

1010 10th Street, Suite 3400, Modesto, CA 95354 Phone: 209.525.6330 Fax: 209.525.5911

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

Date:	March 17, 2017
То:	Distribution List (See Attachment A)
From:	Jeremy Ballard, Assistant Planner, Planning and Community Development
Subject:	ENVIRONMENTAL REFERRAL – USE PERMIT APPLICATION NO. PLN2016-0126 – JON E. MARING – DEL MAR FARMS
Comment Period:	March 17, 2017 – April 19, 2017
Respond By:	April 19, 2017
Public Hearing Date:	Not yet scheduled. A separate notice will be sent to you when a hearing is scheduled.

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

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

Applicant: Jon E. Maring dba Del Mar Farms

Project Location: 9839 Cox Road, between Frank Cox Road and Condit Avenue, south of the community of Grayson.

APN: 016-043-002

Williamson Act Contract: 73-1334

General Plan: Ag (Agriculture)

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

Project Description: Request to construct two agricultural storage buildings totaling approximately 31,680 +/- square feet for the expansion of an existing agricultural processing facility on a 40 +/- acre parcel in the A-2-40 (General Agriculture) zoning district.

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

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ENVIRONMENTAL REFERRAL – USE PERMIT APPLICATION NO. PLN2016-0126 – JON E. MARING – DEL MAR FARMS

Attachment A

Distribution List

DISL	ribution List	1	
Х	CA DEPT OF CONSERVATION Land Resources		STAN CO ALUC
Х	CA DEPT OF FISH & WILDLIFE		STAN CO ANIMAL SERVICES
	CA DEPT OF FORESTRY (CAL FIRE)	Х	STAN CO BUILDING PERMITS DIVISION
Х	CA DEPT OF TRANSPORTATION DIST 10	Х	STAN CO CEO
Х	CA OPR STATE CLEARINGHOUSE		STAN CO CSA
Х	CA RWQCB CENTRAL VALLEY REGION	Х	STAN CO DER
Х	CA DEPT WATER RESOURCES	Х	STAN CO ERC
Х	CEMETERY DISTRICT: PATTERSON	Х	STAN CO FARM BUREAU
Х	CENTRAL VALLEY FLOOD PROTECTION	Х	STAN CO HAZARDOUS MATERIALS
	CITY OF:		STAN CO PARKS & RECREATION
	COMMUNITY SERVICES/SANITARY DIST	Х	STAN CO PUBLIC WORKS
Х	COOPERATIVE EXTENSION		STAN CO RISK MANAGEMENT
	COUNTY OF:	Х	STAN CO SHERIFF
Х	FIRE PROTECTION DIST: WEST STAN	Х	STAN CO SUPERVISOR DIST 5: DEMARTINI
Х	HOSPITAL DIST: DEL PUERTO	Х	STAN COUNTY COUNSEL
Х	IRRIGATION DIST: WEST STAN		StanCOG
Х	MOSQUITO DIST: TURLOCK	Х	STANISLAUS FIRE PREVETION BUREAU
Х	MOUNTIAN VALLEY EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES	Х	STANISLAUS LAFCO
	MUNICIPAL ADVISORY COUNCIL:	Х	SURROUNDING LAND OWNERS (on file w/the Clerk to the Board of Supervisors)
Х	PACIFIC GAS & ELECTRIC	Х	TELEPHONE COMPANY: AT&T
	POSTMASTER:		TRIBAL CONTACTS (CA Government Code §65352.3)
Х	RAILROAD: CA NORTHERN	х	TRIBAL CONTACT – Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians (All)
Х	SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY APCD	Х	US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
Х	SCHOOL DIST 1: PATTERSON JOINT UNIFIED	х	US FISH & WILDLIFE
	SCHOOL DIST 2:	Х	US MILITARY (SB 1462) (7 agencies)
	STAN ALLIANCE		USDA NRCS
Х	STAN CO AG COMMISSIONER		WATER DIST:
	TUOLUMNE RIVER TRUST		
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STANISLAUS COUNTY CEQA REFERRAL RESPONSE FORM

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

FROM:

SUBJECT: ENVIRONMENTAL REFERRAL – USE PERMIT APPLICATION NO. PLN2016-0126 – JON E. MARING – DEL MAR FARMS

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

Will not have a significant effect on the environment.

____ May have a significant effect on the environment.

No Comments.

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

1.

- 2.
- 3. 4.

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

- 1.
- 2.

3.

4.

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

Response prepared by:

Name

Title

Date

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DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1010 10th Street, Suite 3400, Modesto, CA 95354 Phone: 209.525.6330 Fax: 209.525.5911

CEQA INITIAL STUDY

Adapted from CEQA Guidelines APPENDIX G Environmental Checklist Form, Final Text, December 30, 2009

1. **Project title:** Use Permit Application No. PLN2016-0126 -Jon E. Maring – Del Mar Farms 2. Lead agency name and address: Stanislaus County 1010 10th Street, Suite 3400 Modesto, CA 95354 3. Contact person and phone number: Jeremy Ballard, Assistant Planner Project location: 4. 9839 Cox Road, between Frank Cox Road and Condit Avenue, south of the community of Grayson. 5. Project sponsor's name and address: Jon E. Maring dba Del Mar Farms 9843 Cox Road Patterson, CA 95363 6. **General Plan designation:** AG (Agriculture) 7. Zoning: A-2-40 (General Agriculture)

8. Description of project:

Request to construct two agricultural storage buildings totaling approximately 31,680± square feet (17,280 square feet and 14,400 square feet) for the expansion of an existing agricultural processing on a 40± acre parcel. The proposed buildings will be utilized for the storage of the applicant's agricultural production of various fruits and nuts in conjunction with the existing buildings for manufacturing, cold storage as well as packing and shipping of products. The buildings will be constructed in one phase, the applicant does not anticipate an increase of the existing 11 full-time year-round employees. The applicant is anticipating an increase of a maximum of five truck trips per day, hours of operation will remain Monday through Saturday 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

9.	Surrounding land uses and setting:	Row crops, Almond orchards and San Joaquin River to the east, row crops, almond orchard and huller to the west, walnut and almond orchards to the north, and almond orchard and private airport to the south.		
10.	Other public agencies whose approval is required (e.g., permits, financing approval, or participation agreement.):	Stanislaus County Department of Public Works, County Planning and Community Develop, Building Permits Division; West Side Stanislaus Fire Protection District; CA Department of Conservation.		

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED:

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

□Aesthetics	□ Agriculture & Forestry Resources	☐ Air Quality
☐Biological Resources	Cultural Resources	Geology / Soils
□Greenhouse Gas Emissions	☐ Hazards & Hazardous Materials	Hydrology / Water Quality
□ Land Use / Planning	□ Mineral Resources	□ Noise
□ Population / Housing	Public Services	□ Recreation
Transportation / Traffic	Utilities / Service Systems	Mandatory Findings of Significance

DETERMINATION: (To be completed by the Lead Agency) On the basis of this initial evaluation:

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

I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.

I find that the proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.

I find that the proposed project MAY have a "potentially significant impact" or "potentially significant unless mitigated" impact on the environment, but at least one effect 1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and 2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. An ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.

I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project, nothing further is required.

Jeremy Ballard

3/16/2017

Planner

 $|\times|$

Date

EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS:

1) A brief explanation is required for all answers except "No Impact" answers that are adequately supported by the information sources a lead agency cites in the parentheses following each question. A "No Impact" answer is adequately supported if the referenced information sources show that the impact simply does not apply to projects like the one involved (e.g., the project falls outside a fault rupture zone). A "No Impact" answer should be explained where it is based on project-specific factors as well as general standards (e.g., the project will not expose sensitive receptors to pollutants, based on a project-specific screening analysis).

2) All answers must take account of the whole action involved, including off-site as well as on-site, cumulative as well as project-level, indirect as well as direct, and construction as well as operational impacts.

3) Once the lead agency has determined that a particular physical impact may occur, than the checklist answers must indicate whether the impact is potentially significant, less than significant with mitigation, or less than significant. "Potentially Significant Impact" is appropriate if there is substantial evidence that an effect may be significant. If there are one or more "Potentially Significant Impact" entries when the determination is made, an EIR is required.

4) "Negative Declaration: Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated" applies where the incorporation of mitigation measures has reduced an effect from "Potentially Significant Impact" to a "Less Than Significant Impact." The lead agency must describe the mitigation measures, and briefly explain how they reduce the effect to a less than significant level (mitigation measures from Section XVII, "Earlier Analyses," may be cross-referenced).

5) Earlier analyses may be used where, pursuant to the tiering, program EIR, or other CEQA process, an effect has been adequately analyzed in an earlier EIR or negative declaration.

Section 15063(c)(3)(D). In this case, a brief discussion should identify the following:

a) Earlier Analysis Used. Identify and state where they are available for review.

b) Impacts Adequately Addressed. Identify which effects from the above checklist were within the scope of and adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and state whether such effects were addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis.

c) Mitigation Measures. For effects that are "Less than Significant with Mitigation Measures Incorporated," describe the mitigation measures which were incorporated or refined from the earlier document and the extent to which they address site-specific conditions for the project.

6) Lead agencies are encouraged to incorporate into the checklist references to information sources for potential impacts (e.g., general plans, zoning ordinances). References to a previously prepared or outside document should, where appropriate, include a reference to the page or pages where the statement is substantiated.

7) Supporting Information Sources: A source list should be attached, and other sources used or individuals contacted should be cited in the discussion.

8) This is only a suggested form, and lead agencies are free to use different formats; however, lead agencies should normally address the questions from this checklist that are relevant to a project's environmental effects in whatever format is selected.

9) The explanation of each issue should identify:

- a) the significant criteria or threshold, if any, used to evaluate each question; and
- b) the mitigation measure identified, if any, to reduce the impact to less than significant.

ISSUES

I. AESTHETICS Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Included	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?			X	
b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?			x	
c) Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?			х	
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?			x	

Discussion: The site itself is not considered to be a scenic resource or a unique scenic vista. The proposed structures are comprised of steel, with a maximum height of 20± feet. Community standards generally do not dictate the need or desire for architectural review of agriculture. Standard conditions of approval will be added to this project to address glare from any proposed on-site lighting. Any development resulting from this project will be consistent with existing area developments.

Mitigation: None

References: Application material, Stanislaus County General Plan and Support Documentation¹.

II. AGRICULTURE AND FOREST RESOURCES: In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Department of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. In determining whether impacts to forest resources, including timberland, are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to information compiled by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection regarding the state's inventory of forest land, including the	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Included	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Forest and Range Assessment Project and the Forest Legacy Assessment project; and forest carbon measurement methodology provided in Forest Protocols adopted by the California Air Resources Board Would the project:				
a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?			x	
b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?			х	
c) Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g))?			X	

d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?		
e) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	x	

Discussion: The 40± acre project site is currently enrolled in Williamson Act No. 1973-1334 and has soils classified by the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program as being Prime Farmland. More specifically identified as Stomar Clay Loam with an index rating of 68 and a grade of 2, as well as Zacharias Clay Loam with an index rating 77 and a grade of 2, which would be categorized as prime farmland as well. The site is approximately planted in 32± acres of orchards, while the remaining acreage has been developed with 105,376± square feet of building space. The developed area consists of agricultural processing, manufacturing, cold storage and warehouses buildings. The two proposed storage buildings will disturb approximately 1.2 acres of unoccupied space as well as a small portion of the orchard. However, the proposed buildings are not expected to perpetuate any significant conversion of farmland to non-agricultural as the use will support the vertical integration of the on-site agriculture.

Located within the A-2 (General Agricultural) zoning district, the onsite processing and storage operations have been determined by the County to be compatible with the Williamson Act. Within the A-2 zoning district, the County has determined that certain uses related to agricultural production, such as Tier One uses, are "necessary for a healthy agricultural economy," provided it is found that the proposed use "will not be substantially detrimental to or in conflict with the agricultural use of other property in the vicinity."

Under the Williamson Act, government code §51238.1 provides direction to local governments for determining a compatible use based on established Williamson Act Principles of Compatibility. Section 21.20.045(A) of the Stanislaus County Zoning Ordinance requires that all uses approved on Williamson Act contracted lands be consistent with three principles of compatibility:

- 1. The use will not significantly compromise the long-term productive agricultural capability of the subject contracted parcel or parcels or on other contracted lands in the A-2 zoning district;
- 2. The use will not significantly displace or impair current or reasonably foreseeable agricultural operations on the subject contracted parcel or parcels or on other contracted lands in the A-2 zoning district. Uses that significantly displace agricultural operations on the subject contracted parcel or parcels may be deemed compatible if they relate directly to the production of commercial agricultural products on the subject contracted parcel or parcels or neighboring lands, including activities such as harvesting, processing, or shipping;
- 3. The use will not result in the significant removal of adjacent contracted land from agricultural or openspace use.

Pursuant to Section 21.20.045(B)(3) of the Stanislaus County Zoning Ordinance, Tier One uses are determined to be consistent with the Principles of Compatibility and may be approved on contracted land unless a finding to the contrary is made. This project was referred to the State of California Department of Conservation (DOC). Presently, no response has been received from the DOC.

General Plan Amendment No. 2011-01 - Revised Agricultural Buffers was approved by the Board of Supervisors on December 20, 2011, to modify County requirements for buffers on agricultural projects. As this is a Tier One use, if not considered people intensive by the Planning Commission, the project is not subject to agricultural buffers. As the applicant does not anticipate an increase of the existing 11 employees, staff does not believe a buffer should be required.

Mitigation: None

References: Application Material; California Department of Conservation Farmland & Monitoring Program – Stanislaus County Farmland 2014; California Government Code; USDA Web Soil Survey; Stanislaus County General Plan and Support Documentation¹.

III. AIR QUALITY: Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Included	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?			x	
b) Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?			x	
c) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non- attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?			х	
d) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?			x	
e) Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?			x	

Discussion: The proposed project is located within the San Joaquin Valley Air Basin (SJVAB) and, therefore, falls under the jurisdiction of the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (SJVAPCD). In conjunction with the Stanislaus Council of Governments (StanCOG), the SJVAPCD is responsible for formulating and implementing air pollution control strategies. The SJVAPCD's most recent air quality plans are the 2007 PM10 (respirable particulate matter) Maintenance Plan, the 2015 for the 1997 PM2.5 standard (fine particulate matter), and the 2007 Ozone Plan (The District has also adopted similar ozone plans such as 2014 RACT SIP and 2013 Plan for the Revoked 1-Hour Ozone Standard). These plans establish a comprehensive air pollution control program leading to the attainment of state and federal air quality standards in the SJVAB, which has been classified as "extreme non-attainment" for ozone, "attainment" for respirable particulate matter (PM-10), and "non-attainment" for PM 2.5, as defined by the Federal Clean Air Act.

The primary source of air pollutants generated by this project would be classified as being generated from "mobile" sources. Mobile sources would generally include dust from roads, farming, and automobile exhausts. Mobile sources are generally regulated by the Air Resources Board of the California EPA which sets emissions for vehicles and acts on issues regarding cleaner burning fuels and alternative fuel technologies. As such, the District has addressed most criteria air pollutants through basin wide programs and policies to prevent cumulative deterioration of air quality within the Basin. The project will not substantially increase traffic in the area and, thereby, impacting air quality. The applicant is not anticipating an increase in the existing 11 employees and a maximum increase of five truck trips per day.

Potential impacts on local and regional air quality are anticipated to be less than significant, within approved SJVAPCD thresholds, as a result of the nature of the proposed project and project's operation after construction. Implementation of the proposed project would fall below the SJVAPCD significance thresholds for both short-term construction and long-term operational emissions, as discussed below. Because construction and operation of the project would not exceed the SJVAPCD significance thresholds, the proposed project would not increase the frequency or severity of existing air quality standards or the interim emission reductions specified in the air plans.

For these reasons, the proposed project would be consistent with the applicable air quality plans. Also, the proposed project would not conflict with applicable regional plans or policies adopted by agencies with jurisdiction over the project and would be considered to have a less than significant impact.

Construction activities associated with new development can temporarily increase localized PM10, PM2.5, volatile organic compound (VOC), nitrogen oxides (NOX), sulfur oxides (SOX), and carbon monoxide (CO) concentrations a project's vicinity. The primary source of construction-related CO, SOX, VOC, and NOX emission is gasoline and diesel-powered, heavy-duty mobile construction equipment. Primary sources of PM10 and PM2.5 emissions are generally clearing and demolition activities, grading operations, construction vehicle traffic on unpaved ground, and wind blowing over exposed surfaces.

Construction activities associated with the proposed project would consist primarily of construction of the 31,680 square feet storage buildings. These activities would not require any substantial use of heavy-duty construction equipment and would require little or no demolition or grading as the site is presently unimproved and considered to be topographically flat. Consequently, emissions would be minimal and all construction activities would occur in compliance with all SJVAPCD regulations; therefore, construction emissions would be less than significant without mitigation. A referral was sent to the SJVAPCD but no response has been received to date. In any event, the applicant will be responsible to contact the SJVAPCD to determine if any District Rules or Regulations apply.

Mitigation: None

References: Application material; San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District - Regulation VIII Fugitive Dust/PM-10 Synopsis; Stanislaus County General Plan and Support Documentation¹

IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Included	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?			x	
b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?			x	
c) Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?			x	
d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?			X	
e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?				x
f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?				X

Discussion: The presence of endangered species and/or habitats, locally designated species, wildlife dispersal and/or wetlands have not been identified on the site. However, the site is within a mile to the San Joaquin River, which is a Migration Corridor. It is also located within an area designated on the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB) as the Westley Quad, which comprises of 36 different potential plants and species. The site lies to the south of identified Community Terrestrial area but it does not include the site.

The project site has been planted in orchards for some time, which would require clearing and grading of the property prior to any planting of trees. The proposed storage buildings will only represent a portion of the existing developed commercial agricultural space on the site; it will most likely not create a significant impact to any potential biological

resources on site. It does not appear this project will result in impacts to endangered species or habitats, locally designated species, or wildlife dispersal or mitigation corridors. The project was referred to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife; no comments have been received as of this date.

Mitigation: None

References: California Department of Fish and Wildlife California Natural Diversity Database; Stanislaus County General Plan and Support Documentation¹

V. CULTURAL RESOURCES Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Included	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in § 15064.5?			х	
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to § 15064.5?			х	
c) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?			х	
d) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?			х	

Discussion: It does not appear this project will result in significant impacts to any archaeological or cultural resources. The project site has already been developed with agricultural processing, cold storage and warehouse buildings. Nevertheless, a condition of approval will be placed on the project that if any resources are found, construction activities will halt until a qualified survey takes place and the appropriate authorities are notified.

Mitigation: None

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

VI. GEOLOGY AND SOILS Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Included	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:		included	x	
i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.			x	
ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?			Х	
iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?			х	
iv) Landslides?			Х	
b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?			X	
c) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?			X	

d) Be located on expansive soil creating substantial risks to life or property?	x	
e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?	x	

Discussion: As mentioned earlier, the site consists of Stomar Clay and Zacharias Clay Loam soils. Contained in Chapter Five of the General Plan Support Documentation, the areas of the County subject to significant geologic hazard are located in the Diablo Range, west of Interstate 5; however, as per the California Building Code, all of Stanislaus County is located within a geologic hazard zone (Seismic Design Category D, E, or F) and a soils test may be required as part of the building permit process. Results from the soils test will determine if unstable or expansive soils are present. If such soils are present, special engineering of the structure will be designed and built according to building standards appropriate to withstand shaking for the area in which they are constructed. A grading and drainage plain, subject to Public Works Standards and Specifications, will be required prior to any issuance of a building permit for the approval of the Department of Environmental Resources (DER) through the building permit process, which also takes soil type into consideration within the specific design requirements. At this point, the project site will be served by an onsite septic system.

Mitigation: None

References: California Building Code; Referral Response from Stanislaus County Department of Public Works dated March 02, 2017; Stanislaus County General Plan and Support Documentation¹

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

Discussion: The principal Greenhouse Gasses (GHGs) are carbon dioxide (CO2), methane (CH4), nitrous oxide (N2O), sulfur hexafluoride (SF6), perfluorocarbons (PFCs), hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), and water vapor (H2O). CO2 is the reference gas for climate change because it is the predominant greenhouse gas emitted. To account for the varying warming potential of different GHGs, GHG emissions are often quantified and reported as CO2 equivalents (CO2e). In 2006, California passed the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 (Assembly Bill [AB] No. 32), which requires the California Air Resources Board (ARB) to design and implement emission limits, regulations, and other measures, such that feasible and cost-effective statewide GHG emissions are reduced to 1990 levels by 2020. As a requirement of AB 32, the ARB was assigned the task of developing a Climate Change Scoping Plan that outlines the state's strategy to achieve the 2020 GHG emissions limits. This Scoping Plan includes a comprehensive set of actions designed to reduce overall GHG emissions in California, improve the environment, reduce the state's dependence on oil, diversify the state's energy sources, save energy, create new jobs and enhance public health. The Climate Change Scoping Plan was approved by the ARB on December 22, 2008. According to the September 23, 2010, AB 32 Climate Change Scoping Plan Progress Report, 40 percent of the reductions identified in the Scoping Plan have been secured through ARB actions and California is on track to its 2020 goal.

Although not originally intended to reduce GHGs, California Code of Regulations (CCR) Title 24, Part 6: California's Energy Efficiency Standards for Residential and Nonresidential Buildings, was first adopted in 1978 in response to a legislative mandate to reduce California's energy consumption. Since then, Title 24 has been amended with recognition that energy-efficient buildings require less electricity and reduce fuel consumption, which in turn decreases GHG emissions. The current Title 24 standards were adopted to respond to the requirements of AB 32. Specifically, new

development projects within California after January 1, 2011, are subject to the mandatory planning and design, energy efficiency, water efficiency and conservation, material conservation and resources efficiency, and environmental quality measures of the California Green Building Standards (CALGreen) Code (California Code of Regulations, Title 24, Part 11).

The proposed project would result in short-term emissions of GHGs during construction. These emissions, primarily CO2, CH4, and N2O, are the result of fuel combustion by construction equipment and motor vehicles. The other primary GHGs (HFCs, PFCs, and SF6) are typically associated with specific industrial sources and are not expected to be emitted by the proposed project. As described above in Section III - Air Quality, the use of heavy-duty construction equipment would be very limited; therefore, the emissions of CO2 from construction would be less than significant.

The project would also result in direct annual emissions of GHGs during operation. Direct emissions of GHGs from operation of the proposed project are primarily due to automobile trips. The applicant is anticipating no increase in the current 11 employees on site and an increase of a maximum of five truck trips per day. The Stanislaus County Department of Public Works reviewed the project and believes that, based on the International Traffic Engineer's Manual, there will be a larger increase in truck trips will remain well below any significant increase in GHG's.

Mitigation: None

References: Referral Response from Stanislaus County Public Works Dated March 02, 2017; Stanislaus County General Plan and Support Documentation¹

VIII. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Included	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?			x	
b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?			x	
c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?			x	
d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?			x	
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?			x	
f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?			x	
g) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?			x	

h) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands?		x	
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Discussion: Pesticide exposure is a risk in agricultural areas. Sources of exposure include contaminated groundwater which is consumed and drift from spray applications. Application of sprays is strictly controlled by the Agricultural Commissioner and can only be accomplished after first obtaining permits. DER is responsible for overseeing hazardous materials in this area.

A comment referral response received from DER's HAZMAT Division is requiring a Phase 1 Study (and Phase II if deemed necessary) to determine if any underground storage of chemicals took place during past activities. Conditions of approval will be placed on the project to address this. The project site is adjacent to a private airstrip under common ownership. The private airstrip operates mostly in support of the adjacent agriculture and would not impose any increased safety hazard for people residing or working in the area, as the two have operated at this proximity for some time and no increase in employees will be a part of this expansion. The project site, however, is not located within any airport land use plan or a wildlands area.

Mitigation: None

References: Application material; Referral Response from Department of Environmental Resources HAZAMT Division, dated January 17, 2017; Stanislaus County General Plan and Support Documentation¹

	Detentiol		Less There	No lune oct
IX. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Included	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?			x	
b) Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level which would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)?			x	
c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site?			x	
d) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site?			x	
e) Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?			x	
f) Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?			Х	
g) Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map?			X	

h) Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures which would impede or redirect flood flows?	x	
i) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam?	x	
j) Inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?	X	

Discussion: The site is designated as area X, which has been subject to 500 year flooding as identified in accordance with the Federal Emergency Act. It is adjacent to but not within the 100 year flood-plain of the San Joaquin River. FEMA classifies this area as a moderate flood hazard; however, the site is not within 200 year flood plain. The proposed storage buildings are required to meet any prescribed measures to meet FEMA requirements during the building permit phase and will be administered the by County's Building Permits Division. The Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) provided a referral response requesting that the applicant coordinate with their agency to determine if any permits or Water Board requirements must be obtained or met prior to operation. A condition of approval will be added for both issues.

Mitigation: None

References: California Department of Water Resources, Best Available Maps; Referral Response from Department of Regional Water Quality Control Board, dated January 09, 2017; Stanislaus County General Plan and Support Documentation¹

X. LAND USE AND PLANNING Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Included	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Physically divide an established community?				Х
b) Conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to the general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?			X	
c) Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan?				Х

Discussion: This project is consistent with the Agricultural designation of the County's General Plan and A-2-40 (General Agriculture) zoning of the site provided the Use Permit is approved. This application is for a "use" that is considered a Tier One use which is permitted by securing a Use Permit. The features of this project will not physically divide an established community and/or conflict with any habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan. This project is not known to conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of any agency with jurisdiction over the project.

Mitigation: None

References: Stanislaus County General Plan and Support Documentation¹

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

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

Mitigation: None

References: Stanislaus County General Plan and Support Documentation¹

XII. NOISE Would the project result in:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Included	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?			X	
b) Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?			x	
c) A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?			x	
d) A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?			x	
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?			x	
f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?			X	

Discussion: The Stanislaus County General Plan identifies noise levels up to 75 dB Ldn (or CNEL) as the normally acceptable level of noise for agricultural, industrial, manufacturing and other similar land uses. Noise impacts associated with on-site activities and traffic are not anticipated to exceed the normally acceptable level of noise. All expansion of use for the existing operation will take place within enclosed buildings and are not expected to generate significant amounts of noise. The construction phase of the project will temporarily increase ambient noise levels.

As mentioned previously, there is an adjacent private airport strip that serves mainly agricultural purposes. A majority of the operation will take place indoors, which will greatly limit any exposure to excessive noise as caused by the private airport.

Mitigation: None

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

XIII. POPULATION AND HOUSING Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Included	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?			х	
b) Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?				x
c) Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?				х

Discussion: The proposed use of the site will not create service extensions or new infrastructure which could be considered as growth inducing. No housing or persons will be displaced by this project. This project is adjacent to agricultural operations and the nature of the use is considered consistent with the A-2 zoning district provided a use permit is obtained.

Mitigation: None

References: Stanislaus County General Plan and Support Documentation¹

XIV. PUBLIC SERVICES	Potentially Significant	Less Than Significant	Less Than Significant	No Impact
	Impact	With Mitigation Included	Impact	
a) Would the project result in the substantial adverse				
physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or				
physically altered governmental facilities, the construction				
of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in				
order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public				
services:				
Fire protection?			X	
Police protection?			Х	
Schools?				Х
Parks?				Х
Other public facilities?			Х	

Discussion: The County has adopted Public Facilities Fees, as well as one for Fire Facility Fees on behalf of the appropriate fire district, to address impacts to public services. Such fees are required to be paid at the time of building permit issuance. The project was referred to the appropriate public service agencies, as well as the Stanislaus County Environmental Review Committee (ERC), which includes the Sheriff's Department. A referral response was received from the West Stanislaus Fire District stating that the storage buildings may be subject to California Fire Code requirements regarding storage of combustible material. According to the applicant the storage of combustible material shall not exceed the state requirements. Conditions of approval will be added to the project to ensure these requirements are met. The proposed storage buildings are not anticipated to have any significant adverse impact on County services.

Mitigation: None

References: Application Material; Referral Response from West Stanislaus Fire Protection District dated January 3, 2017; Stanislaus County General Plan and Support Documentation¹

XV. RECREATION	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Included	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?				x
b) Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?				x

Discussion: This project is not anticipated to result in significant demands for recreational facilities as such impacts typically are associated with residential development.

Mitigation: None

References: Stanislaus County General Plan and Support Documentation¹

XVI. TRANSPORATION/TRAFFIC Would the project:	Potentially	Less Than	Less Than	No Impact
	Significant Impact	Significant With Mitigation Included	Significant Impact	
a) Conflict with an applicable plan, ordinance or policy establishing measures of effectiveness for the performance of the circulation system, taking into account all modes of transportation including mass transit and non-motorized travel and relevant components of the circulation system, including but not limited to intersections, streets, highways and freeways, pedestrian Xand bicycle paths, and mass transit?			x	
b) Conflict with an applicable congestion management program, including, but not limited to level of service standards and travel demand measures, or other standards established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways?			x	
c) Result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks?			х	
d) Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?			X	
e) Result in inadequate emergency access?			Х	
f) Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs regarding public transit, bicycle, or pedestrian facilities, or otherwise decrease the performance or safety of such facilities?			X	

Discussion: Significant impacts to traffic and transportation was not identified by reviewing agencies. The existing facility has direct access to a county maintained road via Cox Road. The applicant is not anticipating any increase in the existing year round 11 employees, they are, however, anticipating a maximum of five additional truck trips per day. The Stanislaus County Department of Public Works reviewed the project and believes that, based on the International Traffic Engineer's Manual, there will be an increase in truck traffic to the site by 45 trips per day. While from a regulatory

standpoint this may be a large increase; however, it does not project to have a significant effect on the existing traffic patterns, level of service or conflict with any traffic mitigation plans. The Public Works Department is requiring dedication of a portion of the applicant's property fronting along Cox Road as well as improvements to both the northbound and southbound lanes for the increase in truck trips. This will be added as a condition of approval for the project, to be completed prior to the completion of the first issued permit.

Mitigation: None

References: Application Material; Referral Response from Stanislaus County Department of Public Works dated March 02, 2017; Stanislaus County General Plan and Support Documentation¹

XVII. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Included	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?			x	
b) Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?			x	
c) Require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?			x	
d) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed?			x	
e) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?				x
f) Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?			x	
g) Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?			x	

Discussion: Limitations on providing services have not been identified during the Early Consultation process. The site will be served by; PG&E for electrical services, West Stanislaus Irrigation District for the irrigation of the onsite agriculture, private wells for potable water and permitted through DER for any sanitary sewage disposal. Any intensity of these utilities from the proposed development will result in less than significant impacts to the groundwater, waste disposal and storm water drainage and will be subject to any regulatory requirements during the building permitting phase.

Mitigation: None

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

XVIII. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Included	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?			X	
b) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects.)			x	
c) Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?			Х	

Discussion: Review of this project has not indicated any features which might significantly impact the environmental quality of the site and/or surrounding areas.

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

NEGATIVE DECLARATION

NAME OF PROJECT:	Use Permit Application No. PLN2016-0126 – Jon E. Maring – Del Mar Farms
LOCATION OF PROJECT:	9839 Cox Road, between Frank Cox Road and Condit Avenue, south of the Community of Grayson. APN: 016-043-002
PROJECT DEVELOPERS:	Jon E. Maring dba Del Mar Farms 9843 Cox Road Patterson, CA 95363

DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT: Request to construct two agricultural storage buildings totaling approximately 31,680+/- square feet for the expansion of an existing agricultural processing facility on a 40+/- acre parcel in the A-2-40 (General Agriculture) zoning district.

Based upon the Initial Study, dated March 16, 2017, the Environmental Coordinator finds as follows:

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

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

Initial Study prepared by:	Jeremy Ballard, Assistant Planner
Submit comments to:	Stanislaus County Planning and Community Development Department 1010 10th Street, Suite 3400 Modesto, California 95354

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Jeremy Ballard - RE: Stan Co ERC Referral - Due January 16, 2016

From:WALEED YOSIF <WYOSIF@envres.org>To:Katrina Lopez <lopezk@stancounty.com>, Jeremy Ballard <BALLARDJ@stancoun...</td>Date:1/4/2017 8:44 AMSubject:RE: Stan Co ERC Referral - Due January 16, 2016CC:BELLA BADAL <BBADAL@envres.org>, RACHEL RIESS <rariess@envres.org>,
"WAL...

Good Morning Jeremy,

Environmental Health Division have no comment regarding USE PERMIT APPLICATION NO. PLN2016-0126 – JON E. MARING – DEL MAR FARMS

Thank you,

Waleed Yosif, REHS Senior Environmental Health Specialist Stanislaus County Department of Environmental Resources 3800 Cornucopia Way, Suite C, Modesto, Ca 95358 Phone: <u>209-525-6703</u> Fax: <u>209-525-6774</u> Email: <u>wyosif@envres.org</u>



From: Katrina Lopez [lopezk@stancounty.com]
Sent: Thursday, December 29, 2016 3:31 PM
To: AMBER MINAMI; BELLA BADAL; BERONIA BENIAMINE; HEIDI HIDALGO; JAMI AGGERS; JANIS MEIN; KIT MCCLURG; Ryan Barney; RACHEL RIESS; WALLACE LOW; Walter Ward; WALEED YOSIF; Angela Freitas; Thomas Boze; Patrick Cavanah; Tera Chumley; Frederic Clark; Daniel Bernaciak; Miguel Galvez; Angie Halverson; Keimi Espinoza; Matt Machado; Milton O'Haire; Sara Lytle-Pinhey; Paul Saini; Sheryl Swartz; Mike Radford; Jerry McDaniel; Randy Crook; Theresa Spezzano
Cc: Jeremy Ballard
Subject: Stan Co ERC Referral - Due January 16, 2016

Hello ERC Members,

Early Consultation for USE PERMIT APPLICATION NO. PLN2016-0126 - JON E. MARING - DEL MAR FARMS is ready for distribution. Thank you!

Katrina Lopez Administrative Clerk III Stanislaus County Planning & Community Development (209)525-4319 LOPEZK@stancounty.com

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CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

Stan Risen Chief Executive Officer

Patricia Hill Thomas Chief Operations Officer/ Assistant Executive Officer

Keith D. Boggs Assistant Executive Officer

Jody Hayes Assistant Executive Officer

1010 10th Street, Suite 6800, Modesto, CA 95354 Post Office Box 3404, Modesto, CA 95353-3404

Phone: 209.525.6333 Fax 209.544.6226

STANISLAUS COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW COMMITTEE

January 12, 2017

Jeremy Ballard, Assistant Planner Stanislaus County Planning & Community Development 1010 10th Street, Suite 3400 Modesto, CA 95354

SUBJECT: ENVIRONMENTAL REFERRAL – DEL MAR FARMS – USE PERMIT APPLICATION NO. PLN2016-0126 – EARLY CONSULTATION

Mr. Ballard:

Thank you for the opportunity to review the Early Consultation phase of the above-referenced project.

The Stanislaus County Environmental Review Committee (ERC) has reviewed the subject project and has no comments at this time.

The ERC appreciates the opportunity to comment on this project.

Sincerely,

til Cum

Patrick Cavanah Management Consultant Environmental Review Committee

PC:ss

cc: ERC Members





RECET	
JAN 17 2017	
Stanislaus County Maining & Community Development Dept.	

TO:

JEREMY BALLARD, STANISLAUS COUNTY PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

FROM: AMBER MINAMI, STANISLAUS COUNTY HAZARDOUS MATERIALS DIVISION

SUBJECT: USE PERMIT APPLICATION NO. PLN2016-0126 – JON E. MARING – DEL MAR FARMS

The Stanislaus County Hazardous Materials Division has reviewed the information available on the subject project. The Department provides the following conditions of approval to be implemented:

The applicant shall determine, to the satisfaction of the Department of Environmental Resources (DER) that the property has been fully investigated (via Phase I study, and Phase II study if necessary) prior to the issuance of a grading permit. DER recommends research be conducted to determine if pesticides were used on the proposed development site; if confirmed, suspect site areas should be tested for organic pesticides and metals. Any discovery of underground storage tanks, former underground storage tank locations, buried chemicals, buried refuse, or contaminated soil shall be brought to the immediate attention of DER.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION 1550 Harbor Blvd., Suite 100 West Sacramento, CA 95691 Phone (916) 373-3710 Fax (916) 373-5471 Email: nahc@nahc.ca.gov Website: http://www.nahc.ca.gov Edmund G. Brown Jr., Governor

RECEIVED

JAN 12 2017



January 9, 2017

Jeremy Ballard Stanislaus County 1010 10th Street, Suite 3400 Modesto, CA 95354

Stanislaus County - Planning & sent via e-mail: Community Development Dept. ballardj@stancounty.com

RE: SCH# 2017012004; Early Consultation, Use Permit Application No. PLN2016-0126 – Jon E. Maring – Del Mar Farms Project, Stanislaus County, California

Dear Mr. Ballard:

Twitter: @CA_NAHC

The Native American Heritage Commission has reviewed the Early Consultation request for the project referenced above. To adequately assess and mitigate project-related impacts on cultural resources, the Commission recommends the following actions be required:

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Pub. Resources Code § 21000 et seq.), specifically Public Resources Code section 21084.1, states that a project that may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an historical resource is a project that may have a significant effect on the environment. (Pub. Resources Code § 21084.1; Cal. Code Regs., tit.14, § 15064.5 (b) (CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5 (b)). If there is substantial evidence, in light of the whole record before a lead agency, that a project may have a significant effect on the environment, an environmental impact report (EIR) shall be prepared. (Pub. Resources Code § 21080 (d); Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 15064 subd.(a)(1) (CEQA Guidelines § 15064 (a)(1)). In order to determine whether a project will cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource, a lead agency will need to determine whether there are historical resources with the area of project effect (APE).

CEQA was amended significantly in 2014. Assembly Bill 52 (Gatto, Chapter 532, Statutes of 2014) (AB 52) amended CEQA to create a separate category of cultural resources, "tribal cultural resources" (Pub. Resources Code § 21074) and provides that a project with an effect that may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource is a project that may have a significant effect on the environment. (Pub. Resources Code § 21084.2). Please reference California Natural Resources Agency (2016) "Final Text for tribal cultural resources update to Appendix G: Environmental Checklist Form," http://resources.ca.gov/ceqa/docs/ab52/Clean-final-AB-52-App-G-text-Submitted.pdf . Public agencies shall, when feasible, avoid damaging effects to any tribal cultural resource. (Pub. Resources Code § 21084.3 (a)). **AB 52 applies to any project for which a notice of preparation or a notice of negative declaration or mitigated negative declaration is filed on or after July 1, 2015.** If your project involves the adoption of or amendment to a general plan or a specific plan, or the designation or proposed designation of open space, on or after March 1, 2005, it may also be subject to Senate Bill 18 (Burton, Chapter 905, Statutes of 2004) (SB 18). Both SB 18 and AB 52 have tribal consultation requirements. If your project is also subject to the federal National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. § 4321 et seq.) (NEPA), the tribal consultation requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (154 U.S.C. 300101, 36 C.F.R. § 800 et seq.) may also apply.

The NAHC recommends consultation with all California Native American tribes that are traditionally and culturally affiliated with the geographic area of your proposed project as early as possible in order to avoid inadvertent discoveries of Native American human remains and best protect tribal cultural resources. Below is a brief summary of <u>portions</u> of AB 52 and SB 18 as well as the NAHC's recommendations for conducting cultural resources assessments. Consult your legal counsel about compliance with AB 52 and SB 18 as well as compliance with any other applicable laws.

AB 52

AB 52 has added to CEQA the additional requirements listed below, along with many other requirements:

- 1. Fourteen Day Period to Provide Notice of a Decision to Undertake a Project or completion of a Project Application: Within fourteen (14) days of determining that an application for a project is complete or of a decision by a public agency to undertake a project, a lead agency shall provide formal notification to a designated contact of, or tribal representative of, traditionally and culturally affiliated California Native American tribes that have requested notice, to be accomplished by at least one written notice that includes:
 - a. A brief description of the project.
 - **b.** The lead agency contact information.

- c. Notification that the California Native American tribe has 30 days to request consultation. (Pub. Resources Code § 21080.3.1 (d)).
- d. A "California Native American tribe" is defined as a Native American tribe located in California that is on the contact list maintained by the NAHC for the purposes of Chapter 905 of Statutes of 2004 (SB 18). (Pub. Resources Code § 21073).
- 2. Begin Consultation Within 30 Days of Receiving a Tribe's Request for Consultation and Before Releasing a Negative Declaration, Mitigated Negative Declaration, or Environmental Impact Report: A lead agency shall begin the consultation process within 30 days of receiving a request for consultation from a California Native American tribe that is traditionally and culturally affiliated with the geographic area of the proposed project. (Pub. Resources Code § 21080.3.1, subds. (d) and (e)) and prior to the release of a negative declaration, mitigated negative declaration or environmental impact report. (Pub. Resources Code § 21080.3.1(b)).
 - a. For purposes of AB 52, "consultation shall have the same meaning as provided in Gov. Code § 65352.4 (SB 18). (Pub. Resources Code § 21080.3.1 (b)).
- 3. Mandatory Topics of Consultation If Requested by a Tribe: The following topics of consultation, if a tribe requests to discuss them, are mandatory topics of consultation:
 - a. Alternatives to the project.
 - b. Recommended mitigation measures.
 - c. Significant effects. (Pub. Resources Code § 21080.3.2 (a)).
- 4. Discretionary Topics of Consultation: The following topics are discretionary topics of consultation:
 - a. Type of environmental review necessary.
 - b. Significance of the tribal cultural resources.
 - c. Significance of the project's impacts on tribal cultural resources.
 - **d.** If necessary, project alternatives or appropriate measures for preservation or mitigation that the tribe may recommend to the lead agency. (Pub. Resources Code § 21080.3.2 (a)).
- 5. <u>Confidentiality of Information Submitted by a Tribe During the Environmental Review Process</u>: With some exceptions, any information, including but not limited to, the location, description, and use of tribal cultural resources submitted by a California Native American tribe during the environmental review process shall not be included in the environmental document or otherwise disclosed by the lead agency or any other public agency to the public, consistent with Government Code sections 6254 (r) and 6254.10. Any information submitted by a California Native American tribe during the consultation or environmental review process shall be published in a confidential appendix to the environmental document unless the tribe that provided the information consents, in writing, to the disclosure of some or all of the information to the public. (Pub. Resources Code § 21082.3 (c)(1)).
- 6. <u>Discussion of Impacts to Tribal Cultural Resources in the Environmental Document</u>: If a project may have a significant impact on a tribal cultural resource, the lead agency's environmental document shall discuss both of the following:
 - a. Whether the proposed project has a significant impact on an identified tribal cultural resource.
 - **b.** Whether feasible alternatives or mitigation measures, including those measures that may be agreed to pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21082.3, subdivision (a), avoid or substantially lessen the impact on the identified tribal cultural resource. (Pub. Resources Code § 21082.3 (b)).
- 7. <u>Conclusion of Consultation</u>: Consultation with a tribe shall be considered concluded when either of the following occurs:
 - a. The parties agree to measures to mitigate or avoid a significant effect, if a significant effect exists, on a tribal cultural resource; or
 - **b.** A party, acting in good faith and after reasonable effort, concludes that mutual agreement cannot be reached. (Pub. Resources Code § 21080.3.2 (b)).
- 8. Recommending Mitigation Measures Agreed Upon in Consultation in the Environmental Document: Any mitigation measures agreed upon in the consultation conducted pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21080.3.2 shall be recommended for inclusion in the environmental document and in an adopted mitigation monitoring and reporting program, if determined to avoid or lessen the impact pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21082.3, subdivision (b), paragraph 2, and shall be fully enforceable. (Pub. Resources Code § 21082.3 (a)).
- 9. <u>Required Consideration of Feasible Mitigation</u>: If mitigation measures recommended by the staff of the lead agency as a result of the consultation process are not included in the environmental document or if there are no agreed upon mitigation measures at the conclusion of consultation, or if consultation does not occur, and if substantial evidence demonstrates that a project will cause a significant effect to a tribal cultural resource, the lead agency shall consider feasible mitigation pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21084.3 (b). (Pub. Resources Code § 21082.3 (e)).

- 10. Examples of Mitigation Measures That, If Feasible, May Be Considered to Avoid or Minimize Significant Adverse Impacts to Tribal Cultural Resources:
 - a. Avoidance and preservation of the resources in place, including, but not limited to:
 - i. Planning and construction to avoid the resources and protect the cultural and natural context.
 - ii. Planning greenspace, parks, or other open space, to incorporate the resources with culturally appropriate protection and management criteria.
 - **b.** Treating the resource with culturally appropriate dignity, taking into account the tribal cultural values and meaning of the resource, including, but not limited to, the following:
 - i. Protecting the cultural character and integrity of the resource.
 - ii. Protecting the traditional use of the resource.
 - iii. Protecting the confidentiality of the resource.
 - c. Permanent conservation easements or other interests in real property, with culturally appropriate management criteria for the purposes of preserving or utilizing the resources or places.
 - d. Protecting the resource. (Pub. Resource Code § 21084.3 (b)).
 - e. Please note that a federally recognized California Native American tribe or a nonfederally recognized California Native American tribe that is on the contact list maintained by the NAHC to protect a California prehistoric, archaeological, cultural, spiritual, or ceremonial place may acquire and hold conservation easements if the conservation easement is voluntarily conveyed. (Civ. Code § 815.3 (c)).
 - f. Please note that it is the policy of the state that Native American remains and associated grave artifacts shall be repatriated. (Pub. Resources Code § 5097.991).
- 11. Prerequisites for Certifying an Environmental Impact Report or Adopting a Mitigated Negative Declaration or Negative Declaration with a Significant Impact on an Identified Tribal Cultural Resource: An environmental impact report may not be certified, nor may a mitigated negative declaration or a negative declaration be adopted unless one of the following occurs:
 - a. The consultation process between the tribes and the lead agency has occurred as provided in Public Resources Code sections 21080.3.1 and 21080.3.2 and concluded pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21080.3.2.
 - **b.** The tribe that requested consultation failed to provide comments to the lead agency or otherwise failed to engage in the consultation process.
 - c. The lead agency provided notice of the project to the tribe in compliance with Public Resources Code section 21080.3.1 (d) and the tribe failed to request consultation within 30 days. (Pub. Resources Code § 21082.3 (d)). This process should be documented in the Cultural Resources section of your environmental document.

The NAHC's PowerPoint presentation titled, "Tribal Consultation Under AB 52: Requirements and Best Practices" may be found online at: http://nahc.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/AB52TribalConsultation_CalEPAPDF.pdf

SB 18

SB 18 applies to local governments and requires local governments to contact, provide notice to, refer plans to, and consult with tribes prior to the adoption or amendment of a general plan or a specific plan, or the designation of open space. (Gov. Code § 65352.3). Local governments should consult the Governor's Office of Planning and Research's "Tribal Consultation Guidelines," which can be found online at: https://www.opr.ca.gov/docs/09_14_05_Updated_Guidelines_922.pdf

Some of SB 18's provisions include:

- Tribal Consultation: If a local government considers a proposal to adopt or amend a general plan or a specific plan, or to designate open space it is required to contact the appropriate tribes identified by the NAHC by requesting a "Tribal Consultation List." If a tribe, once contacted, requests consultation the local government must consult with the tribe on the plan proposal. A tribe has 90 days from the date of receipt of notification to request consultation unless a shorter timeframe has been agreed to by the tribe. (Gov. Code § 65352.3 (a)(2)).
- 2. No Statutory Time Limit on SB 18 Tribal Consultation. There is no statutory time limit on SB 18 tribal consultation.
- 3. <u>Confidentiality</u>: Consistent with the guidelines developed and adopted by the Office of Planning and Research pursuant to Gov. Code section 65040.2, the city or county shall protect the confidentiality of the information concerning the specific identity, location, character, and use of places, features and objects described in Public Resources Code sections 5097.9 and 5097.993 that are within the city's or county's jurisdiction. (Gov. Code § 65352.3 (b)).
- 4. Conclusion of SB 18 Tribal Consultation: Consultation should be concluded at the point in which:
 - a. The parties to the consultation come to a mutual agreement concerning the appropriate measures for preservation or mitigation; or
 - b. Either the local government or the tribe, acting in good faith and after reasonable effort, concludes that mutual agreement cannot be reached concerning the appropriate measures of preservation or mitigation. (Tribal Consultation Guidelines, Governor's Office of Planning and Research (2005) at p. 18).

Agencies should be aware that neither AB 52 nor SB 18 precludes agencies from initiating tribal consultation with tribes that are traditionally and culturally affiliated with their jurisdictions before the timeframes provided in AB 52 and SB 18. For that reason, we urge you to continue to request Native American Tribal Contact Lists and "Sacred Lands File" searches from the NAHC. The request forms can be found online at: http://nahc.ca.gov/resources/forms/

NAHC Recommendations for Cultural Resources Assessments

To adequately assess the existence and significance of tribal cultural resources and plan for avoidance, preservation in place, or barring both, mitigation of project-related impacts to tribal cultural resources, the NAHC recommends the following actions:

- 1. Contact the appropriate regional California Historical Research Information System (CHRIS) Center
 - (http://ohp.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=1068) for an archaeological records search. The records search will determine: a. If part or all of the APE has been previously surveyed for cultural resources.
 - b. If any known cultural resources have been already been recorded on or adjacent to the APE.
 - c. If the probability is low, moderate, or high that cultural resources are located in the APE.
 - d. If a survey is required to determine whether previously unrecorded cultural resources are present.
- 2. If an archaeological inventory survey is required, the final stage is the preparation of a professional report detailing the findings and recommendations of the records search and field survey.
 - a. The final report containing site forms, site significance, and mitigation measures should be submitted immediately to the planning department. All information regarding site locations, Native American human remains, and associated funerary objects should be in a separate confidential addendum and not be made available for public disclosure.
 - b. The final written report should be submitted within 3 months after work has been completed to the appropriate regional CHRIS center.
- 3. Contact the NAHC for:
 - a. A Sacred Lands File search. Remember that tribes do not always record their sacred sites in the Sacred Lands File, nor are they required to do so. A Sacred Lands File search is not a substitute for consultation with tribes that are traditionally and culturally affiliated with the geographic area of the project's APE.
 - b. A Native American Tribal Consultation List of appropriate tribes for consultation concerning the project site and to assist in planning for avoidance, preservation in place, or, failing both, mitigation measures.
- 4. Remember that the lack of surface evidence of archaeological resources (including tribal cultural resources) does not preclude their subsurface existence.
 - a. Lead agencies should include in their mitigation and monitoring reporting program plan provisions for the identification and evaluation of inadvertently discovered archaeological resources per Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, section 15064.5(f) (CEQA Guidelines section 15064.5(f)). In areas of identified archaeological sensitivity, a certified archaeologist and a culturally affiliated Native American with knowledge of cultural resources should monitor all ground-disturbing activities.
 - b. Lead agencies should include in their mitigation and monitoring reporting program plans provisions for the disposition of recovered cultural items that are not burial associated in consultation with culturally affiliated Native Americans.
 - c. Lead agencies should include in their mitigation and monitoring reporting program plans provisions for the treatment and disposition of inadvertently discovered Native American human remains. Health and Safety Code section 7050.5, Public Resources Code section 5097.98, and Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, section 15064.5, subdivisions (d) and (e) (CEQA Guidelines section 15064.5, subds. (d) and (e)) address the processes to be followed in the event of an inadvertent discovery of any Native American human remains and associated grave goods in a location other than a dedicated cemetery.

Please contact me if you need any additional information at gayle.totton@nahc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Gayle Totton, M.A., PhD. Associate Governmental Program Analyst



EDMUND G. BROWN JR.

GOVERNOR

STATE OF CALIFORNIA GOVERNOR'S OFFICE *of* PLANNING AND RESEARCH STATE CLEARINGHOUSE AND PLANNING UNIT



KEN ALEX DIRECTOR

Request for Early Consultation

January 3, 2017

JAN 06 2017

RECEIVED

STANISLAUS CO. PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPT.

To: Reviewing Agencies

Re: Use Permit Application No. PLN2016-0126 - Jon E. Maring - Del Mar Farms SCH# 2017012004

Prior to determining whether a Negative Declaration or an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is required for a project under CEQA, a Lead Agency is required to consult with all responsible and trustee agencies. This notice and attachment fulfill the early consultation requirement. Recommendations on the appropriate type of environmental document for this project, as well as comments on its scope and content, should be transmitted to the Lead Agency at the address below. You do not have to be a responsible or trustee agency to comment on the project. All agencies are encouraged to comment in a manner that will assist the Lead Agency to prepare a complete and adequate environmental document.

Please direct your comments to:

Jeremy Ballard Stanislaus County 1010 10th Street, Suite 3400 Modesto, CA 95354

with a copy to the State Clearinghouse in the Office of Planning and Research. Please refer to SCH Number 2017012004 in all correspondence concerning this project.

If you have any questions about the environmental document review process, please call the State Clearinghouse at (916) 445-0613.

Sincerely,

magan Seott Morgan

Director, State Clearinghouse

Attachment cc: Lead Agency

> 1400 10th Street P.O. Box 3044 Sacramento, California 95812-3044 (916) 445-0613 FAX (916) 323-3018 www.opr.ca.gov

Document Details Report State Clearinghouse Data Base

SCH# Project Title Lead Agency	2017012004 Use Permit Application No. PLN2016-0126 - Jon E. Maring - Del Mar Farms Stanislaus County
Туре	CON Early Consultation
Description	Request to expand an existing agricultural storage and processing facility by adding two storage buildings totaling approximately 31,680+/- sf on a 40+/- gross acre parcel in the A-2-40 zoning district. There are no expected increases in employees from this project, but there will be one additional truck trip per day.
Lead Agenc	y Contact
Name	Jeremy Ballard
Agency	Stanislaus County
Phone	(209) 525-6330 <i>Fax</i>
email	
Address	1010 10th Street, Suite 3400
City	Modesto State CA Zip 95354
Project Loca	ation
County	Stanislaus
City	
Region	
Cross Streets	Cox Rd
Lat / Long	
Parcel No.	016-043-002
Township	4 Range 7 Section 35 Base MDBM
Proximity to	
Highways	SR 33
Airports	private
Railways	CA Northern
Waterways	San Joaquin River
Schools	Grayson Charter School
Land Use	PLU: Orchard
	Z: A-2-40
	GPD: AG
Project Issues	
Reviewing Agencies	Resources Agency; Department of Conservation; Department of Fish and Wildlife, Region 4; Department of Parks and Recreation; Central Valley Flood Protection Board; Department of Water Resources; California Highway Patrol; Native American Heritage Commission; Caltrans, District 10; Regional Water Quality Control Bd., Region 5 (Sacramento); Air Resources Board; Public Utilities Commission; Delta Stewardship Council
Date Received	01/03/2017 Start of Review 01/03/2017 End of Review 01/23/2017

Stanistaus E	Notice of	Completion and Document Tran	1 1	sch#
County	California E	nvironmental Quality Act	Sinttai	Nes Mill 4 4 40 8 line 60 Mill (*
TO: STATE CLEARINGHOUSE 1400 Tenth Street Sacramento, CA 95814 (916) 445-0613		FROM:	Plan 1010 1 Modes PHONE	ISLAUS COUNTY ning & Community Development 10 th Street, Suite 3400 sto, CA 95354 E: (209) 525-6330 (209) 525-5911
Project Use Permit Application No.	PLN2016-0126 - Jon E. M	aring – Del Mar Farms		
Lead Agency Stanislaus County Planning Street Address 1010 10 th Street, Suite 340		ent Contact Person Jeremy I Phone (209) 525-6330	Ballard, Assis	tant Planner
City Modesto, CA	Zip_95354	Couply Stanislaus	Granana	stiffcend Planatos Researci
Present Land Use/Zoning/General F	Plan Designation:			JAN 03 2017
PLU: Orchard Zoning: A-2-40 (General Ag			C3.2.N.04	ECLEARINGHOUSE
Project Description: Request to expand an existing agricultural a 40± gross acre parcel in the A-2-40 zonin trip per day.	storage and processing fac	ility by adding two (2) storage	buildings lot	aling approximately 31,680± square feet o
Project Location		City/Nearest		
County Stanislaus County			/Grayson Total	100011
Cross Streets Cox Road Longitude/Latitude (degrees, minutes and seconds):	° ' ' ' ' ' ' ' ' ' ' ' ' ' ' ' ' ' ' '	Zip Code <u>95380</u>	Acres	40±
Assessor's Parcel Number <u>016-043-002</u>	Section 3	5 Twp4	Range 7	Base MDB&M
Wilhin 2 Miles: State Hwy # SR 33	Waterways	s San Joaquin River		
Airports Private	Railways (CA Northern S	Schools Gray	son Charter School
Date December 29, 2016 Signature	ah	Ending Date <u>January</u> 16 Date <u>December 29, 20</u>		
Signature Angle Supplement Type CEQA NOP Supplement/Subset Early Cons (Prior SCH No.) Neg Dec Other (NOE, NOC, Mit Neg Dec				
Signature Document Type CEQA © NOP © Supplement/Subset © Early Cons (Prior SCH No.) © Neg Dec © Other (NOE, NOC, © Mit Neg Dec © Draft EIR		Date December 29, 20 NEPA NOI EA Draft EIS	OTHER D Joint Do Final Do	
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Conservancy X Other: Dolta Structure Cautal



RECEIVED JAN 1 3 2017



STANISLAUS CO. PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPT.

Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

9 January 2017

Jeremy Ballard Stanislaus County Department of Planning and Community Development 1010 10th Street, Suite 3400 Modesto, CA 95354 CERTIFIED MAIL 91 7199 9991 7035 8417 7952

COMMENTS TO REQUEST FOR REVIEW FOR THE EARLY CONSULTATION, USE PERMIT APPLICATION NO. PLN2016-0126 – JON E. MARING – DEL MAR FARMS PROJECT, STANISLAUS COUNTY

Pursuant to the Stanislaus County Department of Planning and Community Development's 29 December 2016 request, the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) has reviewed the *Request for Review for the Early Consultation* for the Use Permit Application No. PLN2016-0126 – Jon E. Maring – Del Mar Farms Project, located in Stanislaus County.

Our agency is delegated with the responsibility of protecting the quality of surface and groundwaters of the state; therefore our comments will address concerns surrounding those issues.

I. Regulatory Setting

Basin Plan

The Central Valley Water Board is required to formulate and adopt Basin Plans for all areas within the Central Valley region under Section 13240 of the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act. Each Basin Plan must contain water quality objectives to ensure the reasonable protection of beneficial uses, as well as a program of implementation for achieving water quality objectives with the Basin Plans. Federal regulations require each state to adopt water quality standards to protect the public health or welfare, enhance the quality of water and serve the purposes of the Clean Water Act. In California, the beneficial uses, water quality objectives, and the Antidegradation Policy are the State's water quality standards are also contained in the National Toxics Rule, 40 CFR Section 131.36, and the California Toxics Rule, 40 CFR Section 131.38.

The Basin Plan is subject to modification as necessary, considering applicable laws, policies, technologies, water quality conditions and priorities. The original Basin Plans were adopted in 1975, and have been updated and revised periodically as required, using Basin Plan amendments. Once the Central Valley Water Board has adopted a Basin Plan

KARL E. LONGLEY SCD, P.E., CHAIR | PAMELA C. CREEDON P.E., BCEE, EXECUTIVE OFFICER

9 January 2017

Use Permit Application No. PLN2016-0126 - 2 -– Jon E. Maring – Del Mar Farms Project Stanislaus County

amendment in noticed public hearings, it must be approved by the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board), Office of Administrative Law (OAL) and in some cases, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). Basin Plan amendments only become effective after they have been approved by the OAL and in some cases, the USEPA. Every three (3) years, a review of the Basin Plan is completed that assesses the appropriateness of existing standards and evaluates and prioritizes Basin Planning issues.

For more information on the *Water Quality Control Plan for the Sacramento and San Joaquin River Basins*, please visit our website: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/basin_plans/.

Antidegradation Considerations

All wastewater discharges must comply with the Antidegradation Policy (State Water Board Resolution 68-16) and the Antidegradation Implementation Policy contained in the Basin Plan. The Antidegradation Policy is available on page IV-15.01 at: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalleywater_issues/basin_plans/sacsjr.pdf

In part it states:

Any discharge of waste to high quality waters must apply best practicable treatment or control not only to prevent a condition of pollution or nuisance from occurring, but also to maintain the highest water quality possible consistent with the maximum benefit to the people of the State.

This information must be presented as an analysis of the impacts and potential impacts of the discharge on water quality, as measured by background concentrations and applicable water quality objectives.

The antidegradation analysis is a mandatory element in the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System and land discharge Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) permitting processes. The environmental review document should evaluate potential impacts to both surface and groundwater quality.

II. Permitting Requirements

Construction Storm Water General Permit

Dischargers whose project disturb one or more acres of soil or where projects disturb less than one acre but are part of a larger common plan of development that in total disturbs one or more acres, are required to obtain coverage under the General Permit for Storm Water Discharges Associated with Construction Activities (Construction General Permit), Construction General Permit Order No. 2009-009-DWQ. Construction activity subject to this permit includes clearing, grading, grubbing, disturbances to the ground, such as stockpiling, or excavation, but does not include regular maintenance activities performed to

restore the original line, grade, or capacity of the facility. The Construction General Permit requires the development and implementation of a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP).

For more information on the Construction General Permit, visit the State Water Resources Control Board website at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/stormwater/constpermits.shtml.

Phase I and II Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permits¹

The Phase I and II MS4 permits require the Permittees reduce pollutants and runoff flows from new development and redevelopment using Best Management Practices (BMPs) to the maximum extent practicable (MEP). MS4 Permittees have their own development standards, also known as Low Impact Development (LID)/post-construction standards that include a hydromodification component. The MS4 permits also require specific design concepts for LID/post-construction BMPs in the early stages of a project during the entitlement and CEQA process and the development plan review process.

For more information on which Phase I MS4 Permit this project applies to, visit the Central Valley Water Board website at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/storm_water/municipal_permits/a

For more information on the Phase II MS4 permit and who it applies to, visit the State Water Resources Control Board at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/stormwater/phase_ii_municipal.sht ml

Industrial Storm Water General Permit

Storm water discharges associated with industrial sites must comply with the regulations contained in the Industrial Storm Water General Permit Order No. 2014-0057-DWQ.

For more information on the Industrial Storm Water General Permit, visit the Central Valley Water Board website at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/storm_water/industrial_general_permits/index.shtml.

Clean Water Act Section 404 Permit

If the project will involve the discharge of dredged or fill material in navigable waters or wetlands, a permit pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act may be needed from the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACOE). If a Section 404 permit is required by

¹ Municipal Permits = The Phase I Municipal Separate Storm Water System (MS4) Permit covers medium sized Municipalities (serving between 100,000 and 250,000 people) and large sized municipalities (serving over 250,000 people). The Phase II MS4 provides coverage for small municipalities, including non-traditional Small MS4s, which include military bases, public campuses, prisons and hospitals.

Use Permit Application No. PLN2016-0126 - 4 -– Jon E. Maring – Del Mar Farms Project Stanislaus County

the USACOE, the Central Valley Water Board will review the permit application to ensure that discharge will not violate water quality standards. If the project requires surface water drainage realignment, the applicant is advised to contact the Department of Fish and Game for information on Streambed Alteration Permit requirements.

If you have any questions regarding the Clean Water Act Section 404 permits, please contact the Regulatory Division of the Sacramento District of USACOE at (916) 557-5250.

Clean Water Act Section 401 Permit - Water Quality Certification

If an USACOE permit (e.g., Non-Reporting Nationwide Permit, Nationwide Permit, Letter of Permission, Individual Permit, Regional General Permit, Programmatic General Permit), or any other federal permit (e.g., Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act or Section 9 from the United States Coast Guard), is required for this project due to the disturbance of waters of the United States (such as streams and wetlands), then a Water Quality Certification must be obtained from the Central Valley Water Board prior to initiation of project activities. There are no waivers for 401 Water Quality Certifications.

Waste Discharge Requirements – Discharges to Waters of the State

If USACOE determines that only non-jurisdictional waters of the State (i.e., "non-federal" waters of the State) are present in the proposed project area, the proposed project may require a Waste Discharge Requirement (WDR) permit to be issued by Central Valley Water Board. Under the California Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act, discharges to all waters of the State, including all wetlands and other waters of the State including, but not limited to, isolated wetlands, are subject to State regulation.

For more information on the Water Quality Certification and WDR processes, visit the Central Valley Water Board website at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/help/business_help/permit2.shtml.

Dewatering Permit

If the proposed project includes construction or groundwater dewatering to be discharged to land, the proponent may apply for coverage under State Water Board General Water Quality Order (Low Risk General Order) 2003-0003 or the Central Valley Water Board's Waiver of Report of Waste Discharge and Waste Discharge Requirements (Low Risk Waiver) R5-2013-0145. Small temporary construction dewatering projects are projects that discharge groundwater to land from excavation activities or dewatering of underground utility vaults. Dischargers seeking coverage under the General Order or Waiver must file a Notice of Intent with the Central Valley Water Board prior to beginning discharge.

For more information regarding the Low Risk General Order and the application process, visit the Central Valley Water Board website at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_decisions/adopted_orders/water_quality/2003/wqo/w qo2003-0003.pdf

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For more information regarding the Low Risk Waiver and the application process, visit the Central Valley Water Board website at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_decisions/adopted_orders/waivers/r5-2013-0145_res.pdf

Regulatory Compliance for Commercially Irrigated Agriculture

If the property will be used for commercial irrigated agricultural, the discharger will be required to obtain regulatory coverage under the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program. There are two options to comply:

- 1. **Obtain Coverage Under a Coalition Group.** Join the local Coalition Group that supports land owners with the implementation of the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program. The Coalition Group conducts water quality monitoring and reporting to the Central Valley Water Board on behalf of its growers. The Coalition Groups charge an annual membership fee, which varies by Coalition Group. To find the Coalition Group in your area, visit the Central Valley Water Board's website at: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/irrigated_lands/app_appr oval/index.shtml; or contact water board staff at (916) 464-4611 or via email at IrrLands@waterboards.ca.gov.
- 2. Obtain Coverage Under the General Waste Discharge Requirements for Individual Growers, General Order R5-2013-0100. Dischargers not participating in a third-party group (Coalition) are regulated individually. Depending on the specific site conditions, growers may be required to monitor runoff from their property, install monitoring wells, and submit a notice of intent, farm plan, and other action plans regarding their actions to comply with their General Order. Yearly costs would include State administrative fees (for example, annual fees for farm sizes from 10-100 acres are currently \$1,084 + \$6.70/Acre); the cost to prepare annual monitoring reports; and water quality monitoring costs. To enroll as an Individual Discharger under the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program, call the Central Valley Water Board phone line at (916) 464-4611 or e-mail board staff at IrrLands@waterboards.ca.gov.

Low or Limited Threat General NPDES Permit

If the proposed project includes construction dewatering and it is necessary to discharge the groundwater to waters of the United States, the proposed project will require coverage under a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. Dewatering discharges are typically considered a low or limited threat to water quality and may be covered under the General Order for *Dewatering and Other Low Threat Discharges to Surface Waters* (Low Threat General Order) or the General Order for *Limited Threat Discharges of Treated/Untreated Groundwater from Cleanup Sites, Wastewater from Superchlorination Projects, and Other Limited Threat Wastewaters to Surface Water* Use Permit Application No. PLN2016-0126 - 6 -– Jon E. Maring – Del Mar Farms Project Stanislaus County

(Limited Threat General Order). A complete application must be submitted to the Central Valley Water Board to obtain coverage under these General NPDES permits.

For more information regarding the Low Threat General Order and the application process, visit the Central Valley Water Board website at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_decisions/adopted_orders/general_ord ers/r5-2013-0074.pdf

For more information regarding the Limited Threat General Order and the application process, visit the Central Valley Water Board website at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_decisions/adopted_orders/general_ord ers/r5-2013-0073.pdf

NPDES Permit

If the proposed project discharges waste that could affect the quality of the waters of the State, other than into a community sewer system, the proposed project will require coverage under a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. A complete Report of Waste Discharge must be submitted with the Central Valley Water Board to obtain a NPDES Permit.

For more information regarding the NPDES Permit and the application process, visit the Central Valley Water Board website at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/help/business_help/permit3.shtml

If you have questions regarding these comments, please contact me at (916) 464-4644 or Stephanie.Tadlock@waterboards.ca.gov.

Stephanie Indlock

Stephanie Tadlock Environmental Scientist



West Stanislaus County Fire Protection District

344 West Las Palmas Ave. Patterson, California 95363 (209) 895-8130

January 3, 2017

Jeremy Ballard Planning and Community Development 1010 10th St. Suite 3400 Modesto, CA 95354

RE: Referral Early Consultation Use Permit Application No. PLN2016-0126 Jon E. Maring – Del Mar Farms

The West Stanislaus Fire Protection District would like to note the following:

- 1. These buildings may more accurately be classified as S-2 occupancies vs. U occupancies. Will request information on commodities stored, storage height.
- It is noticed buildings have a height of 20'. Any combustible storage higher than 12 feet above finished floor becomes "High Piled Combustible Storage". Designing building(s) and maintaining storage below 12 feet will not trigger requirements of chapter 32 of the California Fire Code.

Carrie Silveira Fire Marshal West Stanislaus Fire Protection District 344 W Las Palmas Ave. <u>csilveira@ci.patterson.ca.us</u> (209) 895-8147

RECEIVED

JAN 09 2017

STANISLAUS CO. PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPT.