



**COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**

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Equal Opportunity Employer

Notice of Intent to Adopt an Initial Study/ Negative Declaration

Date: July 1st, 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. AA22-026 – Kandola Farms Produce Sweet Potato Storage Expansion Project

Project Location: The project site is on an approximately 29.93 acre parcel located on the north side of W. Atwater-Jordan Road, approximately 2150 feet east of Washington Blvd. in the Livingston 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 049-050-089, located within the N ½ of Section 7, Township 7 South, Range 11 East, Mount Diablo Base and Meridian.

Project Description: Administrative Application No. AA22-026 proposes to construct four, 9,600 square foot, steel, sweet potato storage buildings. The proposed warehouses would increase sweet potato storage capacity, reduce the need to rent off-site storage and improve the efficiency of their operations. The proposed project would expand the existing warehousing area by +5 acres, and would reduce the size of the existing growing area by the same amount.

CEQA Project Status: An Initial Study/Negative Declaration (IS/ND) has been prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA. The IS/ND determined that the proposed project would result in less-than-significant impacts. The Public Review Draft IS/ND 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 July 1, 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 21st, 2022.

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