

NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

for the Select Harvest USA Multi-Year Expansion Project

Notice is hereby given that Merced County has released the Initial Study – Mitigated Negative Declaration (ISMND) document for a 30-day public review/comment period.

Proposed Project: Select Harvest USA Multi-Year Expansion Project

Project Description: The project would involve a 214,791 square-foot expansion of an existing site agricultural processing facility. The expansion would provide more on-site storage and warehousing of product to make operations more efficient. This expansion would reduce the number of truck trips to and from the site, as increased storage capacity on site would reduce trips hauling nuts to off-site storage. The site's expansion would be comprised of storage and warehousing facilities, offices, a replacement parking lot, and other agricultural accessory structures. Some ornamental vegetation removal would be required for additional structures in the northern area of the project site. Based on the site plan, five warehouses would include roof top solar panels. The septic system would be expanded, per the Merced County Health Code to include septic system expansions for the additional facilities. In addition, a temporary staging area would be located within the existing facility's property boundary to store all construction equipment.

Project Location: The project site is a 52-acre parcel in an unincorporated area of Merced County at 14827 W. Harding Road, specifically the southeast corner of W. Harding Road and Sycamore Road, Assessor's Parcel Number (APN): 041-163-001. It is regionally accessible from State Route (SR) 99, which is approximately two miles south of the project site. The nearest community is Delhi, located within unincorporated County of Merced, approximately two miles to the southwest. Local access is available via W. Harding Road which directly abuts the project site to the north.

Environmental Effects: The IS-MND discloses "Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated" for the following resource categories: air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, hazards and hazardous materials, tribal cultural resources, and Mandatory Findings of Significance. No effects were found to be significant and unavoidable that could have a significant effect on the environment.

Public Review and Comment

The ISMND prepared for the proposed Select Harvest USA Multi-Year Expansion Project is available for public review from February 16, 2023, to 5:00 pm on March 20, 2023, at:

- Merced County (<https://www.countyofmerced.com/414/Environmental-Documents>)
- Merced County Planning Office (2222 M Street, Merced, California 95340) upon request

Written comments must be submitted no later than 5:00 pm on March 20, 2023. Please address comments to:

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2222 M Street, Second Floor
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or by email to: Tiffany.Ho@countyofmerced.com