

PUBLIC NOTICE

Merced County has prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) to evaluate the environmental effects of the proposed Hillcrest Dairy Expansion project (Conditional Use Permit No. CUP20-013). The main Hillcrest Dairy site is located west of North Hayden Road, south of South Bear Creek Drive and approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile north of the community of Planada in unincorporated Merced County. The main dairy site is located on approximately 200 acres of 17 parcels that total 2,290 acres. Additionally, approximately 1,611 acres (surrounding the main dairy site) are used to grow crops and the application of manure process water. Conditional Use Permit No. CUP20-013 proposes to expand the existing dairy to house 5,750 milk and dry cows and 4,000 support stock. This would represent an increase of 1,700 animals from existing numbers. The proposed project would also include the construction of one new 50,000 square foot freestall barn, a 13,678 square foot maternity barn, and three (44,000 square foot each) shade barns. These new structures would all be located within the existing dairy footprint. Environmental impacts from the proposed project include: impacts to Air Quality and Odors; Biological Resources; Cultural and Tribal Cultural Resources; Greenhouse Gas Emissions; Hydrology and Water Quality; Land Use Compatibility; and Cumulative Impacts. The Draft EIR is available on the Merced County, Community and Economic Development Department (CEDD) web page. Comments on the Draft EIR will be accepted until 5pm, August 29, 2022. Comments may be mailed to the: Community and Economic Development Department, 2222 M Street, Merced, CA 95340 or emailed to Diana.Lowrance@countyofmerced.com