

PUBLIC NOTICE

Merced County has prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) to evaluate the environmental effects of the proposed Vierra Dairy Expansion project (Conditional Use Permit No. CUP20-009). The Vierra Dairy site is located on the northwest corner of Williams Avenue and Washington Road in the Hilmar community in unincorporated Merced County. The main dairy site is located on five parcels that total 161.6 acres. Additionally, approximately 582 acres (surrounding the main dairy site) are used to grow crops and the application of manure process water. An additional 264 acres of surrounding farmland over nine parcels have recently been purchased to be used for wastewater and manure application with the proposed dairy expansion. Conditional Use Permit No. CUP20-009 proposes to increase the herd from 5,597 to 7,117 animals, for an increase of 1,520 animals from existing numbers. The proposed project would also include the construction of supporting buildings and structures, additional concrete and earthen manure drying areas, and a septic system. Some existing facilities would be removed to accommodate the construction of new facilities. 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 5:00 pm, August 14, 2023. Comments may be mailed to the: Community and Economic Development Department, 2222 M Street, Merced, CA 95340 or emailed to Tiffany.Ho@countyofmerced.com.