

**Notice of Completion & Environmental Document Transmittal**

Mail to: State Clearinghouse, P.O. Box 3044, Sacramento, CA 95812-3044 (916) 445-0613  
For Hand Delivery/Street Address: 1400 Tenth Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

**SCH # 2023030410**

**Project Title:** Setton Pistachio Treated Wastewater Land Application Expansion Project

Lead Agency: Tulare County Resource Management Agency Contact: Gary Mills, Chief Environmental Planner  
Mailing Address: 5961 S. Mooney Blvd. Phone: 559-624-7199  
City: Visalia Zip: 93277-9394 County: Tulare County

**Project Location:** County: Tulare City/Nearest Community: Terra Bella

Cross Streets: Ave 96/Rd 224; Ave 92/Rd 224; Ave 92/ Muller Rd Zip Code: 93270

Assessor's Parcel No: 320-040-004, -005, -006, -007, -008, -009; 320-040-034; and 320-070-023, -024, and -025 Total Acres: 89

Latitude/Longitude: 35° 57' 44.74" N / 119° 04' 18.31" W Section: 4.5 Township: 23S Range: 27E Base: MDBM

Within 2 Miles: State Hwy: State Route 65 Waterways: Deer Creek

Airports: \_\_\_\_\_ Railways: Schools: Terra Bella Elementary & Carl F. Smith Middle

**Document Type:**

CEQA:  NOP  Draft EIR NEPA:  NOI Other:  Joint Document  
 Early Cons  Supplement/Subsequent EIR  EA  Final Document  
 Neg Dec  (Prior SCH No.) \_\_\_\_\_  Draft EIS  Other \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mit Neg Dec  Other: \_\_\_\_\_  FONSI \_\_\_\_\_

**Local Action Type:**

General Plan Update  Specific Plan  Rezone  Annexation  
 General Plan Amendment  Master Plan  Pre-zone  Redevelopment  
 General Plan Element  Planned Unit Dev.  Use Permit  Coastal Permit  
 Community Plan  Site Plan  Land Division (Sub.)  Other Minor Modification

**Development Type:**

Residential: Units \_\_\_\_\_ Acres \_\_\_\_\_  Transportation: Type \_\_\_\_\_  
 Office: Sq. ft. \_\_\_\_\_ Acres \_\_\_\_\_ Employees \_\_\_\_\_  Mining: Mineral \_\_\_\_\_  
 Commercial: Sq. ft. \_\_\_\_\_ Acres \_\_\_\_\_ Employees \_\_\_\_\_  Power: Type \_\_\_\_\_ MW \_\_\_\_\_  
 Industrial: Sq. ft. \_\_\_\_\_ Acres \_\_\_\_\_ Employees \_\_\_\_\_  Waste Treatment: Type \_\_\_\_\_ MGD \_\_\_\_\_  
 Educational: \_\_\_\_\_  Hazardous Waste: Type \_\_\_\_\_  
 Recreational: \_\_\_\_\_  Other: Land Application of treated wastewater  
 Water Facilities: Type Irrigation MGD 25 MGY increase

**Project Issues Discussed in Document:**

Aesthetic/Visual  Fiscal  Recreation/Parks  Vegetation  
 Agricultural Land  Flood Plain/Flooding  Schools/Universities  Water Quality  
 Air Quality  Forest Land/Fire Hazard  Septic Systems  Water Supply/Groundwater  
 Archaeological/Historical  Geologic/Seismic  Sewer Capacity  Wetland/Riparian  
 Biological Resources  Minerals  Soil Erosion/Compaction/Grading  Growth Inducing  
 Coastal Zone  Noise  Solid/Waste  Land Use  
 Drainage/Absorption  Population/Housing Balance  Toxic/Hazardous  Cumulative Effects  
 Economic/Jobs  Public Services/Facilities  Transportation/Traffic/Circulation  Other: Energy  
 Other: Tribal Cultural Res.  Other: Greenhouse Gases  Other: Utilities & Service Services  Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**Present Land Use/Zoning/General Plan Designation:** pistachio orchards / AE-20 (Exclusive Agricultural - 20 Acre Minimum) / Agriculture

**Project Description:** Setton Pistachio (the applicant) is proposing to increase the volume of treated wastewater that would be applied to the land application areas (LAAs) during the pistachio harvest season. To account for the increased volume of treated wastewater to be used for irrigation, Setton is proposing to add 89 acres of LAAs to expand their wastewater treatment disposal capacity. The sites are owned by Setton Pistachio and the proposed LAAs are surrounded by land developed with agriculture and local roads. The project includes installation of a 15-inch subsurface pipeline to connect the additional LAAs to the existing treated wastewater distribution pipelines and installation of irrigation lines within the LAAs. Two encroachment permits would be required from Tulare County for the new pipeline to reach two of the new LAAs. The additional LAAs would allow Setton Pistachio to increase the annual wastewater discharge from 60 million gallons per year (MGY) to 85 MGY (maximum daily discharge rates would remain at 3 million gallons), allowing the facility to fully utilize its current design capacity. Improvements to the existing wastewater treatment facilities are also proposed to protect beneficial uses of water, prevent nuisance conditions, and comply with waste discharge requirements issued by the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board. This would include adding fiber filters to the existing gunite-lined pond to remove excess solids from treated wastewater prior to its release into the East and West Ponds, where it is stored on a short-term basis for distribution to the LAAs. Further, paddles would be installed in the West Pond for aeration, and a Venturi Model 06 EMOHTM system would be installed in the East Pond to improve aeration to prevent septicity and odor production.

**Reviewing Agencies Checklist**

Lead Agencies may recommend State Clearinghouse distribution by marking agencies below with an "X." If the document has already been sent to the agency, denote that with an "s."

- Air Resources Board
- Boating & Waterways, Department of
- California Highway Patrol
- Caltrans District # 6
- Caltrans Division of Aeronautics
- Caltrans Planning
- Central Valley Flood Protection Board
- Cochella Valley Mtns. Conservancy
- Coastal Commission
- Colorado River Board
- Conservation, Department of
- Corrections, Department of
- Delta Protection Commission
- Education, Department of
- Energy Commission
- Fish & Wildlife Region # 4
- Food & Agriculture, Department of
- Forestry & Fire Protection, Department of
- General Services, Department of
- Health Care Services, Department of
- Housing & Community Development
- Integrated Waste Management Board
- Native American Heritage Commission
- Other: San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District
- Other: Tulare County Agricultural Commissioner
- Other: Tulare County Association of Governments
- Other: Tulare County Farm Bureau
- Other: Tulare County Fire Warden
- Other: Tulare County HHSA – Environmental Health
- Other: Tulare County Local Agency Formation Commission
- Office of Emergency Services
- Office of Historic Preservation
- Office of Public School Construction
- Parks & Recreation, Department of
- Pesticide Regulation, Department of
- Public Health, Department of
- Public Utilities Commission
- Regional WQCB # 5F
- Resources Agency
- S.F. Bay Conservation & Development Commission
- San Gabriel & Lower L.A. Rivers and Mtns Conservancy
- San Joaquin River Conservancy
- Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy
- State Lands Commission
- SWRCB: Clean Water Grants
- SWRCB: Water Quality
- SWRCB: Water Rights
- Tahoe Regional Planning Agency
- Toxic Substances Control, Department of
- Water Resources, Department of
- Other: U.S. Forest Service
- Other: U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Other: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- Other: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Other: U.S. Naval Facilities Engineering Command
- Other: Tulare County Resources Conservation District
- Other: Tulare County Office of Emergency Services
- Other: Tulare County Sheriff's Office
- Other: Tulare County U.C. Cooperative Extension
- Other: Tulare County Resource Management (Fire, Flood, PW)

**Local Public Review Period (to be filled in by lead agency)**

Starting Date: March 20, 2024 Ending Date: May 6, 2024

**Lead Agency (Complete if applicable):**

Consulting Firm: \_\_\_\_\_ Applicant: Setton Pistachio  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: 9370 Road 234  
 City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ City/State/Zip: Terra Bella, CA 93270  
 Contact: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: (559) 535-6050  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature of Lead Agency Representative:**  **Date:** 3/20/2024  
 Gary A. Mills, Chief Environmental Planner

**Signature of Lead Agency Representative:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_  
 Reed Schenke, Director/Environmental Assessment Officer