



County of Fresno

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND PLANNING
STEVEN E. WHITE, DIRECTOR

EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

APPLICANT: Orlando Ramirez (Ramirez Land Planning)

APPLICATION NOS.: Initial Study No. 8381 and Variance Application No. 4150

DESCRIPTION: Allow the creation of two substandard size parcels (2.08-acre and 14.93-acre) from an existing 17.01-acre parcel in the AE-20 (Exclusive Agricultural, 20-acre minimum parcel size) Zone District.

LOCATION: The subject parcel is located on the south side of E. American Ave., directly abutting S. Sunnyside Ave. Approximately 2.65 miles west of the City of Fresno. (APN: 340-020-82S) (5447 E. American Ave.) (Sup. Dist. 5).

I. AESTHETICS

Except as provided in Public Resources Code Section 21099, would the project:

- A. Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista; or
- B. Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway; or
- C. In non-urbanized areas, substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings? (Public views are those that are experienced from publicly accessible vantage points.) If the project is in an urbanized area, would the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality; or
- D. Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?

FINDING: NO IMPACT

This application proposes to allow the creation of a 2.08-acre parcel encompassing an existing single-family dwelling. As no development or additional outdoor lighting is proposed with this application, there will be no impacts to the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings. The remainder of the 14.93-

acre parcel is dedicated to agricultural production (vineyard). Additionally, no scenic vistas or other scenic resources were identified, and the property is not located within a state scenic highway. Although there is no development being proposed, in the event development is proposed, it will be subject to Section 834.4.025.B(1)(a). of the Zoning Ordinance, which requires outdoor lighting to be hooded, arranged and controlled so not to be directly visible from an abutting property or public street right-of-way.

II. AGRICULTURAL AND FORESTRY RESOURCES

In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Department of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. In determining whether impacts to forest resources, including timberland, are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to information compiled by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection regarding the state's inventory of forest land, including the Forest and Range Assessment Project and the Forest Legacy Assessment project; and forest carbon measurement methodology in Forest Protocols adopted by the California Air Resources Board. Would the project:

- A. Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance, as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use; or
- 8. Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act Contract?

FINDING: LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT:

The subject parcel is currently restricted under Williamson Act contract No. 6509. According to the 2016 Fresno County Important Farmland Map, Rural Land Mapping Edition, the subject property is classified as Prime Farmland. The Policy Planning Unit of the Fresno County Department of Public Works and Planning determined that the proposed parcel creation is inconsistent with the provisions of the Williamson Act Contract, and the proposed 2.08-acre parcel does not meet the qualifications to remain in the Williamson Act Program and must be removed from the Contract through a partial cancellation of the contract. The Applicant will be required to file a petition for Partial Cancellation of Williamson Act Contract No. 6509. Additionally, as the remaining 14.93 acres does not meet the minimum parcels size to remain under contract, the Applicant must record a Notice of contract Non-Renewal. The land for which a Notice of Nonrenewal is recorded on will still be subject to all Williamson Act restrictions until the expiration date of the contract.

To meet compliance with requirement, the Applicant has filed an Irrevocable Notice of Nonrenewal for the entire 17.01-acre parcel with the Fresno County Records Office in April 2024, document No. 2024-0039033. Additionally, the applicant has complied with the Fresno County Policy Planning Unit for processing of the contract cancellation.

- C. Conflict with existing zoning for forest land, timberland or timberland zoned Timberland

Production; or

- D. Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

The subject parcel is not located in an area zoned for forest land or timberland zoned for Timberland Production, thus will not result in the loss of timberland or forest land.

- E. Involve other changes in the existing environment, which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural use or conversion of forestland to non-forest use?

FINDING: LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT:

The project, if approved, will result in the conversion of 2.08 acres of land that is currently devoted to residential uses, unconnected to the existing agricultural operation. No additional residential development is proposed, and the separation of 2.08-acres from the existing 17.01-net acre parcel would be a less than significant impact to Farmland due to the fact that about 14.93-acres, a substantial portion (approximately 88 percent) of the existing parcel's land area, will remain in agricultural production.

III. AIR QUALITY

Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management district or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations. Would the project:

- A. Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable Air Quality Plan; or
- B. Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard; or
- C. Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations; or
- D. Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

No development is proposed, and no development will be authorized with this application. If the Variance application is approved, a mapping application will be required. Therefore, the approval of this application will not result in any conflict with, obstruction of, or implementation of an applicable air quality plan; nor result in the generation of any additional criteria pollutants or emissions which may be associated with the existing farming operation.

IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Would the project:

- A. Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special-status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; or
- B. Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; or
- C. Have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means; or
- D. Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites; or
- E. Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance; or
- F. Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state Habitat Conservation Plan?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

As the project entails the creation of parcels that will be reflected only on a map there will be no substantial effect on any species identified in the IPaC list and will not conflict with any adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation or other approved local, regional or state Habitat Conservation Plan.

V. CULTURAL RESOURCES

Would the project:

- A. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to Section 15064.5; or
- B. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to Section 15064.5; or
- C. Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

Aside from the ongoing agricultural operations on the subject parcel, no development or ground disturbance is proposed with this application. If approved, a subsequent

mapping procedure will be required to create the proposed 2.08-acre residential parcel. No historical or archaeological resources were identified, and because no ground disturbance will occur, no previously unknown subsurface archaeological, historical or cultural resources will be impacted as a result of the approval of this application or subsequent mapping procedure. Under the provisions of AB52, the Tribes who had previously requested notification were notified of this application. None of the Tribes responded to the notification or requested consultation on this project.

VI. ENERGY

Would the project:

- A. Result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources during project construction or operation; or
- B. Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

The approval of this application will authorize a mapping procedure to create a 2.08-acre parcel containing a single-family residence. The remaining acreage (approximately 14.93-acres) currently dedicated to grape vineyards will remain engaged in the agricultural operation. No increase in the baseline consumption of energy associated with the agricultural operation or residential use is anticipated to result from the proposed parcel creation.

VII. GEOLOGY AND SOILS

Would the project:

- A. Directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:
 - 1. Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault; or
 - 2. Strong seismic ground shaking; or
 - 3. Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction; or
 - 4. Landslides; or
- B. Result in substantial soil erosion or loss of topsoil; or

- C. Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction, or collapse; or
- D. Be located on expansive soil as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

According to the California Department of Conservation Earthquake Hazard Zone Application (EQ Zapp), the project is not located on a known earthquake fault zone. In considering the lower chance of reaching peak horizontal ground acceleration and no proposed development, there are minimal adverse risks associated with the project related to strong seismic ground shaking or seismic-related ground failure. Figure HS-8 of the Fresno County General Plan indicates that the project site is not located in a moderate or high landslide hazard area. The project would not result in a loss of topsoil or soil erosion where a significant risk of loss, injury, or death would occur as no development is proposed with this application. No geologic unit or unstable soil was identified on the project site. Per Figure 7-1 of the Fresno County General Plan Background Report (FCGPBR), the project site is not located on soils exhibiting moderately high to high expansion potential. The project will not result in adverse impacts associated with the rupture of a known fault, strong seismic ground shaking, ground failure or liquefaction, as there is no construction or ground disturbance proposed with this application.

- E. Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater?

FINDING: LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT:

If this application is approved, the resultant 2.08-acre parcel would contain one existing septic system which would be within the standards of the Fresno County Local Area Management Program (LAMP) which limits parcels to one septic system per two acres.

- F. Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

No ground disturbance or other physical changes to the land are proposed with this application, and no paleontological or unique geologic resources were identified.

VIII. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

Would the project:

- A. Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment; or
- B. Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

No development is associated with this application that would generate greenhouse gases or conflict with an applicable greenhouse gas emissions reduction plan.

IX. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

Would the project:

- A. Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials; or
- B. Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment; or
- C. Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school; or
- E. Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment; or
- F. For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, result in a safety hazard or excessive noise for people residing or working in the project area; or
- G. Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan; or
- H. Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

The subject parcel is currently used for residential purposes and agricultural production with the vineyard. No additional use of hazardous materials or generation of hazardous emissions is proposed with this application. The subject property is not located on a hazardous materials site, as identified by the US EPA NEPAssist mapping tool, nor within the boundaries of an airport land use plan or in an area of increased risk to persons or structures due to wildland fires. The subject parcel is also not located within two miles of an airport, or within the boundaries of an airport land use plan, and the use

of the property will not change, therefore the project will not interfere with an emergency response or evacuation plan.

X. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

Would the project:

- A. Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or groundwater quality?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

The subject parcel is currently engaged in agricultural production and use, this proposal entails a request to allow a minor land division and subsequent mapping procedure to create a residential parcel, and will not involve a change in land use or and will not involve any waste discharge or any activity which may degrade surface or groundwater.

- B. Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

The project does not entail any increase in the current level of water use. No concerns related to water supply were expressed by any reviewing agencies or County departments. The proposed 2.08-acre residential parcel contains a single-family dwelling which will be served by an existing domestic well. The remaining 14.93 acres contain vineyards which will be irrigated by an on-site agricultural well. The Water and Natural Resources Division of the Fresno County Department of Public Works and Planning determined in their review that there would not be a net increase in water use resulting from approval of this application, as the residential and agricultural infrastructure is existing.

- C. Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would:

1. Result in substantial erosion or siltation on or off site; or
2. Substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on or off site; or
3. Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned storm water drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff; or
4. Impede or redirect flood flows?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

The project site is not located within the erosion hazard area for western Fresno County identified by Figure 7-4 of the Fresno County General Plan Background Report (FCGPBR). Additionally, no grading or development is proposed with this project; therefore, it will not increase surface runoff or contribute polluted runoff.

- D. In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

The subject property is not located in an area at risk from the 100-year flood inundation as identified by Figure 9-7 or flood inundation from dam failure as identified by Figure 9-8 of the Fresno County General Plan Background Report (FCGPBR), or at risk from tsunami or seiche; according to FEMA, FIRM Panel 2145H the property is located in Zone X, which is an area of minimal flood hazard.

- E. Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

No additional water use is anticipated with this application. If approved, a mapping procedure will be required to create a 2.08-acre residential parcel which will be independent of the remaining 14.93-acre parcel's agricultural operation. No development or other ground disturbance is proposed which would result in erosion or siltation, or additional impervious surfaces that may increase surface runoff or alter the existing drainage plan.

XI. LAND USE AND PLANNING

Would the project:

- A. Physically divide an established community?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

No development is proposed with this application, and creation of the proposed 2.08-acre parcel will not physically divide an established community.

8. Cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?

FINDING: LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT:

The proposed creation of the 2.08-acre residential parcel is not consistent with General Plan Policies LU-A.6, LUA.7 LU-A. 12, and LU-A.13 nor the property development standards of the Exclusive Agricultural Zone District. This Variance request to allow the creation of two substandard sized parcels. The proposed 2.08-acre substandard parcel would be used for residential purposes in an area of the County designated and zoned for agricultural uses which are not compatible with residential uses. Substandard parcels created for residential purposes in areas of the County designated and zoned for agricultural uses creates conflict with agricultural uses in the surrounding area; however, no significant environmental impacts are anticipated to result from the creation of the residential parcel. Future division of the remaining portion of the subject property, or the addition of a second residence on the proposed residential parcel, or the addition of a primary and secondary residence on the remaining 14.93-acre parcel could result in an increase in the residential density of the area.

XII. MINERAL RESOURCES

Would the project:

- A. Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state; or
- B. Result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local General Plan, Specific Plan or other land use plan?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

No development or ground disturbance is proposed with this application; therefore, no impacts to mineral resources will occur. The subject property is not located in an area of known mineral resources as identified in the Fresno County General Plan Background Report.

XIII. NOISE

Would the project result in:

- A. Generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies; or
- B. Generation of excessive ground-borne vibration or ground-borne noise levels; or
- C. For a project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

No new noise impacts will occur as a result of this proposal, as no development is proposed. No increase in the baseline noise levels from the existing agricultural operation is anticipated.

XIV. POPULATION AND HOUSING

Would the project:

- A. Induce substantial unplanned population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure); or
- B. Displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

The project intends to create a substandard parcel with the remaining land to be utilized for agricultural production. The underlying zone district for Agricultural uses will not change. Therefore, in considering the project scope and existing conditions, the project will not induce substantial unplanned population growth in the area and would not displace people or housing necessitating construction of replacement housing elsewhere

XV. PUBLIC SERVICES

Would the project:

- A. Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically-altered governmental facilities, or the need for new or physically-altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the following public services:
 - 1. Fire protection; or
 - 2. Police protection; or
 - 3. Schools; or
 - 4. Parks; or
 - 5. Other public facilities?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

The proposed parcel creation will not require the provision of any new or physically altered government facilities.

XVI. RECREATION

Would the project:

- A. Increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated; or
- B. Include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities, which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

The project will not result in an increase in use of existing neighborhood or regional parks or other recreational facilities.

XVII. TRANSPORTATION

Would the project:

- A. Conflict with a program, plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities; or
- B. Be in conflict or be inconsistent with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Section 15064.3, subdivision (b); or
- C. Substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (*e.g.*, sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (*e.g.*, farm equipment); or
- D. Result in inadequate emergency access?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

No development or improvements to any existing transportation infrastructure are proposed with this application; therefore, no impacts to the circulation system, no increased hazards resulting from development, or changes in the adequacy of existing emergency access will occur.

XVIII. TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES

Would the project:

- A. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code Section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is:

1. Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code Section 5020.1(k); or
2. A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1? (In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resource Code Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.)

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

No development or any ground disturbance is proposed with this application; therefore, no impacts to tribal cultural resources as defined in PRC Section 21704 will occur.

XIX. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS

Would the project:

- A. Require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects; or
- B. Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years; or
- C. Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments; or
- D. Generate solid waste in excess of State or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals; or
- E. Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

No changes to the existing utilities and services are anticipated. The existing 17.01-acre parcel contains a domestic well and an agricultural well. If the application is approved, a subject mapping procedure to create the proposed 2.08-acre parcel will be required. As a result, the 2.08-acre parcel will retain the domestic well which serves the existing residence, and the agricultural well for irrigation of the vineyard. No increased wastewater capacity is proposed and no increased generation of solid waste or conflicts with solid waste reduction statutes is anticipated.

XX. WILDFIRE

If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the project:

- A. Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan, or telecommunications facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects; or
- B. Due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks, and thereby expose project occupants to pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire; or
- C. Require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment; or
- D. Expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

The subject property is not in an area prone to the occurrence of wildfire, or in an area of steep slopes.

XXI. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

Would the project:

- A. Have the potential to substantially degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

The subject parcel is located in an area of agricultural production, sparse residential development, and is itself involved in ongoing agricultural operations. No development or physical changes to the environment are proposed with this application; therefore, no impacts to the quality of the environment or reduction in habitat for fish and wildlife species are anticipated.

- B. Have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable ("cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when

viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)?

FINDING: LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT:

As discussed under Section II and Section XI above, the proposed parcel creation will result in the conversion of a small portion of land to exclusively residential use, which residential use is currently appurtenant to the farming operation. If this Variance request is approved, a 2.08-acre portion of the land which contains the residence will become independent of the remaining portion of the land which is dedicated to vineyards. Additionally, the request to create a parcel containing less than the minimum acreage required by the underlying Zone District is inconsistent with both the Fresno County General Plan and Zoning Ordinance. However, due to the relatively small amount of acreage that will be converted and considering that the balance of the property, constituting approximately 14.93-acres, will remain in agricultural production, impacts to farmland resulting from this proposal would be less than significant.

- C. Have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings either directly or indirectly?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

The approval of this application will not result in an appreciable change in land use of the subject property, or the proposed residential parcel to be created. Both the residential use and the farming operation are existing and will continue. Therefore, the project will not result in environmental effects that would cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, directly or indirectly.

CONCLUSION/SUMMARY

Based upon the Initial Study prepared for Variance Application No. 4150, staff has concluded that the project will not have a significant effect on the environment. It has been determined that there would be no impacts to Aesthetics, Air Quality, Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Energy, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, Hydrology and Water Quality, Mineral Resources, Noise, Population and Housing, Public Services, Recreation, Transportation, Tribal Cultural Resources Utilities and Service Systems, and Wildfire.

Potential impacts related to Agricultural and Forestry Resources, Geology and Soils, and Land Use and Planning have been determined to be less than significant.

A Negative Declaration is recommended and is subject to approval by the decision-making body. The Initial Study is available for review at 2220 Tulare Street, Suite A, street level, located on the southwest corner of Tulare and "M" Street, Fresno, California.

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