NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

To: ☒ Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation
1400 Tenth Street, Room 121
Sacramento, CA 95814

☒ Tulare County Clerk
Room 105, Courthouse
221 South Mooney Blvd.
Visalia, CA 93291

FILED
TULARE COUNTY

AUG 28 2026

ASSESSOR / CLERK-RECORDER
BY:

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING AT TULARE COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE

Lead Agency: County of Tulare c/o Resource Management Agency
5961 S. Mooney Blvd.
Visalia, CA 93277 (559) 624-7000
Attn: gmills@tularecounty.ca.gov and jwillis@tularecounty.ca.gov

Applicant(s): Fernjo Dairy #1
Joseph Fernandes (Owner)
22601 Road 148
Tulare, CA 93274 (559) 688-1842

Project Title: Minor Modification No. MIM 26-016
Project Location - Specific: 23135 Road 148, Tulare, CA 93274 (APNs: 195-100-030)
Project Location- Section, Township, Range: Section 10, Township 20S, Range 25E
Project Location - City: Tulare, CA **Project Location - County:** Tulare

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project: The Applicant, Fernjo Dairy #1 (Joseph Fernandes, Owner), proposes improvements to an existing dairy facility to enhance site organization and manure management efficiency. The project includes construction of three new freestall barns, one new loafing barn, and a new milk parlor to replace the existing parlor. Additional improvements include installation of earthen berms within existing lagoons, lift stations, a process pit, sand lane, mechanical separator, manure stacking pad, manure storage area, wastewater processing beds, and a material processing area. The project also involves wastewater transfer lines that will convey wastewater from Fernjo Dairy #3 to Fernjo Dairy #1 for treatment through the BIDA system before being returned to Fernjo Dairy #3. These transfer lines are addressed under Minor Modification No. MIM 26-017, which is being processed separately with its own Notice of Exemption. The beneficiary of the proposed project is the Applicant.

Exempt Status: (*check one*)

☒ Categorical Exemption: **CEQA Guidelines Class 11 Section 15311 Accessory Structures**

Reasons why project is exempt: The project is exempt under CEQA Guidelines Section 15311, Class 11, Accessory Structures, which applies to the construction or placement of minor accessory structures appurtenant to existing commercial, industrial, or institutional facilities. The proposed improvements—including freestall barns, a loafing barn, replacement milk parlor, lagoon berms, lift stations, manure management infrastructure, and wastewater processing components—are accessory to and support the operations of an existing dairy facility. The wastewater transfer lines associated with Fernjo Dairy #3 are part of a separate Minor Modification (MIM 26-017) and are not included in this action.

Environmental Assessment Officer: Reed Schenke, P.E., RMA Director/ EAO
Name of Public Agency Approving Project: County of Tulare
Project Planner/Representative: Jose Saenz, Planner IV, Project Planner **Telephone:** (559) 624-7000

Signature: Gary A. Mills Date: 08/26/26 Title: Chief Planner, Environmental Planning Division
Gary A. Mills

Signature: Aaron Bock (Aug 26, 2026 14:45:11 PDT) FOR Date: 08/26/26 Title: Associate RMA Director, Designee
Michael G. Washam, A.C.E.

☒ Signed by Lead Agency Date submitted to the LCI/SCH: