

Notice of Exemption

To: Office of Planning and Research
1400 Tenth Street, Room 121
Sacramento, CA 95814

Tulare County Clerk
Room 105, Courthouse
221 South Mooney Boulevard
Visalia, California 93291

FILED TULARE COUNTY JAN 19 2022 ASSESSOR/CLERK RECORDER BY:
<i>Date Filed with Tulare County Clerk</i>

Lead Agency: Tulare County - Resource Management Agency
5961 South Mooney Blvd.
Visalia, CA 93277
Phone: 559-624-7000
Attn: hguerra@tularecounty.ca.gov and jwillis@tularecountv.ca.gov

Applicant(s): John V. Lorenzo
2502 West Prosperity Avenue
Tulare, CA 93274
(559) 358-0060

Project Title: Minor Modification No. MIM 21-050 and Research Request No. REA 21-079
Project Location - Specific: The project sited is located at the northwest corner of Road 80 and Avenue 120, southwest of the City of Tipton, CA (APN: 293-050-004).
Project Location - Section, Township, Range: Section 17, Township 22 South, Range 24 East, Mount Diablo Base & Meridian
Project Location - City: N/A **Project Location - County:** Tulare

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project: Minor Modification No. MIM 21-050 proposes the permanent closure of the Mercedes Heifer Ranch (PSP 81-106) which will result in the herd consolidation of 900 animal units that are to be transferred from the Mercedes Heifer Ranch to the Blue Moon Dairy (ID# 258, PSP 87-058), which is located at 13213 Road 80, Tipton, CA. Innovative Ag Services, LLC has provided documentation as the agent of the property owner and will be assisting in the animal unit transfer and the associated Minor Modification No. MIM 21-047 and Research Request No. REA 21-075 at the Blue Moon Dairy. As part of this process, the existing site plan for the Mercedes Heifer Ranch will need an approved Minor Modification to reduce the herd size. The Blue Moon Dairy will be limited in operation within compliance requirements of the Tulare County Animal Confinement Facilities Plan, the Regional Water Quality Control Board's Waste Discharge Requirement General Order for Existing Milk Cow Dairies, and the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District Permits to Operate.


Exempt Status: (check one)


- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
- Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
- Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- Common Sense: CEQA guidelines (14 Cal. Code Regs. Section 15061 (b)(3)) (No Possibility of Significant Impact);
- Categorical Exemption: Title 14, Cal. Code Regulations Guideline § 15301, Class 1 pertaining to Existing Facilities;
- Categorical Exemption: Title 14, Cal. Code Regulations Guideline § 15303, Class 3 pertaining to New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures;
- Statutory Exemptions:

Reasons Why Project is exempt from CEQA: The project site is an existing heifer ranch of an allowable use in the AE-40 (Exclusive Agricultural- 40 Acre Minimum) Zone. Section 15301 is appropriate and applicable since the project will reduce the herd size for the Mercedes Heifer Ranch.

Name of Public Agency Approving Activity/Project: County of Tulare Resource Management Agency

Activity/Project Representative Sandy Roper Area Code/Telephone: (559) 624-7101

Signature:  Date: 01/18/22 Title: Chief Environmental Planner

Signature:  Date: 1/18/21 Title: Environmental Assessment Officer

- Signed by Lead Agency Date received for filing at OPR: _____
- Signed by Applicant Date Sent to the Tulare County Clerk: _____