

# Notice of Determination

**To:** Office of Planning and Research  
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113  
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

County Clerk  
County of Merced  
2222 M Street  
Merced, CA 95340

**From:** Merced County  
2222 M Street  
Merced, CA 95340

**Contact:** Tiffany Ho, Deputy Director of Planning  
(209) 385-7654 ext. 4407  
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**SUBJECT: Filing of Notice of Determination in compliance with Section 21108 or 21152 of the Public Resources Code.**

**State Clearinghouse Number:** 2021100002

**Project Title:** Conditional Use Permit No. CUP20-009 (Vierra Dairy Expansion Project)

**Project Applicant:** Vierra Dairy Farms

**Project Location:** Generally located at the northwest corner of West Williams Avenue and North Washington Road in the Hilmar area, identified as Assessor's Parcel Numbers (APN's) 045-190-015, 045-190-017, 045-190-052, 045-190-063, 045-190-077, 045-040-037, 045-040-021, 045-252-001, 045-040-042, 045-040-043, 045-252-012, 045-252-013-, 045-252-014, and 045-253-005.

**Project Description:**

A request to expand an existing dairy operation by increasing the permitted herd size from 5,597 animals to 7,117 animals, or an increase of approximately 1,520 milk cows. The proposed expansion also includes the construction of supporting building and structures, including two (2) freestall barns, a 10,000-square foot hospital milking barn, a 15,160-square foot commodity barn addition, 195,200-square foot a heifer barn (covering existing corals), and a 18,000-square foot utility shop. a loafing barn, and a mechanical manure separator. The expansion also includes the addition of approximately 264 acres of farmland to be used as additional wastewater and manure application area.

This is to advise that the County of Merced as the Lead Agency has approved the above project described on February 28, 2024. An appeal was filed on March 5, 2024, and the County of Merced Board of Supervisors affirmed the Planning Commission's decision to approve the project on May 7, 2024 and has made the following determinations regarding the above-described project.

1. The project  will  will not have a significant effect on the environment.
2.  An Environmental Impact Report was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.  
 A Negative Declaration was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.
3. Mitigation measures  were  were not made a condition of the approval of the project.
4. A mitigation reporting or monitoring plan  was  was not adopted for this project
5. A Statement of Overriding Considerations  was  was not adopted for this project.
6. Findings  were  were not made pursuant to provisions of CEQA.

This is to certify that the final EIR with comments and responses and record of project approval, or the Negative Declaration, is available to the General Public at the County of Merced Community & Economic Development, 2222 "M" Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Merced, CA 95340, Monday through Friday, between 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM.

**Signature &  
Date:**

**Tiffany Ho**  
Digitally signed by Tiffany Ho  
DN: cn=Tiffany Ho, c=US, o=County of  
Merced, ou=Community & Economic  
Development,  
email=Tiffany.Ho@countyofmerced.com  
Date: 2024.05.07 15:09:55 -0700

**Title:** Deputy Director of Planning

**Date Received for  
Filing at OPR:**