



**COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**

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**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY FOR THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL
IMPACT REPORT FOR CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT NO. CUP21-011
"SILVA DAIRY FARMS EXPANSION PROJECT"**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the County of Merced, as lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), has prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Report (Draft EIR) for Conditional Use Permit No. CUP21-011 ("Silva Dairy Farms Expansion Project").

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The Silva Dairy Farms site is located on the north and south side of State Route (SR) 140 at the intersection of Edminster Road in the Stevinson area in unincorporated Merced County. The main dairy site is located on the south side of SR 140 on approximately 25 acres, and the north facility is located on approximately 18 acres; the total existing farm area includes 414 acres on 22 parcels. Additionally, approximately 364 acres are used to grow crops and the application of manure process water. Conditional Use Permit No. CUP21-011 proposes to modify and expand the existing dairy to house a total of 7,300 animals, including 4,000 milk cows, 500 dry cows, and 2,800 support stock, to officially merge the two existing separate dairy facility permits into a single permit. The proposed expansion would represent an increase of 4,347 animals from 2,953 animals at this facility. The proposed project would also include the construction of supporting buildings and features at the dairy facility, including five new freestall barns, two loafing barns, commodity barn, milking parlor expansion, a shop, and dry manure storage and calf hutch area. With the construction of the proposed facilities, approximately 7 acres of cropped acreage would be converted to active dairy facilities. Environmental impacts from the proposed project include impacts to Air Quality and Odors; Biological Resources; Cultural and Tribal Cultural Resources; Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Energy Efficiency; Nuisance Conditions from Insects; Hydrology and Water Quality; Land Use Compatibility; and, Cumulative Impacts.

AGENCY/PUBLIC REVIEW & COMMENTS: The Draft EIR is available review at the County's website at www.countyofmerced.com/414/Environmental-Documents and at the Merced County Community and Economic Development Department at 2222 "M" Street, Merced, CA 95340. The department office is open to the public Mondays through Friday between 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM.

The public review period begins on **July 25, 2024**, and comments on the Draft EIR will be accepted until 5:00 pm, **September 9, 2024**. Comments may be mailed to the address above or emailed to Tiffany.Ho@countyofmerced.com.

PUBLIC HEARING: This item has not been scheduled for a public hearing, and a separate notice will be sent when a public hearing is scheduled. Planning Commission hearings are typically held on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month at 9:00 AM in the Board Chambers, Third Floor, County Administration Building, 2222 "M" Street, Merced, California. Interested persons should contact the project planner, Tiffany Ho, at the Community and Economic Development Department, if there are any questions and to confirm the meeting date and whether or not there will be a public hearing.