

CITY OF LEMOORE/LEPRINO FOODS RIVER RANCH RECYCLED WATER PROJECT

Initial Study and Negative Declaration

Prepared for
Central Valley Regional Water
Quality Control Board

May 2023



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CONTENTS

City of Lemoore/Leprino Foods River Ranch Recycled Water Project Initial Study/ Negative Declaration

	<u>Page</u>
Chapter 1	1-1
Introduction and Project Background	1-1
1.1 Introduction.....	1-1
1.2 Background	1-1
Chapter 2	2-1
Project Description	2-1
2.1 Project Location.....	2-1
2.2 Project Objectives	2-1
2.3 Project Description	2-1
2.4 Operation and Maintenance Activities	2-2
2.5 Project Approvals	2-2
Chapter 3	3-1
Environmental Checklist	3-1
3.1 Project Details	3-1
3.2 Environmental Factors Potentially Affected	3-3
3.3 Environmental Checklist.....	3-5

Appendices

- A. Report of Waste Discharge: City of Lemoore/Leprino Foods River Ranch
Recycled Water Project
- B. Biological Resources Technical Report

Figures

Figure 1-1	Project Location Map.....	1-2
Figure 1-2	River Ranch Subsurface Drainage Collection System.....	1-4

Tables

Table 1	Summary of AB 52 Consultation	3-52
---------	-------------------------------------	------

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CHAPTER 1

Introduction and Project Background

1.1 Introduction

On May 6, 2022, the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) received a Report of Waste Discharge (ROWD) (**Appendix A**) from the City of Lemoore (Lemoore or City) and the Leprino Foods Company (Leprino) for the discharge of up to 7.0 million gallons per day (mgd) of treated combined effluent. The City of Lemoore/Leprino Foods River Ranch Recycled Water Project (Proposed Project) would increase flows by 40 percent over the current permitted flow and expand the land application area.

The discharge of combined treated effluent is currently regulated by Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) Order R5-2019-0008, which authorizes the discharge of up to 5.0 mgd of disinfected secondary-23 recycled water for irrigation of crops on approximately 1,900 acres of farmland (i.e., Stone Ranch Property) owned by Leprino. The Proposed Project would increase the average monthly discharge from 5.0 to 7.0 mgd and expand the land application area to include an adjoining 520-acre parcel, known as the Nederend property, also owned by Leprino. Stone Ranch and the adjacent Nederend property are collectively referred to as River Ranch (**Figure 1-1**).

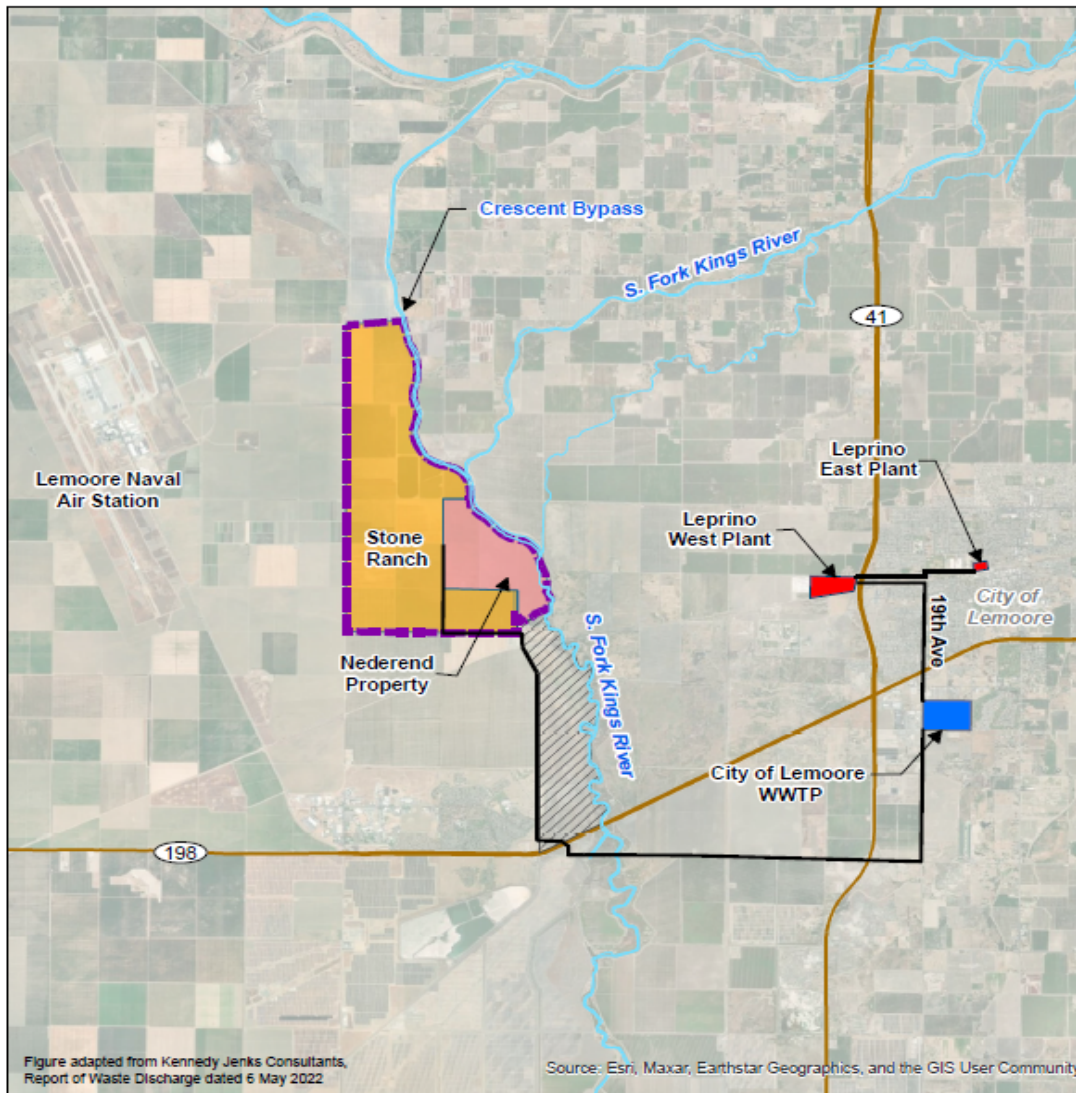
As the Lead Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the Central Valley Water Board coordinated the preparation of this Initial Study (IS) to determine if the Proposed Project would have a significant effect on the environment.

1.2 Background








1.2.1 Historic Land Application

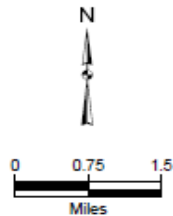
Leprino owns and operates two cheese production facilities in the City of Lemoore that process approximately 14 million pounds of milk, producing an average of 1.5 million pounds of mozzarella cheese per day. Together the two cheese production facilities generate approximately 2.75 mgd of process water, which is conveyed to Leprino's industrial wastewater treatment facility (WWTF), located adjacent to the City of Lemoore's domestic WWTF for treatment. The source of water used at Leprino facilities is supplied by the City of Lemoore.

Figure 1-1 Project Location Map



Legend:

-  Pipeline
-  River Ranch Property Boundary
-  City of Lemoore WWTP
-  Leprino Facility Boundary
-  Stone Ranch Property Boundary
-  Nederend Property
-  Nederend Property Wetland



Leprino Foods Company
 River Ranch Title 22 Engineering Report
 Lemoore, California

Project Location Map

July 2022
 Figure 1-1

The City of Lemoore’s WWTF provides sanitary wastewater treatment for the City’s approximately 27,000 residents and produces about 1.7 mgd of effluent that is treated and disinfected to comply with standards for disinfected secondary-23 recycled water established under California Code of Regulations, title 22, section 60301.225.¹ Pursuant to title 22, section 60304, recycled water used for surface irrigation for certain reuse projects must meet the standards of section 60301.225.

Leprino’s WWTF treats its cheese production water to reduce organics and nitrogen in accordance with WDRs Order R5-2019-0008.

The two treated effluent streams (1.7 mgd from the City and approximately 3.0 mgd from Leprino) are combined and conveyed to the Stone Ranch Property through an existing pipeline where the commingled flow enters distribution canals to irrigate 1,900 acres of animal feed and fiber crops consisting of alfalfa, triticale, and cotton. The Stone Ranch Property is underlain by a drainage system consisting of tile drains and sumps to capture subsurface flows and direct it to an onsite evaporation basin constructed in 1984/1985 (**Figure 1-2**).

1.2.2 Leprino and Lemoore Effluent Quality and Treatment Technologies

The current WDRs for the combined effluent includes the following effluent limits:

1. Five-day biochemical oxygen demand at 20 degrees Celsius (BOD₅) not to exceed a monthly average of 40 milligrams per liter (mg/L) and a daily maximum of 80 mg/L.
2. Total suspended solids (TSS) not to exceed a monthly average of 40 mg/L and a daily maximum of 80 mg/L.
3. Fixed dissolved solids (FDS) not to exceed an annual average of 1,400 mg/L.
4. Total coliform bacteria not to exceed a seven-day median of 23 most probable number (MPN)/100 mL and 240 MPN/100 mL more than once in any 30-day period.

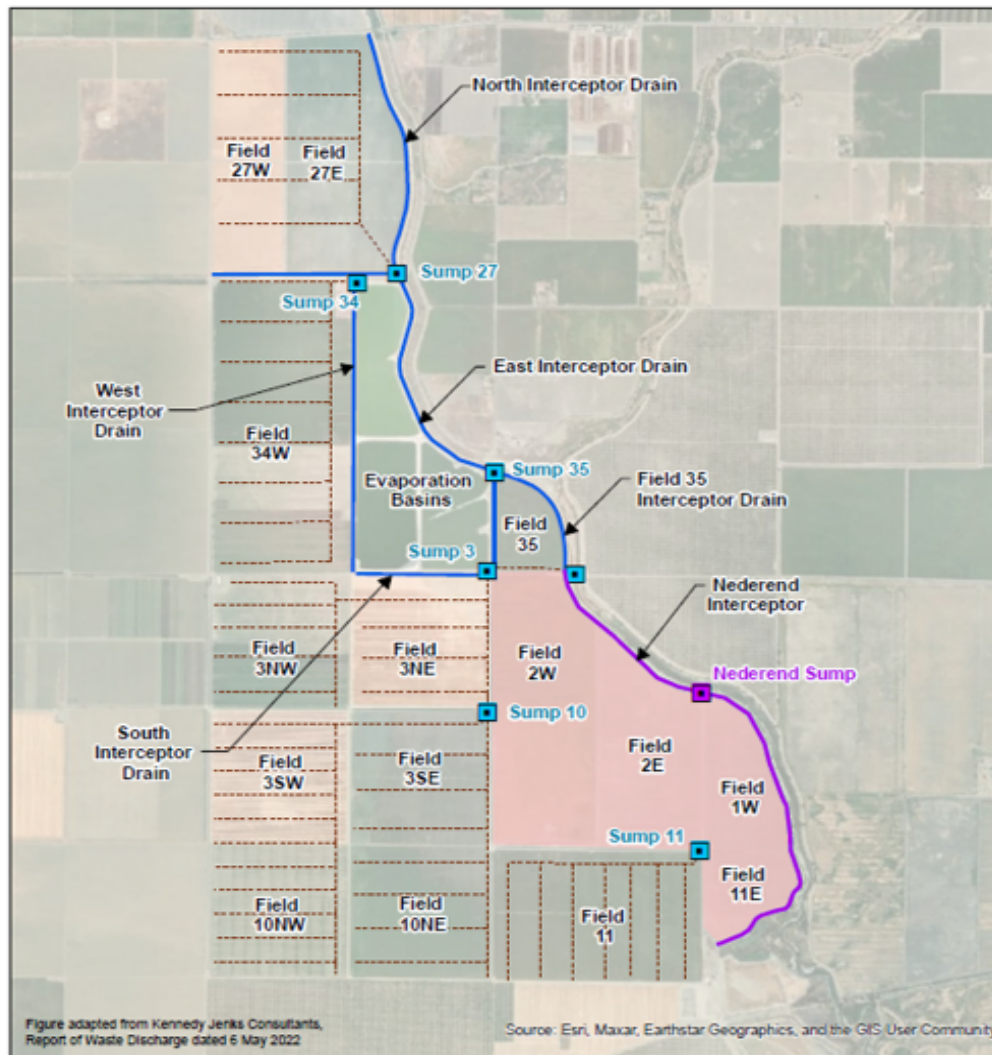
The current WDRs also sets a BOD₅ cycle average loading rate of 100 pounds per acre per day and requires that the annual nutrient loading of the land application area not exceed the annual crop demand (i.e., reasonable agronomic rates).

¹ Cal. Code of Regs., tit. 22, § 60301.225 provides, “Disinfected secondary-23 recycled water’ means recycled water that has been oxidized and disinfected so that the median concentration of total coliform bacteria in the disinfected effluent does not exceed a most probable number (MPN) of 23 per 100 milliliters utilizing the bacteriological results of the last seven days for which analyses have been completed, and the number of total coliform bacteria does not exceed an MPN of 240 per 100 milliliters in more than one sample in any 30 day period.”







1. Introduction and Project Background

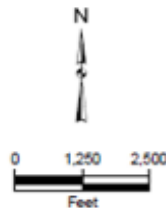
The City of Lemoore utilizes four ponds for treatment of its wastewater. The first two ponds are aerated and operate in parallel, and the next two ponds are partially aerated and are operated in series to settle solids. The ponds occupy approximately 8.8 acres and have a storage capacity of 70 million gallons. Using existing equipment, the City can treat about 14,000 pounds per day of BOD₅. On leaving the treatment ponds, the City's effluent is disinfected using chlorine gas before being combined with Leprino's treated effluent.

Figure 1-2 River Ranch Subsurface Drainage Collection System



Legend:

-  Sumps
-  Nederend Sump
-  Tile Drain Lines
-  Subsurface Interceptor Drains
-  Subsurface Interceptor Drain to be Constructed Spring 2022
-  Nederend Property



Leprino Foods Company
River Ranch Report of Waste Discharge
Lemoore, California
**River Ranch Subsurface
Drainage Collection System**

July 2022
Figure 1-2

The Leprino treatment system utilizes two High-Rate Activated Sludge (HRAS) reactors, two Dissolved Air Flotation (DAF) units, and three Sequencing Batch Reactors (SBRs). The HRAS system is used to remove a portion of soluble chemical oxygen demand. The DAF units function as clarifiers, removing activated sludge from the effluent stream and pumping it back into the HRAS reactors. The SBRs are used to remove additional BOD₅ and for nitrification and denitrification. The wastewater then goes through final filtration before it is discharged to an existing pipeline where it is combined with the City's treated and disinfected sanitary effluent. Leprino's treatment system also includes two lined facultative lagoons used for off-spec wastewater and waste solids, if needed.

Historically, the quality of the combined treated effluent has typically been below the current WDRs effluent limitations.

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CHAPTER 2

Project Description

2.1 Project Location

The River Ranch is located approximately four miles west of the Leprino and Lemoore WWTFs in the City of Lemoore, Kings County, California (Figure 1-1). The River Ranch grows fodder for animal feed and cotton for fiber.

2.2 Project Objectives

The objective of the Proposed Project is to facilitate the expansion of an existing discharge of treated effluent and maximize beneficial reuse of wastewater generated by the Leprino facilities and the City of Lemoore in a manner that is protective of waters of the State and compliant with the Central Valley Water Board's Water Quality Control Plan for the Tulare Lake Basin (Basin Plan).

2.3 Project Description

The Proposed Project would (a) increase the quantity of the combined discharge volume from a monthly average of approximately 5.0 mgd to 7.0 mgd and (b) increase irrigated acreage from 1,900 acres to approximately 2,420 acres at the River Ranch property. Leprino would increase flows from about 3.0 to 5.0 mgd, while the City would increase flows from about 1.7 to 2.0 mgd. The City's effluent would be treated to California Code of Regulations, title 22, section 60301.225 disinfected secondary-23 standards prior to combination with Leprino's effluent. The combined effluent would be conveyed to the River Ranch property through the existing conveyance and irrigation canal system. No additional treatment facilities or technologies would be installed at either treatment facility. In addition, the Project will use existing infrastructure at the River Ranch, including the interceptor drain on the eastern boundary of the Nederend Property, the drainage pipe, collection sump, and pump equipment. The interceptor drains at River Ranch captures subsurface flows and sends them to the existing evaporation basin on the Stone Ranch Property to prevent potential runoff from entering the South Fork of the Kings River (Figure 1-2). The Nederend Property does not have a subsurface drain system (i.e., tile drains), so no additional connections are needed. The ROWD and associated studies indicate that the existing treatment and conveyance infrastructure is sufficient to accommodate the increase in flow. No new conveyance facilities or pumps would be installed as a result of the project.

2.4 Operation and Maintenance Activities

The treatment facilities' and discharge conveyance system's operations would not change from existing conditions, except that in addition to animal fodder and cotton crops, Leprino is proposing to irrigate tomato crops and harvest for canned tomato paste. The current WDRs specifies a groundwater limitation of 10 mg/L for nitrate (as nitrogen) and requires that annual nutrient loading to land application areas not exceed annual crop demand (i.e., reasonable agronomic rates). Leprino and Lemoore are also active participants in the Central Valley Water Board's Salt and Nitrate Control Programs (see Central Valley Water Board, Resolutions R5-2018-0034 and R5-2020-0057); Leprino and Lemoore chose to join the Salt Control Program's Prioritization and Optimization (P&O) Study and are active participants in the Kings Water Alliance Management Zone Group for the Nitrate Control Program.

Of the crops grown at the River Ranch, all fields except those where wheat is grown for grain are either double cropped or have perennial crops to maximize nitrogen removal capacity. Under the Proposed Project, the combined effluent would be applied to 2,420 acres, and the average total nitrogen loading would be 260 pounds per acre per year if evenly distributed to the fields. The range in nitrogen uptake rates for crops at the River Ranch is between 125 pounds per acre per year for tomatoes and over 400 pounds per acre per year for alfalfa or triticale forage with corn. Leprino will grow summer forage crops with higher nitrogen uptake rates with the tomato crops to manage overall nitrogen load.

The current water supply system for River Ranch consists of an extensive irrigation canal system with pump stations and gypsum treatment equipment that serve the entire farmed acreage. The canal system will receive combined effluent via the existing pipeline from Lemoore, as well as groundwater inputs from twelve irrigation wells. The canal system will allow for blending of combined effluent and pumped groundwater prior to irrigation. Effluent will be land applied via flood irrigation of checks within the individual fields for most crops, and via drip irrigation for tomato and cotton crops.

2.5 Project Approvals

This IS has been prepared to meet all of the substantive and procedural requirements of CEQA and intended to support the preparation of a revised WDRs for the Proposed Project.

CHAPTER 3

Environmental Checklist

3.1 Project Details

1. **Project Title:** City of Lemoore/Leprino Foods
River Ranch Recycled Water Project
2. **Lead Agency Name and Address:** Central Valley Regional Water
Quality Control Board
1685 "E" Street
Fresno, CA 93706-2007
3. **Contact Person and Phone Number:** Alex Mushegan
559-488-4397
4. **Project Location:** City of Lemoore
5. **Project Sponsor's Name and Address:** City of Lemoore
119 Fox St., Lemoore, CA 93245;
and
Leprino Foods Company
351 Bella Haven Drive, Lemoore,
CA 93245
6. **General Plan Designation(s):** Limited Agriculture
7. **Zoning:** General Agricultural-20 District
8. **Description of Project:** Refer to Chapter 1, Project
Description above.
9. **Surrounding Land Uses and Setting.**
The Project site is located at the River Ranch, approximately four miles from the Leprino and Lemoore WWTFs in the City of Lemoore, Kings County, California. The site is surrounded by the South Fork Kings River and Crescent Bypass to the east, agricultural land to the north and south, and agricultural land and the Lemoore Naval Air Station to the west. For additional information, refer to Section 1, Project Description.
10. **Other public agencies whose approval is required.**
None

11. Have California Native American tribes traditionally and culturally affiliated with the project area requested consultation pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21080.3.1? If so, is there a plan for consultation that includes, for example, the determination of significance of impacts to tribal cultural resources, procedures regarding confidentiality, etc.?

Note: Conducting consultation early in the CEQA process allows tribal governments, lead agencies, and project proponents to discuss the level of environmental review, identify and address potential adverse impacts to tribal cultural resources, and reduce the potential for delay and conflict in the environmental review process. (See Public Resources Code section 21080.3.2.) Information may also be available from the California Native American Heritage Commission's Sacred Lands File per Public Resources Code section 5097.96 and the California Historical Resources Information System administered by the California Office of Historic Preservation. Please also note that Public Resources Code section 21082.3(c) contains provisions specific to confidentiality.

Pursuant to Public Resources Code 21080.3.1, the Central Valley Water Board prepared and mailed notification letters to California Native American tribes traditionally and culturally affiliated with the Project site on March 13, 2023. No requests for consultation have been received to date.

3.2 Environmental Factors Potentially Affected

The environmental factors checked below would not be significantly affected by this project as indicated by the checklist on the following pages.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Aesthetics | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mineral Resources |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agriculture and Forestry Resources | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Noise |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Air Quality | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Population/Housing |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Biological Resources | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public Services |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cultural Resources | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Recreation |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Energy | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Geology/Soils | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tribal Cultural Resources |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Greenhouse Gas Emissions | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Utilities/Service Systems |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hazards & Hazardous Materials | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wildfire |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hydrology/Water Quality | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mandatory Findings of Significance |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Land Use/Planning | |

3. Environmental Checklist

DETERMINATION: (To be completed by the Lead Agency)

On the basis of this initial study:

- I find that the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- I find that the proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.
- I find that the proposed project MAY have a “potentially significant impact” or “potentially significant unless mitigated” impact on the environment, but at least one effect 1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and 2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. An ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.
- I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project, nothing further is required.

Signature

Date

Signature

Date

3.3 Environmental Checklist

I. Aesthetics

<i>Issues (and Supporting Information Sources):</i>	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less-than-Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
I. AESTHETICS — Except as provided in Public Resources Code Section 21099, would the project:				
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) In non-urbanized areas, substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings? (Public views are those that are experienced from publicly accessible vantage point). If the project is in an urbanized area, would the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect daytime or nighttime views in the area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Discussion

- a–d) **No impact.** Scenic vistas are defined as expansive views of distant landforms and aesthetic features from public vantage points, including areas designated as official scenic vistas along roadway corridors or otherwise designated by local jurisdictions. A scenic highway is officially designated as a State Scenic Highway when a local jurisdiction adopts a scenic corridor protection program, applies to Caltrans for scenic highway approval, and receives notification from Caltrans that the highway has been designated as an official Scenic Highway.

The County of Kings 2035 General Plan (2010) does not identify any scenic vistas within the Project area. The visual characteristics of the Project site and the surrounding areas include primarily agricultural, dairy, and rural residential land uses. The Proposed Project involves a change in the volume of discharged treated wastewater and the number of acres of land for application. Activities associated with implementation of the Proposed Project would resemble existing operations. There would be no change to the existing scenic vistas or visual character or quality from current conditions.

There are no State designated scenic highways within the immediate proximity of the Project site (California Department of Transportation, 2022). In addition, no scenic highways or roadways are listed within the Project area in the County of Kings General Plan. The Proposed Project would not install or add new permanent sources of light or glare to the project vicinity. No nighttime work would occur. No new facilities would be built that would be considered to have reflective surfaces. No new infrastructure would be constructed under the Proposed Project and no change in light or glare from existing conditions would occur. Therefore, no impact would occur.

Mitigation Measure(s):

None

Level of Significance:

The Proposed Project would have no impact on aesthetic resources.

References

[County of Kings 2035 General Plan. 2010.](https://www.countyofkings.com/departments/community-development-agency/information/2035-general-plan)

(<https://www.countyofkings.com/departments/community-development-agency/information/2035-general-plan>)

[California Department of Transportation. 2022.](https://dot.ca.gov/programs/design/lap-landscape-architecture-and-community-livability/lap-liv-i-scenic-highways) <https://dot.ca.gov/programs/design/lap-landscape-architecture-and-community-livability/lap-liv-i-scenic-highways>

II. Agriculture and Forestry Resources

<u>Issues (and Supporting Information Sources):</u>	<u>Potentially Significant Impact</u>	<u>Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</u>	<u>Less-than-Significant Impact</u>	<u>No Impact</u>
II. AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY RESOURCES —				
<p>In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Dept. of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. In determining whether impacts to forest resources, including timberland, are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to information compiled by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection regarding the state's inventory of forest land, including the Forest and Range Assessment Project and the Forest Legacy Assessment project; and forest carbon measurement methodology provided in Forest Protocols adopted by the California Air Resources Board. Would the project:</p>				
a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

3. Environmental Checklist

<i>Issues (and Supporting Information Sources):</i>	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less-than-Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
c) Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g))?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Discussion

- a–e) **No impact.** The Proposed Project is on land designated as Farmland of Statewide Importance and is surrounded by active agricultural lands (Department of Conservation, 2022). The Proposed Project would irrigate existing crops on parcels already under agricultural production. The Proposed Project would not convert agricultural land to non-agricultural uses. No parcels within the Project area are under Williamson Act contracts (Department of Conservation, 2022).

The Proposed Project is entirely within lands currently under agricultural production. There are no forestry resources in Kings County (Kings County General Plan, 2010) and existing zoning would not change. Therefore, no impact would occur.

Mitigation Measure(s):

None

Level of Significance:

The Proposed Project would have no impact on zoning or designation of agricultural resources.

References

[California Department of Conservation. 2022.](https://maps.conservation.ca.gov/agriculture/)

(<https://maps.conservation.ca.gov/agriculture/>)

[County of Kings 2035 General Plan. 2010.](https://www.countyofkings.com/departments/community-development-agency/information/2035-general-plan)

(<https://www.countyofkings.com/departments/community-development-agency/information/2035-general-plan>).

III. Air Quality

<u>Issues (and Supporting Information Sources):</u>	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less-than-Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
III. AIR QUALITY —				
Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management district or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations. Would the project:				
a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Discussion

- a) **No impact.** The Project area is located within the San Joaquin Valley Air Basin (SJVAB) in Kings County, which is included among the eight counties that comprise the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (SJVAPCD). The SJVAPCD acts as the regulatory agency for air pollution control in the SJVAB and regulates air pollutant emissions for the plan area. The San Joaquin Valley has Nonattainment designations for ozone and particulate matter, and as such, has developed attainment plans that would reduce these emissions to meet the attainment goals and thresholds of federal and state air quality plans. In order to obtain air pollution permits from SJVAPCD, applicants must demonstrate that their projects would not further degrade air quality during construction and operation. In 2018, the City of Lemoore prepared an Initial Study and adopted a Mitigated Negative Declaration that evaluated the construction and operation of the pump station and 4-mile portion of the pipeline that currently conveys the 5.0 mgd of Lemoore and Leprino treated effluent to the Project area (SCH: 2018071046). It was determined through air dispersion modeling that air emissions resulting from construction and operation of the pump station and pipeline were well below the 100 lb/day SJVAPCD screening level for all pollutants and, therefore, in compliance with state and federal air quality attainment plans. (See Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Combined Effluent/Recycled Water Discharge to the Stone Ranch (2018), SCH # 2018071046, p. 40, Table 3-2.)

Under the Proposed Project, Leprino would increase the average monthly discharge from 5.0 to 7.0 mgd and expand the land application area to include an adjoining 520-acre parcel, formally known as the Nederend property. As determined in the ROWD (Kennedy Jenks, 2022; Appendix A) for the Proposed Project, the existing facilities described above are sufficient to convey the additional volume of combined effluent to the area. The Proposed Project would not involve construction of new facilities that would generate new emissions, nor would it involve an increase in vehicle traffic to the site. Therefore, the Proposed Project would not change existing air quality conditions and would not conflict with or obstruct the SJVAPCD's air quality attainment plans. No impact would occur.

- b) **Less than significant.** As discussed above, the Proposed Project would not result in a net increase in existing emissions as no new infrastructure or upgrades to existing infrastructure are required. Off-site emissions are the responsibility of the energy provider. Considering the Proposed Project would not introduce a net increase to existing emissions, the cumulative contribution to regional air emissions would be negligible, and the Proposed Project would not be considered cumulatively considerable. Impacts would be less than significant.

3. Environmental Checklist

c–d) **No impact.** The Project area is surrounded by active agricultural farmland. No sensitive receptors or residential communities are near the Project area. There would be no impact to sensitive receptors or a substantial number of people as a result of implementing the project.

Mitigation Measure(s):

None

Level of Significance:

The Proposed Project would have a less than significant impact on existing air quality.

References

City of Lemoore. 2018. Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Combined Effluent/Recycled Water Discharge to the Stone Ranch.

Kennedy Jenks. 2022. Report of Waste Discharge: Leprino Foods Company/City of Lemoore Combined Effluent Discharge to the River Ranch

IV. Biological Resources

<u>Issues (and Supporting Information Sources):</u>	<u>Potentially Significant Impact</u>	<u>Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</u>	<u>Less-than-Significant Impact</u>	<u>No Impact</u>
IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES — Would the project:				
a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special-status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

3. Environmental Checklist

<i>Issues (and Supporting Information Sources):</i>	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less-than-Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Discussion

- a) **Less than significant.** An assessment of biological resources was conducted to evaluate whether the proposed wastewater discharge project could affect sensitive species or habitats (**Appendix B**). The biological study area included a 520-acre agricultural plot and 500-foot buffer. The Project site mostly consists of triticale and alfalfa. Based on the Project area's existing use, no special-status plants or wildlife are expected to occur within the Project impact area.

One Swainson's hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*) was observed in trees along the western embankment of the Kings River which is adjacent to the Project site. This species, as well as merlin, black-crowned night heron, tri-colored blackbird, and yellow-headed blackbird, have the potential to nest in areas adjacent to the Project site; however, the Project site does not support nesting habitat for these species. While these species may forage on the Project site, the change in water source used to irrigate the Project site would not be expected to change the existing conditions of foraging habitat. Western pond turtle and giant garter snake have a high potential to occupy the Kings River, agricultural drainage ditches, and freshwater marsh habitat that are adjacent to the Project site. Water is currently actively pumped into the onsite drainage ditches; therefore, no impacts to these species are anticipated from treated effluent of similar quality to existing groundwater sources. In addition, the Proposed Project is not expected to introduce any unnatural predators or competitors that could decrease foraging potential/use of the site. Since the Project site does not provide suitable nesting/breeding habitat for special-status wildlife and any foraging use would be expected to remain unchanged, no indirect impacts to special-status wildlife would be anticipated. Impacts would be less than significant.

- b) **Less than significant.** The Project site does not support sensitive natural communities identified in regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The part of the Kings River that runs east of the Project site supports native riparian vegetation but would not be impacted by the Proposed Project. No riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community would be impacted by ongoing operation and maintenance activities. Therefore, impacts from the Proposed Project would be less than significant,
- c) **No impact.** The agricultural drainage ditches within the Project area are barren of vegetation and do not support wetland habitats. The flows in the ditches are currently maintained by active pumping activities and additional water is not expected to change habitat conditions. Therefore, no impacts to protected wetlands would occur.

3. Environmental Checklist

- d) **Less than significant.** The Project area supports a series of agricultural drainage ditches and the Kings River, both of which may be utilized for wildlife movement. The agricultural fields have evaporation basins that are surrounded by interceptor drains and/or tail water ditches that capture excess flows and prevent runoff and seepage into the Crescent Bypass. Drainage flows are collected in sumps and pumped to the evaporation basins. There are three evaporation basins which contain tile water run-off and percolated effluent. The basins were designed to contain the high salinity run-off from the tile drains and are attractive to birds and other wildlife. There is no high-level vegetation near the basins and the high saline environment might be a limiting factor on bird species' ability to hatch eggs. Wildlife monitoring and reporting is conducted in accordance with the WDRs. No California Birds of Special Concern were observed during the field investigation however, in accordance with provisions contained in the WDRs, if Special Concern or Fully Protected birds are observed, the appropriate protocols from CDFW will be followed. However, project activities are limited to increasing water flows onto the Project site and will not create any obstacles or barriers to wildlife movement. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.
- e) **Less than significant.** The Kings County General Plan Resource Conservation Element and Open Space Element lay out the framework for resource management within the County. As the land use and management of the agricultural fields and drainage ditches will remain unchanged, no conflicts with the County General Plan policies for the protection of resources are anticipated.
- f) **No impact.** The Project area is not located within an adopted habitat conservation plan, natural community conservation plan, or other approved local, regional, or State habitat conservation plan. Therefore, the Proposed Project would not conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or State habitat conservation plan.

Mitigation Measure(s):

None

Level of Significance:

The Proposed Project would have a less than significant impact on biological resources.

V. Cultural Resources

<u>Issues (and Supporting Information Sources):</u>	<u>Potentially Significant Impact</u>	<u>Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</u>	<u>Less-than-Significant Impact</u>	<u>No Impact</u>
V. CULTURAL RESOURCES — Would the project:				
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to §15064.5?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of dedicated cemeteries?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Discussion

- a) **No impact.** A cultural resources assessment was conducted to identify potential impacts to historical resources. This assessment included a cultural resources records search through the Southern San Joaquin Valley Information Center (SSJVIC), a Sacred Lands File (SLF) search through the California Native American Heritage Association (NAHC), and land use history research. The records search results revealed that five cultural resources have been previously recorded within a 0.5-mile radius of the Project area. Of these five resources, one (P-16-000362), a mid-20th century power line, is located within the Project. However, this resource is located above ground and therefore will not be impacted by the Proposed Project. The remaining four resources include one historic segment of the South Pacific Railroad (P-16- 000122), one prehistoric archaeological site consisting of a lithic scatter (P-16-000067), and two prehistoric isolates (P-16-000353, -000355). These four resources will not be impacted by the Proposed Project since they are located outside of the Project area. No other historical resources have been identified in the Project area. Lastly, no new construction activities (e.g., demolition, grading or excavation, structure modification, etc.) would occur as part of the Proposed Project. As a result of these findings, the Proposed Project would cause no impact to historical resources and no mitigation measures are warranted.

On March 13, 2023, Central Valley Water Board submitted a request to consult letters to various Tribes as part of the of their Assembly Bill 52 obligations. As discussed in Section XVIII, no requests for additional consultation have been received to date.

- b) **No impact.** As discussed above and in the cultural resources assessment, the records search from the SSJVIC indicated that three archaeological resources were identified within a 0.5-mile radius of the Project area. These include one prehistoric archaeological site consisting of a lithic scatter (P-16-000067) and two prehistoric isolates (P-16-000353, -000355). These three resources will not be impacted by the Proposed Project since they are located outside of the Project area. No other archaeological resources have been identified in the Project area. The Project area is entirely located on land that has consisted of agricultural fields since at least the 1950s and has been subject to regular and recurring tilling at the Project area spanning many decades up to the present day. Moreover, since there are no new construction activities (e.g., demolition, grading or excavation, structure modification, etc.) proposed for the Project, it is unlikely that archaeological resources will be impacted by the Proposed Project. Therefore, the Proposed Project would cause no impact to archaeological resources and no mitigation measures are warranted.

- c) **No impact.** The records search from the SSJVIC indicated that no known human remains were identified within the Project area or within a 0.5-mile radius. Moreover, since there are no new construction activities (e.g., demolition, grading or excavation, structure modification, etc.) proposed for the Project, it is unlikely that human remains resources will be impacted by the Proposed Project. Therefore, the Project would cause no impact to human remains and no mitigation measures are warranted.

Mitigation Measure(s):

None

Level of Significance:

The Proposed Project would have no impact on cultural resources.

VI. Energy

<u>Issues (and Supporting Information Sources):</u>	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less-than-Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
VI. ENERGY — Would the project:				
a) Result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Discussion

a-b) **No impact.** As previously described, the Proposed Project is not anticipated to increase usage of equipment that would waste energy resources above existing conditions, as the existing treatment and conveyance infrastructure is sufficient to accommodate the increase in flow from 5.0 mgd to 7.0 mgd. Therefore, no new energy sources would be required, and no impact would occur.

Mitigation Measure(s):

None

Level of Significance:

The Proposed Project would have no impact on existing energy use.

VII. Geology and Soils

<u>Issues (and Supporting Information Sources):</u>	<u>Potentially Significant Impact</u>	<u>Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</u>	<u>Less-than-Significant Impact</u>	<u>No Impact</u>
VII. GEOLOGY AND SOILS — Would the project:				
a) Directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:				
i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
iv) Landslides?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction, or collapse?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

<i>Issues (and Supporting Information Sources):</i>	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less-than-Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Discussion

- a–e) **No impact.** The Project area is not located within an earthquake fault zone or a liquefaction- or landslide-prone area (Kings County 2010). In general, Southern California is seismically active, with most locations in proximity to faults that can produce detectable seismic ground shaking. The Proposed Project would likely be subject to strong seismic ground shaking during a substantial seismologic event. However, the Project area is remote and away from any occupied structures and the Proposed Project does not include building permanent structures that would create the risk of loss, injury, or death involving strong ground shaking. Therefore, impacts related to strong seismic ground shaking would not occur. The Proposed Project would not exacerbate seismic hazards or ground shaking in the area. No impact would occur.

Existing soils can be characterized as highly disturbed due to ongoing agricultural activities. The Project site is currently undeveloped and is essentially flat. The site's topography would not change because of the Proposed Project. No substantial soil erosion or loss of topsoil is anticipated with the application of additional treated effluent. Therefore, no impact associated with erosion of soil would occur.

The Proposed Project would not involve the construction of any new structures that would be adversely affected by unstable soils. The Proposed Project activities would not elicit lateral spreading, subsidence, or collapse. Because the Project area is characterized by flat topography between zero to two percent slopes within agricultural areas, landslides are not expected to be a significant hazard within the Project area.

Therefore, relative to existing conditions, the Proposed Project would not expose people or structures to new potential substantial adverse effects related to unstable soils. No impact would occur.

- f) **No impact.** A paleontological resources assessment was conducted to identify potential impacts to paleontological resources. This assessment included a review of paleontological literature of the region and a records search through the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County (NHMLAC). The NHMLAC database search results indicate that no fossil localities have been recorded within the Project area. The NHMLAC provided a record of several known fossil localities in the region, including LACM VP 4087, 4526, 4979, 5458, 5763, 5914, VP CT 117, and VP 7434 that were encountered in Quaternary alluvial and lacustrine sediments (Qs). However, as the Project site is entirely located on Holocene alluvium related to the migration of the Kings River fluvial fan and there are no earthmoving or excavations proposed for the Project, it is unlikely that

paleontological resources will be impacted by the Proposed Project. Therefore, there would be no impact to paleontological resources.

Mitigation Measure(s):

None

Level of Significance:

The Proposed Project would have no impact on existing soils or increase the risk to human health or paleontological resources.

VIII. Greenhouse Gas Emissions

<u><i>Issues (and Supporting Information Sources):</i></u>	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less-than-Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
VIII. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS — Would the project:				
a) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Discussion

- a-b) **No Impact.** The Proposed Project involves the application of treated effluent to agricultural crops. No increase in vehicle traffic is anticipated under the Proposed Project. No additional equipment is required under the Proposed Project and no new sources of greenhouse gases are anticipated. Therefore, relative to existing conditions, greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from the Proposed Project would remain the same and no impact would occur.

The SJVAPCD does not recommend quantitative significance thresholds for the analysis of the impact of a project's GHG emissions on the environment. Instead, the SJVAPCD's approach relies on the application of performance-based standards to assess project-specific GHG emission impacts on global climate change. This is based on the principle that projects whose emissions have been reduced or mitigated consistent with Assembly Bill (AB) 32, the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006, should be considered to have a less-than-significant impact on global climate change (SJVAPCD 2015). The Proposed Project would not increase the use of GHG emitting equipment or facilities. As discussed in Section III, Air Quality, emissions generated during implementation of the Proposed Project would be nominal and are not anticipated to increase. Therefore, the Proposed Project is consistent with applicable GHG reduction plans and programs. **No impact** would occur with respect to plans, polices, or regulations adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of GHG gases.

Mitigation Measure(s):

None

Level of Significance:

The Proposed Project would have a less than significant impact on existing greenhouse gas emissions and no impact to regulations adopted to reduce GHG emissions.

References

[San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District \(SJVAPCD\), 2015. Guidance for Assessing and Mitigating Air Quality Impacts. March 19, 2015.](http://www.valleyair.org/transportation/GAMAQI_12-26-19.pdf)
(http://www.valleyair.org/transportation/GAMAQI_12-26-19.pdf).

IX. Hazards and Hazardous Materials

<u>Issues (and Supporting Information Sources):</u>	<u>Potentially Significant Impact</u>	<u>Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</u>	<u>Less-than-Significant Impact</u>	<u>No Impact</u>
IX. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS — Would the project:				
a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

<i>Issues (and Supporting Information Sources):</i>	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less-than-Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard or excessive noise for people residing or working in the project area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
g) Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Discussion

a–g) **No impact.** A hazardous material is any material that, because of its quantity, concentration, or physical or chemical characteristics, poses a significant present or potential hazard to human health and safety or to the environment if released into the workplace or environment. State agencies regulating hazardous materials are the California Environmental Protection Agency (Cal/EPA) and the Office of Emergency Services (OES). Within the Cal/EPA, the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) has primary regulatory authority for hazardous materials regulation enforcement. State hazardous waste regulations are contained primarily in the California Code of Regulations, title 22. The California Division of Occupational Safety and Health (CalOSHA) has primary responsibility for developing and enforcing standards for safe workplaces and work practices in California in accordance with regulations specified in California Code of Regulations, title 8. The Public Health Services Department enforces hazardous waste regulations in Kings County.

The Proposed Project would require the use of small quantities of hazardous materials such as diesel fuel, gasoline, oils, grease, equipment fluids, cleaning solutions and solvents, lubricant oils, and adhesives. However, the use of these materials as a result of the Proposed Project is not expected to increase compared to use associated with existing operations. During project implementation, staff and/or contractors handling, storing, or transporting hazardous materials or wastes would comply with numerous hazardous materials regulations, such as those described above, that would reduce the risk of accidental release and provide protocols and notification requirements should an accidental release occur. By complying with relevant federal, state, and local laws, the Proposed Project would not result in a significant hazard to the public or to the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials during Project implementation. Further, the Proposed Project does not include the construction of facilities that would operate with and/or require the use of hazardous materials, therefore, no impacts associated with hazardous materials are anticipated to occur as a result of the Proposed Project.

The Proposed Project is not located within an airport land use plan or within two miles of a public airport or public use airport.

Proposed Project activities are not anticipated to physically interfere with emergency response access or adopted emergency response or evacuation plans. No road closures would be required for the proposed activities and no impacts would occur.

Surrounding vegetation and active and idle agricultural land use types have a low potential for wildland fires. In addition, as a standard safety practice, all vehicles

and equipment would have fire prevention equipment on-site, including fire extinguishers and shovels. Because the Proposed Project is not located within a very high fire hazard zone and not within or adjacent to uses prone to wildfires, the potential for wildfire impacts on people or structures due to Project implementation would be very low. No impact would occur.

The Proposed Project involves the application of treated effluent to agricultural crops. No increase in vehicle traffic is anticipated under the Proposed Project and no additional equipment is required. Therefore, no new sources of hazardous materials used on site or transported to the site are anticipated. The Proposed Project would not expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands. Therefore, no impact would occur.

Mitigation Measure(s):

None

Level of Significance:

The Proposed Project would have no impact on the public or the environment as a result of the use and transport of hazardous materials. Nor would it increase the risk of wildland fires.

References

[DTSC, 2023. Cortese List Data Resources. Available online at:](https://calepa.ca.gov/sitecleanup/corteselist/)
(<https://calepa.ca.gov/sitecleanup/corteselist/>).

X. Hydrology and Water Quality

<u>Issues (and Supporting Information Sources):</u>	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less-than-Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
X. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY — Would the project:				
a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or ground water quality?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would:				
i) result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site;	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ii) substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or offsite;	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
iii) create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff; or	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
iv) impede or redirect flood flows?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

<i>Issues (and Supporting Information Sources):</i>	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less-than-Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
d) In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Discussion

- a) **Less than significant.** The Proposed Project is to increase the volume of treated effluent applied to land by 2.0 mgd. Leprino and the City of Lemoore are currently operating under WDRs which establishes treated effluent water quality limitations. The production and use of the combined effluent is regulated, in part, pursuant to Title 22. Under the Proposed Project, the combined effluent would be applied to 2,420 acres of alfalfa, triticale, cotton, and tomatoes. Kennedy Jenks prepared a ROWD on behalf of Leprino (Appendix A) that describes the treatment facilities' processes and application of combined effluent for irrigation of crops. The application of disinfected secondary-23 water on tomatoes does not meet the requirements of Title 22. As described in the ROWD, tomato crops would be irrigated using drip irrigation to avoid wastewater application to the tomato fruit and canned at very high temperatures that destroy pathogens present in the recycled water. Leprino submitted an updated Title 22 Engineering report to the State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water, which was conditionally approved 23 June 2023.

Groundwater underlying the River Ranch is of poor quality, dominated by high salinity and boron. Shallow groundwater underlying the Proposed Project already exceeds water quality objectives for many constituents, particularly salts and nitrate. However, the ROWD indicates that the concentrations in the percolate from an increase of 5.0 mgd to 7.0 mgd are negligible and that the A-Clay layer will prevent percolation of constituents into deeper zones of the underlying groundwater (Kennedy Jenks, 2022).

The Project area includes a section of the Kings River as well as stock ponds fed directly by the Kings River east of the Project site. The roads used to navigate the agricultural fields have agricultural drainage ditches that run parallel to the fields. The agricultural drainage ditches on-site are potentially jurisdictional features (i.e., federal and/or state protected waters), subject to the regulatory authority of the United States Army Corps of Engineers, the Central Valley Water Board, and/or CDFW. The adjacent Kings River is considered jurisdictional for all three regulatory agencies. There are no direct connections between the Project area and the Kings River. As reported in the ROWD, the drainage system is constructed to prevent flow between the evaporation basins and the Kings River (Kennedy Jenks, 2022).

The existing drainage system consists of drain lines in the Stone Ranch fields, subsurface interceptor drain lines, a few interceptor ditches, collection sumps, pumps, and an evaporation basin. There is no subsurface drainage infrastructure on the Nederend property; instead, any excess runoff is removed using tailwater ditches and then reapplied. In 2021, Leprino installed three groundwater monitoring wells to assess shallow groundwater conditions above the A-Clay on

- both the Stone Ranch and Nederend properties and conducts monitoring and reporting of groundwater constituents in accordance with the existing WDRs. The revised WDRs Order will require continued groundwater monitoring and reporting to the Central Valley Water Board. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.
- b) **No impact.** As described above, the Proposed Project would not decrease groundwater supplies or interfere with recharge in a way that would impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin. Therefore, no impact would occur.
- c) **Less than significant.** The Proposed Project would not introduce impervious surfaces or structures that could substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the Project site in a manner that would result in substantial erosion or siltation. No permanent facilities would be constructed that could impede or redirect flows. The Proposed Project does not include ground disturbing activities that could impact or alter the flow of surface water. Water applied to irrigated lands would naturally percolate through the soils to stabilize plant roots reducing potential for erosion. Any excess runoff would be removed using tailwater ditches and then reapplied. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.
- d) **Less than significant.** The Project area is in the Central Valley, far removed from the Pacific Ocean, and, therefore, would not risk release of pollutants due to inundation of the Proposed Project from a tsunami.
- The Project site is located in an unmapped flood hazard zone just outside the Pine Flat Dam inundation zone. If Pine Flat Dam on the Kings River failed while at full capacity, floodwaters would arrive in Kings County within approximately five hours (Kings County, 2010). Significant flooding occurs in Kings County approximately every five years. Flooding of the Kings River is rare but should flooding occur in the Project area, the combined effluent is treated and disinfected to remove/reduce pollutants including pathogens prior to land application. With this level of treatment and with excess dilution from flood waters the potential impact to the environment from the release of pollutants by flood/inundation would be less than significant.
- e) **Less than significant.** The Proposed Project would be required to comply with the revised WDRs Order, which would incorporate applicable requirements of the Central Valley Water Board’s Basin Plan, and, therefore, would not obstruct or conflict with the Basin Plan’s implementation. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measure(s):

None

3. Environmental Checklist

Level of Significance:

The Proposed Project would have less than a significant impacts on water quality and implementation of water quality control plans, as well as soil erosion and flooding. There would be no impact on groundwater supply or the ability to recharge.

References

[County of Kings 2035 General Plan. 2010.](https://www.countyofkings.com/departments/community-development-agency/information/2035-general-plan)

(<https://www.countyofkings.com/departments/community-development-agency/information/2035-general-plan>).

Kennedy Jenks. 2022. Report of Waste Discharge: Leprino Foods Company/City of Lemoore Combined Effluent Discharge to the River Ranch

XI. Land Use and Planning

<u><i>Issues (and Supporting Information Sources):</i></u>	<u><i>Potentially Significant Impact</i></u>	<u><i>Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</i></u>	<u><i>Less-than-Significant Impact</i></u>	<u><i>No Impact</i></u>
XI. LAND USE AND PLANNING — Would the project:				
a) Physically divide an established community?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Discussion

a-b) **No impact.** The Proposed Project involves an increase in the volume of treated effluent used to irrigated lands currently under agricultural production. The physical division of an established community generally refers to the construction of a feature such as an interstate highway or railroad tracks, or removal of a means of access, such as a local road or bridge that would impact mobility within an existing community or between a community and outlying area. Given that the Proposed Project would not involve construction of any permanent, aboveground physical structures, the Proposed Project would result in no impact to the physical division of an established community.

The Project area is designated as Agricultural/Open Space (County of Kings 2023). The Proposed Project would not develop any permanent built facilities that would change the land use of the Project site. As such, the Proposed Project would not conflict with the Kings County General Plans or Kings County Zoning Codes. No impact would occur.

Mitigation Measure(s):

None

Level of Significance:

The Proposed Project would have no impact on land use and planning.

XII. Mineral Resources

<u><i>Issues (and Supporting Information Sources):</i></u>	<u><i>Potentially Significant Impact</i></u>	<u><i>Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</i></u>	<u><i>Less-than-Significant Impact</i></u>	<u><i>No Impact</i></u>
XII. MINERAL RESOURCES — Would the project:				
a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally-important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan, or other land use plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

3. Environmental Checklist

Discussion

- a–b) **No impact.** Neither the Project site nor the surrounding area is designated as a Mineral Resources Zone by the State Mining and Geology Board (Department of Conservation, 2023). The Proposed Project is associated with existing agricultural purposes and the project design does not include mineral extraction. The Proposed Project would not result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state and would therefore have no impact.

Mitigation Measure(s):

None

Level of Significance:

The Proposed Project would have no impact on mineral resources.

References

[California Department of Conservation, 2023.](https://www.conservation.ca.gov/smgb) (<https://www.conservation.ca.gov/smgb>)

XIII. Noise

<u>Issues (and Supporting Information Sources):</u>	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less-than-Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
XIII.NOISE — Would the project result in:				
a) Generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) For a project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Discussion

a-c) **No impact.** The Proposed Project would not increase noise levels over existing conditions. There would be no change in equipment usage or construction of buildings that would create noise. Therefore, no impact would occur.

Mitigation Measure(s):

None

Level of Significance:

The Proposed Project would have no impact on noise levels.

XIV. Population and Housing

<u><i>Issues (and Supporting Information Sources):</i></u>	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less-than-Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
XIV. POPULATION AND HOUSING — Would the project:				
a) Induce substantial unplanned population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

3. Environmental Checklist

Discussion

- a-b) The Proposed Project involves an increase in the volume of treated effluent used to irrigated lands currently under agricultural production. No new employees or new homes are anticipated to be required and no new roads would be constructed. Therefore, no impact would occur.

Mitigation Measure(s):

None

Level of Significance:

The Proposed Project would have no impact on population and housing.

XV. Public Services

<u>Issues (and Supporting Information Sources):</u>	<u>Potentially Significant Impact</u>	<u>Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</u>	<u>Less-than-Significant Impact</u>	<u>No Impact</u>
XV. PUBLIC SERVICES —				
a) Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the following public services:				
i) Fire protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
ii) Police protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
iii) Schools?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
iv) Parks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
v) Other public facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Discussion

- a) **No impact.** The Proposed Project involves an increase in the volume of treated effluent used to irrigated lands currently under agricultural production. No new employees or new homes are anticipated to be required. Therefore, no new or additional public services would be required to maintain acceptable service levels for fire or police. Therefore, no impact would occur.

Mitigation Measure(s):

None

Level of Significance:

The Proposed Project would have no impact on public services.

XVI. Recreation

<u>Issues (and Supporting Information Sources):</u>	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less-than-Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
XVI. RECREATION —				
a) Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Discussion

- a) **No impact.** There are no recreational resources in the Project area. The Proposed Project involves an increase in the volume of treated effluent used to irrigated lands currently under agricultural production. There are no recreational resources that would be impacted under the Proposed Project. Therefore, no impact would occur.

Mitigation Measure(s):

None

Level of Significance:

The Proposed Project would have no impact on recreation.

XVII. Transportation

<u>Issues (and Supporting Information Sources):</u>	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less-than-Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
XVII. TRANSPORTATION — Would the project:				
a) Conflict with a program plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle, and pedestrian facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Would the project conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3, subdivision (b)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Result in inadequate emergency access?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Discussion

a–d) **No impact.** The Proposed Project involves an increase in the volume of treated effluent used to irrigated lands currently under agricultural production. The Proposed Project is in a rural, sparsely populated area that does not have high traffic volume. The Proposed Project does not include the construction of new roads. The volume of traffic to the site is not anticipated to increase, and therefore, transportation would not be impacted. Therefore, no impact would occur.

Mitigation Measure(s):

None

Level of Significance:

The Proposed Project would have no impact on transportation.

XVIII. Tribal Cultural Resources

<u>Issues (and Supporting Information Sources):</u>	<u>Potentially Significant Impact</u>	<u>Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</u>	<u>Less-than-Significant Impact</u>	<u>No Impact</u>
XVIII. TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES —				
a) Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is:				
i) Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code Section 5020.1(k), or	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
ii) A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

3. Environmental Checklist

Discussion

a.i–a.ii) The Southern San Joaquin Valley Information Center records search did not identify potential tribal cultural resources within the Project area. The Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) Sacred Lands File (SLF) search returned positive results. The NAHC letter did not provide details on the resources identified from the SLF but suggested contacting the Santa Rosa Indian Community of the Santa Rosa Rancheria for information on this positive result. The NAHC also provided a list of other Native American tribes to contact as they may have knowledge of cultural resources within the Project area. The Central Valley Water Board conducted consultation with California Native American tribes pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21080.3.1 to identify tribal cultural resources in or near the Project area.

On March 13, 2023, the Central Valley Water Board sent notification letters via email to the three designated representatives of two California Native American tribes (**Table 1**) The letters provided a brief description of the Project and its location, with maps, the lead agency’s contact information, and a notification that the tribe has 30 days to request consultation.

To date, no response has been received. The Proposed Project would not disturb land with the application of wastewater, and no tribal cultural resources are known to occur in the Project area, thus, there would be no impact on tribal cultural resources.

TABLE 1
SUMMARY OF AB 52 CONSULTATION

Tribe	Contact/Title	Date Letter Sent	Response
Tule River Indian Tribe	Kerri Vera, Environmental Dept.	3/13/2023	No response
Tule River Indian Tribe	Teresa Ceballos, Environmental Program Assistant	3/13/2023	No response
Santa Rosa Rancheria Tachi Yokut Tribe	Ryan Macintosh, Environmental Director	3/13/2023	No response

Mitigation Measure(s):

None

Level of Significance:

The Proposed Project would have no impact on tribal cultural resources.

XIX. Utilities and Service Systems

<i>Issues (and Supporting Information Sources):</i>	<i>Potentially Significant Impact</i>	<i>Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</i>	<i>Less-than-Significant Impact</i>	<i>No Impact</i>
XIX. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS —				
Would the project:				
a) Require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry, and multiple dry years?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Generate solid waste in excess of State or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Discussion

- a-b) **No impact.** The Proposed Project would include increased use of treated effluent from Leprino's cheese processing facilities and City of Lemoore's domestic wastewater treatment facility. The combined discharge of 7.0 mgd will be used to irrigate approximately 2,420 acres of crops at the River Ranch property. Water required for operation of the proposed increased effluent discharge would be supplied entirely by the City of Lemoore's existing capacity and no new or expanded entitlements would be required. Increased water use as a result of the Proposed Project would be offset by Leprino and Lemoore's reuse of wastewater for irrigation of crops, thus reducing the need for irrigation water from other sources. Therefore, the Proposed Project would not require or result in relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment, stormwater drainage, electrical power, natural gas, or telecommunication facilities. No impact would occur.
- c) **Less than significant.** As described in Section 2.2, Project Objectives, the Proposed Project would maximize the beneficial reuse of wastewater by Leprino's cheese processing facilities and the City of Lemoore. Currently, 5.0 mgd of disinfected secondary-23 recycled water is discharged to 1,900 acres of farmland for the irrigation of crops. The Proposed Project would increase the discharge to 7.0 mgd and expand the land application area to include an adjoining 520-acre parcel, formally known as the Nederend property. Leprino and Lemoore have determined that their respective facilities have adequate capacity to accommodate the 2 mgd increase. Therefore, the impacts would be considered less than significant.
- d) **No impact.** The Proposed Project involves the application of treated wastewater to crops for irrigation. No new solid waste would be generated as a result of the Proposed Project. Therefore, no impact would occur.
- e) **No impact.** The Proposed Project involves the application of treated wastewater to crops for irrigation. No additional solid waste would be generated as a result of the increased discharge of 2 mgd of recycled wastewater. Therefore, the Proposed Project will comply with all federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste. Therefore, no impact would occur.

Mitigation Measure(s):

None

Level of Significance:

The Proposed Project would have a less than significant impact on utilities and service systems.

3. Environmental Checklist

References

Los Angeles County Sanitation District (LACSD), 2023. Avenal Regional Landfill (16-AA-0004) Fact Sheet. Available online at:
(<https://www2.calrecycle.ca.gov/SolidWaste/SiteActivity/Details/3755?siteID=898>,
Accessed on April 4, 2023).

XX. Wildfire

<u>Issues (and Supporting Information Sources):</u>	<u>Potentially Significant Impact</u>	<u>Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</u>	<u>Less-than-Significant Impact</u>	<u>No Impact</u>
XX. WILDFIRE — If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the project:				
a) Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks, and thereby expose project occupants to, pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Discussion

- a-d) **No impact.** The Project site is in an agricultural area. The Proposed Project is not included within or near an area designated as a State Responsibility Area and is not located in an area classified as a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone according to the map prepared by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) (CAL Fire 2023). Therefore, no impacts related to wildfire would occur.

Mitigation Measure(s):

None

Level of Significance:

The Proposed Project would have no impact on wildfire.

References

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL Fire), 2023. Fire Hazard Severity Zone Viewer. Available at: <https://egis.fire.ca.gov/FHSZ/>. Accessed April 4, 2023.

XXI. Mandatory Findings of Significance

<u>Issues (and Supporting Information Sources):</u>	<u>Potentially Significant Impact</u>	<u>Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated</u>	<u>Less-than-Significant Impact</u>	<u>No Impact</u>
XXI. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE —				
a) Does the project have the potential to substantially degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? (“Cumulatively considerable” means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Discussion

- a) **No impact.** The Proposed Project would not substantially degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce or restrict the range of rare or endangered plants or animals, or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory.

- b) **No Impact.** GHG emissions worldwide cumulatively contribute to the significant adverse environmental impacts of global climate change. The combination of GHG emissions from past, present, and future Projects in the San Joaquin Valley, the entire state of California, across the nation, and around the world contribute cumulatively to the phenomenon of global climate change and its associated environmental impacts. The existing treatment facilities have the capacity to support the Proposed Project and do not require additional equipment that would generate GHG emissions above that which is already generated. No impact would occur.

- c) **No impact.** As discussed in the preceding analyses, the Proposed Project would have less than significant impacts and/or no impact on all issue areas analyzed. Therefore, the Proposed Project would not cause substantial adverse effects to humans either directly or indirectly. No impact would occur.

Mitigation Measure(s):

None

Level of Significance:

The Proposed Project would have a less than significant impact with regard to the environmental issues for which analysis is required under the mandatory findings of significance.

Appendix A

Report of Waste Discharge: City of Lemoore/Leprino Foods River Ranch Recycled Water Project

Appendix B
**Biological Resources Technical
Report**