

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. 8090, Variance Application No. 4109, Director Review and Approval Application No. 4662

Lead Agency: Fresno County Contact Person: Jeremy Shaw
Mailing Address: 2220 Tulare Street Phone: (559)-600-4207
City: Fresno Zip: 93721 County: Fresno

Project Location: County: Fresno City/Nearest Community: Lanare
Cross Streets: S. Bryan Avenue and W. Harlan Avenue Zip Code: 93656
Longitude/Latitude (degrees, minutes and seconds): ... Total Acres:
Assessor's Parcel No.: 053-031-03S Section: 21 Twp.: 17S Range: 19E Base: MDBM
Within 2 Miles: State Hwy #: N/A Waterways: N/A
Airports: N/A Railways: N/A Schools: N/A

Document Type:

- CEQA: [ ] NOP [ ] Draft EIR NEPA: [ ] NOI Other: [ ] Joint Document
[ ] Early Cons [ ] Supplement/Subsequent EIR [ ] EA [ ] Final Document
[X] Neg Dec (Prior SCH No.) [ ] Draft EIS [ ] Other:
[ ] Mit Neg Dec Other:

Local Action Type:

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

Development Type:

- [ ] Residential: Units Acres
[ ] Office: Sq.ft. Acres Employees Transportation: Type
[ ] Commercial: Sq.ft. Acres Employees Mining: Mineral
[ ] Industrial: Sq.ft. Acres Employees Power: Type MW
[ ] Educational: Waste Treatment: Type MGD
[ ] Recreational: Hazardous Waste: Type
[ ] Water Facilities: Type MGD Other:

Project Issues Discussed in Document:

- [X] Aesthetic/Visual [ ] Fiscal [X] Recreation/Parks [X] 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 [ ] Other:

Present Land Use/Zoning/General Plan Designation:

Residential/AE-20/ Agriculture

Project Description: (please use a separate page if necessary)

Allow the creation a 37.64-acre, a 35.61-acre, a 4.62-acre and a 2.02-acre parcel from two existing parcels totaling 79.89-acres, and allow two existing single-family dwellings to remain on the 4.62-acre parcel, in the AE-20 (Exclusive Agricultural, 20-acre minimum parcel size) Zone District.

Note: The State Clearinghouse will assign identification numbers for all new projects. If a SCH number already exists for a project (e.g. Notice of Preparation or previous draft document) please fill in.

## 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 type="checkbox"/> Caltrans District # _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Utilities Commission
<input type="checkbox"/> Caltrans Division of Aeronautics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Regional WQCB # _____
<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> SWRCB: Water Quality
<input type="checkbox"/> Energy Commission	<input type="checkbox"/> SWRCB: Water Rights
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fish & Game Region #4 _____	<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 type="checkbox"/> Other: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Health Services, Department of	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Housing & Community Development	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Native American Heritage Commission	

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

Starting Date December 15, 2021 Ending Date January 13, 2022  
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**Lead Agency (Complete if applicable):**

Consulting Firm: <u>Provost &amp; Pritchard</u>	Applicant: <u>Jamie Bledsoe</u>
Address: <u>455 W. Fir Avenue</u>	Address: <u>3631 W. Davis Avenue</u>
City/State/Zip: <u>Clovis, CA 93611</u>	City/State/Zip: <u>Riverdale, CA</u>
Contact: <u>Bryan Bowers</u>	Phone: <u>559-978-6220</u>
Phone: <u>559-449-2700</u>	

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Signature of Lead Agency Representative: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: 12-15-21

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

File original and one copy with: <b>Fresno County Clerk 2221 Kern Street Fresno, California 93721</b>		Space Below For County Clerk Only.  CLK-2046.00 E04-73 R00-00	
Agency File No: <b>IS 8090</b>	<b>DRAFT LOCAL AGENCY NEGATIVE DECLARATION</b>		County Clerk File No: <b>E-</b>
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): Jeremy Shaw, Planner	Area Code: 559	Telephone Number: 600-4207	Extension: N/A
Project Applicant/Sponsor (Name): Jamie Bledsoe	Project Title: Variance Application No. 4109/Director Review and Approval Application No. 4662/ Initial Study No.8090		
Project Description: Allow the creation a 37.64-acre, a 35.61-acre, a 4.62-acre and a 2.02-acre parcel from two existing parcels totaling 79.89-acres, and allow two existing single-family dwellings to remain on the 4.62-acre parcel, in the AE-20 (Exclusive Agricultural, 20-acre minimum parcel size) Zone District.			
Justification for Negative Declaration:  It has been determined that there would be no impacts to Aesthetics, Air Quality, Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Energy, Geology and Soils, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, Hydrology and Water Quality, Mineral Resources, Noise, Population and Housing, Public Services, Recreation, Transportation, Tribal Cultural Resources, Utilities and Service Systems, and Wildfire.  Potential impacts related to Agricultural and Forestry Resources, and Land Use and Planning have been determined to be less than significant. Mitigation Measures were not necessary to reduce an impact to less than significant.			
FINDING: The proposed project will not have a significant impact on the environment.			
Newspaper and Date of Publication: Fresno Business Journal – December 15, 2021		Review Date Deadline: Planning Commission – January 27, 2022	
Date:	Type or Print Signature: David Randall, Senior Planner	Submitted by (Signature): Jeremy Shaw, Planner	

State 15083, 15085

County Clerk File No.: \_\_\_\_\_

**DRAFT LOCAL AGENCY  
NEGATIVE DECLARATION**



# County of Fresno

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

## INITIAL STUDY ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST FORM

- 1. Project title:**  
Variance Application No. 4109, Director Review and Approval Application No. 4662, Initial Study No. 8090
- 2. Lead agency name and address:**  
The County of Fresno Department of Public Works and Planning  
Development Services and Capital Project Division  
2220 Tulare Street, 6th Floor  
Fresno, CA 93721
- 3. Contact person and phone number:**  
Jeremy Shaw 559-600-4207
- 4. Project location:**  
The subject property is located on the southeast and southwest corners of the intersection of S. Bryan Avenue and W. Harlan Avenue, approximately one mile northeast of the unincorporated community of Lanare (APN 053-031-03S) (20141 S. Bryan Avenue) (SUP. DIST. 1).
- 5. Project sponsor's name and address:**  
Jamie Bledsoe  
3631 W. Davis Avenue  
Riverdale, CA 93656
- 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 the creation a 37.64-acre, a 35.61-acre, a 4.62-acre and a 2.02-acre parcel from two existing parcels totaling 79.89-acres, and allow two existing single-family dwellings to remain on the 4.62-acre parcel, in the AE-20 (Exclusive Agricultural, 20-acre minimum parcel size) Zone District.
- 9. Surrounding land uses and setting: Briefly describe the project's surroundings:**  
The project site is in an area of agricultural land uses with sparse residential development.
- 10. Other public agencies whose approval is required (e.g., permits, financing approval, or participation agreement.)**  
Fresno County Board of Supervisors (Williamson Act Cancellation)
- 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.?**  
Four (4) local tribal governments who have previously requested to be notified of such projects under the provisions of AB52 were notified by certified mail of this project proposal. None of the tribal governments responded to the

notification or requested consultation on this project. As there is no development proposed with this application, it was determined that there would be no impacts to Cultural, Historical or Tribal Cultural Resources.

**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:**

  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Jeremy Shaw, Planner

Date: 12-15-21

**REVIEWED BY:**

  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 David Randall, Senior Planner

Date: 12.15.21

**INITIAL STUDY  
ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST FORM  
(Variance Application No. 4109/ Director Review and  
Approval Application No. 4662/Initial Study No. 8090**

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 a 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?
- 1 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:

- 1 a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable Air Quality Plan?
- 1 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?
- 1 c) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?
- 1 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:

- 1 a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to Section 15064.5?
- 1 b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to Section 15064.5?
- 1 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?
  - 1 ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?
  - 1 iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?
  - 1 iv) Landslides?
- 1 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:

- 1 a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?
- 1 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, 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, 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:

- 1 a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or groundwater 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?
- 1 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 i) Result in substantial erosion or siltation on or off site;
  - 1 ii) Substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on or off site;
  - 1 iii) Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned storm water 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?
- 1 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:

- 1 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?
- 1 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, exposing 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:

- 1 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 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
- 1 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:

- 1 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 General Plan Background Report
- Fresno County Zoning Ordinance
- 2016 Fresno County Important Farmland Map, State Department of Conservation

JS:  
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# County of Fresno

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

## EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

APPLICANT: Jamie Bledsoe

APPLICATION NOS.: Initial Study No. 8090, Variance Application No. 4109 and Director Review and Approval Application No. 4662.

DESCRIPTION: Allow the creation a 37.64-acre, a 35.61-acre, a 4.62-acre and a 2.02-acre parcel from two existing parcels totaling 79.89-acres, and allow two existing single-family dwellings to remain on the 4.62-acre parcel, in the AE-20 (Exclusive Agricultural, 20-acre minimum parcel size) Zone District.

LOCATION: The subject parcels are located on the southeast and southwest comers of the intersection of S. Bryan Avenue and W. Harlan Avenue, approximately one mile northeast of the unincorporated community of Lanare (APN 053-031-03S) (20141 S. Bryan Avenue) (SUP. DIST. 1).

### I. AESTHETICS

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

- A. Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista; or
- B. Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway; or
- 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 points.) If the project is in an urbanized area, would the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality; or
- D. Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

These applications only propose the subdivision of land, and the authorization of existing residential dwellings on one of the proposed subdivided parcels. As no new development or additional outdoor lighting is proposed with this application, there will be no impacts to the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings. The larger parcels will remain available for agricultural production. No scenic vistas or other scenic resources were identified, and the property is not located within a state scenic highway. There are no new sources of outdoor lighting proposed with this application.

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 Department of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. In determining whether impacts to forest resources, including timberland, are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to information compiled by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection regarding the state's inventory of forest land, including the Forest and Range Assessment Project and the Forest Legacy Assessment project; and forest carbon measurement methodology 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; or
- B. Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act Contract?

FINDING: LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT:

The subject parcel is currently subject to a Williamson Act contract. According to the 2016 Fresno County Important Farmland Map, Rural Land Mapping Edition, the subject property predominately contains Prime Farmland with a small portion of the property being classified as Farmland of Statewide Importance. The proposed 2.02-acre and 4.62-acre parcel do not meet the minimum acreage qualification to remain in the Williamson Act Program and therefore must be removed from the Contract through partial cancellation. The Applicant was required to file a petition for Partial Cancellation of Williamson Act Contract No. 6899 before any action will be taken on the Variance request to create the proposed parcels. However, the two larger proposed parcels would remain eligible to remain under contract. Therefore, impacts to Farmland would be less than significant.

- 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 subject parcel is not located in an area zoned for forest land or Timberland Production.

- 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 forestland to non-forest use?

FINDING: LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT:

The Variance if approved, will result in the conversion of approximately 6.64-acres, a 2.02-acre and a 4.62-acre parcel, of Farmland to residential use not associated with the agricultural operation. The proposed 4.62-acre parcel already contains two residences, so there is no more potential for additional residential development, and is not precluded from having an agricultural operation. The proposed 2.02-acre parcel contains one residence, with the potential for one additional with discretionary approval, and is also not precluded from having an agricultural use. However, the remaining 37.64-acre and 35.61-acre parcels, comprising approximately 92 percent of the existing 79.89-acres, would remain farmable at a similar scale to what has previously occurred. Therefore, the potential conversion of 6.64 acres from the existing 79.89-acre parcel to non agricultural uses would be a less than significant impact to Farmland.

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; or
- 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: NO IMPACT:

No development is proposed, and no development will be authorized with this application. If the Variance application and concurrent Director Review and Approval (DRA) application are approved, a mapping application will be required to create the proposed parcels. The DRA will authorize two existing single-family dwellings to remain on one of the proposed parcels. Because no development is proposed, the approval of this application is will not result in any conflict with, obstruction of or implementation of

an applicable air quality plan; nor result in the generation of any additional criterial pollutants or emissions, other than those which may be associated with the existing farming operation.

#### 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; or
- 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; or
- 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; or
- 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:

The proposed parcel creation does not propose any development and will not conflict with any adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation or other approved local, regional or state Habitat Conservation Plan.

#### 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: NO IMPACT:

Under the provisions of AB52, the Tribes who had previously requested notification were notified of this application. None of the Tribes responded to the notification or requested consultation on this project. Other than ongoing agricultural operations on the subject parcel, no development or ground disturbance is proposed with this application. If approved, a subsequent mapping procedure will be required to create the proposed parcels, the two smaller parcels will be independent of the existing farming operation. No historical or archaeological resources were identified, and as no ground disturbance will occur; previously unknown subsurface archaeological, historical or cultural resources are unlikely to be impacted as a result of the approval of this application.

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 approval of this application will authorize a mapping procedure to create the proposed parcels. The remaining acreage currently will remain engaged in the agricultural operation. No increase in the baseline consumption of energy associated with the agricultural operation or residential use is anticipated to result from the proposed parcel creation.

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; or
  - 2. Strong seismic ground shaking; or
  - 3. Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction; or
  - 4. Landslides; or
- B. Result in substantial soil erosion or loss of topsoil; or

- 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:

The subject property is not located in an area subject to lateral spreading, subsidence, or liquefaction, as described in Chapters five (5-28) Seven (7-5) and Nine (9-9) or Figure 9-6 of the Fresno County General Plan Background Report (FCGPBR), nor is it located in an area of expansive soils as identified by Figure 7-1 of the FCGPBR. The project will not result adverse impacts associated with the rupture of a known fault, strong seismic ground shaking, ground failure or liquefaction, as there is no construction or ground disturbance proposed with this application.

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

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

If the Variance is approved, two existing septic systems would be contained within the proposed 4.62-acre parcel. The two existing septic systems located on the proposed 4.62-acre parcel are consistent with the requirements of the Fresno County Local Area Management Program (LAMP), which limits septic density to one onsite wastewater treatment system per two acres. Additionally, all of the proposed parcels will be required to meet applicable County standards pertaining to Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems (OWTS), including design capacity and property setbacks.

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

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

No ground disturbance or other physical changes to the land are proposed with this application, and no paleontological or unique geologic resources were identified.

## 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:

No development is associated with this application that would generate greenhouse gases or conflict with an applicable greenhouse gas emissions reduction plan.

IX. 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; or
- C. Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school; or
- 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; or
- 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, result in a safety hazard or excessive noise for people residing or working in the project area; or
- 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:

The subject parcel is currently used for residential purposes and for the cultivation of pistachios. No additional use of hazardous materials or generation of hazardous emissions is proposed with this application. The subject property is not located on a hazardous materials site, as identified by the US EPA NEPAssist mapping tool, nor within the boundaries of an airport land use plan or in an area of increased risk to persons or structures due 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 groundwater quality?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

Although the subject parcel is currently engaged in agricultural production, the project entails a request to allow a minor land division and subsequent mapping procedure and will not involve any waste discharge or any activity which may degrade surface or groundwater.

- 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 project does not entail any increase in the current water use. No concerns related to water supply were expressed by any reviewing agencies or County departments. The proposed 4.62-acre parcel will contain two single-family dwellings which will be served by an existing domestic well, and the proposed 2.02-acre parcel will contain one single-family dwelling which will be served by an existing domestic well. Currently there are three wells on the property, one agricultural well located on the west side of S. Bryan Avenue, in the southeast corner of the proposed 37.64-acre parcel; and two domestic wells, one located on each of the proposed residential parcels. The proposed 35.61-acre parcel, located on the east side of S. Bryan Avenue, does not have a well. The Water and Natural Resources Division of the Fresno County Department of Public Works and Planning determined in their review that there would not be a net increase in water use resulting from approval of this application, as the residential and agricultural infrastructure is existing.

- 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:
  - 1. Result in substantial erosion or siltation on or off site; or
  - 2. Substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on or off site; or
  - 3. Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned storm water drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff; or
  - 4. Impede or redirect flood flows?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

The project site is not located within the erosion hazard area for western Fresno County identified by Figure 7-4 Erosion Hazards in Western Fresno County, of the Fresno County General Plan Background Report (FCGPBR). Additionally, no grading or

development is proposed with this project; therefore, it will not increase surface runoff or contribute polluted runoff.

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

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

The subject property is not located in an area at risk from the 100-year flood inundation as identified by Figure 9-7, 100 Year Flood Inundation Areas, or flood inundation from dam failure as identified by Figure 9-8, Dam Failure Flood Inundation Areas, of the Fresno County General Plan Background Report (FCGPBR), or at risk from tsunami or seiche; according to FEMA, FIRM Panel 2857J the property is located in Zone X, which is an area of minimal flood hazard.

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

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

No additional water use is anticipated with this application. If approved, a mapping procedure will be required to create four parcels, two of which will be independent of the remaining agricultural operation. No development or other ground disturbance is proposed which would result in erosion or siltation, or additional impervious surfaces that may increase surface runoff or alter the existing drainage plan.

## XI. LAND USE AND PLANNING

Would the project:

- A. Physically divide an established community?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

No development is proposed with this application, and creation of the proposed parcels 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:

The proposed creation of substandard parcels is not consistent with the Land Use Policies of the General Plan nor the property development standards of the Exclusive Agricultural Zone District, except that such parcel creation absent any applicable exceptions, may be allowed subject to discretionary review and approval through a Variance. This request to allow the creation of two substandard sized parcels does not

meet the established criteria to allow any exemptions to the AE-20 Zone District standards or General Plan Policy; however, no significant environmental impacts are anticipated to result. The proposed division would be in conflict with the residential density provisions of the Exclusive Agricultural Zone District, Fresno County Zoning Ordinance, which allows for one single-family residential dwelling per parcel meeting the minimum acreage designation, e.g., one dwelling unit per 20 acres in the AE-20.

APN 053-031-03S is comprised of two individual parcels, each containing approximately 40 acres (79.89 acres total); thus, the property in its current configuration could potentially have up to a total of three dwelling units between the two parcels. If the proposed division is allowed the resultant 37.64 acre and 35.61-acre parcels which would be vacant, would each be allowed to have one single-family dwelling by right, and potentially one additional with discretionary approval.

## 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:

No development or ground disturbance is proposed with this application; therefore, no impacts to mineral resources will occur. The subject property is not located in an area of known mineral resources as identified by Figures 7-7 (Mineral Resource Locations, 7-8 (Principal Mineral Producing Locations [1997-1998], or 7-9 (Generalized Mineral Resource Zone Classifications), of the Fresno County General Plan Background Report.

## 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; or
- 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?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

No new noise impacts will occur as a result of this proposal, as no development is proposed. No increase in the baseline noise levels from the existing agricultural operation is anticipated.

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 approval of this application will not result in the construction of any new housing nor the displacement of any existing housing or people.

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 following public services:
  - 1. Fire protection; or
  - 2. Police protection; or
  - 3. Schools; or
  - 4. Parks; or
  - 5. Other public facilities?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

The proposed parcel creation will not require the provision of any new or physically altered government facilities.

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 will not result in an increase in use of existing neighborhood or regional parks or other recreational facilities.

## XVII. 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. Be in conflict or be inconsistent with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Section 15064.3, subdivision (b); or
- 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:

No development or improvements to any existing transportation infrastructure is proposed with this application; therefore, no impacts to the circulation system, no increased hazards resulting from development, or changes in the adequacy of existing emergency access will occur.

## XVIII. TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES

Would the project:

- A. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code Section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is:

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: NO IMPACT:

Under the provisions of AB52, the Tribes who had previously requested notification were notified of this application. None of the Tribes responded to the notification or requested consultation on this project. No development or any ground disturbance is proposed with this application; therefore, no impacts to tribal cultural resources as defined in PRC Section 21704 will occur.

#### 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; or
- 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:

No changes to the existing utilities and services are anticipated. The existing 79.89-acre parcel contains two domestic wells and one agricultural well. The project was reviewed by the Water and Natural Resources Division which determined after conducting a water supply evaluation, that water supply was adequate to serve the residential and agricultural uses of the property. Additionally, it was determined that the subject property is not located in an area of the County designated as being water short.

- 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:

No increased wastewater capacity is proposed, each of the residences on the resultant 2.02-acre and 4.62-acre parcel will be served by individual septic system.

- 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:

The proposal to divide the 79.89-acre parcel will not result in increased generation of solid waste and no conflicts with local management, reduction statutes or regulations pertaining to solid waste are anticipated.

## 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:

The subject property is not in an area prone to the occurrence of wildfire.

## 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:

The subject parcel is located in an area of agricultural production, sparse residential development, and is itself involved in ongoing agricultural operations. No development or physical changes to the environment are proposed with this application; therefore, no impacts to the quality of the environment or reduction in habitat for fish and wildlife species are anticipated.

- 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 discussed under Section II and Section XI above, the proposed parcel creation will result in the conversion of a small portion of the subject parcel to strictly residential use, which residential use is currently appurtenant to the farming operation. If this Variance request is approved, two residential portion of the land which contains the residence will become independent of the remaining portion of the land which is proposed for pistachio production. Additionally, the request to create a parcel containing less than the minimum acreage required by the underlying Zone District is inconsistent with both the Fresno County General Plan and Zoning Ordinance. However, due to the relatively small amount of acreage that will be converted and considering that the balance of the property, two-parcels containing approximately 36.12-acres and 33.50-acres, will remain in agricultural production, resulting in less than significant impacts to farmland.

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

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

The approval of this application will not result in a change in land use of the subject property, or the proposed homesite parcel to be created. Both the residential use and the farming operation are existing. Therefore, the project will not result in environmental effects that would cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, directly or indirectly.

## **CONCLUSION/SUMMARY**

Based upon the Initial Study prepared for this project, 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 Aesthetics, Air Quality, Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Energy, Geology and Soils Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, Hydrology and Water Quality, Mineral Resources, Noise, Population and Housing, Public Services,

Recreation, Transportation, Tribal Cultural Resources Utilities and Service Systems, and Wildfire.

Potential impacts related to Agricultural and Forestry Resources, and Land Use and Planning have been determined to be less than significant.

A 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.

JS

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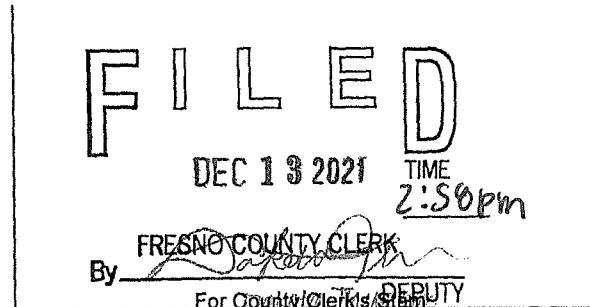


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# County of Fresno

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

## NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A NEGATIVE DECLARATION



Notice is hereby given that the County of Fresno has prepared Initial Study (IS) No. 8090 pursuant to the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act for the following proposed project:

**INITIAL STUDY NO. 8090, VARIANCE APPLICATION NO. 4109 AND DIRECTOR REVIEW AND APPROVAL APPLICATION NO. 4662** filed by **JAMIE BLEDSOE**, proposing to allow the creation a 37.64-acre, a 35.61-acre, a 4.62-acre and a 2.02-acre parcel from two existing parcels totaling 79.89-acres, and allow two existing single-family dwellings to remain on the 4.62 --acre parcel, in the AE-20 (Exclusive Agricultural, 20-acre minimum parcel size) Zone District.

The subject parcels are located on the southeast and southwest comers of the intersection of S. Bryan Avenue and W. Harlan Avenue, approximately one mile northeast of the unincorporated community of Lanare (APN 053-031-03S) (20141 S. Bryan Avenue) (SUP. DIST. 1).

Adopt the Negative Declaration prepared for Initial Study No. 8090 and take action on Variance Application No. 4109 and Director Review and Approval Application No.4662 with Findings and Conditions.

(hereafter, the "Proposed Project")

The County of Fresno has determined that it is appropriate to adopt a Negative Declaration for the Proposed Project. The purpose of this Notice is to (1) provide notice of the availability of IS No. 8090 and the draft 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 Negative Declaration from December 15, 2021 through January 13, 2022.

Email written comments to [jshaw@fresnocountyca.gov](mailto:jshaw@fresnocountyca.gov), or mail comments to:

Fresno County Department of Public Works and Planning

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

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Development Services and Capital Projects Division  
Attn: Jeremy Shaw  
2220 Tulare Street, Suite A  
Fresno, CA 93721

IS No. 8090 and the draft 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 holidays), or at [www.co.fresno.ca.us/initialstudies](http://www.co.fresno.ca.us/initialstudies). An electronic copy of the draft Negative Declaration for the Proposed Project may be obtained from Jeremy Shaw 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](mailto: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 Negative Declaration on January 27, 2022, 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 Negative Declaration.

For questions, please call Jeremy Shaw at (559) 600-4207.

Published: December 17, 2021