



RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AGENCY

5961 SOUTH MOONEY BLVD
VISALIA, CA 93277
PHONE (559) 624-7000
FAX (559) 615-3002

Aaron R. Bock Economic Development and Planning
Reed Schenke Public Works
Sherman Dix Fiscal Services

REED SCHENKE, DIRECTOR

MICHAEL WASHAM, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 11, 2024

TO: Office of Planning and Research-State Clearinghouse
Gary Mills, Chief Environmental Planner *Gary A. Mills*

FROM: Jessica Willis, Planner IV

SUBJECT: Update to the project description for the Touchstone Pistachio Modification
Project, SCH# 2023120354

The Notice of Preparation (NOP) of a Focused Environmental Impact Report (Focused EIR) for the Touchstone Pistachio Modification Project (SCH# 2023120354) was submitted to and published on the State Clearinghouse CEQAnet for a 30-day review and comment period. The NOP was distributed to various federal, state, and local agencies, tribal representatives, and interested parties via certified mail and emailed to those that have provided an email address. A notice was published in the Sun-Gazette, a newspaper of general circulation, providing the locations where the NOP has been made available.

The NOP included notification that a scoping meeting was to be held on December 28, 2023 and could be attended in person or by conference call. County staff and the applicant were in attendance; no other agencies or interested parties attended or called in.

During the scoping meeting, the applicant requested that the project description be amended to include land application of water on two properties located south of the project site. The applicant indicated that he was in communication with the owners of the additional properties and that the appropriate documentation was in process. The applicant also indicated that they had also been in contact with the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) regarding the requirement to update their current Waste Discharge Requirements (WDR) permits. As such, the County has agreed to amend the project description to include the additional land application area and address potential impacts resulting from the additional water application area.

The following is a summary of the amended project description (i.e., proposed modifications to the existing processing facility and addition of land application area).

- Addition of a future metal pistachio warehouse/multipurpose building: (max. size 160,000 sq. ft. (200' x 800'));

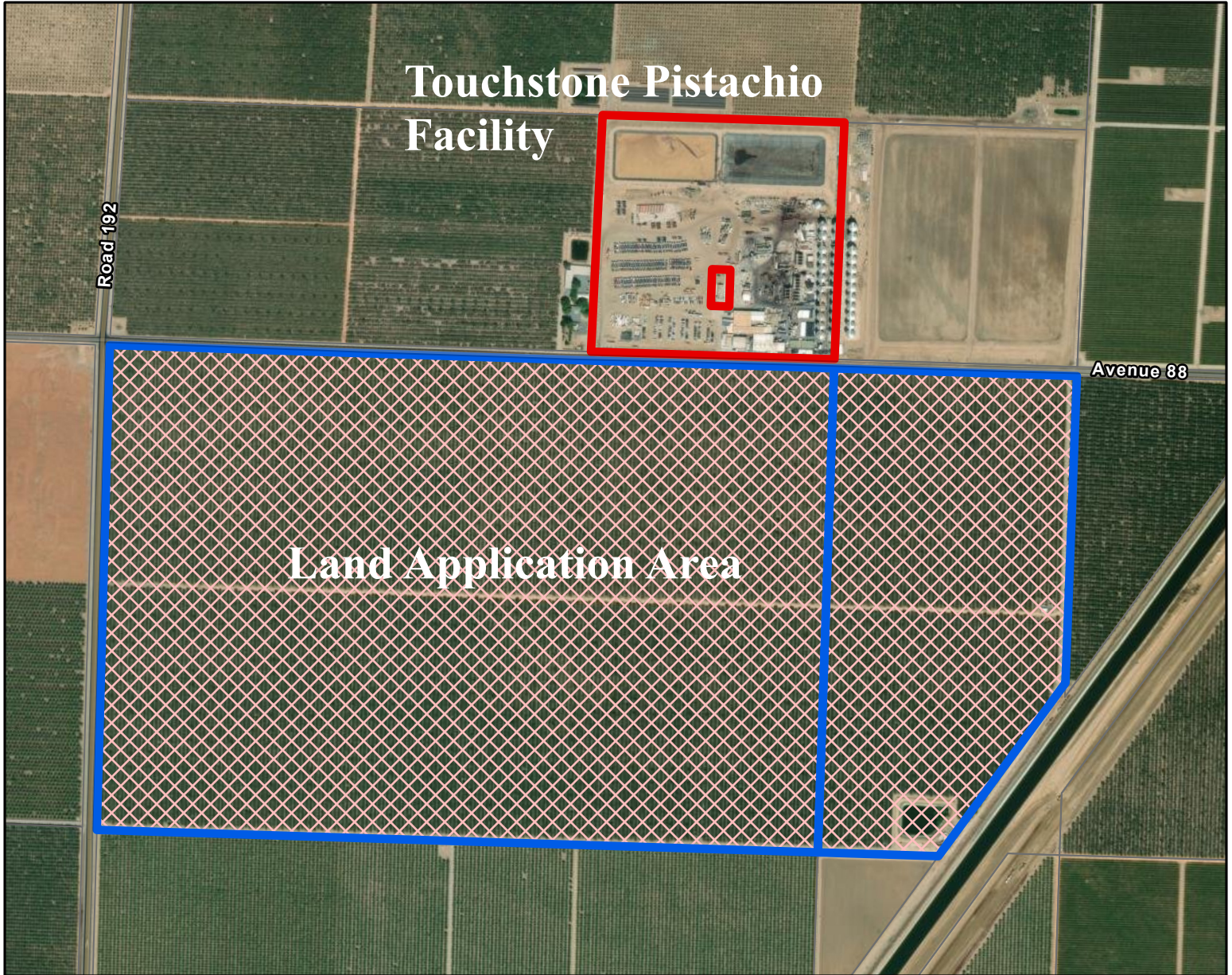
- Future regrading/paving of the employee parking lot;
- Addition of two future truck scales;
- Addition of a new "Shipping" office (approximately 7,280 sq. ft.); and
- Modification of WDR permits, including:
 - Addition of two parcels totaling approximately 311 acres to the process water land application area (APNs 319-140-030 and 319-140-032);
 - Increase flow limits from 0.576 million gallons per day; and
 - Increase annual flow limits from 26 million gallons per year to 49 million gallons per year.

The proposed modifications, when implemented, will result in more efficient facility operations for Touchstone and its employees. The proposed modifications would not add employees or truck trips, and it would not result in additional groundwater consumption. The facility will continue its typical operations of 12 hours per day (6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.) except during the harvest period when it operates 24 hours per day.

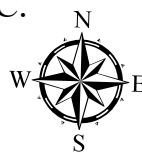
The County is requesting that the State Clearinghouse distribute this memo to the agencies identified on the NOC submitted with the NOP.







TOUCHSTONE PISTACHIO MODIFICATION



Applicant: TOUCHSTONE PISTACHIO COMPANY LLC.
 Address: 19570 Ave 88
 City, State, ZIP: Terra Bella CA 93270
 Accessors Parcel #: 319-130-024, 319-130-025,
 319-140-030, & 319-140-032
 Supervisor district: 5



Legend

-  APN 319-140-030
-  APN 319-140-032
-  APN 319-130-024 & 025
-  Parcels

