



**COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**

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Equal Opportunity Employer

Notice of Intent to Adopt an Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration

Date: June 17th, 2022

To: Public Agencies, Organizations, and Interested Parties
From: County of Merced, Community and Economic Development Department

Subject: Notice of Intent to Adopt an Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND)

Pursuant to Section 15072 – Notice of Intent to Adopt a Negative Declaration or Mitigated Negative Declaration - of the CEQA Guidelines, the County of Merced has prepared and Initial Study to evaluate the environmental effects of the project identified below:

Project Title: Administrative Application No. AA22-021 – Olivares Sweet Potato Storage Expansion Project

Project Location: The project site is on an approximately 18.36 acre parcel located on the east side of Griffith Ave., approximately 500 feet north of Schendel Ave. in the Delhi area of Merced County (see Figure 1). The property is designated Agricultural land use in the 2030 Merced County General Plan and is zoned A-1 (General Agricultural). The property is identified as Assessor's Parcel Number 046-110-005, located within the N ½ of Section 7, Township 6 South, Range 11 East, Mount Diablo Base and Meridian.

Project Description: Administrative Application No. AA22-021 proposes to construct four (4), 12,000 square foot steel sweet potato storage buildings along with an attached 6,000 square foot lean-to building with a metal roof, a 2,480 square foot truck dock, an 1,800 square foot office building (to replace the current approximately 1,750 square foot office building), and an approximately 12,500 square foot asphalt parking lot with an adjacent walkway. The proposed warehouse would increase Farm Management storage capacity, reduce the need to rent off-site storage and improve the efficiency of their operations. The proposed project would expand the existing facility by approximately 1.5 acres, and would not reduce the size of the existing approximately 11 acre growing area.

CEQA Project Status: An Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) has been prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA. The IS/MND determined that the proposed project would result in less-than-significant impacts. The Public Review Draft IS/MND is available at the Community & Economic Development Department's public counter and on the County's website at: <https://www.co.merced.ca.us/414/Environmental-Documents>

Public Hearing: The Planning Commission will consider the Administrative Permit and the proposed project IS/MND at a public hearing after CEQA review has been completed.

Planning Commission meetings, begin at 9:00 a.m., and are held in the Board Chambers of the County Administration Building; located at 2222 M Street, Merced, CA 95340.

Public Review Period: A 20-day public review period for the IS/MND will begin on June 17, 2022. Written comments may be mailed, submitted in person, or emailed to the contact person identified below no later than 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, July 10th, 2022.

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