

STANISLAUS COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES
3800 Cornucopia Way, Suite C
Modesto, California 95358

NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

The Stanislaus County Department of Environmental Resources ("County") is the Lead Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for the proposed project identified below. The County has prepared an Initial Study (IS) to determine the environmental effects of the proposed project and finds issuance of a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) is appropriate. The County is making the IS/MND available for public review and comment for a period of 30 days, from and including January 14, 2022 to February 14, 2022. The document will be made available for viewing on the County Groundwater Resources webpage: <http://www.stancounty.com/er/groundwater/>

The County is seeking comments in your agencies area of expertise. All comments must be submitted in written form. Please indicate a contact person for your agency or organization when submitting comments.

Project Title: Hunter Ranch – Installation and Operation of up to Five Agricultural Wells and One Support Well [Permit Application Nos. 2021-69, 2021-70, 2021-71, 2021-72 and Two Future Permits]

Project Location: The Project is located on Assessor's Parcel No. 001-010-002, located in northern Stanislaus County where Highway 4 intersects Milton Rd. The Project is located approximately 20 miles northeast of the City of Modesto and approximately 3 miles north of the unincorporated community of Eugene.

Description of Project: The Project includes converting and operating two existing 400- and 500-foot-deep test wells as agricultural supply wells, converting and operating one 500-foot-deep test well as a supply well for incidental water needs (e.g., crop spraying, equipment washing), and installing and operating up to three new agricultural supply wells (approximately 400 – 500 feet deep) to support almond orchard activities. Each well will be completed with a small concrete pad at the surface and an electrical line-shaft turbine pump. Electrical service will be extended to each well location. The proposed Project will be implemented in phases. Phase I of the Project will consist of converting and operating the test well for the incidental water needs (<2 acre-feet per year [AFY]) and converting and operating the two existing test wells to supply the water demand of approximately 175 acres of orchard for a period up to approximately 20 years. Phase II will be implemented after a period of Phase I groundwater drawdown monitoring and evaluation to confirm allowable groundwater extraction rates and upon County approval. Phase II will consist of installing and operating up to three additional irrigation wells to supply the water demand for up to an additional 175 acres of orchard for a period up to approximately 20 years. The estimated pumping rates for the Phase II wells will be between 500 and 1,000 AFY. Estimated groundwater extraction will be approximately 683 AFY for Phase I and 1,366 AFY for Phase II. The estimated pumping rate for each well is between 500 and 1,000 gallons per minute.

Signature: Walter Ward
Walter Ward
Stanislaus County Water Resources Manager

Address to Submit Comments and Review the Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration:

Walter Ward, Water Resources Manager
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Stanislaus County, Department of Environmental Resources
3800 Cornucopia Way, Suite C, Modesto, California 95358

Review Period:
January 14, 2022 to February 14, 2022

Do not remove from posting until:
Day After End of Review Period.