



NOTICE OF PREPARATION/INITIAL STUDY FOR A FOCUSED ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

Notice is hereby given that the City of Hanford will be the Lead Agency and will prepare a focused Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the proposed Hanford Dairy Manufacturing Plant Project (Project). An Initial Study has been prepared along with this Notice of Preparation (NOP), which scopes out environmental topics for further review. The focused EIR will address the potential physical environmental effects of the proposed projects that have not been scoped out, as outlined in the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The City is requesting comments on the scope and content of this focused EIR.

A scoping session will be held on Monday, July 8, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. at City Hall in the Training Room (319 N Douty Street, Hanford, CA 93230). The scoping session, which is part of the focused EIR process, is the time when the City solicits input from the public and agencies on specific topics they believe should be addressed in the environmental analysis. The scoping process is designed to enable the City to determine the scope and content of the focused EIR, identify the range of actions, and identify potentially significant environmental effects, alternatives, and mitigation measures to be analyzed in the focused EIR.

Project Location

The Project site is bounded by the San Joaquin Valley Railroad (SJVRR) tracks to the north, vacant land to the west, Lacey Boulevard to the south, and the planned High-Speed Rail (HSR) station to the east, in unincorporated Kings County, CA. The Project is located on Assessor Parcel Numbers (APN) 014-260-116 (with the recordation of a parcel map the APN was changed from 014-260-078), within Section 28, Township 18 South, Range 22 East, Mount Diablo Base and Meridian (MDB&M). The proposed annexation involves other adjacent parcels, namely APN 014-260-115 to the west and APNs 014-260-077, 016-070-037, and 016-070-042) to the west and south of the Project site.

Project Description

Marquez Brothers International (MBI) proposes to construct a new dairy processing facility on an approximately 49.4-acre site located east of the City in Kings County, California (Project). MBI produces cheese, cream, yogurt, whey protein concentrate powder, and other dairy products. MBI's Master Plan for the future includes new construction in nine phases over several years that would include relocating select product manufacturing from the current South 11th Avenue Hanford campus to the new facility on Lacey Boulevard.

The proposed facility would include buildings for office uses, raw processing, product processing, and warehousing, as well as a utility building. The proposed facility would also

include internal roadways, parking areas, two on-site stormwater retention basins, landscaping, fencing, and three driveways along Lacey Boulevard.

The proposed Project would require approval of an annexation into the City, a Sphere of Influence (SOI) expansion, a General Plan Amendment, rezoning, and a Site Plan Review. There may be additional approvals required to accommodate construction of any development proposed on the other adjacent parcels not included as part of the Project, There is no new development or change in land use proposed on these additional parcels with this Project

As mandated by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the public review period for this document was 30 days (CEQA Section 15073[b]). The public review period began on June 21, 2024 and ended on July 22, 2024. For further information, please contact Gabrielle de Silva Myers, 317 N. Douty Street, Hanford, CA 93230, (559) 585-2578 or visit: <https://cityofhanfordca.com/1236/Current-Projects>

Mailing Address and Phone Number of Contact Person

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Findings

As Lead Agency, the City of Hanford finds that the Project will have a significant effect on the environment. The Environmental Checklist (CEQA Guidelines Appendix G) or Initial Study (IS) (see *Section 3 - Environmental Checklist*) has identified one or more potentially significant effects on the environment. Pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 115064 (a)(1), an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must be prepared if there is substantial evidence in light of the whole record that the proposed Project under review may have a significant effect on the environment and should be further analyzed to determine mitigation measures or project alternatives that might avoid or reduce project impacts to less than significant levels. The City of Hanford has determined that preparation of a focused Environmental Impact Report for the Project is necessary.



Figure 2-1
Project Site Area