STANISLAUS COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

May 15, 2025

STAFF REPORT

USE PERMIT APPLICATION NO. PLN2019-0132 LA FAVORITA RADIO STATION

REQUEST: TO AMEND THE DEVELOPMENT PLAN OF PLANNED DEVELOPMENT (P-D)

(28), TO ALLOW FOR A 7,410 SQUARE-FOOT EXPANSION OF A RADIO STATION FACILITY AND TO PERMIT AN EXSTING ELECTRONIC READER

BOARD SIGN ON A 3.35± ACRE PARCEL.

APPLICATION INFORMATION

Applicant: Nelson Gomez, La Favorita Radio Station
Property owner: Nelson & Debbie Gomez Trust (Nelson &

Debbie Gomez)

Location: 4043 Geer Road, on the southwest corner of

Geer and E. Service Roads, east of Santa Fe

Avenue, in the Hughson area.

Section, Township, Range: 22-4-10

Supervisorial District: District Two (Supervisor Chiesa)

Assessor's Parcel: 045-007-038 Referrals: See Exhibit H

Environmental Review Referrals

Area of Parcel(s): 3.35± acres
Water Supply: Private well

Sewage Disposal: Private septic system
General Plan Designation: Planned Development

Community Plan Designation: N/A

Existing Zoning: Planned Development (P-D) (28)

Sphere of Influence: City of Hughson

Williamson Act Contract No.:

Environmental Review:

N/A

Negative Declaration

Present Land Use: Radio station facility.

Surrounding Land Use:

Orchards and a nut hulling/shelling facility to

the north and northeast; ranchettes and a produce market to the east and southeast; an agricultural chemical business and a tire and truck repair business to the west and southwest; and vacant land to the south.

RECOMMENDATION

With the exception of the electronic reader board, staff recommends the Planning Commission approve this request based on the discussion below and on the whole of the record provided to the County. Exhibit A provides an overview of the findings and actions required for project approval.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This is a request is to amend the development plan of Planned Development (P-D) (28) to allow for construction of a 1,250 square-foot addition to an existing storage building and two 2,240 square-foot carports with solar panels over an existing parking lot, installation of a 1,680 square-foot manufactured home, to be utilized as a caretaker quarters, and replacement of an existing monument sign with an electronic reader board. The proposed structural improvements will be accessory to the operation of the existing radio station facility.

The proposed electronic reader board, installed without the required land use entitlement or building permit, is of a pylon design, with an overall height of 7'9" and width of 10'7" with a 44 square-foot LED screen; the electronic reader board will have the capability to advertise both text and images (see Exhibit B – *Maps, Site Plan, and Elevations*). Advertising will include station identification but will also be open to anyone seeking to place an advertisement.

The current hours of operation for the broadcasting studio are Monday-Friday from 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. with one or two radio hosts on-site at one time. The current hours of operation for administration and advertisement sales are Monday-Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. with two to eight employees on-site at one time, and a maximum of one customer per-day. The number of employees and customers are not anticipated to increase as the proposed caretaker will be an existing employee. The site is served by private well and septic services and has access to County-maintained Geer Road.

The project site was rezoned from General Agriculture (A-2-10) to P-D (28) in 1976 (Rezone Application No. 76-17 – John M. Hall) to establish a radio broadcasting office and studio in addition to a previously approved agricultural chemical business on 9.3± acres. In 1977, a parcel map was recorded, splitting the radio broadcasting operation and agricultural chemical business, resulting in the 3.35± acre project site and the adjacent 5.95± acre parcel to the west.

The application for this request, submitted on December 27, 2019, is in response to a January 7, 2019, Notice and Order issued for the unpermitted electronic reader board. It is staff's understanding the electronic reader board has been turned off throughout the application process.

SITE DESCRIPTION

The site is located at 4043 Geer Road, on the southwest corner of Geer and E. Service Roads, east of Santa Fe Avenue, within the Hughson area. The site is currently improved with a 4,524 square-foot commercial building (radio broadcasting office and studio), 403 foot-tall radio transmission antenna, 775 square-foot detached storage building, landscaping, and a parking lot that includes 25 spaces and seven light poles, which are each 20 feet in height.

Surrounding land uses include: orchards and a nut hulling and shelling facility to the north and northeast; ranchettes and a produce market to the east and southeast; an agricultural chemical business and a tire sales and trucking repair business to the west and southwest; and vacant land to the south. The agricultural chemical business, along with the project site, are located within the P-D (28) zoning district. The tire sales and trucking repair business along with the vacant land adjoining the project site to the south are located within P-D (313) zoning district which is now expired and limited to the existing development. South of the Geer Road/Santa Fe Avenue is the P-D (237) zoning district which contains the Sierra Grain Facility.

The project site is located within the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) adopted sphere of influence (SOI) of the City of Hughson.

ISSUES

The key issue that had delayed consideration of this project is the County's SOI policy requiring the City of Hughson to provide written support of the project if the County is to consider approving the request.

For discretionary projects located within a LAFCO adopted SOI of a city, the County's General Plan SOI policy states that development, other than agricultural uses and churches, which requires discretionary approval, shall be referred to that city for preliminary approval. The project shall not be approved by the County unless written communication is received from the city memorializing their approval. If approved by the city, the city should specify what development standards are necessary to ensure that development will comply with city development standards. Approval from a city does not preclude the County's decision-making bodies from exercising discretion, and it may either approve or deny the project.

An initial response to a project referral was received from the City of Hughson (hereafter referred to as "City") on September 17, 2020, stating opposition to the proposed electronic reader board, as the City's municipal code does not permit any signage that flashes, blinks, or otherwise have animated components (see Exhibit F – City of Hughson Referral Response, dated September 17, 2020). The City also objected to any use of the sign for offsite advertising. Subsequent to the initial letter, the City and the applicant had discussions about supporting the placement of the sign for an interim period, prior to any future annexation of the project site by the City, but. Ultimately, the City agreed to support the proposed sign, provided that it be removed or replaced with a sign, allowable by the City's municipal ordinance, at the time of annexation of the site, without any compensation to the property owner for removal or replacement.

Stanislaus County Code permits one identification or informational sign not more than twelve square feet in area nor more than six feet in height on a property which contains a lawful agricultural, commercial, industrial, or nonconforming use. The signage must be non-flashing, nonmoving, and non-animated and cannot bear any advertising messages. Some limited provisions within industrial and commercial zoning districts allow for off-site advertising signs (billboards), however, most of these zoning districts are located within urbanized areas and within a city SOIs and are subject to Zoning Ordinance Section 21.08.070 - Signs allowing for signage that is consistent with any applicable sign regulations of the city. The City of Hughson's Municipal

Code generally permits commercial signage by right up to 24 square feet in area and also does not permit animated signage or electronic reader boards. Although the City's sign regulation takes precedence, the City is deferring to the County until such time as the property is annexed by the City.

As the project site is currently a P-D, unique development standards can be adopted. P-D (28) permits for signage as approved by the Planning Director. Currently, the only building permit for signage allows for a 3' x 11' sign. While the applicant will use the sign to advertise activities related to the on-site radio station, approval of the electronic reader board would also allow for the general advertisement of off-site businesses and activities.

The Planning Commission has previously approved two different electronic signs, both under different circumstances. The first was as part of Use Permit No. PLN2015-0130 – The Fruit Yard Amphitheater, which replaced an existing 10' x 20' pylon sign, 36' in height, with a new sign of the same height and size that includes a 4'-3" x 19'-3" (82 square-foot) electronic reader board. Staff was not in support of the electronic reader board due to its location outside a city SOI and outside an urbanized area, however, the Planning Commission approved the sign as requested.

The second was Use Permit No. PLN2022-0029 — OUTFRONT Media, which requested replacement of a 35 foot-tall billboard with a 60 foot-tall digital billboard, located within the City of Modesto's SOI. Staff recommended approval of this request due to the City of Modesto being in support of the request. Approval of the use permit for OUTFRONT Media also included a condition of the sign's operation that one public messaging slot be made available for the City of Modesto and the County to share and that up to four existing billboards throughout the City of Modesto and County be removed.

If the Planning Commission should choose to approve the project with inclusion of the electronic reader board, staff has included Conditions of Approval Nos. 7-13 to provide for: standards for sign operation (brightness, duration of message, audio, etc.), removal of any other existing freestanding signage, and providing a public messaging slot for the City and County to share. Due to the installation of the electronic reader board without a building permit, Condition of Approval No. 14 requires that any permit for a new structure or expansion of an existing structure, included in this request, does not take place unless the electronic reader board has been removed or a permit is obtained to legalize the sign in accordance with the conditions of this use permit. If the Planning Commission approves the electronic reader board sign, the sign will be required to be re-located outside of the 135' Ultimate Right-of-Way of County maintained Geer Road, as requested by the County Department of Public Works. Condition of Approval No. 26 provides for the formal agreement with the City, to be completed prior to the issuance of any permit, requiring removal of the reader board upon annexation. No other conditions of approval were requested by the City. The applicant has agreed to these terms and all conditions of approval applied to the project. If the Planning Commission should choose to uphold staff's recommendation of excluding approval of the electronic reader board, staff recommends that Conditions of Approval Nos. 7-13 and No. 26 be stricken.

GENERAL PLAN CONSISTENCY

Consistency with the goals, objectives, and policies of the various elements of the Stanislaus County General Plan must be evaluated when processing all discretionary project requests. The project site's General Plan designation of Planned Development is intended for areas appropriate for land which, because of demonstrably unique characteristics, may be suitable for a variety of uses without detrimental effect on surrounding properties. The existing Planned Development (P-D) (28) zoning district is consistent with the General Plan designation of Planned Development.

As stated in the *Issues* section of this report, in accordance with the Stanislaus County General Plan Sphere of Influence (SOI) policy the project shall not be approved by the County unless written communication is received from the City memorializing their approval. Although, initially not supported by the City, with the use of a formal agreement to remove or replace the proposed electronic reader board sign at the time of the City's annexation of the project, the City has expressed support for the entire project. Should the Planning Commission choose to approve the reader board, a condition of approval requiring the agreement has been placed on the project. The applicant is in agreement with this condition.

To minimize conflicts between agriculture operations and non-agricultural operations, Buffer and Setback Guidelines (Appendix A of the Agricultural Element) have been adopted. The purpose of these guidelines is to protect the long-term health of local agriculture by minimizing conflicts resulting from normal agricultural practices as a consequence of new or expanding uses approved in or adjacent to the General Agriculture (A-2) zoning district. Appendix A of these guidelines states that all projects shall incorporate a minimum 150-foot-wide buffer setback for low people intensive uses. Permitted uses within a buffer area shall include: public roadways, utilities, drainage facilities, rivers and adjacent riparian areas, landscaping, parking lots, and similar low people intensives uses. An agricultural buffer was not required when P-D (28) was adopted in 1976. The nearest agriculturally zoned parcels are located to the north and east of the project site, separated by E. Service Road and a Turlock Irrigation District (TID) canal to the north, and Geer Road to the east. The main building is located over 300 feet from the agriculturally zoned parcels to the north, which consists of orchards, and is approximately 275 feet from the agriculturally zoned parcels to the east, which consist of 3± to 6± acre ranchettes. Staff believes the project is a low-people intensive use and subject to the 150-foot agricultural buffer requirement. All project activities would be located within the existing buildings and approval of the project would not result in an increase in employees or visitors to the project site. Thus, staff believes the proposed project would be consistent with the County's agricultural buffer policy.

Staff believes that the proposed project is consistent with the General Plan policies discussed above. The radio broadcasting facility is considered to be consistent with the Planned Development land use designation.

ZONING ORDINANCE CONSISTENCY

The site was rezoned to P-D (28) in 1976. In accordance with Sections 21.40.080 – Amendments to the Development Plan of the Zoning Ordinance Chapter 21.40 – Planned Development District, if the project proposes amendments that do not in the opinion of the planning director conform to the development plan, but are not of a size or nature to change the character of the development

plan, then the proposed amendments may be approved if a use permit is obtained. In order to approve a use permit, the Planning Commission shall make a finding that:

• The establishment, maintenance, and operation of the proposed use or building applied for is consistent with the General Plan and will not, under the circumstances of the particular case, be detrimental to the health, safety and general welfare of persons residing or working in the neighborhood of the use and that it will not be detrimental or injurious to property and improvements in the neighborhood or to the general welfare of the County.

Given the sites location within the City of Hughson's LAFCO adopted SOI, and the City's support for the project, staff believes the proposed expansion to the existing radio facility are not of a size or nature to change the character of P-D (28), thus, a rezone to a new P-D would not be necessary. This request will be subject to all applicable development standards for P-D (28) (see Exhibit G - P-D (28) Adopted Development Standards) and will also be subject to compliance with the conditions of approval of this use permit. If a conflict arises between the previous Development Standards and the conditions of this use permit, the conditions of this use permit shall prevail.

While staff is not recommending approval of the electronic reader board, the City's conditional support of the project provides for consistency with the County's Zoning Ordinance to allow for signage within a SOI to be determined by the city; however, County General Plan policy allows for the County to deny a request within a city SOI despite city support and the City's conditional support is a reflection that the signage does not meet City's standards. Based on the City's written support for the project, the Planning Commission has the discretion to amend P-D (28) to allow for the inclusion of the electronic reader board in the period prior to the site's annexation to the City of Hughson.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

An environmental assessment for the project has been prepared in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The assessment included preparation of an Initial Study (see Exhibit D – *Initial Study*). Pursuant to CEQA, the proposed project was circulated to interested parties and responsible agencies for review and comment and no significant issues were raised (see Exhibit H – *Environmental Review Referrals*). Conditions of approval reflecting referral responses have been placed on the project (see Exhibit C - *Conditions of Approval*). A Negative Declaration has been prepared for approval prior to action on the project itself as the project will not have a significant effect on the environment (see Exhibit E - *Negative Declaration*).

Note: Pursuant to California Fish and Game Code Section 711.4, all project applicants subject to CEQA shall pay a filing fee for each project; therefore, the applicant will further be required to pay **\$3,025.75** for the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (formerly the Department of Fish and Game) and the Clerk-Recorder filing fees. The attached Conditions of Approval ensure that this will occur.

Contact Person: Jeremy Ballard, Senior Planner, (209) 525-6330

Attachments:

Exhibit A - Findings and Actions Required for Project Approval

Exhibit B - Maps, Site Plan, and Elevations

Exhibit C - Conditions of Approval

Exhibit D - Initial Study

Exhibit E - Negative Declaration

Exhibit F - City of Hughson Referral Response, dated September 17, 2020

Exhibit G - P-D (28) Adopted Development Standards

Exhibit H - Environmental Review Referrals Exhibit I - Levine Act Disclosure Statement

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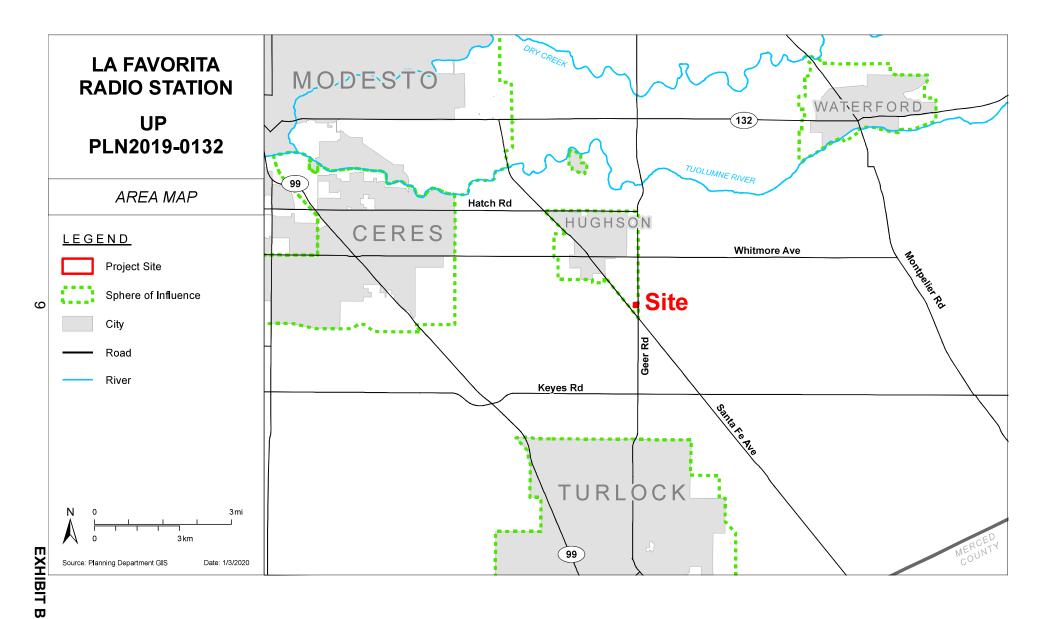
Findings and Actions Required for Project Approval

- 1. Adopt the Negative Declaration pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15074(b), by finding that on the basis of the whole record, including the Initial Study and any comments received, that there is no substantial evidence the project will have a significant effect on the environment and that the Negative Declaration reflects Stanislaus County's independent judgment and analysis.
- 2. Order the filing of a Notice of Determination with the Stanislaus County Clerk-Recorder's Office pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15062.

3. Find that:

- a. The establishment, maintenance, and operation of the proposed use or building applied for is consistent with the General Plan and will not, under the circumstances of the particular case, be detrimental to the health, safety, and general welfare of persons residing or working in the neighborhood of the use and that it will not be detrimental or injurious to property and improvements in the neighborhood or to the general welfare of the County.
- b. The project will increase activities in and around the project area, and increase demands for roads and services, thereby requiring dedication and improvements
- 4. Approve Use Permit Application No. PLN2019-0132 La Favorita Radio Station, subject to the attached Conditions of Approval.

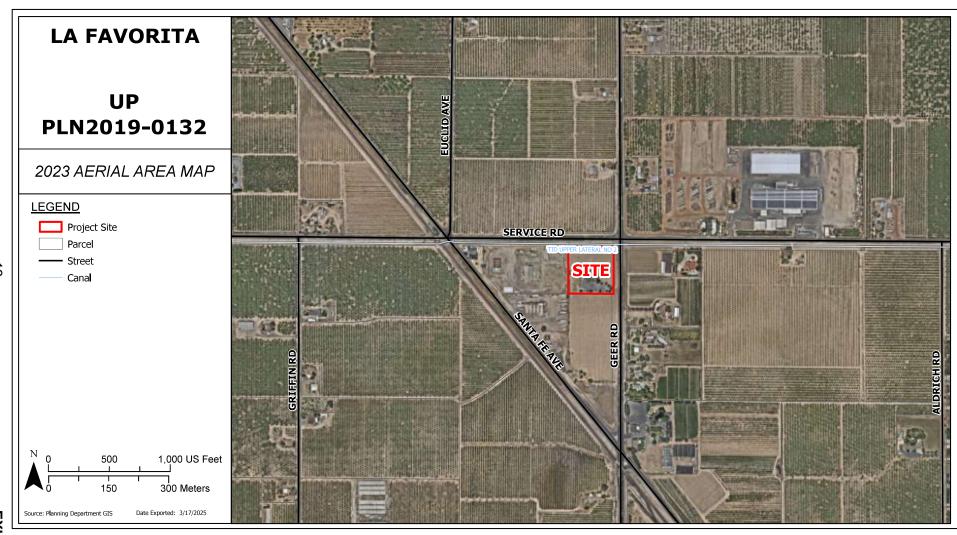
8 EXHIBIT A



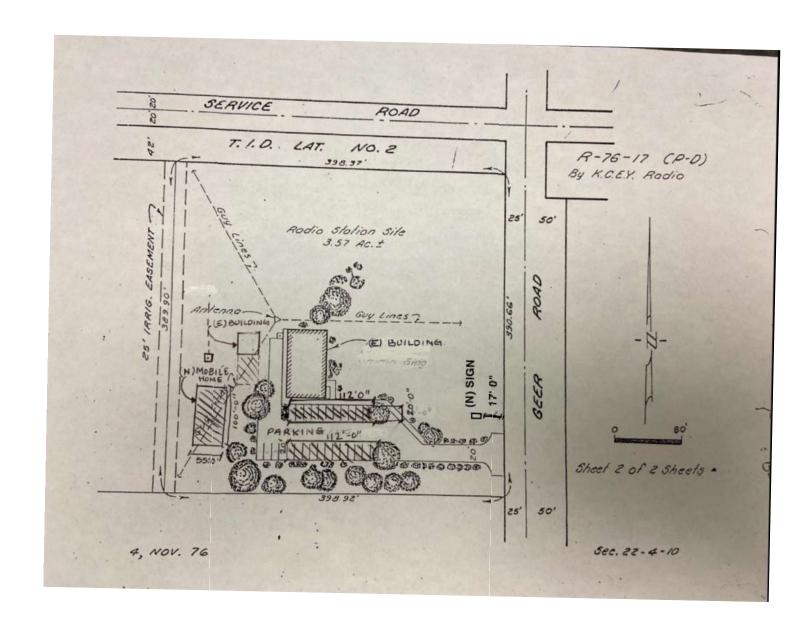


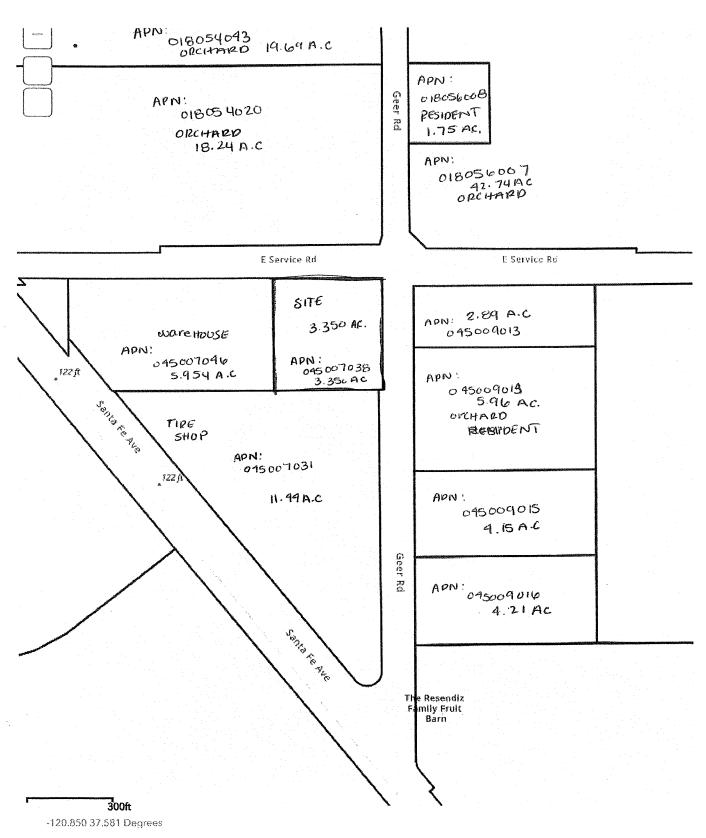












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Last Updated: 8-22

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EXHIBIT B-11

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

CONDITIONS OF APPROVAL

USE PERMIT APPLICATION NO. PLN2019-0132 LA FAVORITA RADIO STATION

Department of Planning and Community Development

- 1. Use(s) shall be conducted as described in the application and supporting information (including the plot plan) as approved by the Planning Commission and/or Board of Supervisors. All development standards adopted for the Planned Development (P-D) (28) zoning district shall remain in effect. If a conflict arises between the P-D (28) Development Standards and the Conditions of Approval for Use Permit No. PLN2019-0132 La Favorita Radio Station, the conditions of this use permit shall prevail.
- Developer shall pay all Public Facilities Impact Fees and Fire Facilities Fees as adopted by Resolution of the Board of Supervisors. The fees shall be payable at the time of issuance of a building permit for any construction in the development project and shall be based on the rates in effect at the time of building permit issuance.
- 3. The applicant/owner is required to defend, indemnify, or hold harmless the County, its officers, and employees from any claim, action, or proceedings against the County to set aside the approval of the project which is brought within the applicable statute of limitations. The County shall promptly notify the applicant of any claim, action, or proceeding to set aside the approval and shall cooperate fully in the defense.
- 4. Prior to issuance of a building permit, a photometric lighting plan shall be submitted for review and approval by the Planning Department for any new free-standing or exterior lighting affixed to the building. All exterior lighting shall be designed (aimed down and toward the site) to provide adequate illumination without a glare effect. This shall include, but not be limited to, the use of shielded light fixtures to prevent skyglow (light spilling into the night sky) and the installation of shielded fixtures to prevent light trespass (glare and spill light that shines onto neighboring properties).
- 5. Pursuant to Section 711.4 of the California Fish and Game Code, the applicant is required to pay a California Department of Fish and Wildlife (formerly the Department of Fish and Game) fee at the time of filing a "Notice of Determination." Within five (5) days of approval of this project by the Planning Commission or Board of Supervisors, the applicant shall submit to the Department of Planning and Community Development a check for \$3,025.75, made payable to Stanislaus County, for the payment of California Department of Fish and Wildlife and Clerk-Recorder filing fees.

21 EXHIBIT C

Pursuant to Section 711.4 (e) (3) of the California Fish and Game Code, no project shall be operative, vested, or final, nor shall local government permits for the project be valid, until the filing fees required pursuant to this section are paid.

- 6. The Department of Planning and Community Development shall record a Notice of Administrative Conditions and Restrictions with the County Recorder's Office within 30 days of project approval. The Notice includes: Conditions of Approval/Development Standards and Schedule; any adopted Mitigation Measures; and a project area map.
- 7. The electronic reader board shall not display animated messages, including flashing, blinking, fading, rolling, shading, dissolving, or any other effect that gives the appearance of movement.
- 8. The electronic reader board shall not include any audio messaging and shall not be displayed for a period of time less than eight seconds. Transition from one message to the next shall be instantaneous as perceived from the human eye. The electronic reader board shall contain a default mechanism that will cause the sign to revert immediately to a black screen if the sign malfunctions.
- 9. The electronic reader board shall utilize automatic dimming technology to adjust the brightness of the sign relative to the ambient light so that at no time shall a sign exceed a brightness level of three-tenths (0.3) foot candles above ambient light, as measured using a foot candle (Lux) meter, measured at a distance of one hundred feet from the sign area being measured. The ambient light measurement shall be taken at some point between the period of time between thirty minutes past sunset and thirty minutes before sunrise with the sign turned to a black screen. An operating light measurement shall be taken with the sign turned on to full white copy. If the difference between the ambient light measurement and the operating light measurement is three-tenths (0.3) foot candles or less than the sign shall be considered in conformance.
- 10. A building permit for the electronic reader board shall include calculations by a lighting engineer to demonstrate compliance with the requirements specified in Conditions of Approval Nos. 7-9.
- 11. Should the Stanislaus County Department of Planning and Community Development determine any nuisance related issues occur with the electronic reader boards brightness or any other operational requirements requires review by a qualified consultant, the contract shall be procured by the department, and paid for by the operator/property owner. A deposit based on estimated cost of the work to be performed by the consultant and staff time and materials cost shall be made with the department, by the operator/property owner, prior to any work being conducted. Staff costs and expenses will be billed at fully burdened weighted labor rates as provided by the County's Auditor's Office at the time services are rendered.
- 12. Prior to the issuance of a building permit for the electronic reader board, all other existing free-standing and/or monument signs shall be removed.

- 13. Prior to the issuance of a building permit for the electronic reader board, a public messaging advertising agreement shall be executed with the County allowing for advertisement time to be equally split between the City of Hughson and the County. The County may defer this requirement upon written notice to the property owner.
- 14. Building permits for the expansion and/or construction of new buildings authorized under this use permit shall not be issued until the existing electronic reader board has been removed or a building permit to legalize the electronic reader board has been issued.

Building Permits Division

15. All required building permits shall conform to the California Code of Regulations, Title 24, and any other applicable standards.

Department of Public Works

- 16. The applicant shall obtain an encroachment permit prior to any work being done in the Stanislaus County road right-of-way.
- 17. No parking, loading or unloading of vehicles will be permitted within the County road right-of-way. The developer will be required to install or pay for the installation of any signs and/or markings, if necessary.
- 18. Geer Road is classified as a Principal Arterial (OPA), which has an ultimate right-of-way of 135-feet. The required ½ width of Geer Road is 67.5 feet west of the centerline of the roadway. The existing right-of-way is 50 feet west of the centerline. The remaining 17.5 feet west of the centerline shall be dedicated as an Irrevocable Offer of Dedication (IOD).
- 19. The proposed digital sign shall be placed outside of the ultimate right-of-way.
- 20. A grading and drainage plan for the project site shall be submitted before any building permit for the site is issued. Public Works will review and approve the drainage calculations. The applicant of the building permit shall pay the current Stanislaus County Public Works weighted labor rate for the plan review of the building and/or grading plan.

The grading and drainage plan shall include the following information:

- a. Drainage calculations shall be prepared as per the Stanislaus County Standards and Specifications that are current at the time the permit is issued.
- b. The plan shall contain enough information to verify that all runoff will be kept from going onto adjacent properties and Stanislaus County road right-of-way.
- c. The grading and drainage plan shall comply with the current Stanislaus County National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Permit and the Quality Control standards for New Development and Redevelopment contained therein.

- d. An Engineer's Estimate shall be submitted for the grading and drainage work.
- e. The grading, drainage, and associated work shall be accepted by Stanislaus County Public Works prior to a final inspection or occupancy, as required by the building permit.

Department of Environmental Resources (DER)

- 21. The on-site wastewater treatment system (OWTS) shall meet all local agency management program (LAMP) standards and be designed according to type and/or maximum occupancy of the proposed structure to the estimated waste/sewage design flow rate.
- 22. The OWTS dispersal system shall have a 100% replacement area that is equivalent and separate, and available for future use.
- 23. No dispersal systems or replacement areas shall be covered by an impermeable surface, such as paving, building foundation slabs, plastic sheeting, or any other material that prevents oxygen transfer to the soil. Gravel or paving stones interspersed with grass are allowed as cover.

Department of Environmental Resources (DER) - Hazmat Division

24. The applicant shall contact the DER – Hazardous Materials Division regarding regulatory requirements for hazardous materials and/or wastes prior to operation.

Turlock Irrigation District (TID)

25. TID shall be contacted prior to issuance of any building permit to ensure no existing irrigation facilities are impacted by the project development. Any improvements impacting TID facilities shall be subject to TID's approval and meet all TID standards and specifications. Any required dedication of TID Right-of-Way shall be completed by separate document.

City of Hughson

26. Prior to the issuance of a permit for the electronic reader board, an agreement between the City of Hughson and the applicant/property owner shall be completed regarding the removal or replacement of the sign upon annexation of the parcel, in accordance with Title 17 of the Hughson Municipal Code.

San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (SJVAPCD)

27. Any construction resulting from this project shall comply with standardized dust controls adopted by the SJVAPCD and may be subject to additional regulations/permits, as determined by the SJVAPCD. Prior to the start of construction, the applicant/developer shall contact the SJVAPCD to determine if any SJVAPCD rules or permits are required.

DRAFT

Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (CVRWQCB)

28. Prior to issuance of a building permit, applicant/developer shall be responsible for contacting the CVRWQCB and obtaining any necessary permits.

Please note: If Conditions of Approval/Development Standards are amended by the Planning Commission or Board of Supervisors, such amendments will be noted in the upper right-hand corner of the Conditions of Approval/Development Standards; new wording will be in bold font and deleted wording will be in strikethrough.



DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1010 10TH Street, Suite 3400, Modesto, CA 95354 Panning Phone: (209) 525-6330 Fax: (209) 525-5911

Planning Phone: (209) 525-6330 Fax: (209) 525-5911 Building Phone: (209) 525-6557 Fax: (209) 525-7759

CEQA INITIAL STUDY

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

1. **Project title:** Use Permit Application No. PLN2019-0132 – La

Favorita Radio Station

2. Lead agency name and address: Stanislaus County

1010 10th Street, Suite 3400

Modesto, CA 95354

3. Contact person and phone number: Jeremy Ballard, Senior Planner

(209) 525-6330

4. **Project location:** 4043 Geer Road, between E. Service Road and

Santa Fe Avenue, in the Hughson area

(APN:045-007-038).

5. Project sponsor's name and address: Nelson and Debbie Gomez

4043 Geer Road Hughson, CA 95326

6. General Plan designation: Planned Development

7. **Zoning**: Planned Development (P-D) (28)

8. Description of project:

Request to amend the development plan of P-D (28), to allow for construction of a 1,250-square-foot addition to an existing storage building, two 2,240-square-foot carports with solar panels over an existing parking lot, installation of a 1,680-square-foot manufactured home, to be utilized as a caretaker quarters, and replacement of an existing monument sign with a digital reader board. The proposed improvements will be accessory to the operation of the existing radio station on a 3.35± acre parcel. The site is currently improved with a 4,524-square-foot commercial building, 403-foot-tall radio transmission antenna, 775-square-foot detached storage building, landscaping, and a parking lot that includes 25 spaces and seven light poles, 20 feet in height. The proposed digital sign will be 7'9" in height and 10'7" wide with a two metal poles and a 44-square-foot LED screen, and will have the capability to advertise both text and images. Advertising will include station identification but will also be open to anyone seeking to place an advertisement. The project site is currently developed with a 4,524 square-foot broadcast studio and office and 775 square-foot storage building. The current hours of operation for the broadcasting studio are Monday-Friday from 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. with one or two employees on air, and the administrative and sales team hours are Monday-Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., with two to eight employees on-site at one time, and a maximum of one customer per-day. The number of employees and customers are not anticipated to increase as the proposed caretaker is an existing employee. The site is served by private well and septic services and has access to County-maintained Geer Road.

The original legal parcel, consisting of 9.6± acres was rezoned from General Agriculture (A-2-10) to Planned Development (P-D) (28) in 1976, under Rezone Application No. 76-17 – John M. Hall, to establish a radio broadcasting office and studio. Prior to the rezone, two separate use permits were approved on the legal parcel, the first was to expand an existing agricultural chemical business on the western portion of the parcel, and the second, to allow installation of a 403-foot transmitting antenna on the eastern portion of the parcel. The parcel was designated as Planned Development by the County, and the subsequent rezone established development of the radio broadcasting studio and office. In 1977, a parcel map was recorded, splitting the radio broadcasting operation and agricultural chemical business, resulting in the project sites 3.35± acres and the adjacent 5.95± acre parcel. A subsequent staff

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approval was approved on the site in 2012, allowing for the development of a 775 square-foot storage building. P-D (28) is considered active and as such, the Development Plan must be amended to allow for further construction to occur.

9. Surrounding land uses and setting:

An orchard and produce market to the north; ranchettes to the east; expired P-D (313) to the south; and additional commercial use within P-D (28) on the parcel to the west.

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

Caltrans
City of Hughson

Stanislaus County Department of Public Works Department of Environmental Resources

11. Attachments:

None

The env	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.					
□ Aes	thetics	☐ Agriculture & Forestry Resources	☐ Air Quality			
□ Biol	logical Resources	☐ Cultural Resources	□ Energy			
☐ Geology / Soils		☐ Greenhouse Gas Emissions	☐ Hazards & Hazardous Materials			
□ Hyd	rology / Water Quality	☐ Land Use / Planning	☐ Mineral Resources			
□ Nois	se	☐ Population / Housing	☐ Public Services			
□ Rec	reation	☐ Transportation	☐ Tribal Cultural Resources			
□ Utili	ities / Service Systems	☐ Wildfire	☐ Mandatory Findings of Significance			
	MINATION: (To be completed basis of this initial evaluated					
\boxtimes	I find that the proposed NEGATIVE DECLARATION	d project COULD NOT have a signification will be prepared.	ant effect on the environment, and a			
	not be a significant effec	roposed project could have a significant in this case because revisions in the p. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION.	roject have been made by or agreed to			
	I find that the propos	ed project MAY have a significant CT REPORT is required.	effect on the environment, and an			
	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.					
	potentially significant e DECLARATION pursuant that earlier EIR or NEG	roposed project could have a significant ffects (a) have been analyzed adequate to applicable standards, and (b) have ATIVE DECLARATION, including revis sed project, nothing further is required.	ately in an earlier EIR or NEGATIVE been avoided or mitigated pursuant to			
	<u>re on File</u> d by Jeremy Ballard, Senior		n 19, 2025			

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, then the checklist answers must indicate whether the impact is potentially significant, less than significant with mitigation, or less than significant. "Potentially Significant Impact" is appropriate if there is substantial evidence that an effect may be significant. If there are one or more "Potentially Significant Impact" entries when the determination is made, an EIR is required.
- 4) "Negative Declaration: Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated" applies where the incorporation of mitigation measures has reduced an effect from "Potentially Significant Impact" to a "Less Than Significant Impact." The lead agency must describe the mitigation measures, and briefly explain how they reduce the effect to a less than significant level (mitigation measures from Section XVII, "Earlier Analyses," may be cross-referenced).
- 5) Earlier analyses may be used where, pursuant to the tiering, program EIR, or other CEQA process, an effect has been adequately analyzed in an earlier EIR or negative declaration.

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

- a) Earlier Analysis Used. Identify and state where they are available for review.
- b) Impacts Adequately Addressed. Identify which effects from the above checklist were within the scope of and adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and state whether such effects were addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis.
- c) Mitigation Measures. For effects that are "Less than Significant with Mitigation Measures Incorporated," describe the mitigation measures which were incorporated or refined from the earlier document and the extent to which they address site-specific conditions for the project.
- 6) Lead agencies are encouraged to incorporate into the checklist references to information sources for potential impacts (e.g., general plans, zoning ordinances). References to a previously prepared or outside document should, where appropriate, include a reference to the page or pages where the statement is substantiated.
- 7) Supporting Information Sources: A source list should be attached, and other sources used or individuals contacted should be cited in the discussion.
- 8) This is only a suggested form, and lead agencies are free to use different formats; however, lead agencies should normally address the questions from this checklist that are relevant to a project's environmental effects in whatever format is selected.
- 9) The explanation of each issue should identify:
 - a) the significant criteria or threshold, if any, used to evaluate each question; and
 - b) the mitigation measure identified, if any, to reduce the impact to less than significant.

ISSUES

I. AESTHETICS – Except as provided in Public Resources Code Section 21099, could the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Included	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?			X	
b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?			X	
c) In non-urbanized areas, substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings? (Public views are those that are experienced from publicly accessible vantage point). If the project is in an urbanized area, would the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?			x	
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?			X	

Discussion: The site itself is not considered to be a scenic resource or unique scenic vista. The only scenic designation in the County is along I-5, which is not near the project site. The proposed buildings will be of similar nature as the existing buildings. The proposed electronic reader board will be similar in size of a traditional monument sign and will be conditioned to require automatic dimming technology to adjust the brightness of the sign relative to ambient light so that at no time shall a sign exceed a brightness level of three-tenths (0.3) foot candles above ambient light, as measured using a foot candle (Lux) meter.

Due to the location of the project site within the City of Hughson's sphere of influence, the County's General Plan requires that City sign standards govern. Additionally, by County policy, any requested discretionary action is required to receive support from the City in question. The project was referred to the City of Hughson, and although initially was not in support of the project due to electronic signs being prohibited within the City, was able to support the project, provided an agreement is finalized between the City and applicant to remove the sign upon the project sites annexation into the City of Hughson. This will be added as a condition of approval.

With restrictions on the signs brightness, no adverse impacts to the existing visual character of the site or its surroundings are anticipated.

Mitigation: None.

References: Application information; Stanislaus County Zoning Ordinance; Referral Responses from the City of Hughson dated September 17, 2020 and October 8, 2020 and Email Communication from the City of Hughson, dated January 27, 2025; 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 Forest and Range Assessment Project and the Forest Legacy Assessment project; and forest carbon measurement methodology provided in Forest Protocols adopted by the California Air Resources Board Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Included	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?			х	
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))?			х	
d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?			х	
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 project site was rezoned from General Agriculture to Planned Development (28) in 1977. Although developed with a radio station, the balance of the site has been planted in row crops, historically. The site is classified as and is classified as "Prime Farmland" by the California Department of Conservation's Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program. The California Revised Storie Index is a rating system based on soil properties that dictate the potential for soils to be used for irrigated agricultural production in California. This rating system grades soils with an index rating of 81 and 90 as excellent. Grade 1 soils are deemed prime farmland by Stanislaus County's Uniform Rules. The United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA NRCS) Web Soil Survey indicates that property is primarily comprised of Hanford sandy loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes with an index rating of 95 and a grade of 1, however, the site has been zoned Planned Development (28) for over 30 years with the balance of the property continuing to be planted in row crops.

Pesticide exposure is a risk in areas located in the vicinity of agriculture. Sources of exposure include contaminated groundwater, which is consumed, and drift from spray applications. Application of sprays is strictly controlled by the Agricultural Commissioner and can only be accomplished after first obtaining permits. Additionally, agricultural buffers are intended to reduce the risk of spray exposure to surrounding people. 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, and requires a minimum 150-foot-wide buffer setback. The nearest agriculturally zoned parcels are approximately 100 feet north and east of the project site, and separated by E Service Road and Geer Road. Additionally, public roadways and parking lots are permitted within a buffer area.

Surrounding land uses include an orchard and produce market to the north and south, ranchettes to the east across Geer Road, P-D (313) to the south, and P-D (28) to the west. No impacts to agriculture are anticipated to occur as a result of this project as the project site is currently developed and considered topographically flat.

As the project will include a minor expansion on a previously developed P-D, it is not anticipated the project will result in significant impacts to Agricultural resources. No forest lands exist in Stanislaus County. Therefore, this project will have no impact to forest land or timberland.

Mitigation: None.

References: Application information; Natural Resources Conservation Service Soil Survey; Stanislaus Soil Survey (1957); California State Department of Conservation Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program - Stanislaus County Farmland 2018; Stanislaus County General Plan and Support Documentation¹.

III. AIR QUALITY: Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management district or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations Would the project:	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) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard?			X	
c) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?			x	
d) Result in other emissions (such as those odors adversely affecting a substantial number of people?			X	

Discussion: The proposed project is located within the San Joaquin Valley Air Basin (SJVAB) and, therefore, falls under the jurisdiction of the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (SJVAPCD). In conjunction with the Stanislaus Council of Governments (StanCOG), the SJVAPCD is responsible for formulating and implementing air pollution control strategies. The SJVAPCD's most recent air quality plans are the 2007 PM10 (respirable particulate matter) Maintenance Plan, the 2008 PM2.5 (fine particulate matter) Plan, and the 2007 Ozone Plan. These plans establish a comprehensive air pollution control program leading to the attainment of state and federal air quality standards in the SJVAB, which has been classified as "extreme non-attainment" for ozone, "attainment" for respirable particulate matter (PM-10), and "non-attainment" for PM 2.5, as defined by the Federal Clean Air Act.

The 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 number of vehicle trips is not expected to increase as a result of this project as the proposed caretaker is an existing employee.

Potential impacts to air quality from the proposed project are also evaluated by Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT). The calculation of VMT is the number of cars/trucks multiplied by the distance traveled by each car/truck. CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.3, subdivision (a), defines VMT as the amount and distance of automobile travel attributable to a project. A technical advisory on evaluating transportation impacts in CEQA published by the Governor's Office of Planning and

Research (OPR) in December of 2018 clarified the definition of automobiles as referring to on-road passenger vehicles, specifically cars and light trucks. While heavy trucks are not considered in the definition of automobiles for which VMT is calculated for, heavy-duty truck VMT could be included for modeling convenience. According to the same OPR technical advisory, many local agencies have developed a screening threshold of VMT to indicate when detailed analysis is needed. Absent substantial evidence indicating that a project would generate a potentially significant level of VMT, or inconsistency with a Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) or general plan, projects that generate or attract fewer than 110 trips perday generally may be assumed to cause a less-than significant transportation impact. The proposed project will not generate any additional vehicle trips.

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. Initial activities for the proposed project would consist primarily of constructing the addition to an existing storage building, two carports with solar panels over an existing parking lot, and installation of a manufactured home for caretaker quarters. These activities would not require any substantial use of heavy-duty construction equipment and would require little or no demolition or grading as the project site is considered to be topographically flat. Furthermore, all construction activities would occur in compliance with all SJVAPCD regulations; therefore, construction emissions would be less-than significant without mitigation.

Potential impacts on local and regional air quality are anticipated to be less than significant, falling below 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. 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. A referral response received from the District confirmed that they would not have any comments on the project.

For these reasons, the proposed project is considered to be consistent with all 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.

Mitigation: None.

References: San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District - Regulation VIII Fugitive Dust/PM-10 Synopsis; Referral response from the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District, dated April 28, 2021; www.valleyair.org; 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?			х	
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	

feder limite direc	a substantial adverse effect on state or ally protected wetlands (including, but not od to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through tremoval, filling, hydrological interruption, or means?	x	
nativo or wi wildli	ere substantially with the movement of any e resident or migratory fish or wildlife species ith established native resident or migratory fe corridors, or impede the use of native fe nursery sites?	x	
prote	ict with any local policies or ordinances cting biological resources, such as a tree ervation policy or ordinance?	х	
Cons Cons	ict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat ervation Plan, Natural Community ervation Plan, or other approved local, nal, or state habitat conservation plan?	X	

Discussion: The project is located within the Denair Quad based on the U.S. Geographical Survey's topographic quadrangle map series. According to aerial imagery and application materials, the surrounding area is a mixture of agricultural and urban uses.

Based on results from the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB), there are five plant, animal, and insect species which are state or federally listed, threatened, or identified as species of special concern or a candidate of special concern within the Denair California Natural Diversity Database Quad. These species include the Swainson's hawk, steelhead – Central Valley DPS, Crotch bumble bee, valley elderberry longhorn beetle, and San Joaquin Valley Orcutt grass. There is a very low likelihood that these species are present on the project site as it is already developed with multiple structures. Additionally, there have been no sightings of any threatened species within proximate to the project, the closest sighting being over two miles away.

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

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

Mitigation: None.

References: California Department of Fish and Wildlife's Natural Diversity Database Quad Species List; Stanislaus County General Plan and Support Documentation¹.

V. CULTURAL RES	OURCES Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Included	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
	substantial adverse change in the of a historical resource pursuant to in §			Х	
	substantial adverse change in the of an archaeological resource pursuant?			Х	
	human remains, including those interred ormal cemeteries?			X	

Discussion: It does not appear that this project will result in significant impacts to any archaeological or cultural resources. The project site is already developed and the proposed construction is within the area which has already been disturbed. However, standard conditions of approval regarding the discovery of cultural resources during the construction process will be added to the project.

Mitigation: None.

References: Application information; Stanislaus County General Plan and Support Documentation¹.

VI. ENERGY Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Included	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation?			Х	
b) Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?			X	

Discussion: The CEQA Guidelines Appendix F states that energy consuming equipment and processes, which will be used during construction or operation such as: energy requirements of the project by fuel type and end use, energy conservation equipment and design features, energy supplies that would serve the project, total estimated daily vehicle trips to be generated by the project, and the additional energy consumed per-trip by mode, shall be taken into consideration when evaluating energy impacts. Additionally, the project's compliance with applicable state or local energy legislation, policies, and standards must be considered.

All construction activities shall be in compliance with all SJVAPCD regulations and with Title 24, Green Building Code, which includes energy efficiency. Energy consuming equipment and processes include construction equipment, trucks, and the employee vehicles. These activities would not significantly increase Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT), due to the number of vehicle trips not exceeding a total of 110 vehicle trips per-day. The proposed project will not generate any additional vehicle trips per-day.

Therefore, consumption of energy resources would be less than significant without mitigation for the proposed project.

The project was also referred to the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District, who replied that they would not have a comment on the project.

It does not appear that this project will result in significant impacts to the wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources. Accordingly, the potential impacts to Energy are considered to be less than significant.

Mitigation: None.

References: Application information; CEQA Guidelines; Title 16 of County Code; CA Building Code; Stanislaus County Zoning Ordinance (Title 21); Stanislaus County 2016 General Plan EIR; San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District Email Correspondence, dated April 28, 2021; Governor's Office of Planning and Research Technical Advisory, December 2018; Stanislaus County General Plan and Support Documentation¹.

VII. GEOLOGY AND SOILS Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Included	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
 a) Directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving: 				
i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.			X	
ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?			X	
iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?			Х	
iv) Landslides?			Χ	
b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?			Х	
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?			х	
d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18- 1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property?			Х	
e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?			X	
f) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?			х	

Discussion: The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service's Eastern Stanislaus County Soil Survey indicates that the property is made up of Hanford sandy loam soils (HdA). As contained in Chapter 5 of the General Plan Support Documentation, the areas of the County subject to significant geologic hazard are located in the Diablo Range, west of Interstate 5; however, as per the California Building Code, all of Stanislaus County is located within a geologic hazard zone (Seismic Design Category D, E, or F) and a soils test may be required at building permit application. Results from the soils test will determine if unstable or expansive soils are present. If such soils are present, special engineering of the structure will be required to compensate for the soil deficiency. Any structures resulting from this project will be designed and built according to building standards appropriate to withstand shaking for the area in which they are constructed. An early consultation referral response received from the Department of Public Works indicated that a grading, drainage, and erosion/sediment control plan for the project will be required, subject to Public Works review and Standards and Specifications. Likewise, any addition or expansion of a septic tank or alternative waste water disposal system would require the approval of the Department of Environmental Resources (DER) through the building permit process, which also takes soil type into consideration within the specific design requirements.

The project site is not located near an active fault or within a high earthquake zone. Landslides are not likely due to the flat terrain of the area.

DER, Public Works, and the Building Permits Division review and approve any building or grading permit to ensure their standards are met. Conditions of approval regarding these standards will be applied to the project and will be triggered when a building permit is requested.

Mitigation: None.

References: Referral response from the Department of Environmental Resources (DER), dated July 27, 2020; Referral response from the Stanislaus County Department of Public Works dated July 14, 2020; Referral response received from the Stanislaus County Department of Planning and Community Development – Building Division, dated July 16, 2020; Stanislaus County General Plan and Support Documentation¹.

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

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) 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.

The current hours of operation for the broadcasting studio are Monday-Friday from 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. with one or two employees on air, and the administrative and sales team hours are Monday-Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., with two to eight employees on-site at one time, and a maximum of one customer per-day. The number of employees, customers, and vehicle trips are not anticipated to increase as the proposed caretaker is an existing employee. Direct emissions of GHGs from the operation of the proposed project are primarily due to passenger vehicle trips. Therefore, the project would result in direct annual emissions of GHGs during operation. As required by CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3, potential impacts regarding Green House Gas Emissions should be evaluated using Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT). The calculation of VMT is the number of cars/trucks multiplied by the distance traveled by each car/truck. Total vehicle trips as a result of this project will not exceed 110 trips per-day.

The proposed project will 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. Additionally, the construction of the proposed buildings is 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). All proposed construction activities associated with this project are considered to be less than significant as they are temporary in nature and are subject to meeting SJVAPCD standards for air quality control.

The project was also referred to the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District, who replied that they would not have a comment on the project. Consequently, GHG emissions associated with this project are considered to be less than significant.

Mitigation: None.

References: San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District referral response, dated April 28, 2021; Stanislaus County General Plan and Support Documentation¹.

IX. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS Would the project:	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 or excessive noise for people residing or working in the project area?			X	
f) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?			X	
g) Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires?			х	

Discussion: The County Department of Environmental Resources (DER) is responsible for overseeing hazardous materials. This project was referred to the Department of Environmental Resources – Hazardous Materials Division, who responded that the project will not have a significant effect on the environment, and is requiring a permit should there be any installation of groundwater monitoring wells or exploratory borings to the Hazardous Materials Division within DER. This comment will be added as a condition of approval. The proposed use is not recognized as a generator and/or consumer of hazardous materials, therefore no significant impacts associated with hazards or hazardous materials are anticipated to occur as a result of the proposed project.

Pesticide exposure is a risk in areas located in the vicinity of agriculture. Sources of exposure include contaminated groundwater, which is consumed, and drift from spray applications. Application of sprays is strictly controlled by the Agricultural Commissioner and can only be accomplished after first obtaining permits. Additionally, agricultural buffers are intended to reduce the risk of spray exposure to surrounding people. 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. P-D (28) was adopted prior to the adoption of the Agricultural buffer requirement. The nearest agriculturally zoned parcels are approximately 100 feet north and east of the project site and separated by E. Service Road and Geer Road. Additionally, public roadways and parking lots are permitted within a buffer area. The project

does not propose any new people intensive units, with the majority of the project consisting of unoccupied structures, therefore it is not anticipated impacts will be significant.

The project was referred to the Stanislaus County Agricultural Commissioner, who responded with no comment.

The project site is not listed on the Envirostor database managed by the CA Department of Toxic Substances Control or within the vicinity of any airport. The groundwater is not known to be contaminated in this area. The site is located in a Local Responsibility Area (LRA) for fire protection and is served by Hughson Fire Protection District. The project was referred to the District, and no comments have been received to date.

The project site is not located within any airport land use plan or a wildlands area.

Mitigation: None.

References: Application information; Referral response from the Department of Environmental Resources, Hazardous Materials Division, dated August 12, 2020; Referral response from the Stanislaus County Agricultural Commissioner, dated July 22, 2020; Stanislaus County General Plan and Support Documentation¹.

X. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Included	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
 a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or ground water quality? 			X	
b) Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?			X	
c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would:			х	
 i) result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site; 			х	
ii) substantially increase the rate of amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site.			х	
iii) create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff; or			x	
iv) impede or redirect flood flows?			Х	
d) In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?			x	
e) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?			X	

Discussion: The site currently receives potable water from a private well, and wastewater is handled by a private septic system. With the exception of the proposed mobile home for a caretaker, the proposed structures will not include any new connection to the domestic well system, and thus the proposed project is not anticipated to utilize a significant amount of groundwater.

Areas subject to flooding have been identified in accordance with the Federal Emergency Management Act (FEMA). The project site is located in FEMA Flood Zone X, which includes areas determined to be outside the 0.2% annual chance floodplains. 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 the 100-year flood plain. All flood zone requirements will be addressed by the Building Permits Division during the building permit process. The proposed 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.

By virtue of the proposed construction, the current absorption patterns of water upon this property will be altered; however, current standards require that all of a project's stormwater be maintained on-site. A referral response received from the Department of Public Works indicated that a grading, drainage, and erosion/sediment control plan for the project shall be submitted for any building permit that will create a larger or smaller building footprint as well as the submittal of a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) prior to the approval of any grading. The submittal of the grading, drainage, erosion/sediment control plan and SWPPP will be made conditions of approval for this project. Accordingly, runoff associated with the construction at the proposed project site will be reviewed as part of the grading and building permit review process. Additionally, the construction must be reviewed and approved by DER and must adhere to current Local Agency Management Program (LAMP) standards. LAMP standards include minimum setback from wells to prevent negative impacts to groundwater quality. No expansion to the existing septic systems or additional wells are being proposed as a part of this project. However, any future proposals for new wells will be subject to review under the County's Well Permitting Program, which will determine whether a new well will require environmental review.

The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) was passed in 2014 with the goal of ensuring the long-term sustainable management of California's groundwater resources. SGMA requires agencies throughout California to meet certain requirements including forming Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSA), developing Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSP), and achieving balanced groundwater levels within 20 years. The site is located in the San Joaquin Valley - Turlock Sub-basin under the jurisdiction of the West Turlock Subbasin GSA. The West Turlock Subbasin GSA (consisting of 12 public agencies) and the East Turlock Subbasin GSA (five agencies) are jointly developing a single GSP to manage groundwater sustainably through at least 2042. The GSP was submitted to DWR but determined to be in complete on January 18, 2024. A final revised GSP was submitted and is currently going through the review process.

Stanislaus County adopted a Groundwater Ordinance in November 2014 (Chapter 9.37 of the County Code, hereinafter, the "Ordinance") that codifies requirements, prohibitions, and exemptions intended to help promote sustainable groundwater extraction in unincorporated areas of the County. The Ordinance prohibits the unsustainable extraction of groundwater and makes issuing permits for new wells, which are not exempt from this prohibition, discretionary. For unincorporated areas covered in an adopted GSP pursuant to SGMA, the County can require holders of permits for wells it reasonably concludes are withdrawing groundwater unsustainably to provide substantial evidence that continued operation of such wells does not constitute unsustainable extraction and has the authority to regulate future groundwater extraction. The site has an existing private well and septic system. There are no additional wells or employees proposed as part of this request.

A condition of approval will be added to the project that the developer contact RWQCB to determine if any permits or standards are applicable to the project that must be met prior to construction.

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

Mitigation: None.

References: Referral response from the Department of Public Works, dated July 14, 2020; Referral Response from The Department of Environmental Resources (DER) Environmental Health Division dated July 27, 2020; Sustainable Groundwater Management Act; Stanislaus County Code Title 9 Chapter 9.37 Groundwater; Turlock Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan, revised July 2024; Stanislaus County General Plan and Support Documentation¹

XI. LAND USE AND PLANNING Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Included	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Physically divide an established community?			X	
b) Cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?			X	

Discussion: The project site is designated Planned Development by the Stanislaus County General Plan land use diagrams and zoned Planned Development (P-D) (28). In accordance with Section 21.40.080 of the Zoning Ordinance, the Development Plan for a Planned Development may be amended under a Conditional Use Permit. Accordingly, the applicant is requesting to amend the development plan of P-D (28), to allow for construction of a 1,250-square-foot addition to an existing storage building, two 2,240-square-foot carports with solar panels over an existing parking lot, installation of a 1,680-square-foot manufactured home, to be utilized as a caretaker quarters, and replacement of an existing monument sign with a digital reader board. The proposed improvements will be accessory to the operation of the existing radio station on a 3.35± acre parcel.

The site is currently improved with a 4,524-square-foot commercial building, 403-foot-tall radio transmission antenna, 775-square-foot detached storage building, landscaping, and a parking lot that includes 25 spaces and seven light poles, 20 feet in height. The proposed digital sign will be 7'9" in height and 10'7" wide with a two metal poles and a 44-square-foot LED screen, and will have the capability to advertise both text and images. Advertising will include station identification but will also be open to anyone seeking to place an advertisement. The current hours of operation for the broadcasting studio are Monday-Friday from 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. with one or two employees on air, and the administrative and sales team hours are Monday-Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., with two to eight employees on-site at one time, and a maximum of one customer per-day. The number of employees and customers are not anticipated to increase as the proposed caretaker is an existing employee. The site is served by private well and septic services and has access to County-maintained Geer Road.

The original legal parcel, consisting of 9.6± acres was rezoned from General Agriculture (A-2-10) to Planned Development (P-D) (28) in 1976, under Rezone Application No. 76-17 – John M. Hall, to establish a radio broadcasting office and studio. Prior to the rezone, two separate use permits were approved on the legal parcel, the first was to expand an existing agricultural chemical business on the western portion of the parcel, and the second, to allow installation of a 403-foot transmitting antenna on the eastern portion of the parcel. The parcel was designated as Planned Development by the County, and the subsequent rezone established development of the radio broadcasting studio and office. In 1977, a parcel map was recorded, splitting the radio broadcasting operation and agricultural chemical business, resulting in the project sites 3.35± acres and the adjacent 5.95± acre parcel. A subsequent staff approval was approved on the site in 2012, allowing for the development of a 775 square-foot storage building. P-D (28) is considered active and as such, the Development Plan must be amended to allow for further construction to occur.

As discussed in Section I – Aesthetics the site falls within the LAFCO adopted Sphere of Influence of the City of Hughson, and accordingly, per the County Sphere of Influence Policy, a referral was sent to the City of Hughson. The City originally responded with no objection to the 1,250 square-foot addition to the existing storage building, the two 2,240 square-foot carports with solar panels, or the 1,680 square-foot manufactured home, but did oppose the proposed digital sign as the City code prohibits signs that flash or blink or otherwise have animated components. However, after discussing the project with the applicant, the City revised their position. The City is not opposed to the sign, provided it is removed when the parcel of land is annexed to the City of Hughson, without monetary compensation to the applicant. The City requested an agreement for removal of the sign, which will be applied as a condition of approval. The applicant has agreed to the City's request.

Additionally, the Development Standards require that proposed on-site lighting be designed to provide adequate illumination while preventing glare.

The project will not physically divide an established community nor conflict with any habitat conservation plans. Impacts to Land Use and Planning is considered to be less-than significant.

Mitigation: None.

References: Referral Responses from the City of Hughson dated September 17, 2020 and October 8, 2020 and Email Communication from the City of Hughson, dated January 27, 2025; Stanislaus County General Plan and Support Documentation¹.

XII. 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?			x	
b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally- important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan?			x	

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

Mitigation: None.

References: Stanislaus County General Plan and Support Documentation¹.

XIII. N	OISE Would the project result in:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Included	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a)	Generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?			x	
b)	Generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?			х	
c)	For a project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?			х	

Discussion: The Stanislaus County General Plan Noise Element identifies the daytime (7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.) maximum allowable average noise exposure for stationary noise sources to be an hourly average of 55 decibels for residentially zoned districts and maximum level of 75 decibels for industrial, manufacturing, utilities, and agriculture districts, with nighttime (10:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m.) to be an hourly average of 45 decibels and maximum of 65 decibels, measured at residential or other noise-sensitive land use on neighboring properties. The nearest sensitive receptor is a dwelling located approximately 570-feet to the east of the project site. The site itself is impacted by the noise generated from the Union Pacific rail line, Geer Road and Santa Fe Avenue. All construction activities will be required to meet the noise ordinance

and Noise Element standards. The site is not located within an airport land use plan. The area's ambient noise level may temporarily increase during grading/construction, however, noise impacts are considered to be less-than significant.

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

Mitigation: None.

References: Application information; Stanislaus County General Plan and Support Documentation¹.

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

Discussion: The site is not included in the vacant sites inventory for the 2016 Stanislaus County Housing Element, which covers the 5th cycle Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) for the County and will therefore not impact the County's ability to meet their RHNA. The proposed caretaker unit will not exceed established density of the project or surrounding area. No population growth will be induced nor will any existing occupied housing be displaced as a result of this project

Mitigation: None.

References: Stanislaus County General Plan and Support Documentation¹.

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

Discussion: The County has adopted Public Facilities Fees, as well as Fire Facility Fees on behalf of the appropriate fire district, to address impacts to public services. The proposed buildings will be subject to both fee types prior to issuance of a building permit.

This project was circulated to all applicable school, fire, police, irrigation, and public works departments and districts during the early consultation referral period and no concerns were identified with regard to public services.

Mitigation: None.

References: Stanislaus County General Plan and Support Documentation¹

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

Discussion: This project will not increase demands for recreational facilities, as such impacts typically are associated with residential development.

Mitigation: None.

References: Stanislaus County General Plan and Support Documentation¹.

XVII. TRANSPORTATION Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Included	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
 a) Conflict with a program plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities? 			X	
b) Would the project conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3, subdivision (b)?			х	
c) Substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?			X	
d) Result in inadequate emergency access?			X	

Discussion: The project site currently receives direct access to County maintained Geer Road. No increase in employees or customers are expected as result of the minor expansion of the sites development. Hours of operation and anticipated deliveries will remain the same as previously approved.

This project was referred to the Department of Public Works, which stated that Geer Road is classified as a 135-foot Principal Arterial (OPA), with the required half width of Geer Road is 67.5-feet west of the centerline of the roadway. The current right-of-way is 50-feet west of the centerline and the applicant will be responsible for dedication of the remaining 17.5-feet west of the centerline as an Irrevocable Offer of Dedication. Additionally, the Department stated that the proposed sign is required to be maintained outside of the County's ultimate right-of-way, which may require relocation as the sign has already been installed. The applicant has acknowledged these requirements. Conditions of approval will be placed on the project to ensure they are met prior to issuance of any building permit.

As discussed in Section VIII – *Greenhouse Gas Emissions*, the project does not meet the threshold for further VMT analysis and is expected to have a less than significant impact.

All development on-site will be required to pay applicable County PFF fees, which will be utilized for maintenance and traffic congestion improvements to all County roadways. The proposed project is not anticipated to conflict with any transportation program, plan, ordinance or policy.

Mitigation: None.

References: Application information Referral response from Stanislaus County Department of Public Works dated July 14, 2020; Stanislaus County General Plan and Support Documentation¹.

XVIII. TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Included	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California native American tribe, and that is:			X	
i) Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code section 5020.1(k), or			x	
ii) A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set for the in subdivision (c) of Public Resource Code section 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resource Code section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.			X	

Discussion: It does not appear that this project will result in significant impacts to any archaeological or cultural resources. The project does not include any construction or ground-disturbance. In accordance with SB 18 and AB 52, this project was not referred to the tribes listed with the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) as the project is not a General Plan Amendment and no tribes have requested consultation or project referral noticing. A condition of approval regarding the discovery of cultural resources during any future construction process will be added to the project.

Mitigation: None.

References: Application information; Stanislaus County General Plan and Support Documentation¹.

XIX. UTILITIES AND SE project:	RVICE SYSTEMS Would the	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Included	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
new or expanded storm water draina telecommunication	the relocation or construction of water, wastewater treatment or ge, electric power, natural gas, or as facilities, the construction or nich could cause significant cts?			X	
project and re	er supplies available to serve the asonably foreseeable future ag normal, dry and multiple dry			X	
treatment provider project that it has	ermination by the wastewater which serves or may serve the adequate capacity to serve the d demand in addition to the commitments?			x	
standards, or in e	exte in excess of State or local excess of the capacity of local therwise impair the attainment of on goals?			Х	
	al, state, and local management tutes and regulations related to			х	

Discussion: Limitations on providing services have not been identified. The project proposes to utilize an existing private well for water and an existing septic system for wastewater service. No new construction, wells or septic systems are proposed. The project was referred to the Department of Environmental Resources (DER) Environmental Health, Groundwater Resources, and Hazardous Materials Divisions. Hazardous Materials and Environmental Health responded with requests for conditions of approval, which will be placed on the project.

DER, Public Works, and the Building Permits Division will review and approve all required building or grading permit to ensure their standards are met. Conditions of approval regarding these standards will be applied to the project and will be triggered when a building permit is requested. Stormwater is proposed to be maintained on-site.

A referral response received from Public Works, stating the applicant will be responsible for dedication of the remaining 17.5-feet west of the centerline of Geer Road as an Irrevocable Offer of Dedication. Additionally, the Department stated that the proposed sign is required to be maintained outside of the County's ultimate right-of-way, which may require relocation as the sign has already been installed. The applicant has acknowledged these requirements. Conditions of approval will be placed on the project to ensure they are met prior to issuance of any building permit.

The project was referred to the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (CVRWQCB), and no response has been received to date. The project is not anticipated to have a significant impact to utilities and service systems.

Mitigation: None.

References: Referral response from the Department of Public Works, dated July 14, 2020; Referral Response from The Department of Environmental Resources (DER) Environmental Health Division dated July 27, 2020; Stanislaus County General Plan and Support Documentation¹.

XX. WILDFIRE – If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Included	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?			X	
b) Due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks, and thereby expose project occupants to, pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire?			X	
c) Require the installation of maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment?			х	
d) Expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes?			X	

Discussion: The Stanislaus County Local Hazard Mitigation Plan identifies risks posed by disasters and identifies ways to minimize damage from those disasters. With the Wildfire Hazard Mitigation Activities of this plan in place, impacts to an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan are anticipated to be less than significant. The terrain of the site is relatively flat, and the site has access to County-maintained Geer Road. The site is located in a Local Responsibility Area (LRA) for fire protection and is served by the Hughson Fire Protection District. California Building and Fire Code establishes minimum standards for the protection of life and property by increasing the ability of a building to resist intrusion of flame and burning embers. Proposed construction will be minimal and be subject to building permits and will be reviewed by the County's Building Permits Division and Fire Prevention Bureau to ensure all State of California Building and Fire Code requirements are met prior to construction. Wildfire risk and risks associated with postfire land changes are considered to be less than significant.

Mitigation: None.

References: Application information; California Fire Code Title 24, Part 9; California Building Code Title 24, Part 2, Chapter 7; Stanislaus County Local Hazard Mitigation Plan; Stanislaus County General Plan and Support Documentation; Stanislaus County General Plan and Support Documentation¹.

XXI. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Included	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Does the project have the potential to substantially degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?			Х	
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.)			х	
c) Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?			Х	

Discussion: The project site is located on Geer Road, south of E. Service Road, between Geer Road and S. Santa Fe Avenue, in the Hughson area and is surrounded by orchards, a produce market to the north and south; ranchettes to the east; expired P-D (313) to the south; and additional commercial use within P-D (28) on the parcel to the west.

The United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA NRCS) Web Soil Survey indicates that property is primarily comprised of Hanford sandy loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes with an index rating of 95 and a grade of 1, however, the site has been zoned Planned Development 28 for over 30 years.

The project proposes to be served by an existing well and septic system; however, no new impacts with respect to either are expected. The project proposes no addition to the number of employees, nor will the hours of operation be alerted. The proposed project is minor in nature.

A recent analysis of the current or recently approved discretionary projects in the vicinity found Use Permit No. PLN2022-0148 – Juan M Torres Trucking, Inc., which was approved by the Planning Commission on December 19, 2024, for the parking of up 12- tractor-trailer combinations on a two-acre parcel in the General Agricultural zoning district. The project is located at 6130 East Service Road approximately, 1.75 miles to the west of the project. As both projects are not anticipated to result in a significant increase of vehicle and truck trips to transportation, cumulative impacts are not anticipated.

Thus, review of this project has not indicated any features which might significantly impact the environmental quality of the site and/or the surrounding area or contribute to cumulatively significant impacts.

Mitigation: None.

References: Initial Study; Stanislaus County General Plan and Support Documentation¹.

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



DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1010 10TH Street, Suite 3400, Modesto, CA 95354 Planning Phone: (209) 525-6330 Fax: (209) 525-5911 Building Phone: (209) 525-6557 Fax: (209) 525-7759

NEGATIVE DECLARATION

NAME OF PROJECT: Use Permit Application No. PLN2019-0132 – La Favorita

Radio Station

LOCATION OF PROJECT: 4043 Geer Road, on the southwest corner of Geer and E.

Service Roads, east of Santa Fe Avenue, in the Hughson

Area. APN: 045-007-038.

PROJECT DEVELOPERS: Nelson Gomez

4043 Geer Road Hughson, CA 95326

Development (P-D)(28), to allow for a 7,490 square-foot expansion of a radio station facility and to permit an existing electronic reader board sign on a 3.35 acre parcel.

Based upon the Initial Study, dated **March 19, 2025**, 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: <u>Jeremy Ballard, Senior Planner</u>

Submit comments to: Stanislaus County

Planning and Community Development Department

1010 10th Street, Suite 3400 Modesto, California 95354

I:\Planning\Staff Reports\UP\2019\PLN2019-0132 - La Favorita Radio Station\Planning Commission\May 15, 2025\Staff Report\Exhibit E - Negative Declaration.docx

49 **EXHIBIT E**

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT 7018 Pine Street, P.O. Box 9 Hughson, CA 95326 (209) 883-4054 www.hughson.org



Lea C. Simvoulakis

Community Development Director
LSimvoulakis@hughson.org

September 17, 2020

Ms. Teresa McDonald Associate Planner Planning and Community Development Stanislaus County Modesto, California 95354

RE: Use Permit Application No. PLN2019-0132 – La Favorita Radio Station

Dear Ms. McDonald,

The City of Hughson received and reviewed the subject Early Consultant Referral for the proposed Use Permit Application No. PLN 2019-0132 requesting to amend Development Plan P-D (28) to allow for the construction of a 1,250 square foot addition to an existing storage building, two 2,240 square foot carports with solar panels over an existing parking lot, installation of a 1,680 square foot manufactured home for caretakers quarters, and replacement of an existing monument sign with a digital reader board at the La Favorita Radio Station site, 4043 Geer Road. The City greatly appreciates the opportunity to comment on this project.

The City of Hughson does not object to the 1,250 square foot addition to the existing storage building, the two 2,240 square foot carports with solar panels, or the 1,680 square foot manufactured home. However, the City is not supportive of the proposed digital sign. Hughson Municipal Code section 17.03.080(J)(3) prohibits signs that flash or blink or otherwise have animated components. Stanislaus County Zoning Code Section 21.08.070 states that signs that are in a City's sphere of influence shall be permitted consistent with any applicable sign regulations of that city. At this time, the City does not allow the requested sign or the proposed off-premise advertising component. As such, this part of the application is opposed by the City of Hughson.

Originally, the City contemplated supporting the sign and then requiring its removal upon annexation into City limits. However, Section 17.03.080(K)(3)(b) of Hughson's Municipal Code states that any lawfully erected off-premise signs, including billboards, shall be required to be removed in accordance with the provisions of Section 5412 et. seq. of the Business and Professions Code. This Business Code section requires that the City appropriately compensate the property owner and any advertiser for the removal of the sign if it was lawfully

50 **EXHIBIT F**

erected, and allowing the sign now through this use permit makes the sign a lawfully erected sign. Asking for its removal upon annexation would require that the City compensate the owner or advertisers for its removal, and the City is not willing to do this. As such, the City will have to oppose the digital sign component of this use permit.

Thank you again for the opportunity to review and provide input on the early consultation referral.

Regards,

Lea C. Simvoulakis

Community Development Director

Lealfinoulakin

City of Hughson

EXHIBIT "E" - PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

For completion of the Planned Development, the following Performance Standards adopted as conditions in the approval of the project shall be complied with to the satisfaction of the County of Stanislaus:

- 1. Prior to the issuance of any building permit, a landscaping and irrigation plan shall be submitted to the Director of Planning and Community Development for approval. The landscaping and irrigation systems shall be installed and maintained in accordance with the approved landscaping and irrigation plan. Irrigation shall be by underground sprinkler system.
- 2. That all landscaping and fences be maintained and that the premises be kept free of weeds, brush, and other debris.
- 3. That a lien agreement, in form approved by the Department of Public Works and County Counsel, be filed with the County of Stanislaus to assure the future construction of concrete curb and gutter and matching pavement along the Geer Road frontage on demand.
- 4. Parking and driveway areas to be blacktopped and on-site and off-site drainage facilities to be constructed as approved by the Department of Public Works.
- 5. A sign program for any signs accessory to this development shall be submitted to the Director of Planning and Community Development for approval prior to the installation of any sign.
- 6. All new utilities to be underground located in easements as required by the utility companies.
- The outside storage of solid waste materials to be within solid enclosed areas or containers, six feet in height.
- 8. A map for the leasing or sale of individual parcels within the Planned Development project to be processed in the manner prescribed by the Subdivision Ordinance.
- 9. That an agreement to annex to the City of Hughson be signed, in a form approved by County Counsel, by the property owner prior to the issuance of any new building permits.
- 10. Drainage facilities to be installed as required by the Department of Public Works.

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- 11. That an agreement to connect all existing and future development to a public water system and public sewer systems upon availability be signed by the property owner. Said agreement shall be binding upon any heirs, assigns or purchasers of the property
- 12. Sewage disposal systems to be constructed in compliance with County Public Works Department regulations and approval by the County Health Department prior to the issuance of building permits.
- 13. Street and driveway construction to be in compliance with County Public Works Department regulations.
- 14. That all conditions of approval for existing Zoning Use Permits 74-12 and 76-87 remain in full effect, and not diminished by any conditions contained herein.

Failure of the applicant or owner to comply with any of the conditions set forth within the time limits prescribed in Exhibit "D" will constitute grounds for denial of the issuance of a building permit to develope or construct any improvements for the use of the subject property.

SUMMARY OF RESPONSES FOR ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW REFERRALS

PROJECT: USE PERMIT APPLICATION NO. PLN2019-0132 - LA FAVORITA

REFERRED TO:				RESPO	ONDED	RESPONSE MITIGA' MEASU				CONDITIONS		
	2 WK	30 DAY	PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE	YES	ON	WILL NOT HAVE SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	MAY HAVE SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	NO COMMENT NON CEQA	YES	ON	YES	ON
CA DEPT OF FISH & WILDLIFE	Х	X	Х		Х							
CA DEPT OF TRANSPORTATION DIST 10		Х	Х		Х							
CA STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD - DRINKING WATER DIVISION		х	х		х							
CA OPR STATE CLEARINGHOUSE		Х	Х	Х				Х		X		Х
CA RWQCB CENTRAL VALLEY REGION	Х	Х	Х	Х				Х		Х	Х	
CITY OF: HUGHSON	Х	Х	Х	Х				Х		Х	Х	
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION	Х	Х	Х		Х							
DISPOSAL DIST: TURLOCK SCAVENGER		Х	Х		Х							
FIRE PROTECTION DIST: HUGHSON	Х	Х	Х		Х							
GSA: WEST TURLOCK		Х	Х		Х							
IRRIGATION DISTRICT: TURLOCK	Х	Х	Х	Х				Х		Х	Х	
MOSQUITO DISTRICT: TURLOCK	Х	Х	Х		Х							
MT VALLEY EMERGENCY MEDICAL	Х				Х							
PACIFIC GAS & ELECTRIC	Х	Х	Х		Х							
RAILROAD: BNSF	Х	Х	Х		Х							
SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY APCD	Х	Х		Х				Х		Х	Х	
SCHOOL DISTRICT 1: HUGHSON	Х	Х	Х		Х							
STAN CO AG COMMISSIONER	Х	Х	Х		Х							
STAN CO BUILDING PERMITS DIVISION	Х	Х	Х		Х							
STAN CO CEO	Х	Х	Х		Х							
STAN CO DER	Х	Х	Х	Х				Х		Х	Х	
STAN CO ERC	Х			Х				Х		Х		Х
STAN CO FARM BUREAU	Х	Х	Х		Х							
STAN CO HAZARDOUS MATERIALS	Х	Х	Х	Х				Х		Х	Х	
STAN CO PARKS & RECREATION	Х	Х	Х		Х							
STAN CO PUBLIC WORKS	Х	Х	Х	Х				Х		Х	Х	
STAN CO SHERIFF	Х	Х	Х		Х							
STAN CO SUPERVISOR DIST 2: CHIESA	Х	Х	Х		Х							
STAN COUNTY COUNSEL	Х	Х	Х		Х							
StanCOG	Х	Х	Х		Х							
STANISLAUS FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU	Х	Х	Х		Х							
STANISLAUS LAFCO	Х	Х	Х		Х							
SURROUNDING LAND OWNERS		Х	Х		Х							
TELEPHONE COMPANY: ATT	Х	Х	Х		Х							
US FISH & WILDLIFE	Х	Х	Х		Х							

 $I:\Planning\Staff\ Reports\UP\2019\PLN2019-0132 - La\ Favorita\ Radio\ Station\Planning\ Commission\May\ 15, 2025\Staff\ Report\Exhibit\ H-Environmental\ Review\ Referrals.xls$

54 EXHIBIT H

COUNTY OF STANISLAUS CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION DISCLOSURE FORM PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

Application Number:	PLN2019-0132			
Application Title:	Use Permit Amendment			
9130-110-1110-1110-1110-1110-1110-1110-1	4043 Geer Road, Hughson, CA 95326	6		
Application APN:	045-007-038-000			
in making a determin Commission, Airport during the 12-month p any of the applicant's Yes No X	ribution, regardless of the dollar american regarding the above application Land Use Commission, or Build period preceding the filing of the approposed subcontractors or the application below.	ation (i.e. Stanislauing Code Appeals Eapplication, by the a	s County Board of Board), hereinafter pplicant, property of	f Supervisors, Planning referred to as Member,
If no, please sign and	date below.			
If yes, please provide	the following information:			
Applicant's Name: _				
Contributor or Contrib	butor Firm's Name:			
Contributor or Contrib	butor Firm's Address:			
Is the Contributor: The Applican The Property The Subcont The Applican	Y Owner Y Y tractor Y	es No es No es No		
by the Applicant and t	ia law as implemented by the Fair the Applicant's agent/lobbyist who ogether to determine the total camp	is representing the	Applicant in this ap	plication or solicitation
contributions during t	(s) to whom you, the property own the 12-month period preceding the dollar amount of the contribution	filing of the applica	tion, the name of the	he contributor, the dates
Name of Member:				
Name of Contributor	r:			
Date(s) of Contribut	ion(s):			
Amount(s):				
	itional sheet(s) to identify addit r agent/lobbyist made campaign co		whom you, the	property owner, your
any future contribution proposed subcontractor	pertify that the statements made here one made to Member(s) by the appropriation of the applicant's agent or lobb approval, renewal, or extension of	olicant, property own syist after the date of	ner, or, if applicable signing this disclos	e, any of the applicant's sure form, and within 12
May 1, 2025				
Date				
N/A		Nelson F. Go	mez - Trustee Gomez Family	2001 Trust
Print Firm Name if a	applicable	Print Nar	ne of Applicant	

Print Name of Applicant

COUNTY OF STANISLAUS CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION DISCLOSURE FORM PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

Application Number: PLN 2019 - 0132
Application Title: USE PERM IT
Application Address: 4043 GEER RD., HUBBSON, CA 953 Z 6
Application APN:
Was a campaign contribution, regardless of the dollar amount, made to any member of a decision-making body involved in making a determination regarding the above application (i.e. Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors, Planning Commission, Airport Land Use Commission, or Building Code Appeals Board), hereinafter referred to as Member, during the 12-month period preceding the filing of the application, by the applicant, property owner, or, if applicable, any of the applicant's proposed subcontractors or the applicant's agent or lobbyist? Yes No
If no, please sign and date below.
If yes, please provide the following information:
Applicant's Name:
Contributor or Contributor Firm's Name:
Contributor or Contributor Firm's Address:
Is the Contributor: The Applicant The Property Owner The Subcontractor The Applicant's Agent/ Lobbyist Yes No The No The Applicant's Agent/ Lobbyist
Note: Under California law as implemented by the Fair Political Practices Commission, campaign contributions made by the Applicant and the Applicant's agent/lobbyist who is representing the Applicant in this application or solicitation must be aggregated together to determine the total campaign contribution made by the Applicant.
Identify the Member(s) to whom you, the property owner, your subcontractors, and/or agent/lobbyist made campaign contributions during the 12-month period preceding the filing of the application, the name of the contributor, the dates of contribution(s) and dollar amount of the contribution. Each date must include the exact month, day, and year of the contribution.
Name of Member:
Name of Contributor:
Date(s) of Contribution(s):
Amount(s):
(Please add an additional sheet(s) to identify additional Member(s) to whom you, the property owner, your subconsultants, and/or agent/lobbyist made campaign contributions)
By signing below, I certify that the statements made herein are true and correct. I also agree to disclose to the County any future contributions made to Member(s) by the applicant, property owner, or, if applicable, any of the applicant's proposed subcontractors or the applicant's agent or lobbyist <u>after</u> the date of signing this disclosure form, and within 12 months following the approval, renewal, or extension of the requested license, permit, or entitlement to use.
5/2/25 Date
Date Derivated Derivated Derivated Derivated Derivated Derivated Derivated Print Firm Name if applicable Print Firm Name if applicant Geomes Family 2001 TRUST