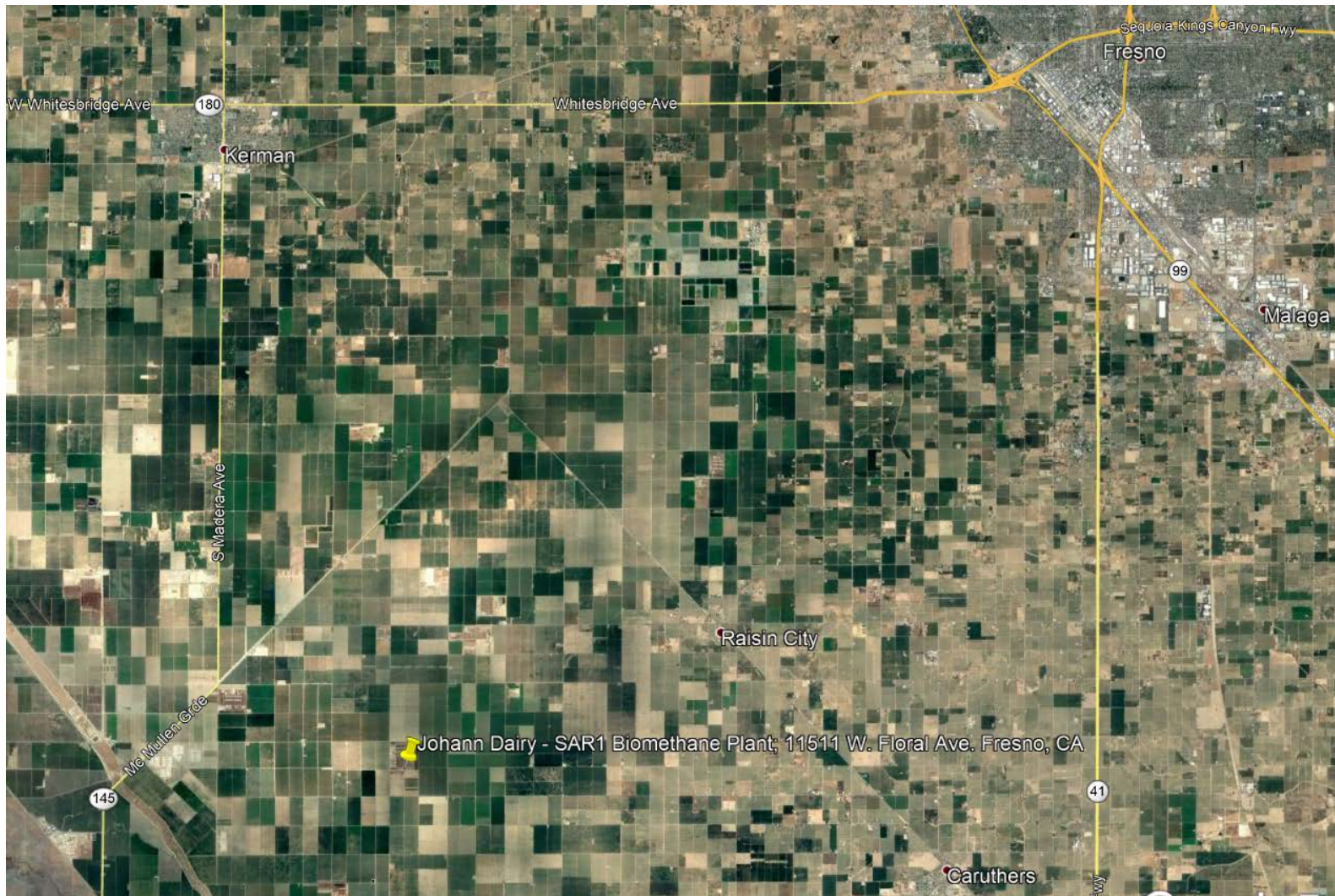
**Biomethane Facility Layout with Emission Source Point -
Figure 2-1b**



Biomethane Facility – Preconditioning Block Flow Diagram
Figure 2-2



Biomethane Facility – Main Process Block Flow Diagram
Figure 2-3



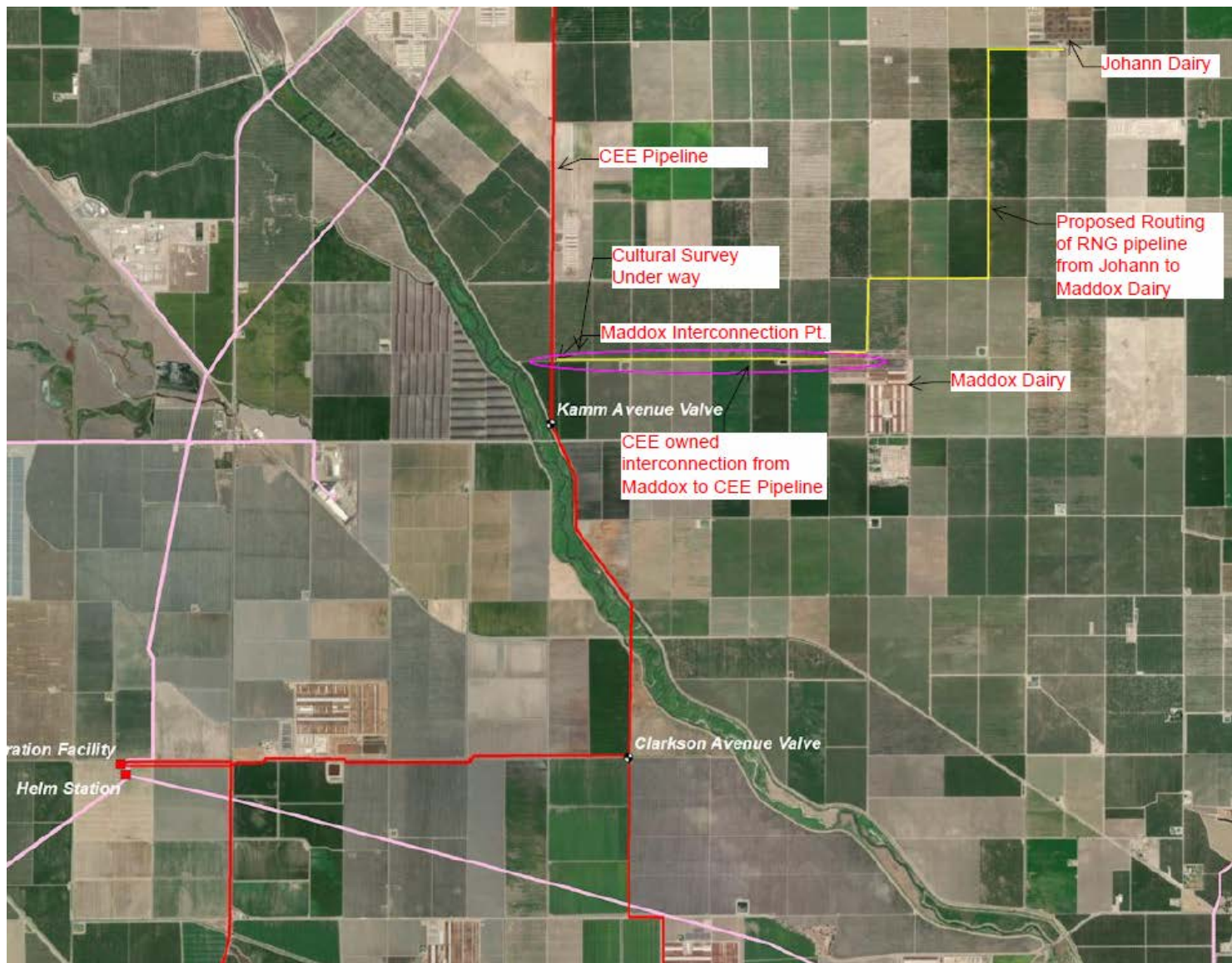
SAR1 Biomethane Plant – Vicinity Map
Figure 3-1



SAR1 Biomethane Plant

Johann Dairy Development Site for Digester and Biomethane Facility

Figure 3-2



SAR1 Pipeline Routing
Figure 3-3

Equipment List:

DVO Digester system (no motors have VFD or Soft-start)

Equipment	Motor Rating (HP)	Motor Rating (KW)	No.	Run Time per Year	Connected Load (KW)	System Load kWhr/yr
Heat Zone 1-3 Water Pump	3	2.24	2	50%	4.48	19,605
Heat Zone 2-5 Water Pump	1.5	1.12	8	40%	8.95	31,368
Main Heat Zone Water Pump	3	2.24	2	60%	4.48	23,526
Gas Recirculation System Blower	25	18.65	2	100%	37.30	326,748
Skid Pit Blower	3	2.24	2	100%	4.48	39,210
Sludge Pump	3	2.24	2	100%	4.48	39,210
Total					64.16	479,666

Table 4-1

Gas Conditioning and Biomethane System

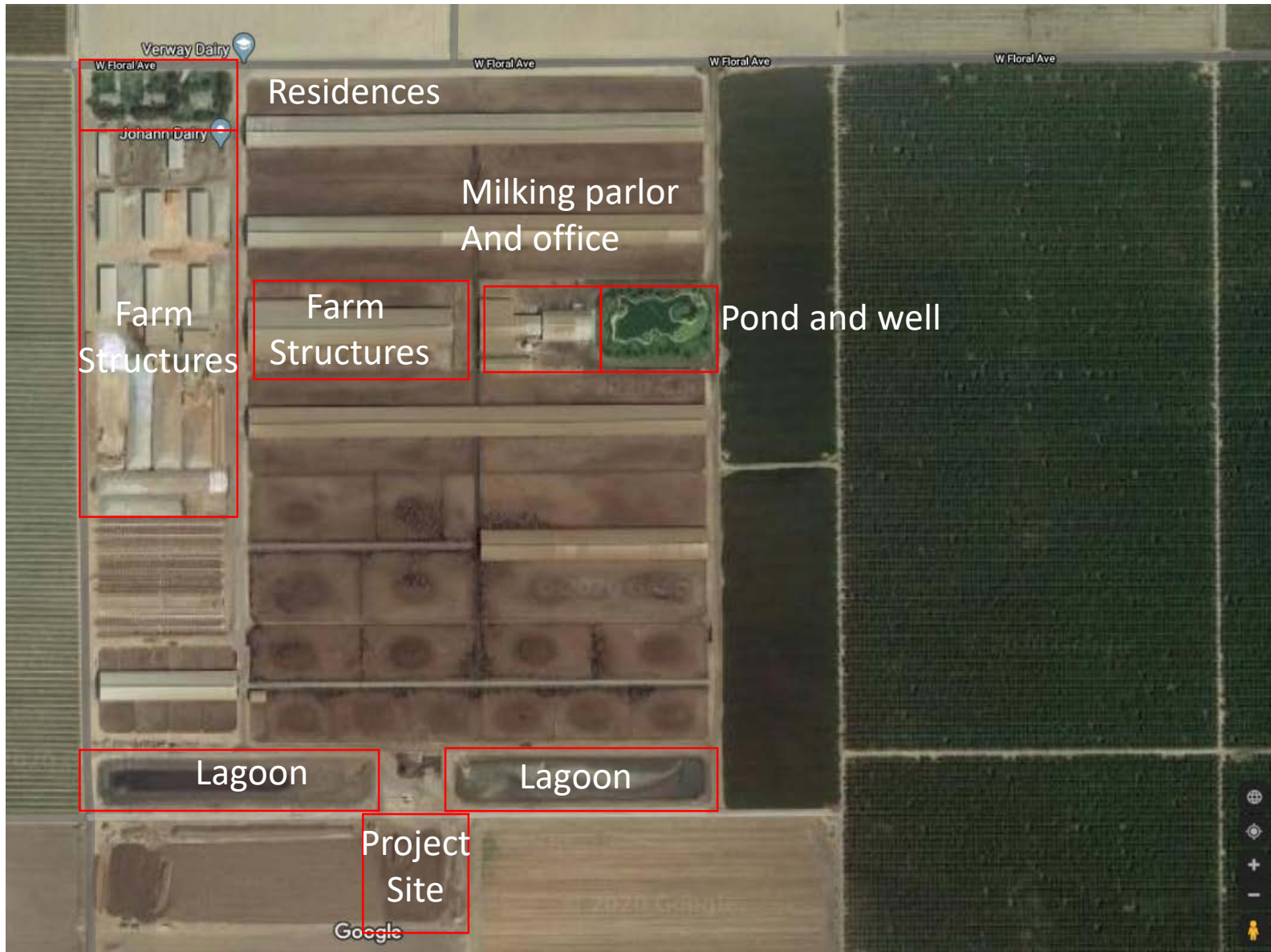
Equipment	Motor Rating (HP)	Motor Rating (KW)	Type	Oper Factor	Oper BHP	Oper KW
O ₂ Injection Equipment	10	7.46	ATL	100%	8	7
DG Blower	40	29.84	VFD	100%	25	30
DG Blower Air Cooler	3	2.24	VFD	100%	2	2
Chiller	34	25.36	VFD	100%	18	25
DG Compressor	500	373.00	SS	100%	186	373
DG Comp Oil/After Cooler Combo Unit	7.5	5.60	VFD	100%	2	6
Product Gas Compressor	35	26.11	VFD	100%	26	26
Product Gas Comp Gas Cooler Fan	3	2.24	VFD	100%	2	2
Plant Air Compressor No. 1	10	7.46	ATL	50%	4	4
Plant Air Compressor No. 2	10	7.46	ATL	50%	4	4
Lighting/Other						5
Connected Load	653	487			Operating Load	484.31

Table 4-2

Utility and Support Equipment

Equipment	Motor Rating (HP)	Motor Rating (KW)	Type	Operating Factor	Oper KW	System Load kWhr/yr
Boiler No. 1	2	1.5	ATL	50%	1.20	5,235
Boiler No. 2	2	1.5	ATL	50%	1.20	5,235
Boiler No. 3	2	1.5	ATL	50%	1.20	5,235
Boiler No. 4	2	1.5	ATL	50%	1.20	5,235
Screw Press No. 1	40	29.9	ATL	80%	23.90	167,519
Screw Press No. 2	40	29.9	ATL	80%	23.90	167,519
Screw Press No. 3	40	29.9	ATL	80%	23.90	167,519
Screw Press No. 4	40	29.9	ATL	80%	23.90	167,519
Screw Press No. 5	40	29.9	ATL	80%	23.90	167,519
Liquid Digestate/Irrigation Buffer Pump	25	18.7	ATL	50%	14.94	65,37
HVAC (2 units)	15	11.2	ATL	75%	8.96	58,893
Conveyor from Mech to Solids Mgmt	5	3.7	ATL	50%	2.99	13,087
Miscellaneous 120VAC loads				100%	6	52,560
Lighting				30%	5.54	14,559
Total	253	189.0			162.73	1,063,073

Johann Dairy Existing Improvement Map



Date: February 5, 2021
To: Thomas Kobayashi, Planning Engineer, County of Fresno
From: Todd Stewart, Sr. Project Manager, SCS Energy
Subject: Application CUP-3696; IS 7998; SAR1 Project set backs on Johann Dairy property

Thomas,

The maps below show the property lines for the Johann Dairy upon which the SAR1 RNG project will reside. The first map shows the entire Johann Dairy. The second map is a close up portion to show the setbacks of the SAR1 Project from the property boundaries.

The SAR1 Project setbacks from the Johann Dairy property boundaries are as follow:

- East: 1,200 feet
- West: 1,210 feet (closest property boundary)
- South: 2,176 feet
- North: 2,630 feet (to Floral Avenue); 7,900 feet to North property boundary.

Best Regards,



Todd Stewart, Sr. Project Manager
SCS Energy

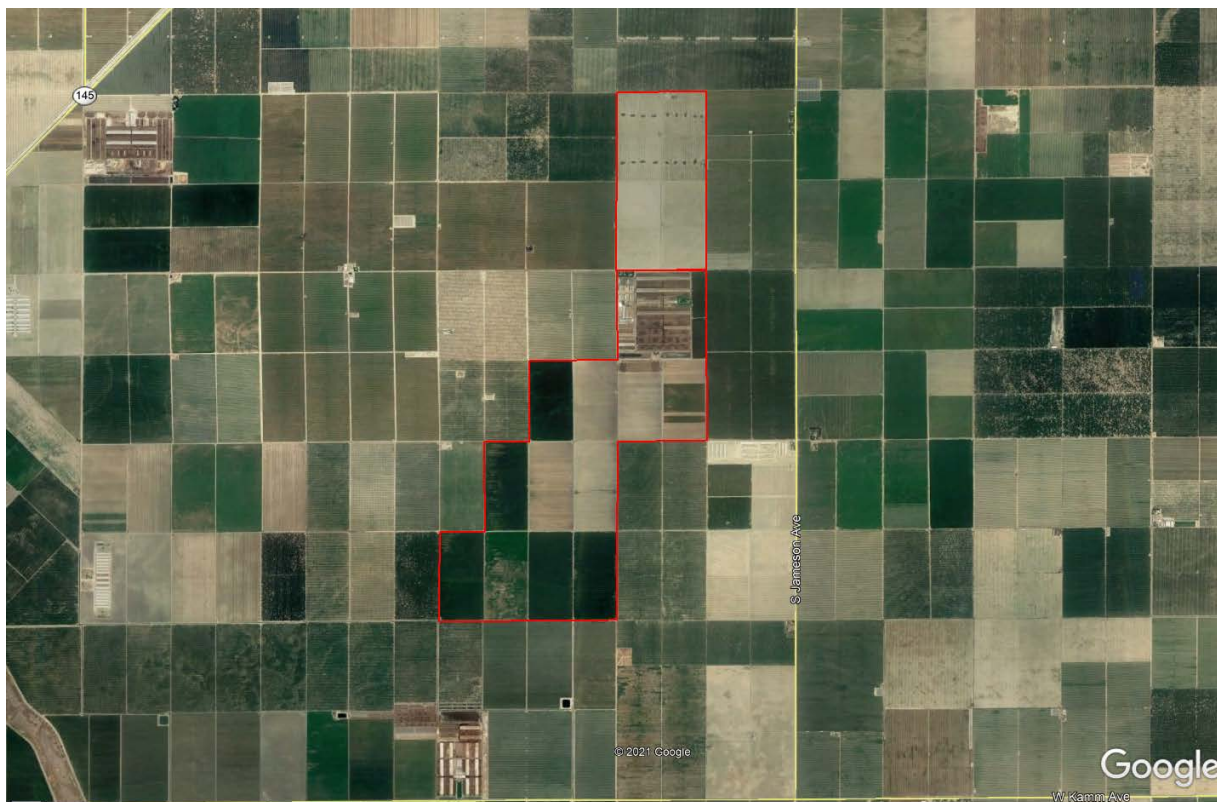
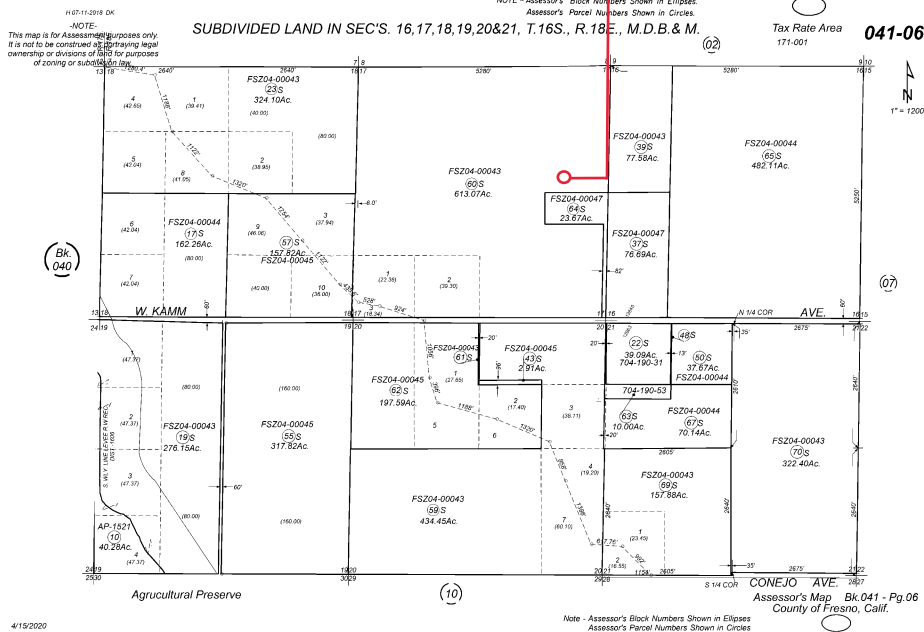
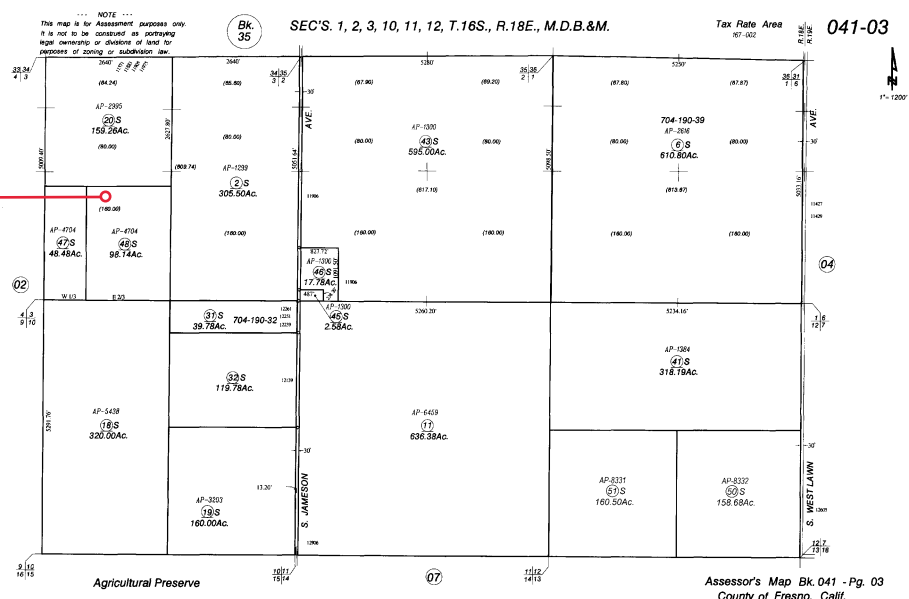
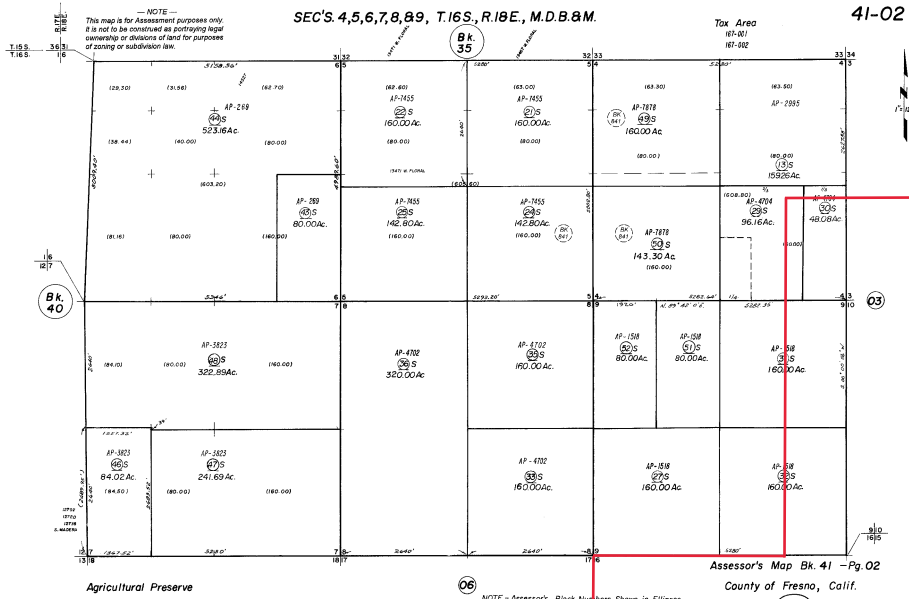


Figure 1: Johann Dairy Property Lines



Figure 2: Portion of Johann Dairy Property to show SAR1 Project setbacks from property boundary





Looking West



Looking North



Looking South



Looking East