



**COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**

**Mark J. Hendrickson**  
Director

2222 "M" Street  
Merced, CA 95340  
(209) 385-7654  
(209) 726-1710 Fax  
www.countyofmerced.com

**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY FOR A  
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT**

Conditional Use Permit No. CUP20-013 – Hillcrest Dairy Expansion  
SCH#2021090490

A Draft Environmental Impact Report (Draft EIR) has been completed that evaluates the potential environmental effects of the proposed project identified as the Conditional Use Permit No. CUP20-013 – Hillcrest Dairy Expansion. A public review period had previously been completed, from July 14, 2022 to August 29, 2022. An additional public review period has been established for the Draft EIR commencing on **September 2, 2022** and ending on **October 18, 2022**. All comments received during the initial circulation period will be included in the record; if you have previously commented on the Draft EIR, there is no need to comment again.

Conditional Use Permit 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. The main Hillcrest Dairy site is located west of North Hayden Road, south of South Bear Creek Drive and approximately ¾ of a mile north of the community of Planada in unincorporated Merced County.

The Draft EIR identifies the following potentially significant environmental effects associated with the project: air quality and odors, biological resources, cultural resources, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards (nuisance insects), hydrology and water quality, and land use. The DEIR concludes that the proposed project could result in significant unavoidable impacts. Mitigation Measures are included.

**All persons interested in obtaining copies of the Draft EIR and technical studies are invited to contact the County of Merced as follows:**

County of Merced  
Department of Community and Economic  
Development  
2222 M Street  
Merced, CA 95340  
(209) 385-7654

**OR ONLINE AT:**

<http://www.co.merced.ca.us/414/Environmental-Documents>

The draft EIR and technical studies are available Monday through Friday, except holidays between the hours of 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Comments to the EIR may be submitted to the following:

Attention: Brian Guerrero  
Phone # (209) 385-7654 ext. 4578  
E-Mail: [brian.guerrero@countyofmerced.com](mailto:brian.guerrero@countyofmerced.com)

  
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Brian Guerrero, Development Services  
Coordinator