

Notice of Determination

To:

■ Office of Planning and Research
U.S Mail: P.O. Box 3044
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

Street Address: 1400 Tenth St., Rm 113
Sacramento, CA 95814

■ County Clerk
County of: Merced
Address: 2222 M Street
Merced, California 95340

From:

Public Agency: County of Merced
Address: 2222 M Street
Merced, California 95340

Contact: Mark Mimms, Director
Phone: 209-385-7686

Lead Agency (if different from above):

Address: _____

Contact: _____

Phone: _____

SUBJECT: Filing of Notice of Determination in compliance with Section 21108 or 21152 of the Public Resources Code.

State Clearinghouse Number (if submitted to State Clearinghouse): 95122031 and 2007011123

Project Title: Merced County Inland Port at the Castle Rail Commerce Center

Project Applicant: County of Merced, Planning Division, 2222 M Street, Merced, California 95340

Project Location (include county): Southern portion of the Castle Commerce Center in Merced County. The site includes all or portions of Assessor's Parcel Numbers 005-070-035, -042, -044, -045, and -058; 051-060-001; 052-220-032; and 005-090-002, -024, and -025.

Project Description:

The Modified Project includes two phases of development on the project site, which consist of:

1. Developing 70 acres within the Castle Rail District plan area to support pre-shipment processing and cross-docking¹ for Central Valley growers, producers, and processors (agricultural goods), including the addition of four processing and storage (warehouse) buildings and 5,500 additional track feet of new rail operated by Patriot Rail.
2. Completing a rail expansion project (13,551 track feet of rail) and a new freight staging and laydown area at the site of the Alert Area to support container off-loading, container storage and cross-docking. Once converted to a laydown yard, this area will support the off-loading of incoming and staging of outgoing cargo, including the development of a windmill decommissioning facility.

The exact location and size of the proposed warehouse buildings is not known at this time; however, the four new warehouse buildings are anticipated to have a combined size of approximately 702,000 square feet, and each building would include refrigerated areas.

Overall, compared to the Original Project, the Modified Project would result in the construction of 19,051 linear feet of new rail track, and 5,300 new linear feet of internal roadways. The internal roadways would provide circulation for truck traffic to access the proposed warehouse buildings. The new rail track would not require the installation of new at-grade rail crossings.

This is to advise that the County of Merced has approved the above
(Lead Agency or Responsible Agency)

Described project on 6/2/2026 and has made the following determinations regarding the above
(date)
described project.

1. The project [will will not] have a significant effect on the environment.
2. An Environmental Impact Report was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.
 A Negative Declaration was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.
 An Addendum to the EIR was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.
3. Mitigation measures [were were not] made a condition of the approval of the project.
4. A mitigation reporting or monitoring plan [was was not] adopted for this project.
5. A statement of Overriding Considerations [was was not] adopted for this project.
6. Findings [were were not] made pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.

This is to certify that the final EIR with comments and responses and record of project approval, or the negative Declaration, is available to the General Public at:

<https://www.countyofmerced.com/414/Environmental-Documents>

Signature (Public Agency): M. J. Mi Title: Director

Date: 6/4/26 Date Received for filing at OPR: _____