



County of Fresno

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND PLANNING
STEVEN E. WHITE, DIRECTOR

EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

- APPLICANT: Jamie Bledsoe
- APPLICATION NOS.: Initial Study No. 8090, Variance Application No. 4109 and Director Review and Approval Application No. 4662.
- DESCRIPTION: Allow the creation a 37.64-acre, a 35.61-acre, a 4.62-acre and a 2.02-acre parcel from two existing parcels totaling 79.89-acres, and allow two existing single-family dwellings to remain on the 4.62-acre parcel, in the AE-20 (Exclusive Agricultural, 20-acre minimum parcel size) Zone District.
- LOCATION: The subject parcels are located on the southeast and southwest comers of the intersection of S. Bryan Avenue and W. Harlan Avenue, approximately one mile northeast of the unincorporated community of Lanare (APN 053-031-03S) (20141 S. Bryan Avenue) (SUP. DIST. 1).

I. AESTHETICS

Except as provided in Public Resources Code Section 21099, would the project:

- A. Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista; or
- B. Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway; or
- 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 points.) If the project is in an urbanized area, would the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality; or
- D. Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

These applications only propose the subdivision of land, and the authorization of existing residential dwellings on one of the proposed subdivided parcels. As no new development or additional outdoor lighting is proposed with this application, there will be no impacts to the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings. The larger parcels will remain available for agricultural production. No scenic vistas or other scenic resources were identified, and the property is not located within a state scenic highway. There are no new sources of outdoor lighting proposed with this application.

II. AGRICULTURAL AND FORESTRY 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 in Forest Protocols adopted by the California Air Resources Board. Would the project:

- A. Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance, as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use; or
- B. Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act Contract?

FINDING: LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT:

The subject parcel is currently subject to a Williamson Act contract. According to the 2016 Fresno County Important Farmland Map, Rural Land Mapping Edition, the subject property predominately contains Prime Farmland with a small portion of the property being classified as Farmland of Statewide Importance. The proposed 2.02-acre and 4.62-acre parcel do not meet the minimum acreage qualification to remain in the Williamson Act Program and therefore must be removed from the Contract through partial cancellation. The Applicant was required to file a petition for Partial Cancellation of Williamson Act Contract No. 6899 before any action will be taken on the Variance request to create the proposed parcels. However, the two larger proposed parcels would remain eligible to remain under contract. Therefore, impacts to Farmland would be less than significant.

- C. Conflict with existing zoning for forest land, timberland or timberland zoned Timberland Production; or
- D. Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

The subject parcel is not located in an area zoned for forest land or Timberland Production.

- 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 forestland to non-forest use?

FINDING: LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT:

The Variance if approved, will result in the conversion of approximately 6.64-acres, a 2.02-acre and a 4.62-acre parcel, of Farmland to residential use not associated with the agricultural operation. The proposed 4.62-acre parcel already contains two residences, so there is no more potential for additional residential development, and is not precluded from having an agricultural operation. The proposed 2.02-acre parcel contains one residence, with the potential for one additional with discretionary approval, and is also not precluded from having an agricultural use. However, the remaining 37.64-acre and 35.61-acre parcels, comprising approximately 92 percent of the existing 79.89-acres, would remain farmable at a similar scale to what has previously occurred. Therefore, the potential conversion of 6.64 acres from the existing 79.89-acre parcel to non agricultural uses would be a less than significant impact to Farmland.

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:

- A. Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable Air Quality Plan; or
- 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; or
- C. Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations; or
- D. Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

No development is proposed, and no development will be authorized with this application. If the Variance application and concurrent Director Review and Approval (DRA) application are approved, a mapping application will be required to create the proposed parcels. The DRA will authorize two existing single-family dwellings to remain on one of the proposed parcels. Because no development is proposed, the approval of this application is will not result in any conflict with, obstruction of or implementation of

an applicable air quality plan; nor result in the generation of any additional criterial pollutants or emissions, other than those which may be associated with the existing farming operation.

IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Would the project:

- 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 Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; or
- 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 Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; or
- C. Have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means; or
- D. Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites; or
- E. Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance; or
- F. Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state Habitat Conservation Plan?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

The proposed parcel creation does not propose any development and will not conflict with any adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation or other approved local, regional or state Habitat Conservation Plan.

V. CULTURAL RESOURCES

Would the project:

- A. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to Section 15064.5; or
- B. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to Section 15064.5; or
- C. Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

Under the provisions of AB52, the Tribes who had previously requested notification were notified of this application. None of the Tribes responded to the notification or requested consultation on this project. Other than ongoing agricultural operations on the subject parcel, no development or ground disturbance is proposed with this application. If approved, a subsequent mapping procedure will be required to create the proposed parcels, the two smaller parcels will be independent of the existing farming operation. No historical or archaeological resources were identified, and as no ground disturbance will occur; previously unknown subsurface archaeological, historical or cultural resources are unlikely to be impacted as a result of the approval of this application.

VI. ENERGY

Would the project:

- A. Result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources during project construction or operation; or
- B. Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

The approval of this application will authorize a mapping procedure to create the proposed parcels. The remaining acreage currently will remain engaged in the agricultural operation. No increase in the baseline consumption of energy associated with the agricultural operation or residential use is anticipated to result from the proposed parcel creation.

VII. GEOLOGY AND SOILS

Would the project:

- A. Directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:
 - 1. 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; or
 - 2. Strong seismic ground shaking; or
 - 3. Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction; or
 - 4. Landslides; or
- B. Result in substantial soil erosion or loss of topsoil; or

- 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; or
- 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?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

The subject property is not located in an area subject to lateral spreading, subsidence, or liquefaction, as described in Chapters five (5-28) Seven (7-5) and Nine (9-9) or Figure 9-6 of the Fresno County General Plan Background Report (FCGPBR), nor is it located in an area of expansive soils as identified by Figure 7-1 of the FCGPBR. The project will not result adverse impacts associated with the rupture of a known fault, strong seismic ground shaking, ground failure or liquefaction, as there is no construction or ground disturbance proposed with this application.

- E. Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

If the Variance is approved, two existing septic systems would be contained within the proposed 4.62-acre parcel. The two existing septic systems located on the proposed 4.62-acre parcel are consistent with the requirements of the Fresno County Local Area Management Program (LAMP), which limits septic density to one onsite wastewater treatment system per two acres. Additionally, all of the proposed parcels will be required to meet applicable County standards pertaining to Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems (OWTS), including design capacity and property setbacks.

- F. Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

No ground disturbance or other physical changes to the land are proposed with this application, and no paleontological or unique geologic resources were identified.

VIII. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

Would the project:

- A. Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment; or
- B. Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

No development is associated with this application that would generate greenhouse gases or conflict with an applicable greenhouse gas emissions reduction plan.

IX. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

Would the project:

- A. Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials; or
- 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; or
- C. Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school; or
- 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; or
- 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, result in a safety hazard or excessive noise for people residing or working in the project area; or
- F. Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan; or
- G. Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

The subject parcel is currently used for residential purposes and for the cultivation of pistachios. No additional use of hazardous materials or generation of hazardous emissions is proposed with this application. The subject property is not located on a hazardous materials site, as identified by the US EPA NEPAssist mapping tool, nor within the boundaries of an airport land use plan or in an area of increased risk to persons or structures due to wildland fires.

X. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

Would the project:

- A. Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or groundwater quality?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

Although the subject parcel is currently engaged in agricultural production, the project entails a request to allow a minor land division and subsequent mapping procedure and will not involve any waste discharge or any activity which may degrade surface or groundwater.

- B. Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

The project does not entail any increase in the current water use. No concerns related to water supply were expressed by any reviewing agencies or County departments. The proposed 4.62-acre parcel will contain two single-family dwellings which will be served by an existing domestic well, and the proposed 2.02-acre parcel will contain one single-family dwelling which will be served by an existing domestic well. Currently there are three wells on the property, one agricultural well located on the west side of S. Bryan Avenue, in the southeast corner of the proposed 37.64-acre parcel; and two domestic wells, one located on each of the proposed residential parcels. The proposed 35.61-acre parcel, located on the east side of S. Bryan Avenue, does not have a well. The Water and Natural Resources Division of the Fresno County Department of Public Works and Planning determined in their review that there would not be a net increase in water use resulting from approval of this application, as the residential and agricultural infrastructure is existing.

- 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:
 - 1. Result in substantial erosion or siltation on or off site; or
 - 2. Substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on or off site; or
 - 3. Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned storm water drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff; or
 - 4. Impede or redirect flood flows?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

The project site is not located within the erosion hazard area for western Fresno County identified by Figure 7-4 Erosion Hazards in Western Fresno County, of the Fresno County General Plan Background Report (FCGPBR). Additionally, no grading or

development is proposed with this project; therefore, it will not increase surface runoff or contribute polluted runoff.

- D. In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

The subject property is not located in an area at risk from the 100-year flood inundation as identified by Figure 9-7, 100 Year Flood Inundation Areas, or flood inundation from dam failure as identified by Figure 9-8, Dam Failure Flood Inundation Areas, of the Fresno County General Plan Background Report (FCGPBR), or at risk from tsunami or seiche; according to FEMA, FIRM Panel 2857J the property is located in Zone X, which is an area of minimal flood hazard.

- E. Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

No additional water use is anticipated with this application. If approved, a mapping procedure will be required to create four parcels, two of which will be independent of the remaining agricultural operation. No development or other ground disturbance is proposed which would result in erosion or siltation, or additional impervious surfaces that may increase surface runoff or alter the existing drainage plan.

XI. LAND USE AND PLANNING

Would the project:

- A. Physically divide an established community?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

No development is proposed with this application, and creation of the proposed parcels will not physically divide an established community.

- 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?

FINDING: LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT:

The proposed creation of substandard parcels is not consistent with the Land Use Policies of the General Plan nor the property development standards of the Exclusive Agricultural Zone District, except that such parcel creation absent any applicable exceptions, may be allowed subject to discretionary review and approval through a Variance. This request to allow the creation of two substandard sized parcels does not

meet the established criteria to allow any exemptions to the AE-20 Zone District standards or General Plan Policy; however, no significant environmental impacts are anticipated to result. The proposed division would be in conflict with the residential density provisions of the Exclusive Agricultural Zone District, Fresno County Zoning Ordinance, which allows for one single-family residential dwelling per parcel meeting the minimum acreage designation, e.g., one dwelling unit per 20 acres in the AE-20.

APN 053-031-03S is comprised of two individual parcels, each containing approximately 40 acres (79.89 acres total); thus, the property in its current configuration could potentially have up to a total of three dwelling units between the two parcels. If the proposed division is allowed the resultant 37.64 acre and 35.61-acre parcels which would be vacant, would each be allowed to have one single-family dwelling by right, and potentially one additional with discretionary approval.

XII. MINERAL RESOURCES

Would the project:

- 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; or
- 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?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

No development or ground disturbance is proposed with this application; therefore, no impacts to mineral resources will occur. The subject property is not located in an area of known mineral resources as identified by Figures 7-7 (Mineral Resource Locations, 7-8 (Principal Mineral Producing Locations [1997-1998], or 7-9 (Generalized Mineral Resource Zone Classifications), of the Fresno County General Plan Background Report.

XIII. NOISE

Would the project result in:

- 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; or
- B. Generation of excessive ground-borne vibration or ground-borne noise levels; or
- 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?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

No new noise impacts will occur as a result of this proposal, as no development is proposed. No increase in the baseline noise levels from the existing agricultural operation is anticipated.

XIV. POPULATION AND HOUSING

Would the project:

- 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); or
- B. Displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

The approval of this application will not result in the construction of any new housing nor the displacement of any existing housing or people.

XV. PUBLIC SERVICES

Would the project:

- A. Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically-altered governmental facilities, or the 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 following public services:
 - 1. Fire protection; or
 - 2. Police protection; or
 - 3. Schools; or
 - 4. Parks; or
 - 5. Other public facilities?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

The proposed parcel creation will not require the provision of any new or physically altered government facilities.

XVI. RECREATION

Would the project:

- A. 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; or
- B. Include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities, which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

The project will not result in an increase in use of existing neighborhood or regional parks or other recreational facilities.

XVII. TRANSPORTATION

Would the project:

- A. Conflict with a program, plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities; or
- B. Be in conflict or be inconsistent with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Section 15064.3, subdivision (b); or
- C. Substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment); or
- D. Result in inadequate emergency access?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

No development or improvements to any existing transportation infrastructure is proposed with this application; therefore, no impacts to the circulation system, no increased hazards resulting from development, or changes in the adequacy of existing emergency access will occur.

XVIII. TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES

Would the project:

- 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:

1. 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
2. A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources 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.)

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

Under the provisions of AB52, the Tribes who had previously requested notification were notified of this application. None of the Tribes responded to the notification or requested consultation on this project. No development or any ground disturbance is proposed with this application; therefore, no impacts to tribal cultural resources as defined in PRC Section 21704 will occur.

XIX. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS

Would the project:

- A. Require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects; or
- B. Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

No changes to the existing utilities and services are anticipated. The existing 79.89-acre parcel contains two domestic wells and one agricultural well. The project was reviewed by the Water and Natural Resources Division which determined after conducting a water supply evaluation, that water supply was adequate to serve the residential and agricultural uses of the property. Additionally, it was determined that the subject property is not located in an area of the County designated as being water short.

- C. Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

No increased wastewater capacity is proposed, each of the residences on the resultant 2.02-acre and 4.62-acre parcel will be served by individual septic system.

- D. Generate solid waste in excess of State or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals; or
- E. Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

The proposal to divide the 79.89-acre parcel will not result in increased generation of solid waste and no conflicts with local management, reduction statutes or regulations pertaining to solid waste are anticipated.

XX. WILDFIRE

If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the project:

- A. Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan, or telecommunications facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects; or
- 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; or
- C. Require the installation or 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; or
- 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?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

The subject property is not in an area prone to the occurrence of wildfire.

XXI. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

Would the project:

- A. 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?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

The subject parcel is located in an area of agricultural production, sparse residential development, and is itself involved in ongoing agricultural operations. No development or physical changes to the environment are proposed with this application; therefore, no impacts to the quality of the environment or reduction in habitat for fish and wildlife species are anticipated.

- B. 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)?

FINDING: LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT:

As discussed under Section II and Section XI above, the proposed parcel creation will result in the conversion of a small portion of the subject parcel to strictly residential use, which residential use is currently appurtenant to the farming operation. If this Variance request is approved, two residential portion of the land which contains the residence will become independent of the remaining portion of the land which is proposed for pistachio production. Additionally, the request to create a parcel containing less than the minimum acreage required by the underlying Zone District is inconsistent with both the Fresno County General Plan and Zoning Ordinance. However, due to the relatively small amount of acreage that will be converted and considering that the balance of the property, two-parcels containing approximately 36.12-acres and 33.50-acres, will remain in agricultural production, resulting in less than significant impacts to farmland.

- C. Have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings either directly or indirectly?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

The approval of this application will not result in a change in land use of the subject property, or the proposed homesite parcel to be created. Both the residential use and the farming operation are existing. Therefore, the project will not result in environmental effects that would cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, directly or indirectly.

CONCLUSION/SUMMARY

Based upon the Initial Study prepared for this project, staff has concluded that the project will not have a significant effect on the environment. It has been determined that there would be no impacts to Aesthetics, Air Quality, Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Energy, Geology and Soils Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, Hydrology and Water Quality, Mineral Resources, Noise, Population and Housing, Public Services,

Recreation, Transportation, Tribal Cultural Resources Utilities and Service Systems, and Wildfire.

Potential impacts related to Agricultural and Forestry Resources, and Land Use and Planning have been determined to be less than significant.

A Negative Declaration is recommended and is subject to approval by the decision-making body. The Initial Study is available for review at 2220 Tulare Street, Suite A, street level, located on the southwest corner of Tulare and "M" Street, Fresno, California.

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