



**COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**

**Steve Maxey**  
Director

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DATE: February 9, 2024

Equal Opportunity Employer

TO: State Clearinghouse, County Clerk-Recorder, Responsible and  
Trustee Agencies, Interested Persons

FROM: Tiffany Ho, Deputy Director of Planning  
Tiffany@countyofmerced.com  
(209) 385-7654 ext. 4407

**SUBJECT: Notice of Intent to Adopt an Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration for Major  
Modification No. MM22-013 to Administrative Application No. AA98-030 ("Morning Star  
Packing Plant Facility Upgrades Project")**

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**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the County of Merced intent to adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) and supporting Initial Study (IS) for Major Modification No. MM22-013 to Administrative Application No. AA98-030 ("Morning Star Packing Plant Facility Upgrades Project"), described below, prepared in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

**LEAD AGENCY:** County of Merced, Community & Economic Development Department  
2222 "M" Street, 2nd Floor, Merced CA 95340

**CONTACT PERSON:** Tiffany Ho, Deputy Director of Planning (209) 385-7654 ext. 4407  
Tiffany.Ho@countyofmerced.com

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION & LOCATION:** The project is a request to allow for the construction and operation of an approximately 15,000-square-foot cafeteria and break room building, a harvester repair shop, and an additional multi-effect evaporator and the installation of a 5-MW natural gas turbine generator to supply power to all on-site facilities. The project would also include relocation of an employee parking area from its current location to an existing unpaved area on-site. The project site is located on the southeast corner of South Volta Road and South Ingomar Grade in the Volta area, identified as Assessor's Parcel Number (APN) 081-060-093 and 081-060-094. The project site is designated as Agricultural and Industrial land use in the General Plan and zoned A-1 (General Agricultural) and M-2 (General Manufacturing).

The IS/MND is being circulated for a 30-day public review and comment period (starting February 9, 2024 and ending March 11, 2024). Any written comments on the MND must be received at the above address or above email no later than 5:00 PM on the end date of the public review period.

Copies of the MND are available to review at the above address Monday through Friday, between the hours of 8:30 AM and 4:30 PM and on the County's website at [www.countyofmerced.com/414/Environmental-Documents](http://www.countyofmerced.com/414/Environmental-Documents).

The Merced County Planning Commission will conduct a public hearing to consider adoption of the MND at a future date to be determined. This meeting will be separately noticed when the date and time are determined.

**Buildings and Safety Division**  
Robert Lindsey, Deputy

**Economic and Castle Airport  
Development Division**  
Mark Mimms, Deputy

**Environmental Health  
Division**  
Amanda Duran, Interim Deputy

**Planning Division**  
Tiffany Ho, Deputy

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