

# Notice of Exemption

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**To:** Office of Planning and Research  
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113  
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044  
  
County Clerk  
County of Merced  
2222 M Street  
Merced, CA 95340

**From:** Merced County  
2222 M Street  
Merced, CA 95340

**Project Title:** Minor Modification No. MM22-010 to Administrative Application No. AA 168 for Hidden Valley Dairy Dairy Digester

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**Project Applicant:** 4Creeks Investments, LLC

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**Project Location:** Located on the west side of South Kniebes Road, approximately 294 feet north of West Andersen Road in the Gustine area, identified as Assessor's Parcel Number 054-130-020 and 054-130-027

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**Project City:** Gustine

**Project  
County:**

Merced County

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**Project Description:**

The project proposes to construct, install, and operate an anaerobic dairy digester and necessary infrastructure accessory to an existing dairy facility. The necessary infrastructure includes the lining and covering of a new pond on-site, to standards required by the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB). This also includes a biogas conditioning pad.

**Name of Public Agency Approving Project:** County of Merced, Community & Economic Development Department

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**Name of Person or Agency Carrying out Project:** Ana Hernandez, Planner I

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**Exempt Status:**

Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);

Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));

Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 145269(b)(c));

Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: Section 15301 ("Existing Facilities") and Section 15311 ("Accessory Structures")

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Statutory Exemptions. State code number: \_\_\_\_\_

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Other \_\_\_\_\_

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**Reasons why project is exempt:**

The project involves establishing a dairy digester accessory to an existing dairy facility. The project does not involve an expansion or intensification of the dairy use or structures in terms of the area and space occupied by the dairy; or an increase in the number of animals. On-site employees, business or production output and daily vehicle traffic for the dairy would not change.

**Lead Agency Contact Person:** Ana Hernandez, Planner I

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**Area Code/Telephone/Extension:** (209) 385-7654 ext. 4422

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**Signature & Date:**

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**Title:** Planner I

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Date  
Received  
for filing:

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Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.

Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code