

**REVISED NOTICE OF PREPARATION**  
**State Clearinghouse Number: 2022050451**

**To:** Interested Persons

**From:** County of Merced  
Department of Community and Economic Development  
2222 'M' Street, Merced, CA 95340

**Contact:** Cameron Christie, Planner I  
(209) 385-7654, ext. 4587

**Subject:** Revised Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Borba Dairy Farms Expansion project (Conditional Use Permit No. CUP20-014), in compliance with Title 14 (CEQA Guidelines), Sections 15082(a), 15103, and 15375

Merced County is the Lead Agency pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for the proposed Borba Dairy Farms Expansion project. On May 20, 2022, the Merced County Department of Community and Economic Development released a Notice of Preparation (NOP) of a Draft Environmental Impact Report for the proposed Borba Dairy Farms Expansion project. A typographical error was identified in the summary of the project description of the NOP, mis-stating the proposed number of cows (second page of the NOP) that would be housed at the dairy if the proposed project were approved by Merced County. No additional area of the NOP or Initial Study mis-stated the proposed number of cows. The corrected sentence is as follows:

- Conditional Use Permit CUP20-014 proposes to modify and expand the existing dairy to house 4,000 milk cows, 500 dry cows, and 2,100 support stock, for a total of 6,600. Considering the existing animals as the dairy facility, the proposed expansion would represent an increase of 2,150 animals from the existing herd of 4,450 animals.

This notice is being sent out to disclose that the project correction as described above will be included within the scope of the EIR being prepared in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act. The corrected summary is included as part of this Revised NOP.

There would be no change to the findings of the Initial Study included with the May 20, 2022 NOP; therefore, no modified Initial Study is attached. All potential impacts as identified in the previous NOP would be evaluated in the Draft Environmental Impact Report for the revised project. No new or more severe potential impacts would occur that have not previously been identified in the original NOP.

If you have previously commented on the Notice of Preparation, you do not need to comment again unless you believe that the project changes would result in new or different impacts or concerns. If you have any comments regarding the potential impacts of the proposed project refinements, please address them to Cameron Christie at the address shown above or electronically by emailing the comment to [Cameron.Christie@countyofmerced.com](mailto:Cameron.Christie@countyofmerced.com). If responding by email, please include the phrase "Revised Borba Dairy Farms NOP" in the subject line. If an agency or organization, please provide the name of a contact person to receive future correspondence regarding this project.

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The description, location, and the probable environmental effects of the proposed dairy expansion project are summarized in the attached materials. A copy of the Initial Study and all project related documents can be obtained at the Community and Economic Development Department, 2222 'M' Street, Merced, CA 95340. This information is also available for download from the Merced County Planning Department website and the California State Clearinghouse website at:

<http://www.co.merced.ca.us/index.aspx?nid=414>

<https://ceqanet.opr.ca.gov/2022050451>


Due to the time limits mandated by state law, your response must be sent at the earliest possible date, but **not later than 30 days** after receipt of this notice.

**Project Title:** Borba Dairy Farms Expansion

**Project Location:** Hilmar Merced  
*nearest city* *County*

**Project Applicant:** Borba Dairy Farms  
5297 Kelley Road  
Hilmar, CA 95324

**Date:** 07/27/2022

**Signature:**   
Cameron Christie, Planner I

cc: State Clearinghouse

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## **PROJECT DESCRIPTION / LOCATION**

The Borba Dairy Farms is located on 46± acres of an existing farm totaling approximately 742 acres in unincorporated Merced County. The dairy project site is located on the west side of Kelley Road and south of Turner Road in the Hilmar area of the County. The project cropland application area consists of 525± acres located on portions of four parcels.

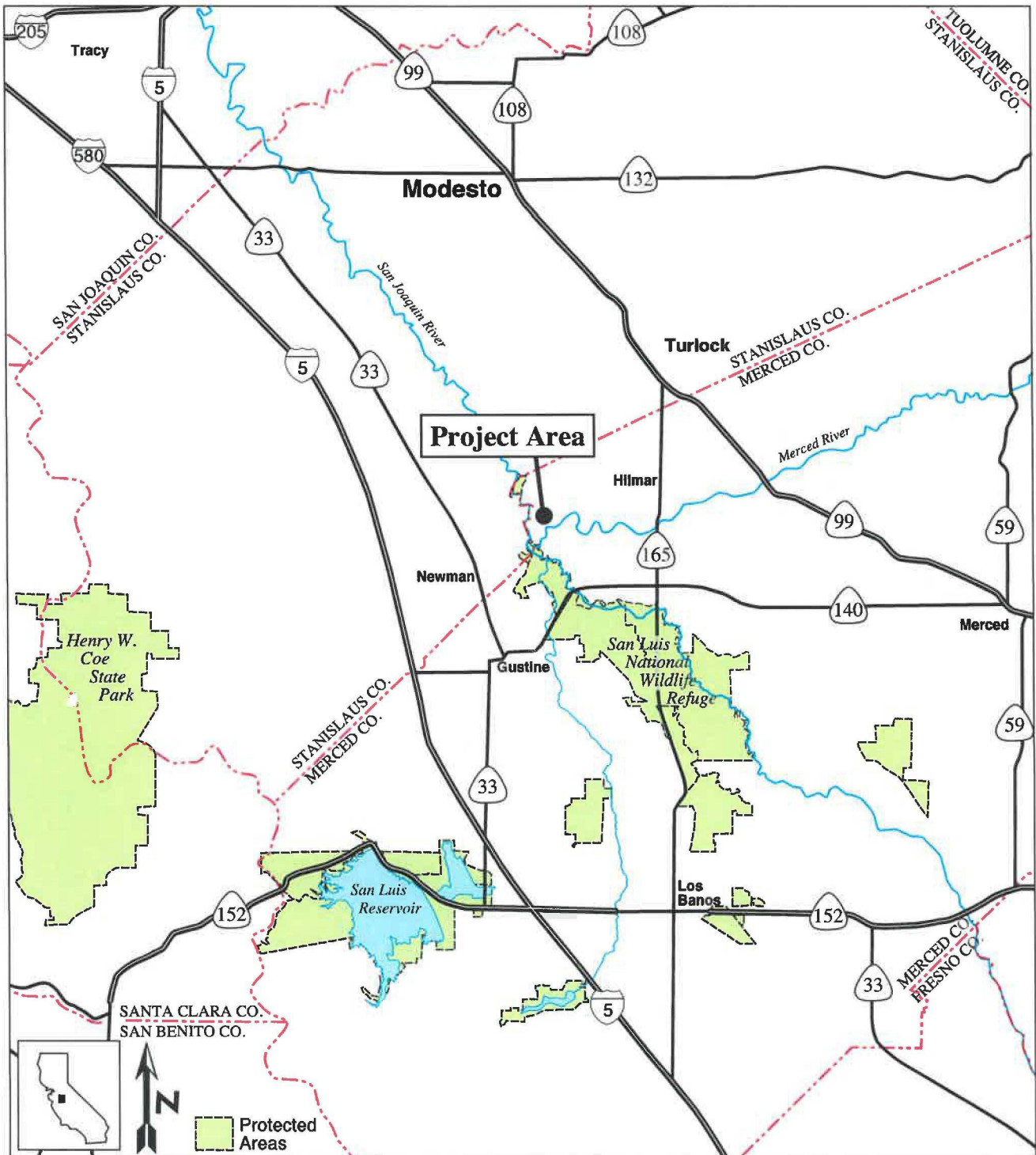
Conditional Use Permit CUP20-014 proposes to modify and expand the existing dairy to house 4,000 milk cows, 500 dry cows, and 2,100 support stock, for a total of 6,600. Considering the existing animals as the dairy facility, the proposed expansion would represent an increase of 2,150 animals from the existing herd of 4,450 animals. The proposed project would include construction of supporting buildings and features at the dairy facility, including four new freestall barns, a new milking parlor and replacement dairy well, two new wastewater storage ponds, and an agricultural storage barn. With construction of the proposed facilities, an existing shade barn, shop, hospital milking parlor, and freestall barn would be removed. Cropped acreage associated with the expanded dairy operations would include approximately 887 acres, including the addition of 404 acres within fields 32 through 38. Construction of the proposed facilities would result in the conversion of approximately 24.2 acres of cropland. Crops grown on site would continue to be used for dairy feed crops and supplement imported grain and hay.

## **POTENTIAL AREAS OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT**

An initial evaluation of the proposed Borba Dairy Farms Expansion project indicates that the project has the potential to result in significant adverse effects on the environment for the following issue areas:

- Air Quality and Odors
- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources and Tribal Cultural Resources
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Energy Efficiency
- Hydrology and Water Quality
- Land Use Compatibility
- Nuisance Insects

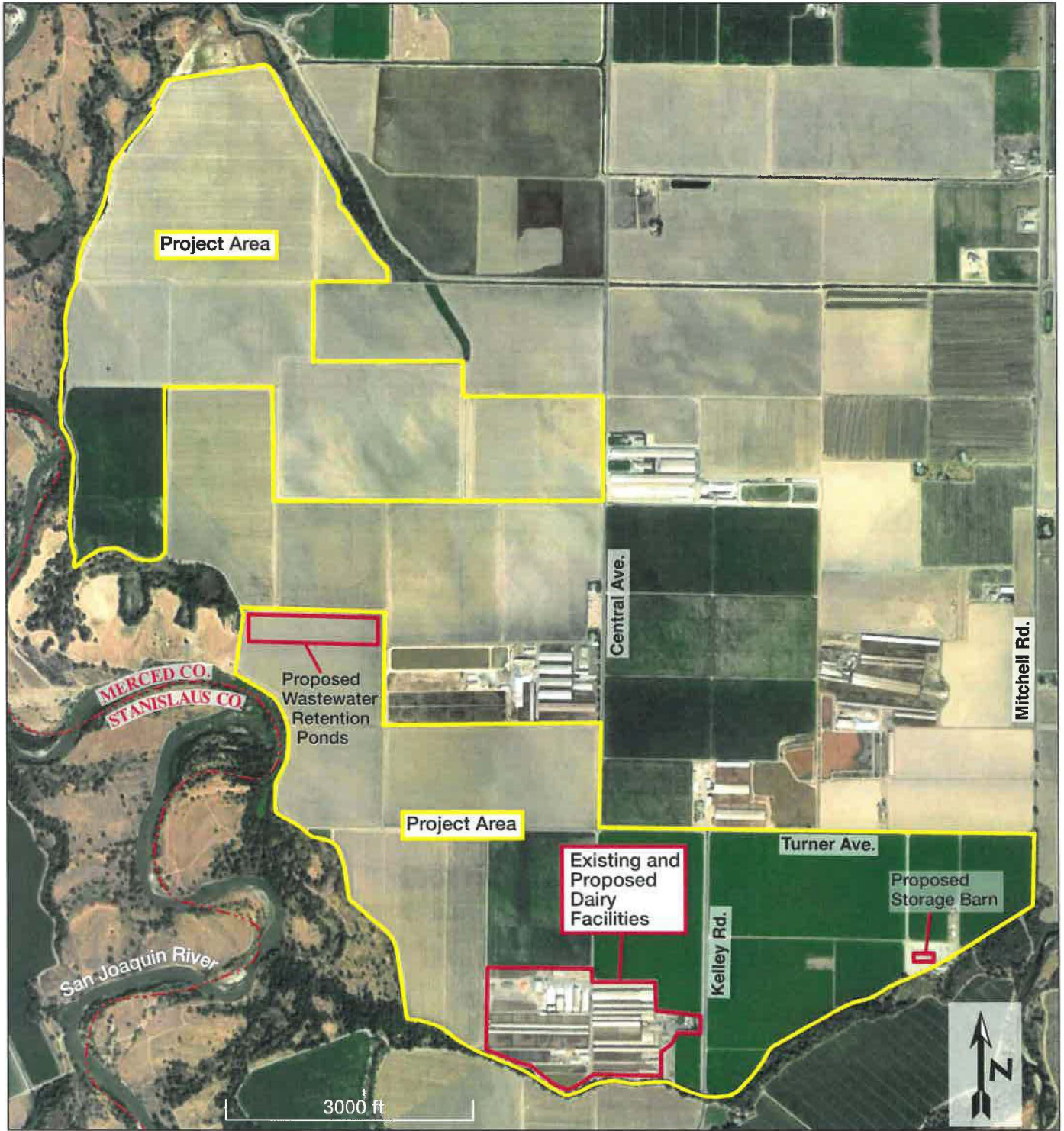
The Environmental Impact Report will evaluate the impacts associated with these issue areas. In addition to the above, the Borba Dairy Farms Expansion project EIR will also include an analysis of project alternatives and cumulative effects.



SOURCE: Planning Partners, 2021

Borba Dairy Farms Expansion Project CUP20-014

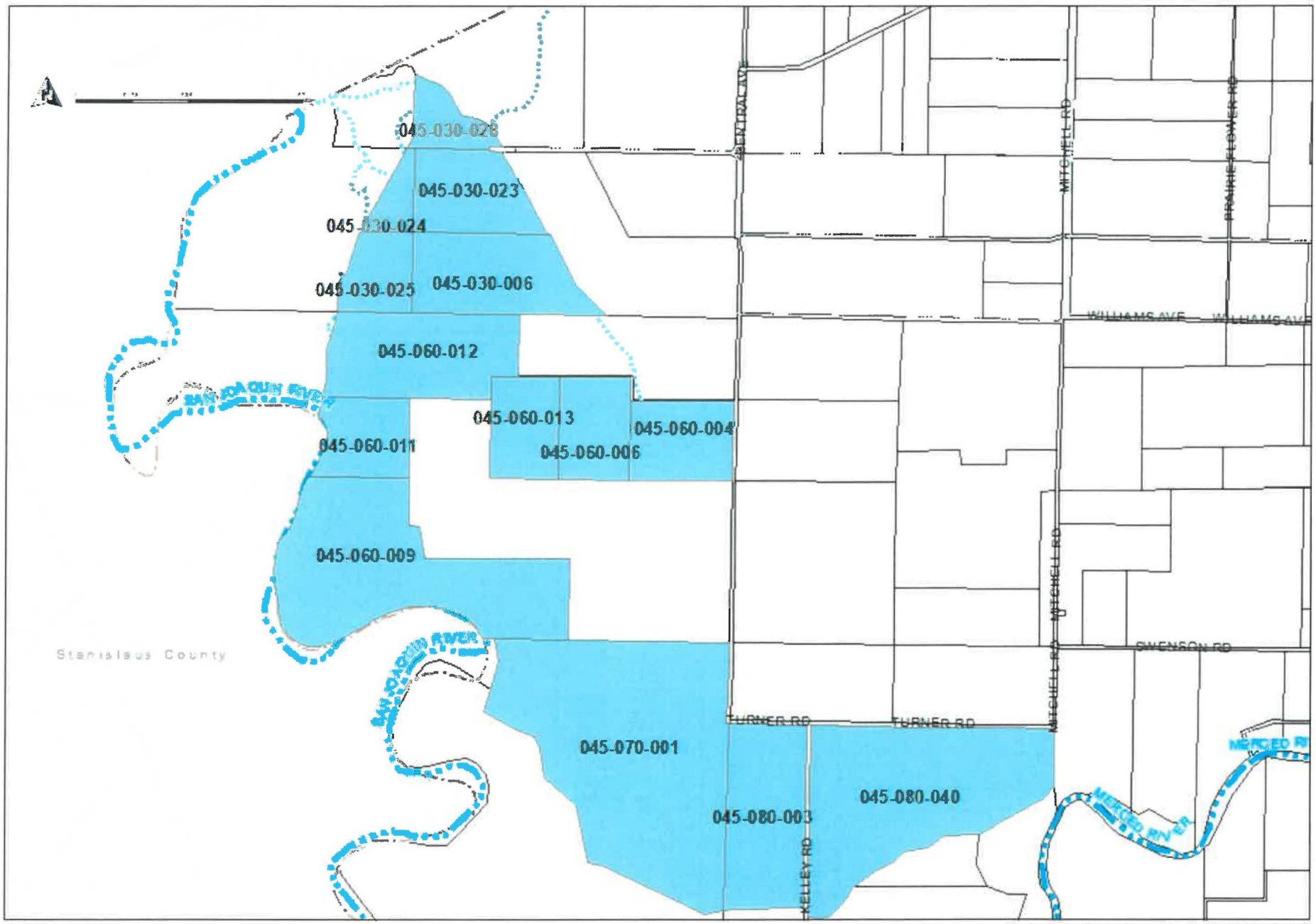
**Figure 1**  
Regional Location



SOURCE: Planning Partners, 2021

Borba Dairy Farms Expansion Project CUP20-014

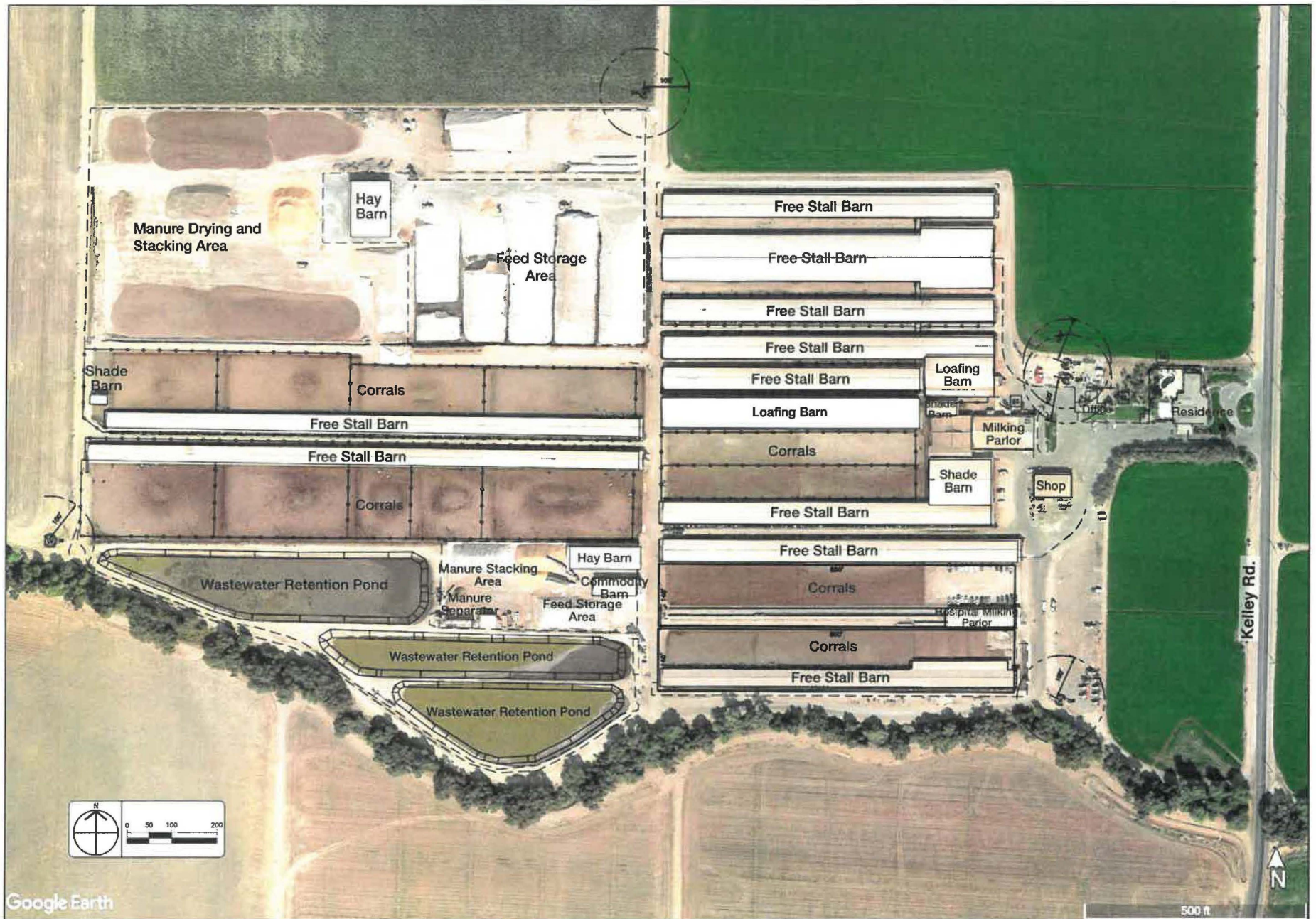
**Figure 2**  
Project Vicinity



SOURCE: Merced County GIS 2021

Borba Dairy Farms Expansion Project CUP20-014

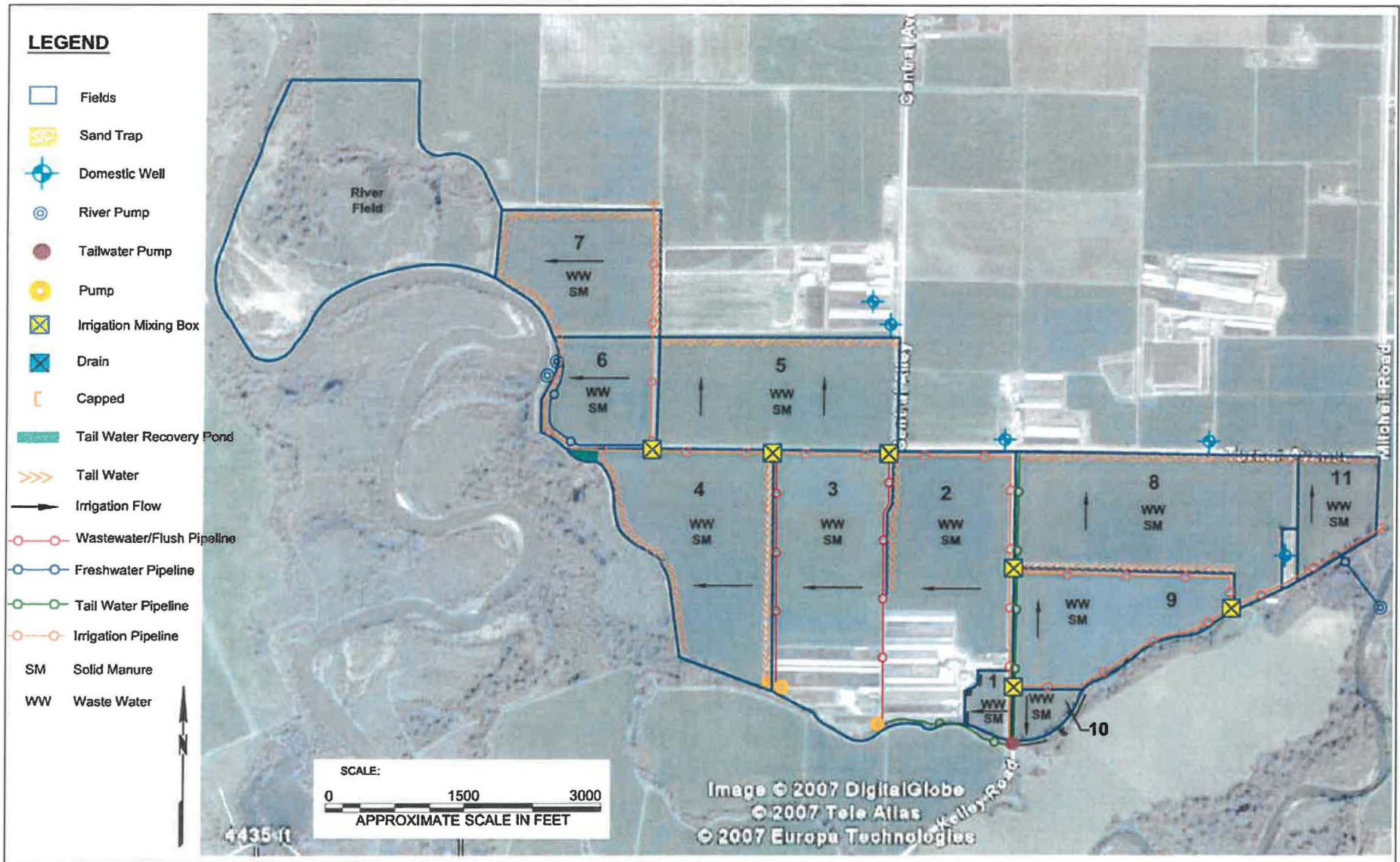
**Figure 3**  
Project Site Merced County Assessor Parcel Numbers



SOURCE: Sousa Engineering, 2020; Planning Partners, 2021

Borba Dairy Farms Expansion Project CUP20-014

**Figure 4**  
Existing Facilities

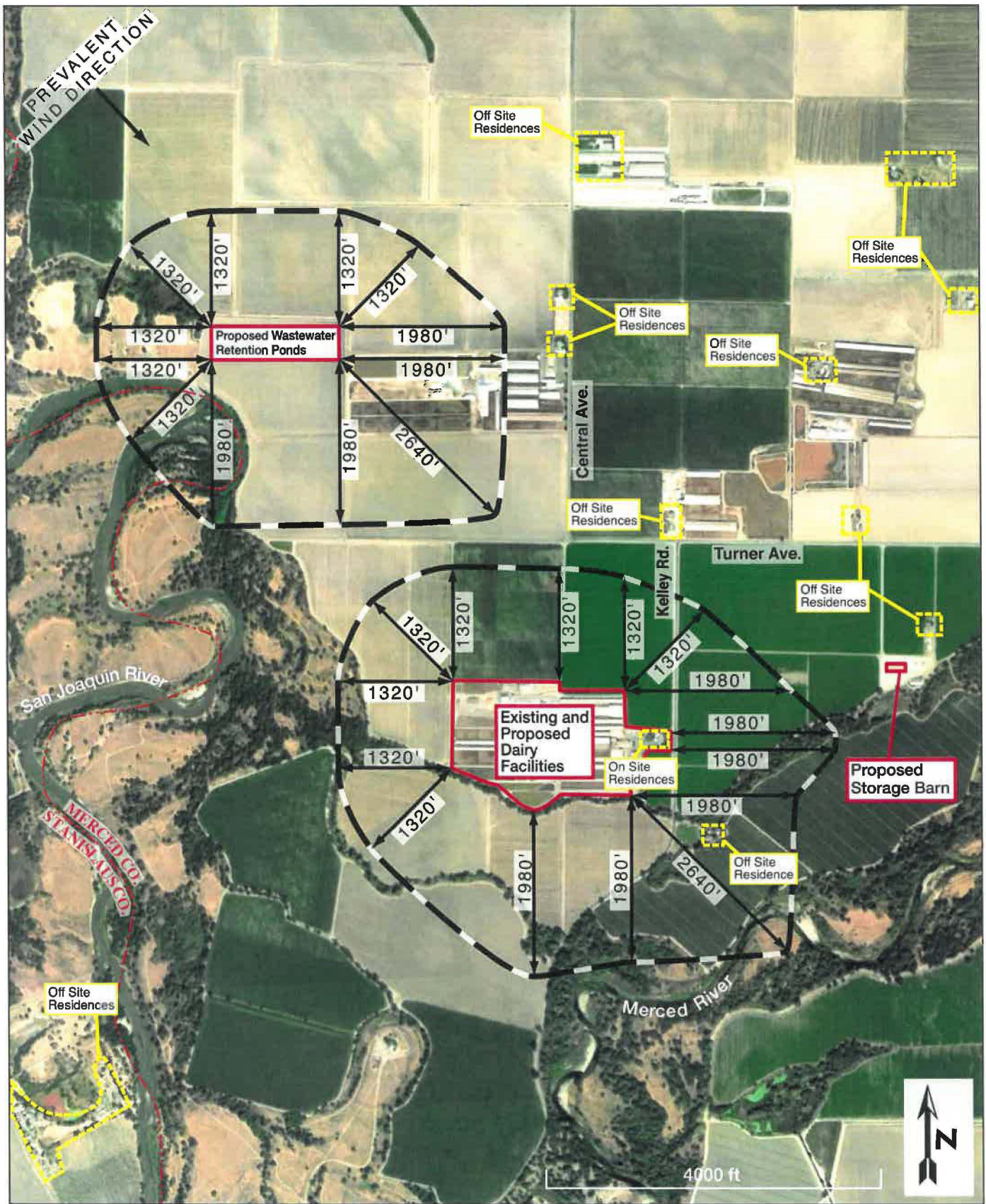


SOURCE: FR Ag Services, Inc., 2014

Borba Dairy Farms Expansion Project CUP20-014

**Figure 5**  
Existing Dairy Field Layout

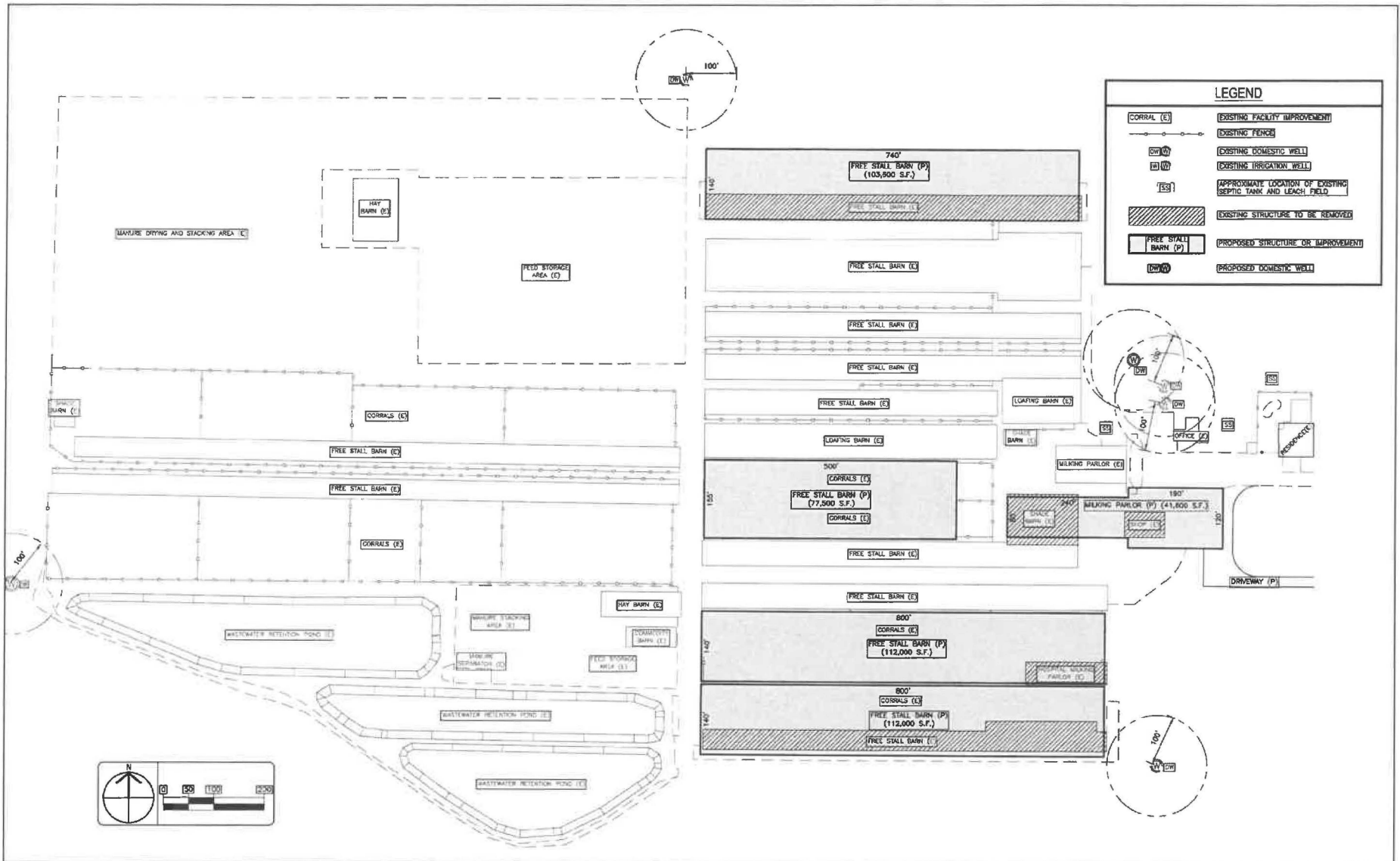




SOURCE: Planning Partners 2021

Borba Dairy Farms Expansion Project CUP20-014

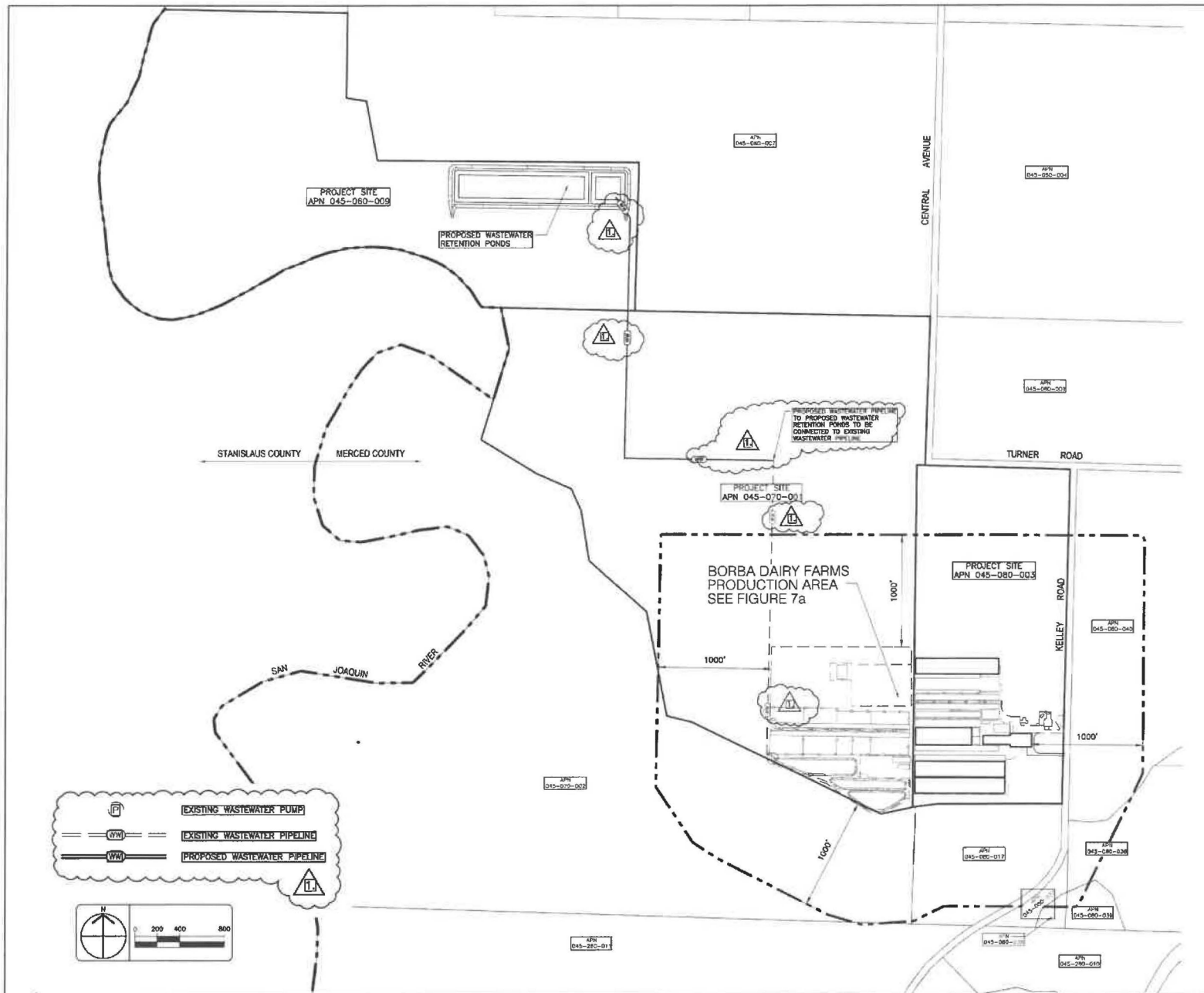
**Figure 6**  
Active Dairy Facilities and Nearby Residences Located in the Windshed



SOURCE: Sousa Engineering, 2021

Borba Dairy Farms Expansion Project CUP20-014

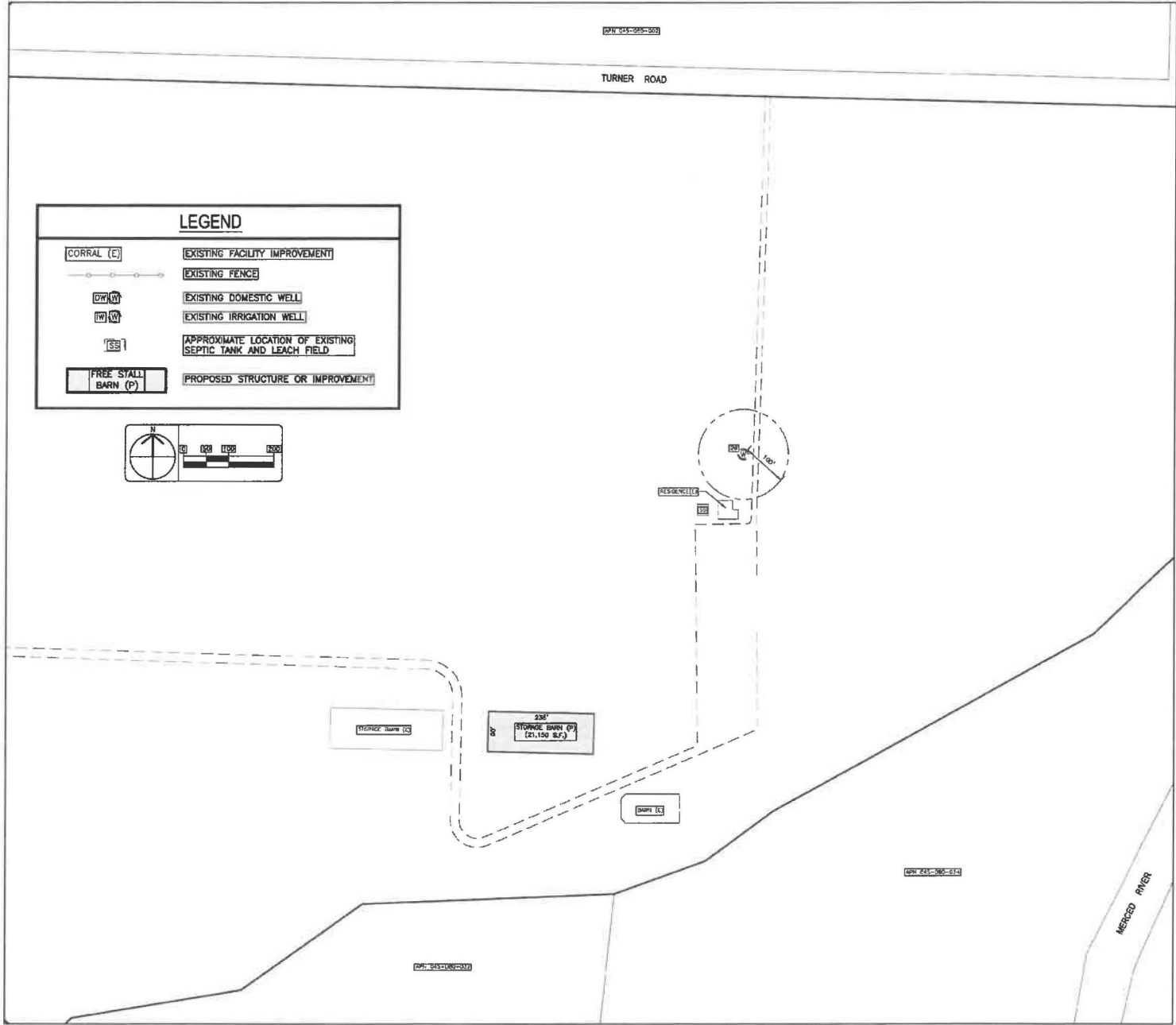
**Figure 7a**  
Proposed Dairy Facilities



SOURCE: Sousa Engineering, 2020

Borba Dairy Farms Expansion Project CUP20-014

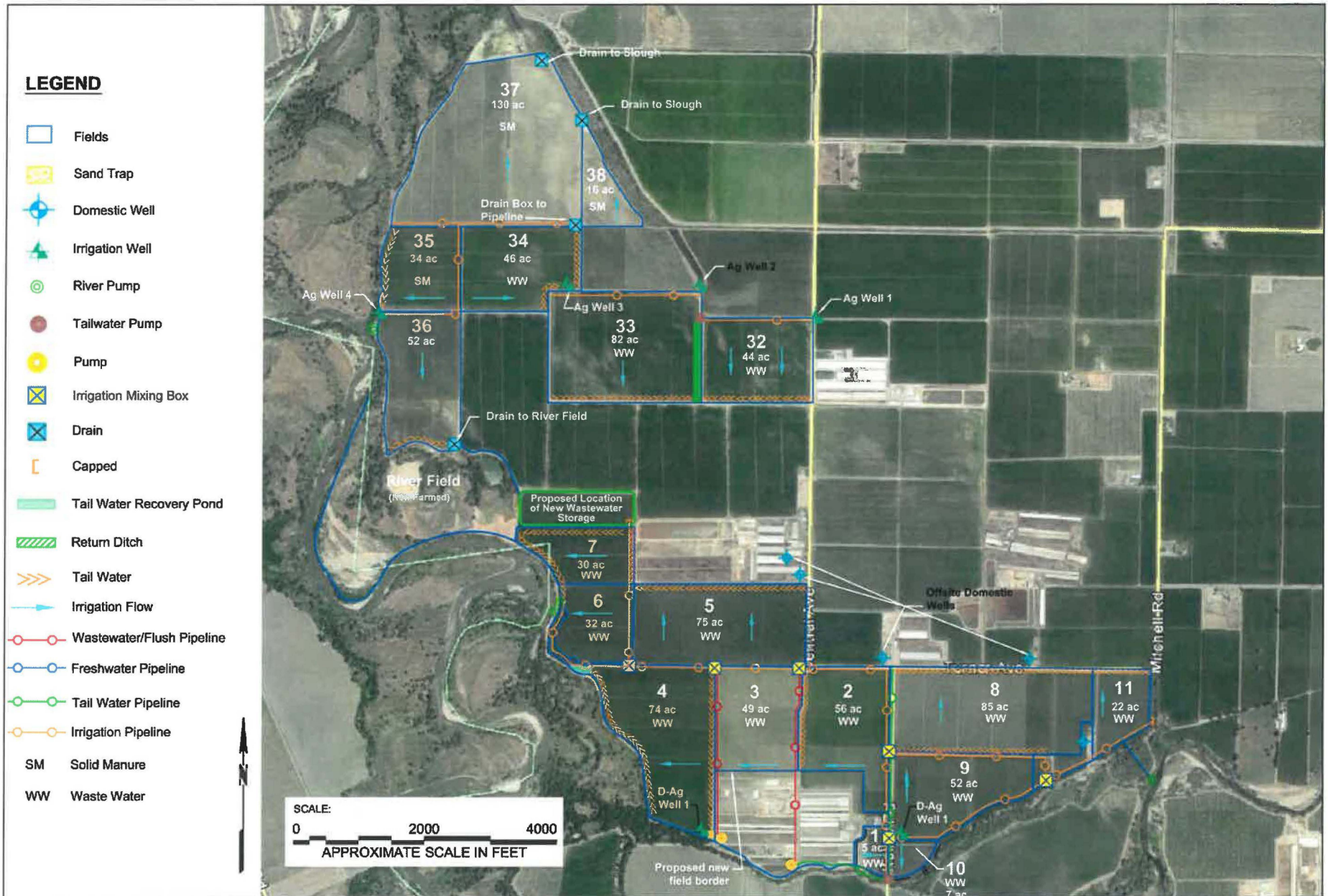
**Figure 7b**  
Proposed Wastewater Retention Ponds



SOURCE: Sousa Engineering, 2021

Borba Dairy Farms Expansion Project CUP20-014

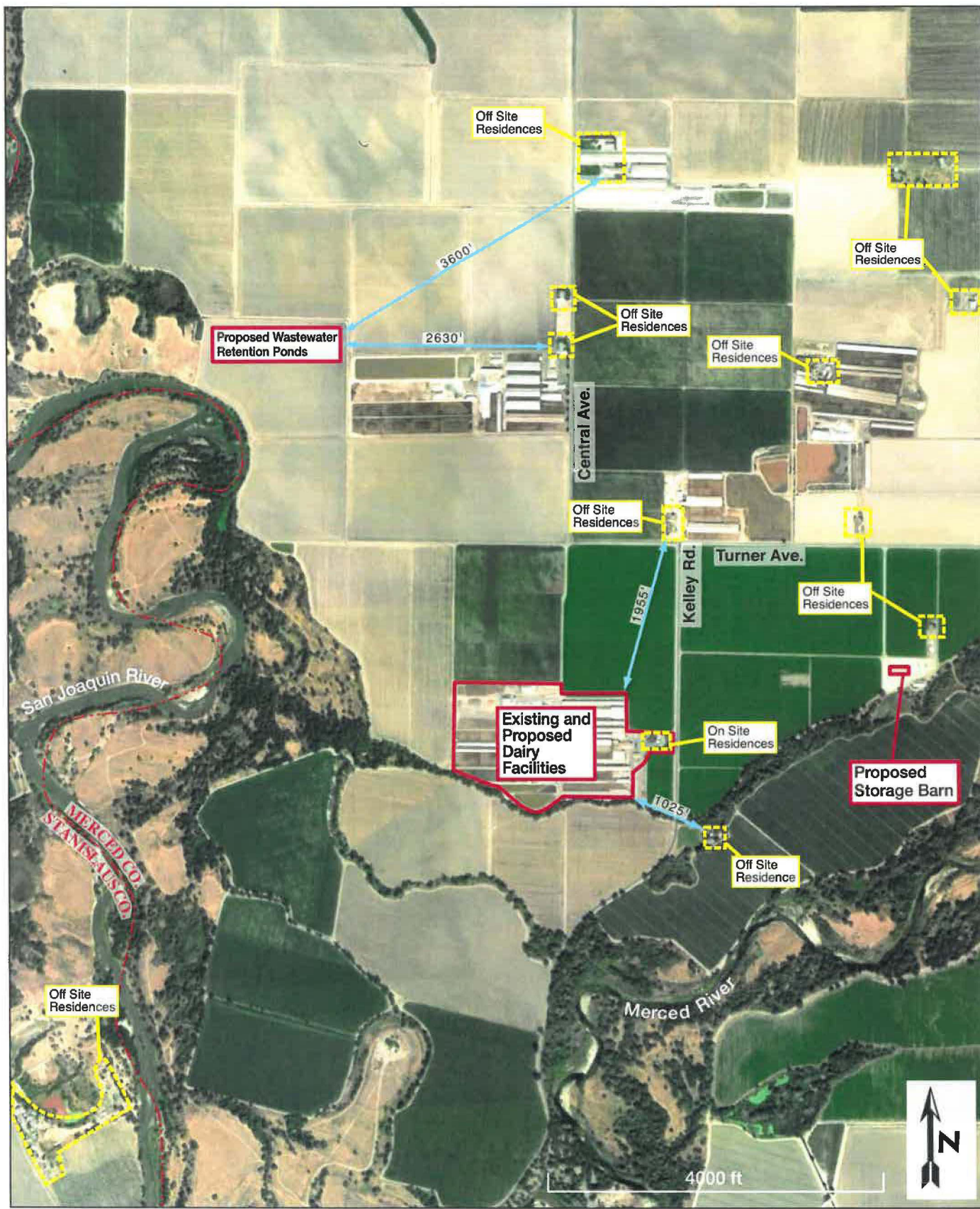
**Figure 7c**  
Agricultural Storage Barn



SOURCE: FR Ag Services, Inc., 2021

Borba Dairy Farms Expansion Project CUP20-014

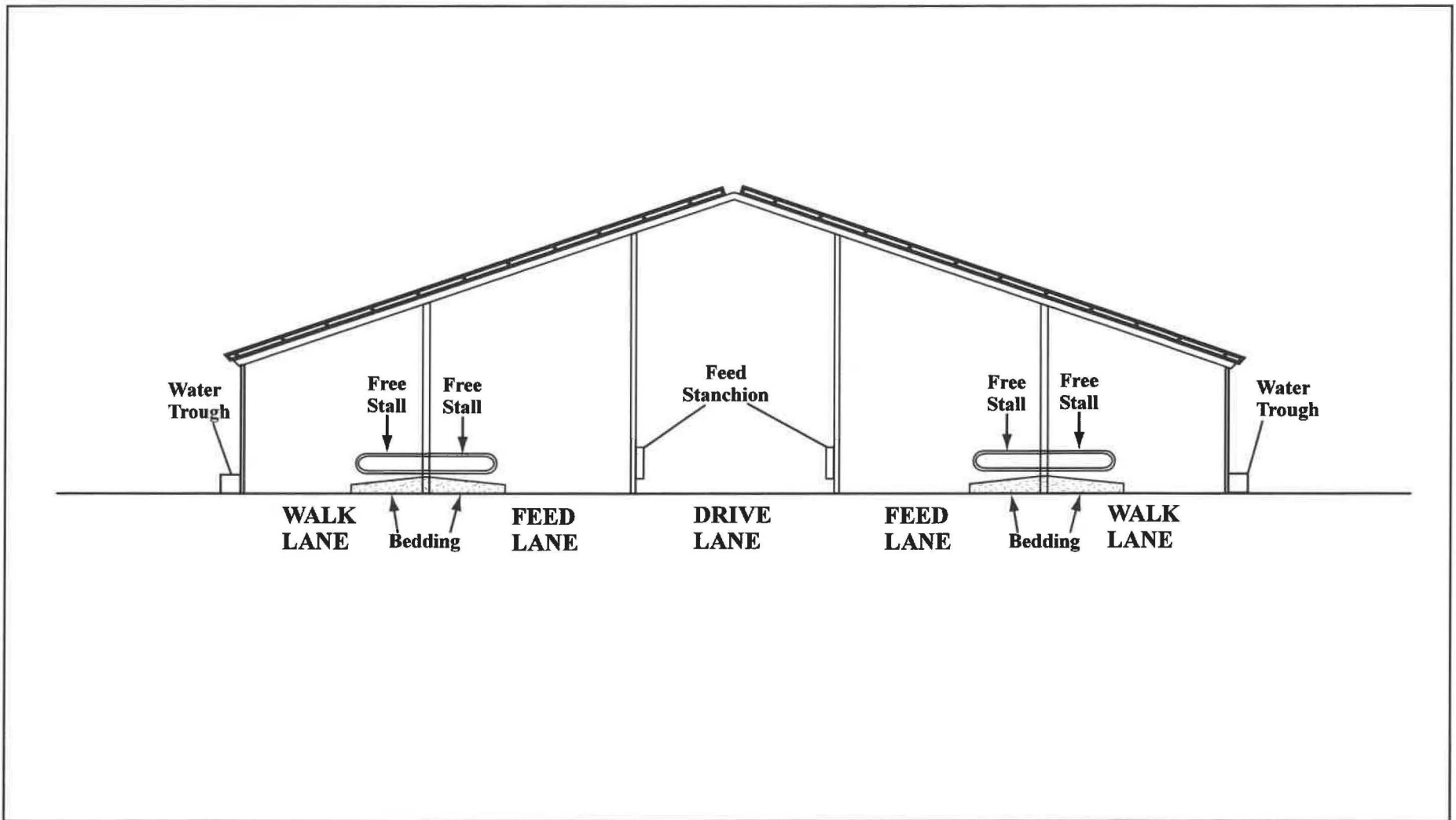
**Figure 8**  
Proposed Dairy Field Layout



SOURCE: Planning Partners 2021

Borba Dairy Farms Expansion Project CUP20-014

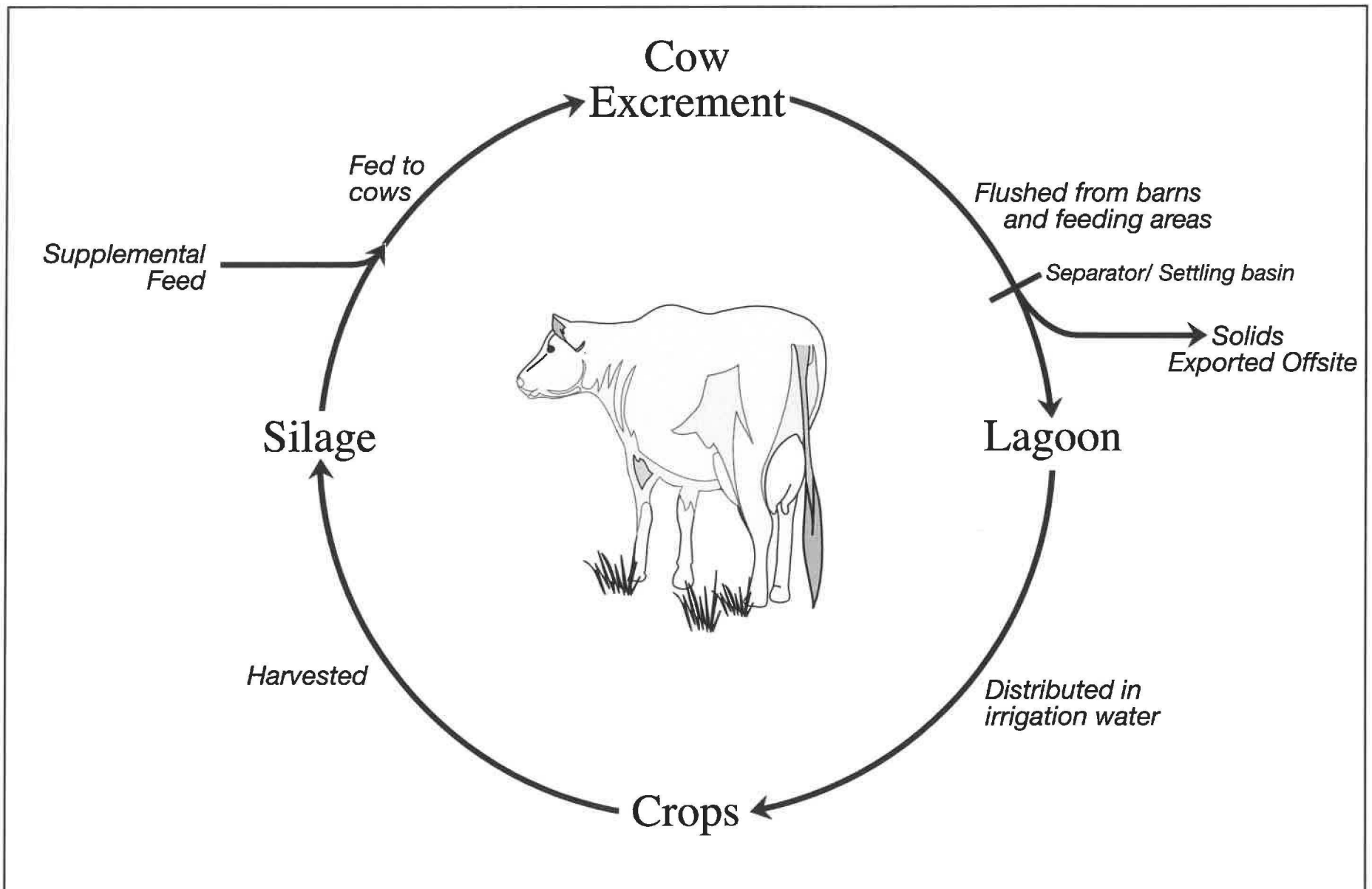
**Figure 9**  
 Distance of Nearest Off-site Residences to Existing and Proposed Active Dairy Facilities



SOURCE: Planning Partners, 2021

Borba Dairy Farms Expansion Project CUP20-014

**Figure 10**  
Freestall Dairy Barn - Schematic Cross-Section



SOURCE: Planning Partners 2021

Borba Dairy Farms Expansion Project CUP20-014

**Figure 11**  
Process Diagram