2025-EIR-112

FILED

September 5, 2025

MATT H. MAY

COUNTY CLERK

By Ralph Wilson

Deputy Clerk

Notice of Exemption

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. MM24-028 to Administrative Application No. AA20-019- CALIFORNIA DAIRYLAND

Project Applicant: Maas Energy Works, LLC

Project Location: Southwest corner of Howard Avenue & Atwater-Jordan Road in the Atwater Area, identified as Assessor Parcel Number (APN) 049-090-004, 049-090-005, and 049-090-006.

Project City: **Project County:** Merced County

Project Description:

The project proposes to install, construct and operate a covered lagoon digester, sand lane, separators, stacking slab, reception pit, and biogas equipment pad with a carbon dry H2S scrubber for the control of H2S with blowers and dryers within an existing dairy facility.

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

Name of Person or Agency Carrying out Project: Yaniri Piza, Planner I

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"), Section 1531 ("Accessory Structures")

☐ Statutory Exemptions. State code number:

☐ Other

Reasons why project is exempt:

The project involves the installation, construction and operation of a covered lagoon digester, sand lane, separators, stacking slab, reception pit and biogas equipment pad with a carbon dry H2S scrubber for the control of H2S with blowers and dryers. All additions will be within the dairy's existing footprint. The project does not involve an expansion or intensification of the dairy use or structures in terms of the area, space, or volume occupied by the dairy, or an increase in the number of animals. There would not be a change to businesses or production. The project site is designated Agricultural land use in the General Plan and zoned A-1 (General Agricultural). The existing use and accessory structures and equipment are uses permitted by the land use designation and zoning. The determination that the application requires no further CEQA review reflects the independent judgment of the County.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Yaniri Piza, Planner I

Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (209) 385-7654 ext. 4587

Signature & Date: Yaniri Piza Digitally signed by Yaniri Piza Date: 2025.09.05 15:44:42 -07'00'

Title: Planner I

Date Received for filing:

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.
Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code