

## CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

**To:** Office of Planning and Research  
State Clearinghouse  
PO Box 3044, 1400 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Room 212  
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

**From:** Merced County Regional Waste Management Authority  
7040 N Highway 59  
Merced, CA 95348

**Project Title:** Highway 59 Landfill Flare Replacement

**Project Applicant:** Merced County Regional Waste Management Authority

**Project Location - Specific:** 7040 N Highway 59, Merced, California

**Project Location – City:** Merced

**Project Location – County:** Merced

**Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:**

The Merced County Regional Waste Management Authority (MCRWMA) is proposing to install a new landfill gas (LFG) flare to replace its current LFG flare. The project would involve the installation and operation of a new low-emission, enclosed LFG flare to replace the existing LFG flare at the Highway 59 Landfill. The proposed flare would have a flaring capacity of 2,100 standard cubic feet per minute (SCFM) of LFG, which would be the same as the current flare. The proposed flare would be located immediately adjacent to the existing flare and, upon completion of construction/installation, would replace the existing flare and the primary control device. The flare facility would not undergo any additional project-related changes.

Upon completion of construction, the existing flare would serve as a backup device to the new low NO<sub>x</sub> flare. At no time would the existing flare and new low NO<sub>x</sub> flare operate concurrently, the existing flare would only serve as a backup when the new low NO<sub>x</sub> flare is inoperable. The proposed flare would meet the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (SJVAPCD) Best Available Control Technology (BACT) standards and comply with applicable Federal regulations and SJVAPCD Rule 4311. Implementation of the project would lower current emissions associated with landfill operations for carbon monoxide (CO), nitrogen oxide (NO<sub>x</sub>), and sulfur oxide (SO<sub>x</sub>) while particulate matter (PM) and reactive organic gases (ROG) emissions are estimated to stay the same.

**Name of Public Agency Approving Project:** Merced County Association of Governments

**Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:** Patrick Womble

**Exemption Status:** Categorical Exemption – Class 1 (California Code of Regulation [CCR], Title 14, Section 15301)

**Exemption Title:** Existing Facilities.

**Reasons Why Project is Exempt:** The project would be constructed entirely within the existing active landfill property and, more specifically, within the enclosed flare site. No sensitive habitat or otherwise sensitive or unique environmental conditions are present. As a result, no significant adverse effects on the environment would occur. Further, the project would not involve an expansion of the overall disposal capacity of the landfill or on-site flaring capacity of the Highway 59 Landfill, and is intended to reduce CO, NO<sub>x</sub>, and SO<sub>x</sub> emissions. Therefore, no expansion of use would occur as a result of project implementation.

Merced County Regional Waste Management Authority  
7040 N Highway 59  
Merced, CA 95348



Patrick Womble, Environmental Resource Manager

Date

10/6/22