DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



1010 10TH Street, Suite 3400, Modesto, CA 95354 Planning Phone: (209) 525-6330 Fax: (209) 525-5911 Building Phone: (209) 525-6557 Fax: (209) 525-7759

CEQA Referral Initial Study And Notice of Intent to Adopt a Negative Declaration

Date: October 2, 2024

To: Distribution List (See Attachment A)

From: Kristen Anaya, Senior Planner

Planning and Community Development

Subject: USE PERMIT APPLICATION NO. PLN2023-0151 – GOBLIRSCH TRUCKING

Comment Period: October 2, 2024 – November 4, 2024

Respond By: November 4, 2024

Public Hearing Date: December 5, 2024

Time: 6:00 P.M.

Location: Tenth Street Place

1010 10th Street, Modesto, CA 95354

Chambers - Basement Level

You may have previously received an Early Consultation Notice regarding this project, and your comments, if provided, were incorporated into the Initial Study. Based on all comments received, Stanislaus County anticipates adopting a Negative Declaration for this project. This referral provides notice of a 30-day comment period during which Responsible and Trustee Agencies and other interested parties may provide comments to this Department regarding our proposal to adopt the Negative Declaration.

All applicable project documents are available for review at: Stanislaus County Department of Planning and Community Development, 1010 10th Street, Suite 3400, Modesto, CA 95354. Please provide any additional comments to the above address or call us at (209) 525-6330 if you have any questions. Thank you.

Applicant: Lance Goblirsch

Project Location: 4361 Faith Home Road, between East Service and East Redwood Roads, in

the Ceres area

APN: 041-021-019

Williamson Act

Contract: None

General Plan: Urban Transition

Current Zoning: General Agriculture (A-2-10)

Project Description: Request to establish a truck parking facility for twelve tractor-trailer combinations, on a 1.9± acre parcel, in the General Agriculture (A-2-40) zoning district.

Full document with attachments available for viewing at: http://www.stancounty.com/planning/pl/act-projects.shtm



USE PERMIT APPLICATION NO. PLN2023-0151 – GOBLIRSCH TRUCKING Attachment A

Distribution List

Distri	bution List		
	CA DEPT OF CONSERVATION Land Resources		STAN CO ALUC
Χ	CA DEPT OF FISH & WILDLIFE		STAN CO ANIMAL SERVICES
	CA DEPT OF FORESTRY (CAL FIRE)	Х	STAN CO BUILDING PERMITS DIVISION
Х	CA DEPT OF TRANSPORTATION DIST 10	Х	STAN CO CEO
Χ	CA OPR STATE CLEARINGHOUSE		STAN CO CSA
Χ	CA RWQCB CENTRAL VALLEY REGION	Χ	STAN CO DER
	CA STATE LANDS COMMISSION		STAN CO ERC
	CEMETERY DISTRICT		STAN CO FARM BUREAU
	CENTRAL VALLEY FLOOD PROTECTION	Χ	STAN CO HAZARDOUS MATERIALS
Χ	CITY OF: CERES		STAN CO PARKS & RECREATION
	COMMUNITY SERVICES DIST:	Х	STAN CO PUBLIC WORKS
	COOPERATIVE EXTENSION		STAN CO PUBLIC WORKS - SURVEY
	COUNTY OF:		STAN CO RISK MANAGEMENT
Χ	DER GROUNDWATER RESOURCES DIVISION	Х	STAN CO SHERIFF
Χ	FIRE PROTECTION DIST: CERES FIRE	Х	STAN CO SUPERVISOR DIST 5: C. CONDIT
Χ	GSA: WEST TURLOCK SUBBASIN GSA		STAN COUNTY COUNSEL
	HOSPITAL DIST:		StanCOG
Χ	IRRIGATION DIST: TURLOCK	Χ	STANISLAUS FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU
Χ	MOSQUITO DIST: TURLOCK		STANISLAUS LAFCO
Х	STANISLAUS COUNTY EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES	Х	STATE OF CA SWRCB DIVISION OF DRINKING WATER DIST. 10
	MUNICIPAL ADVISORY COUNCIL:	Х	SURROUNDING LAND OWNERS
Χ	PACIFIC GAS & ELECTRIC		INTERESTED PARTIES
	POSTMASTER:	Х	TELEPHONE COMPANY: AT&T
Х	RAILROAD: SOUTHERN PACIFIC		TRIBAL CONTACTS (CA Government Code §65352.3)
Х	SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY APCD		US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
Х	SCHOOL DIST 1: CERES UNIFIED	Х	US FISH & WILDLIFE
	SCHOOL DIST 2:		US MILITARY (SB 1462) (7 agencies)
	WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT		USDA NRCS
Х	STAN CO AG COMMISSIONER		
	TUOLUMNE RIVER TRUST		
		•	

STANISLAUS COUNTY CEQA REFERRAL RESPONSE FORM

Stanislaus County Planning & Community Development

TO:

	1010 10 th Street, S Modesto, CA 953			
FROM:				
SUBJECT:	USE PERMIT APP	LICATION NO. PLN2023-0	151 – GOBLIRSCH TRUCKIN	G
Based on this project:	s agency's particula	r field(s) of expertise, it is	our position the above descr	ibed
		nificant effect on the environ cant effect on the environme		
		which support our determina c.) – (attach additional sheet	ation (e.g., traffic general, carr if necessary)	ying
TO INCLUDE	E WHEN THE MITI	GATION OR CONDITION	listed impacts: PLEASE BE SU NEEDS TO BE IMPLEMENT FA BUILDING PERMIT, ETC.).	TED
• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	r agency has the fol	lowing comments (attach ad	Iditional sheets if necessary).	
Response pre	pared by:			
Name		Title	Date	



DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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CEQA INITIAL STUDY

Adapted from CEQA Guidelines APPENDIX G Environmental Checklist Form, Final Text, January 1, 2020

1. Project title: Use Permit Application No. PLN2023-0151

Goblirsch Trucking

2. Lead agency name and address: Stanislaus County

1010 10th Street, Suite 3400

Modesto, CA 95354

3. Contact person and phone number: Kristen Anaya, Senior Planner

(209) 525-6330

4. Project location: 4361 Faith Home Road, between East Service

and East Redwood Roads, in the Ceres area

(APN: 041-021-019).

5. Project sponsor's name and address: Lance Goblirsch

PO Box 1805 Ceres, CA 95307

6. General Plan designation: Urban Transition

7. Zoning: General Agriculture (A-2-10)

8. Description of project:

This is a request to establish a truck parking facility for 12 tractor-trailer combinations, on a 1.9± acre parcel, in the General Agriculture (A-2-40) zoning district. The project site is improved with a 2.854 square-foot single-family dwelling with attached garage, a 2,160 square-foot metal shop, a 120 square-foot shed and two carports which are not proposed to be part of the operation. The applicant proposes to utilize the rear graveled 0.9± acres of the parcel to develop 12 tractor-trailer parking stalls for the parking of up to 12 tractor-trailer combinations. The site is presently used, without the required land use entitlements, for the parking of nine tractor-trailers and 10 trailers, all owned and operated by employees of Goblirsch Trucking; however, if the use is approved, the A-2 zoning district allows up to 12 tractor-trailer combinations to be parked. Up to 12 employees will be employed by the business and park their personal vehicles in the truck parking spaces. All tractor-trailer combinations are registered to the property owner, who also lives on-site. Proposed hours of operation are 5:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. daily, with up to 12 truck trips and 12 passenger trips per-day accessing the site within these hours. With exception of the business owner, who lives on-site, the facility proposes to be unmanned. A home office located within the existing residence will be utilized by the property owner. The off-site business activities consist of interstate trucking and involve the transport of non-hazardous materials consisting of general freight, building materials, farm produce and dry bulk commodities. No supply deliveries, loading, or unloading will occur on-site and the trailers on-site will be empty. Refrigerated trailers may be parked on-site; however, they will not be running or powered while on-site. Minor oil changes and windshield wiper repairs are to take place on-site; however, all other maintenance and major repairs are proposed to take place off-site, typically at Peterbilt service facilities in Keyes. No signage or landscaping is proposed; however, exterior lighting, consisting of three lights, approximately 30-feet-tall, are collocated on existing Turlock Irrigation District (TID) power poles and illuminate the parcel.

Access to the site is provided via County-maintained Faith Home Road, with the entire 158-foot length of the parcel's road frontage paved with asphalt with a driveway not specifically delineated. Two gated asphalt drive aisles provide access from the parcel's frontage to the rear yard parking area; however, only the southern-most drive aisle, 25-feet in width, is proposed to be utilized by the truck parking facility to access the rear parking area. Stormwater will be handled via percolation into on-site gravel and soils. The existing on-site dwelling is served by a well and septic system. On-

site "porta-potties" are proposed to be used for employees picking up or dropping off the tractor-trailer combinations daily. The parcel is located within the City of Ceres' Local Agency Formation Commissions' (LAFCO) Sphere of Influence.

The facility is already operating, and the subject application was submitted in response to a Code Enforcement case.

9. Surrounding land uses and setting:

Rural ranchettes and irrigated agriculture in all directions; a mobile home park and the Community of Keyes to the south; the City of Ceres and State Route 99 to the west; and the Turlock Irrigation District (TID) Lateral No. 6 to the north.

10. Other public agencies whose approval is required (e.g., permits, financing approval, or participation agreement.):

Stanislaus County Department of Public Works

11. Attachments:

None

FN۱	VIRONMENTAL	FACTORS	POTENTIALLY	AFFECTED.
			IVILIVIALLI	

The en			ed by this project, involving at least one cklist on the following pages.
□Aest	hetics	☐ Agriculture & Forestry Resources	☐ Air Quality
□Biolo	ogical Resources	☐ Cultural Resources	□ Energy
□Geol	logy / Soils	☐ Greenhouse Gas Emissions	☐ Hazards & Hazardous Materials
□ Hyd	rology / Water Quality	☐ Land Use / Planning	☐ Mineral Resources
□ Nois	60	☐ Population / Housing	☐ Public Services
□ Rec	reation	☐ Transportation	☐ Tribal Cultural Resources
□ Utili	ties / Service Systems	☐ Wildfire	☐ Mandatory Findings of Significance
	MINATION: (To be comple basis of this initial evalua		
	I find that the propose NEGATIVE DECLARATION		icant effect on the environment, and a
	not be a significant effe		ant effect on the environment, there will project have been made by or agreed to TION will be prepared.
		sed project MAY have a significan CT REPORT is required.	t effect on the environment, and an
	unless mitigated" impac an earlier document pu measures based on the	ct on the environment, but at least one or rsuant to applicable legal standards, a	ficant impact" or "potentially significant effect 1) has been adequately analyzed in and 2) has been addressed by mitigation ed sheets. An ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT emain to be addressed.
	potentially significant DECLARATION pursuar that earlier EIR or NEC	effects (a) have been analyzed adeq nt to applicable standards, and (b) have	nt effect on the environment, because all uately in an earlier EIR or NEGATIVE e been avoided or mitigated pursuant to isions or mitigation measures that are d.
	ı <mark>re on File</mark> d by Kristen Anaya, Senic	September Planner Date	27, 2024
opuic	a a, miston Anaya, some		

EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS:

- 1) A brief explanation is required for all answers except "No Impact" answers that are adequately supported by the information sources a lead agency cites in the parentheses following each question. A "No Impact" answer is adequately supported if the referenced information sources show that the impact simply does not apply to projects like the one involved (e.g., the project falls outside a fault rupture zone). A "No Impact" answer should be explained where it is based on project-specific factors as well as general standards (e.g., the project will not expose sensitive receptors to pollutants, based on a project-specific screening analysis).
- 2) All answers must take account of the whole action involved, including off-site as well as on-site, cumulative as well as project-level, indirect as well as direct, and construction as well as operational impacts.
- 3) Once the lead agency has determined that a particular physical impact may occur, then the checklist answers must indicate whether the impact is potentially significant, less than significant with mitigation, or less than significant. "Potentially Significant Impact" is appropriate if there is substantial evidence that an effect may be significant. If there are one or more "Potentially Significant Impact" entries when the determination is made, an EIR is required.
- 4) "Negative Declaration: Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated" applies where the incorporation of mitigation measures has reduced an effect from "Potentially Significant Impact" to a "Less Than Significant Impact." The lead agency must describe the mitigation measures, and briefly explain how they reduce the effect to a less than significant level (mitigation measures from Section XVII, "Earlier Analyses," may be cross-referenced).
- 5) Earlier analyses may be used where, pursuant to the tiering, program EIR, or other CEQA process, an effect has been adequately analyzed in an earlier EIR or negative declaration.

Section 15063(c)(3)(D). In this case, a brief discussion should identify the following:

- a) Earlier Analysis Used. Identify and state where they are available for review.
- b) Impacts Adequately Addressed. Identify which effects from the above checklist were within the scope of and adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and state whether such effects were addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis.
- c) Mitigation Measures. For effects that are "Less than Significant with Mitigation Measures Incorporated," describe the mitigation measures which were incorporated or refined from the earlier document and the extent to which they address site-specific conditions for the project.
- 6) Lead agencies are encouraged to incorporate into the checklist references to information sources for potential impacts (e.g., general plans, zoning ordinances). References to a previously prepared or outside document should, where appropriate, include a reference to the page or pages where the statement is substantiated.
- 7) Supporting Information Sources: A source list should be attached, and other sources used or individuals contacted should be cited in the discussion.
- 8) This is only a suggested form, and lead agencies are free to use different formats; however, lead agencies should normally address the questions from this checklist that are relevant to a project's environmental effects in whatever format is selected.
- 9) The explanation of each issue should identify:
 - a) the significant criteria or threshold, if any, used to evaluate each question; and
 - b) the mitigation measure identified, if any, to reduce the impact to less than significant.

ISSUES

I. AESTHETICS – Except as provided in Public Resources Code Section 21099, could the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Included	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?			х	
 b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway? 			х	
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 point). If the project is in an urbanized area, would the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?			X	
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?			Х	

Discussion: The site is currently improved with a 2,854 square-foot single-family dwelling with attached garage, a 2,160 square-foot metal shop, a 120 square-foot shed, and two carports composed of primarily stucco, metal, and wood materials; the balance of the property is currently graveled and enclosed with a seven-foot-tall chain-link fence. Surrounding land uses include rural ranchettes and irrigated agriculture in all directions, a mobile home park and the Community of Keyes to the south, the City of Ceres and State Route 99 to the west, and the Turlock Irrigation District (TID) Lateral No. 6 to the north. With exception of parking of tractor-trailer combinations, the character of the site is not anticipated to change as a result of the project.

The only designated scenic highway in the County is along I-5, which is well over 15 miles southwest of the project site and outside of the line-of-sight of the project site. The site itself is not considered to be a scenic resource or a unique vista. No signage or new exterior lighting is proposed as part of the project request. Existing exterior lighting is currently installed on Turlock Irrigation District (TID) electrical poles, and illuminate the site at the rear. Standard conditions of approval will be added to this project to address glare from any additional on-site lighting. The project site is located within the Local Agency Formation Commission's (LAFCO) adopted Sphere of Influence (SOI) of the City of Ceres. The project was referred to Ceres and applicable standards related to signage, landscaping, parking, and screening may be applied as conditions of approval. With conditions of approval in place, the project is not expected to degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site or its surroundings. No adverse impacts to the existing visual character of the site or its surroundings are anticipated.

Mitigation: None.

References: Application information; Stanislaus County Zoning Ordinance; Stanislaus County General Plan and Support Documentation¹.

II. AGRICULTURE AND FOREST RESOURCES: In	Potentially	Less Than	Less Than	No Impact
determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are	Significant	Significant	Significant	
significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer	Impact	With	Impact	
to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site		Mitigation		
Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California		Included		
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 provided in Forest Protocols				
adopted by the California Air Resources Board Would				
the project:				
			X	
a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or				
Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as				
shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the			х	
Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the				
California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural				
use?				
b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or			Х	
a Williamson Act contract?				
c) Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning				
of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources				
Code section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by				Х
Public Resources Code section 4526), or				
timberland zoned Timberland Production (as				
defined by Government Code section 51104(g))?				
d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of				X
forest land to non-forest use?				
e) Involve other changes in the existing environment				
which, due to their location or nature, could result			X	
in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use				
or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?				

The 1.9± acre project site is classified as "Rural Residential Land" by the California Department of Discussion: Conservation's Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program. The United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA NRCS) Web Soil Survey indicates that approximately 90 percent of the project site is comprised of Hanford sandy loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes (HdA), which has a California Revised Storie Index rating of 99, and a land capability classification Class rating of 1 if irrigated. The northwest 10 percent of the project site is comprised of Hanford sandy loam, moderate to deep over silt, 0 to 1 percent slopes (HdpA), which has a Revised Storie Index rating of 77, and land capability rating of Class 2 if irrigated. The California Revised Storie Index is a rating system based on soil properties that dictate the potential for soils to be used for irrigated agricultural production in California. This rating system equates soils with an Index rating of 99 to Grade 1 soils which are considered optimal soil to be used for irrigated agriculture. The 77 Index rating equates to Grade 2 soils which are good soils for irrigated agriculture. The land capability Class rating of 1 and 2 indicates that the soils' ability to grow a variety of crops with minimal or some limitations, respectively. Stanislaus County considers land that meets at least one of the following requirements to be prime farmland under the Uniform Rules: parcels comprised of Class 1 or Class 2 soils; parcels comprised of Grade 1 or Grade 2 soils; irrigated pastureland which supports livestock used for the production of food and fiber; and land used for unprocessed agricultural plant production with an annual gross value of not less than eight hundred dollars per acre. The site is not currently irrigated, nor is it improved with any production agriculture, or of a viable size to sustain a new commercial production agriculture operation. While the project site does meet the definition of prime farmland under the County's Uniform Rules, the project and surrounding area are designed Urban Transition in the County General Plan and are located within the Local Agency

Formation Commission's (LAFCO) adopted Sphere of Influence (SOI) of the City of Ceres. Areas within a LAFCO-adopted SOI are not considered the County's "Most Productive Agricultural Lands". The proposed project will not convert any Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance to non-agricultural use.

The surrounding area is comprised of rural ranchettes and irrigated agriculture in all directions, a mobile home park and the Community of Keyes to the south, the City of Ceres and State Route 99 to the west, and the Turlock Irrigation District (TID) Lateral No. 6 to the north. The project site itself is not enrolled in a Williamson Act Contract; however, the nearest parcel enrolled in a Williamson Act Contract is a 10± acre farmed parcel, two parcels to the east across Faith Home Road and approximately 760± feet away from the project site. Non-contracted production agriculture exists to the north and west of the project site. During project review, this application was referred to the Department of Conservation (DOC) for review and input and no response has been received to date.

The project is not currently irrigated but is within the service boundaries of the Turlock Irrigation District (TID). The project was referred to TID who responded indicating the presence of an irrigation pipeline located at the west property line of the project site, requested it be protected at all times, and requested to review and approve all maps related to the project. They also responded with requirements for irrigation facility modifications in the event that TID infrastructure may be impacted by the project. A condition of approval will be applied to the project requiring any development that impacts irrigation facilities to meet the TID's requirements.

Buffer and Setback Guidelines are applicable to new or expanding uses approved in or adjacent to the General Agriculture (A-2-40) zoning district and are required to be designed to physically avoid conflicts between agricultural and non-agricultural uses. General Plan Amendment No. 2011-01 – *Revised Agricultural Buffers* was approved by the Board of Supervisors on December 20, 2011, to modify County requirements for buffers on agricultural projects. Facilities that may be located within a required agricultural buffer include parking lots. Based on the requested use consisting of an unmanned tractor-trailer parking facility, if the project is not considered people-intensive by the Planning Commission, the project is not subject to agricultural buffers. The facility will have 12 employees and no customer visits per-day. Up to 12 passenger vehicle trips and 12 truck trips per-day are expected. Proposed hours of operation are Monday through Sunday from 5:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. The project was referred to the Stanislaus County Agricultural Commissioner, and no comments have been received to date. Therefore, staff believes the project can be considered low people-intensive, thus not subject to the County's Agricultural Buffer requirements. However, with the exception of wheat/fodder grown on the parcel immediately to the west, the project area exceeds the prescribed 150-foot distance from the next nearest parcels in production agriculture and is enclosed with an existing seven-foot-tall chain-link fence to prevent potential trespass.

The request is not expected to result in any significant conversion of farmland to non-agriculture use. No impacts to agriculture are anticipated to occur as a result of this project as the project site is currently developed with residential and accessory structures and considered topographically flat.

Based on the specific features and design of this project, it does not appear this project will impact the long-term productive agricultural capability of surrounding contracted lands in the A-2 zoning district. There is no indication this project will result in the removal of adjacent contracted land from agricultural use. No forest lands exist in Stanislaus County. The project will have less than significant impacts to Agriculture and Forest Resources.

Mitigation: None.

References: Application information; Referral response from the Turlock Irrigation District (TID), dated March 15, 2024; Natural Resources Conservation Service Soil Survey; Stanislaus Soil Survey (1957); California State Department of Conservation Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program - Stanislaus County Farmland 2018; Stanislaus County General Plan and Support Documentation¹.

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:	Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Included	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?			х	

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?	x	
 c) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations? 	x	
d) Result in other emissions (such as those odors adversely affecting a substantial number of people?	х	

Discussion: The proposed project is located within the San Joaquin Valley Air Basin (SJVAB) and, therefore, falls under the jurisdiction of the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (SJVAPCD). In conjunction with the Stanislaus Council of Governments (StanCOG), the SJVAPCD is responsible for formulating and implementing air pollution control strategies. The SJVAPCD's most recent air quality plans are the 2007 PM10 (respirable particulate matter) Maintenance Plan, the 2008 PM2.5 (fine particulate matter) Plan, and the 2007 Ozone Plan. These plans establish a comprehensive air pollution control program leading to the attainment of state and federal air quality standards in the SJVAB, which has been classified as "extreme non-attainment" for ozone, "attainment" for respirable particulate matter (PM-10), and "non-attainment" for PM 2.5, as defined by the Federal Clean Air Act.

The primary source of air pollutants generated by this project would be classified as being generated from "mobile" sources. Mobile sources would generally include dust from roads, farming, and automobile exhausts. Mobile sources are generally regulated by the Air Resources Board of the California EPA which sets emissions for vehicles and acts on issues regarding cleaner burning fuels and alternative fuel technologies. As such, the SJVAPCD has addressed most criteria air pollutants through basin wide programs and policies to prevent cumulative deterioration of air quality within the Basin. The facility will have 12 employees. Up to 12 passenger vehicle trips and 12 truck trips per-day are expected. Proposed hours of operation are Monday through Sunday, from 5:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. No construction is proposed.

A comment was received from SJVAPCD in response to the Early Consultation prepared for the proposed project indicating that operation-related emissions for the project would have a less than significant impact on air quality and are not expected to exceed any of the SJVAPCD's annual emissions significant thresholds, including: 100 tons per-year of carbon monoxide (CO), ten tons per-year of oxides of nitrogen (NOx), ten tons per-year of reactive organic gases (ROG), 27 tons per-year of oxides of sulfur (SOx), 15 tons per-year of particulate matter of ten microns or less in size (PM10), or 15 tons per-year of particulate matter of 2.5 microns or less in size (PM2.5). Additionally, the project may be subject to the following District Rules: Regulation VIII (Fugitive PM10 Prohibitions), Rule 4102 Nuisance, Rules 4601 Architectural Coatings, 4641 Cutback, Slow Cure, and Emulsified Asphalt, Paving and Maintenance Operations, Rule 4550 (Conservation Management Practices), and Rule 4570 (Confined Animal Facilities). A condition of approval will be placed on the project requiring that the applicant be in compliance with the SJVAPCD's rules and regulations. As the project must comply with SJVAPCD regulations, the project's emissions would be less than significant for all criteria pollutants, would not be inconsistent with any applicable air quality attainment plans, and would result in less than significant impacts to air quality.

Further, the SJVAPCD has published Guidance for Assessing and Mitigation Air Quality Impacts (GAMAQI) which has a Small Project Analysis Level (SPAL) screening tool. The SPAL establishes specific thresholds based on land use category with projects using various metrics corresponding to that land use type, including trips per-day, development size, number of students or dwelling units. Projects which fall under the respective threshold are presumed to have less than significant impact on air quality due to criteria pollutant emissions and are therefore excluded from quantifying criteria pollutants for CEQA purposes. For the general light industrial land use category, which is the closest category under which truck parking facilities would fall, a project size which is less 510,000 square feet in size would meet the screening the criteria. In this case, the project does not propose to utilize any structures; however, the proposed parking area is 0.9± acres in size.

Potential impacts to air quality from the proposed project are also evaluated by Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT). The calculation of VMT is the number of cars/trucks multiplied by the distance traveled by each car/truck. California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Section 15064.3, subdivision (a), defines VMT as the amount and distance of automobile travel attributable to a project. A technical advisory on evaluating transportation impacts in CEQA published by the Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR) in December of 2018 clarified the definition of automobiles as referring to on-road passenger vehicles, specifically cars and light trucks. While heavy trucks are not considered in the definition of automobiles for which VMT is calculated for, heavy-duty truck VMT could be included for modeling convenience. According to the same OPR technical advisory, many local agencies have developed a screening threshold of VMT to indicate when detailed analysis is needed. Absent substantial evidence indicating that a project would generate a potentially

significant level of VMT, or inconsistency with a Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) or general plan, projects that generate or attract fewer than 110 trips per-day generally may be assumed to cause a less than significant transportation impact. The proposed project will generate a low amount of vehicle trips with 24 passenger vehicle trips one-way per-day, and 12 truck trips per-day, for a total of 24 heavy-truck trips (inbound and outbound trips for 12 trucks). As this is below the District's threshold of significance for vehicle and heavy truck trips, no significant impacts from vehicle and truck trips to air quality are anticipated.

Based on the response from the SJVAPCD, the proposed project is expected to have a less than significant impact on air quality.

Mitigation: None.

References: Application information; Referral response from the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District, dated March 29, 2024; San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District - Regulation VIII Fugitive Dust/PM-10 Synopsis; www.valleyair.org; San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District's Small Project Analysis Level (SPAL) guidance, November 13, 2020; Governor's Office of Planning and Research Technical Advisory, December 2018; Stanislaus County General Plan and Support Documentation¹.

IV. BIG	OLOGICAL RESOURCES Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Included	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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 Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?			X	
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 Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?			х	
с)	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?			х	
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?			х	
e)	Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?			x	
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?			Х	

Discussion: The project site itself is fairly developed, consisting of a 2,854 square-foot single-family dwelling with attached garage, a 2,160 square-foot metal shop, a 120 square-foot shed and two carports, and otherwise graveled/paved and fenced. There are no riparian habitats or hydrological features within the project site. The surrounding area is comprised of rural ranchettes and irrigated agriculture in all directions, a mobile home park and the Community of Keyes to the south, the City of Ceres and State Route 99 to the west, and the Turlock Irrigation District (TID) Lateral No. 6 to the north.

The project is located within the Ceres Quad of the California Natural Diversity Database. There are four animals, which are state or federally listed, threatened, or identified as species of special concern or a candidate of special concern within this quad (excluding fish and mollusk species for which there is no feasible or potential habitat on the project site due to the lack of hydrological features). These species include the Swainson's hawk, tricolored blackbird, burrowing owl, Crotchs bumble bee, valley elderberry longhorn beetle, Townsends big-eared bat, heartscale, and subtle orache. There are no reported siting's of any of the aforementioned species on the project site or within a 0.4± mile radius of the site. There is a 5-mile buffer centered on City of Modesto, the nearest edge of which is located 0.4± miles to the northwest, which indicates past reportings of the moestan blister beetle, valley elderberry longhorn beetle, Crotch's bumble bee, American bumble bee, and obscure bumble bee; however, the buffer associated with past documented sightings of these species was last updated in 1984 and the CNDDB indicates the animals associated with this buffer are presumed extant or presumed extirpated. There is a very low likelihood that these species are present on the project site as it is vacant, has already been disturbed and developed with various structures.

An Early Consultation was referred to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and no response was received. The project will not conflict with a Habitat Conservation Plan, a Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other locally approved conservation plans. Impacts to endangered species or habitats, locally designated species, or wildlife dispersal or mitigation corridors are considered to be less than significant.

Mitigation: None.

References: Application information; California Department of Fish and Wildlife's Natural Diversity Database Quad Species List; Stanislaus County General Plan and Support Documentation¹.

V. CULTURAL RESOURCES Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Included	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
 a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to in § 15064.5? 			x	
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to § 15064.5?			х	
c) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?			X	

Discussion: It does not appear this project will result in significant impacts to any archaeological or cultural resources. The project site is already developed and no construction of new structures is proposed; however, conditions of approval will be placed on the project, requiring that any future construction activities shall be halted, if any resources are found, until appropriate agencies are contacted, and an archaeological survey is completed.

Mitigation: None.

References: Application information; Stanislaus County General Plan and Support Documentation¹.

VI. ENERGY Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Included	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation?			X	
b) Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?			х	

Discussion: The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Appendix F states that energy consuming equipment and processes, which will be used during construction or operation such as: energy requirements of the project by fuel type and end use, energy conservation equipment and design features, energy supplies that would serve the project, total estimated daily vehicle trips to be generated by the project, and the additional energy consumed per trip by mode, shall be taken into consideration when evaluating energy impacts. Additionally, the project's compliance with applicable state or local energy legislation, policies, and standards must be considered.

As stated above in Section III - *Air Quality*, the proposal includes a request to utilize a 0.9± acre area for the parking of up to 12 tractor-trailer combinations. A comment was received from SJVAPCD in response to the Early Consultation prepared for the proposed project indicating that operation-related emissions for the project would have a less than significant impact on air quality and are not expected to exceed any of the District's annual emissions significant thresholds, including: 100 tons per-year of carbon monoxide (CO), ten tons per-year of oxides of nitrogen (NOx), ten tons per-year of reactive organic gases (ROG), 27 tons per-year of oxides of sulfur (SOx), 15 tons per-year of particulate matter of ten microns or less in size (PM10), or 15 tons per-year of particulate matter of 2.5 microns or less in size (PM2.5). Additionally, the project may be subject to the following District Rules: Regulation VIII (Fugitive PM10 Prohibitions), Rule 4102 Nuisance, Rules 4601 Architectural Coatings, 4641 Cutback, Slow Cure, and Emulsified Asphalt, Paving and Maintenance Operations, Rule 4550 (Conservation Management Practices), and Rule 4570 (Confined Animal Facilities). Staff will include a condition of approval on the project requiring that the applicant be in compliance with the District's rules and regulations. As the project must comply with District regulations, the project would result in less than significant impacts to energy.

No construction is proposed; however, any future construction would be subject to the mandatory planning and design, energy efficiency, water efficiency and conservation, material conservation and resources efficiency, and environmental quality measures of the California Green Building Standards (CALGreen) Code (California Code of Regulations, Title 24, Part 11). The project was referred to the Turlock Irrigation District (TID) who serves the project site and surrounding area for electrical service; however, no response related to electrical facilities has been provided to date. Additionally, any future construction activities will be required to occur in compliance with all SJVAPCD regulations.

Energy consuming equipment and processes include construction equipment, trucks, and the employee vehicle. As discussed in Section III – *Air Quality*, these activities would not significantly increase Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT), due to the number of vehicle trips not exceeding a total of 110 vehicle trips per-day. The proposed project will generate a low amount of vehicle trips with 9 truck trips per-day, for a total of 18 heavy-truck trips (inbound and outbound trips for 9 trucks) and 12 passenger vehicle trips. The trucks are the main consumers of energy associated with this project but will be subject to applicable Air District regulations, including rules and regulations that increase energy efficiency. Therefore, consumption of energy resources would be less than significant without mitigation for the proposed project.

It does not appear that this project will result in significant impacts to the wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources. Accordingly, the potential impacts to Energy are considered to be less than significant.

Mitigation: None.

References: Application information; Referral response from the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District, dated March 29, 2024; San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District - Regulation VIII Fugitive Dust/PM-10 Synopsis; www.valleyair.org; San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District's Small Project Analysis Level (SPAL) guidance, November 13, 2020; Governor's Office of Planning and Research Technical Advisory, December 2018; Stanislaus County General Plan and Support Documentation¹.

VII. GE	EOLOGY AND SOILS Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Included	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a)	adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:			X	
	i) 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? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.			х	
	ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?			Х	
	iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?			х	
	iv) Landslides?			Х	
b)	Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?			х	
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?			х	
·	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?			х	
е)	Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?			Х	
f)	Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?			х	

Discussion: The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service's Eastern Stanislaus County Soil Survey indicates that approximately 90 percent of the project site is comprised of Hanford sandy loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes (HdA). The northwest 10 percent of the project site is comprised of Hanford sandy loam, moderate to deep over silt, 0 to 1 percent slopes (HdpA), As contained in Chapter 5 of the General Plan Support Documentation, the areas of the County subject to significant geologic hazard are located in the Diablo Range, west of Interstate 5; however, as per the California Building Code, all of Stanislaus County is located within a geologic hazard zone (Seismic Design Category D, E, or F) and a soils test may be required at building permit application. Results from the soils test will determine if unstable or expansive soils are present. If such soils are present, special engineering of the structure will be required to compensate for the soil deficiency. Any structures resulting from this project will be designed and built according to building standards appropriate to withstand shaking for the area in which they are constructed. Likewise, any addition or expansion of a septic tank or alternative waste water disposal system would require the approval of the Department of Environmental Resources (DER) through the building permit process, which also takes soil type into consideration within the specific design requirements. No construction is proposed.

The project site is not located near an active fault or within a high earthquake zone. Landslides are not likely due to the flat terrain of the area.

DER, Public Works, and the Building Permits Division review and approve any building or grading permit to ensure their standards are met. Conditions of approval regarding these standards will be applied to the project and will be triggered when a building permit is requested.

Mitigation: None.

References: Application information; United States Department of Agriculture NRCS Web Soil Survey; Stanislaus County General Plan and Support Documentation¹.

VIII. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Included	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?			х	
b) Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?			х	

Discussion: The principal Greenhouse Gasses (GHGs) are carbon dioxide (CO2), methane (CH4), nitrous oxide (N2O), sulfur hexafluoride (SF6), perfluorocarbons (PFCs), hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), and water vapor (H2O). CO2 is the reference gas for climate change because it is the predominant greenhouse gas emitted. To account for the varying warming potential of different GHGs, GHG emissions are often quantified and reported as CO2 equivalents (CO2e). In 2006, California passed the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 (Assembly Bill [AB] No. 32), which requires the California Air Resources Board (ARB) design and implement emission limits, regulations, and other measures, such that feasible and cost-effective statewide GHG emissions are reduced to 1990 levels by 2020. Two additional bills, SB 350 and SB32, were passed in 2015 further amending the states Renewables Portfolio Standard (RPS) for electrical generation and amending the reduction targets to 40% of 1990 levels by 2030.

The short-term emissions of GHGs during construction, primarily composed of CO2, CH4, and N2O, would be the result of fuel combustion by construction equipment and motor vehicles. The other primary GHGs (HFCs, PFCs, and SF6) are typically associated with specific industrial sources and are not expected to be emitted by future construction at this project site. As described above in Section III - *Air Quality*, the use of heavy-duty construction equipment would be very limited; therefore, the emissions of CO2 from future construction would be less than significant. While no construction is proposed, any future construction resulting from the project would be required to meet mandatory planning and design, energy efficiency, water efficiency and conservation, material conservation and resources efficiency, and environmental quality measures, of the California Green Building Standards (CALGreen) Code (California Code of Regulations, Title 24, Part 11) which includes minimum statewide standards to significantly reduce GHG emissions from new construction. Any future construction activities associated with this project are considered to be less than significant as they are temporary in nature and are subject to meeting San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (SJVAPCD) standards for emissions.

Direct emissions of GHGs from the operation of the proposed project are primarily due to the employee vehicle trips and truck trips. As required by California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines section 15064.3, potential impacts regarding Green House Gas Emissions should be evaluated using Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT). The calculation of VMT is the number of cars/trucks multiplied by the distance traveled by each car/truck. Total vehicle trips as a result of this project will not exceed 110 trips per-day. As discussed in Section III – *Air Quality*, the proposed project will generate a total of 12 one-way vehicle and 12 one-way truck trips per-day, below the OPR threshold.

This project was referred to the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (SJVAPCD). As discussed in Section III – *Air Quality*, the project is not anticipated to significantly contribute to an exceedance of state or federal Ambient Air Quality Standards which include standards for GHGs. Based on the Air District's referral response, the project may also be subject to other applicable Air District permits including but not limited to the following District Rules: Regulation VIII (Fugitive PM10 Prohibitions), Rule 4102 Nuisance, Rules 4601 Architectural Coatings, and 4641 Cutback, Slow Cure, and Emulsified Asphalt, Paving and Maintenance Operations. Staff will include a condition of approval requiring the applicant to comply

with all appropriate District rules and regulations. Consequently, GHG emissions associated with this project are considered to be less than significant.

Mitigation: None.

References: Application information; Referral response from the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District, dated March 29, 2024; San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District - Regulation VIII Fugitive Dust/PM-10 Synopsis; www.valleyair.org; San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District's Small Project Analysis Level (SPAL) guidance, November 13, 2020; Governor's Office of Planning and Research Technical Advisory, December 2018; Stanislaus County General Plan and Support Documentation¹.

IX. HA		Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Included	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a)	Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?			x	
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?			x	
c)	Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?			x	
d)	Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?			x	
е)	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, would the project result in a safety hazard or excessive noise for people residing or working in the project area?				x
f)	Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?			x	
g)	Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires?			х	

Discussion: The County Department of Environmental Resources (DER) is responsible for overseeing hazardous materials. A referral response from the Hazardous Materials Division of the Stanislaus County Department of Environmental Resources (DER) indicated that the project is anticipated to not have a significant impact with respect to hazards and hazardous materials, and requires the applicant to contact the Hazardous Materials Division for information regarding regulatory requirements for hazardous materials and/or wastes. These comments will be reflected through the application of a condition of approval. During building permit review, the Environmental Health Division of the Department of Environmental Resources (DER) will review the on-site wastewater treatment systems (OWTS) and/or water wells and ensure that all applicable County Local Agency Management Program (LAMP) standards and required setbacks are maintained as applicable.

Pesticide exposure is a risk in areas located in the vicinity of agriculture. Sources of exposure include contaminated groundwater from drift from spray applications. Application of sprays is strictly controlled by the Agricultural Commissioner and can only be accomplished after first obtaining permits. Additionally, agricultural buffers are intended to reduce the risk of spray exposure to surrounding people.

As Stated in Section II – *Agricultural and Forest Resources*, 12 individuals will be employed and generate up to 12 vehicle trips and 12 truck trips per-day. Proposed hours of operation are Monday through Sunday, from 5:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. The project was referred to the Stanislaus County Agricultural Commissioner, and no comments have been received to date. Therefore, staff believes the project can be considered low people-intensive, thus not subject to the County's Agricultural Buffer requirements. However, with the exception of wheat/fodder grown on the parcel immediately to the west, the project area exceeds the prescribed 150-foot distance from the next nearest parcels in production agriculture and is enclosed with an existing seven-foot-tall chain-link fence.

The project site is not listed on the EnviroStor database managed by the CA Department of Toxic Substances Control or within the vicinity of any airport. The site is located in a Local Responsibility Area (LRA) for fire protection and is served by Ceres Fire Protection District. The project was referred to the District, and no comments have been received to date.

The project site is not located within the vicinity of any airstrip or airport land use plan area.

No significant impacts associated with hazards or hazardous materials are anticipated to occur as a result of the proposed project.

Mitigation: None.

References: Application information; Referral response from the Department of Environmental Resources – Hazardous Materials Division, dated March 7, 2024; California Department of Toxic Substances Control - EnviroStor database; Stanislaus County General Plan and Support Documentation¹.

X. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Included	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or ground water quality?			x	
b) Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?			х	
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:			х	
 i) result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site; 			х	
ii) substantially increase the rate of amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site.			х	
iii) create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff; or			Х	
iv) impede or redirect flood flows?			X	

d) In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?	х	
e) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater	Y	
management plan?	^	

Discussion: Areas subject to flooding have been identified in accordance with the Federal Emergency Management Act (FEMA). The project site is located in FEMA Flood Zone X, which includes areas determined to be outside the 0.2 percent annual chance floodplains. The project proposes to handle stormwater drainage overland. As part of the building permit review process, the Department of Environmental Resources (DER) will evaluate the existing wastewater treatment systems (OWTS), and the site's adherence to current Local Agency Management Program (LAMP) standards. LAMP standards include minimum setback from wells to prevent negative impacts to groundwater quality. The site is currently served by a private septic system and well. No new wells or septic tanks are proposed as part of this request. Any future wells constructed on-site will be subject to review under the County's Well Permitting Program, which will determine whether a new well will require environmental review. The project was referred to DER, who provided no comment on the project. Any potential regulatory requirements regarding applicable County Local Agency Management Program (LAMP) standards and required setbacks can be enforced during the building permit review process. All applicable standards under Public Works and the DER will be addressed under the building permit review process for any future construction as well. However, as mentioned in the Project Description, the facility is proposed to be unmanned with the exception of the property owner who will work in a home office located on-site. "Porta-potties" are proposed to be utilized for employee's needs as they pick up and drop off tractor-trailers.

The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) was passed in 2014 with the goal of ensuring the long-term sustainable management of California's groundwater resources. SGMA requires agencies throughout California to meet certain requirements including forming Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSA), developing Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSP), and achieving balanced groundwater levels within 20 years. The site is located in the West Turlock Subbasin GSA. The East Turlock Subbasin GSA and West Turlock Subbasin GSA collaboratively developed one GSP to manage groundwater sustainably through at least 2042. The GSAs adopted the Turlock Subbasin GSP on January 6, 2022, and submitted the GSP to the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) on January 28, 2022. DWR has until the end of 2024 to review the plan. Currently, the GSAs are preparing for GSP implementation.

The Department of Environmental Resources - Groundwater Resources Division provided a referral response for the project indicating no comment on the project.

The project site is located within the boundaries of the Turlock Irrigation District (TID). The project was referred to TID who responded indicating the presence of an existing irrigation pipeline at the western edge of the project site, and provided requirements related to plan review and facility modifications. Conditions will be applied addressing their comments. As a result of the conditions of approval required for this project, impacts associated with drainage, water quality, and runoff are expected to have a less than significant impact.

Mitigation: None.

References: Application information; Referral response from the Department of Environmental Resources – Groundwater Division, dated March 7, 2024; Referral response from the Turlock Irrigation District, dated March 15, 2024; Referral response from the Department of Public Works, dated April 24, 2024; Stanislaus County General Plan and Support Documentation¹.

XI. LAND USE AND PLANNING Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Included	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Physically divide an established community?			X	
b) 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?			X	

Discussion: The project site is designated Urban Transition by the Stanislaus County General Plan land use diagrams and zoned General Agriculture (A-2-10). The applicant is requesting to establish a tractor-trailer parking facility on a 0.9± portion of a 1.9± acre parcel.

In the A-2 zoning district, a Use Permit must be obtained to operate a truck parking operation over 3 tractor-trailers and up to 12, provided other criteria is met outlined under Section 21.20.030(G) is met, and the following findings are made by the Planning Commission:

- 1. The establishment as proposed will not be substantially detrimental to or in conflict with agricultural use of other property in the vicinity; and
- 2. The establishment as proposed will not create a concentration of commercial and industrial uses in the vicinity.

As discussed in Section II – *Agricultural and Forest Resources*, there is no immediately adjacent commercial agriculture operation with the exception of irrigated pasture to the south and west, and the minimum 150-foot buffer is maintained as recommended. In evaluation of whether the use may create a concentration of commercial or industrial uses in the vicinity, an analysis of the surrounding area must occur. While there have previously been unpermitted truck parking operations documented in the vicinity, the subject application is the only current commercial truck parking request currently under review for the surrounding area. There is commercial development within the City limits approximately 0.75 miles to the west. Additionally, commercial development, has been approved to the south within the Community of Keyes. In addition, the Planning Commission must find that the establishment, maintenance, and operation of the proposed use is consistent with the General Plan and will not be detrimental to the health, safety, and general welfare of persons residing or working in the neighborhood of the use and that it will not be detrimental or injurious to property and improvements in the neighborhood or to the general welfare of the County. From an environmental perspective, there is not evidence to suggest that the proposed project will create a significant impact with respect to conflicts with land use policy.

As Discussed in Section II – *Agricultural and Forest Resources*, Buffer and Setback Guidelines are applicable to new or expanding uses approved in or adjacent to the General Agriculture (A-2-40) zoning district, and are required to be designed to physically avoid conflicts between agricultural and non-agricultural uses. As the site is generally unmanned exception for the business operator who lives on-site and drivers who visit the site to pick up or drop off tractor-trailers, staff believes the project can be considered low people-intensive, thus not subject to the County's Agricultural Buffer requirements. However, with the exception of wheat/fodder grown on the parcel immediately to the west, the project area exceeds the prescribed 150-foot distance from the next nearest parcels in production agriculture and is enclosed with an existing seven-foot-tall chain-link fence to prevent potential trespass.

The County's General Plan Sphere of Influence policy states that any development, other than agricultural uses and churches, which requires discretionary approval and is within the sphere of influence of cities, shall not be approved unless first approved by the city within whose sphere of influence it lies or by the city for which areas of specific designation were agreed. Development requests within the spheres of influence or areas of specific designation of any incorporated city shall not be approved unless the development is consistent with agreements with the cities which are in effect at the time of project consideration. Such development must meet the applicable development standards of the affected city as well as any public facilities fee collection agreement in effect at the time of project consideration. The project site is located 0.75 miles from the City of Ceres city limits and is located within Ceres's Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO)-adopted Sphere of Influence (SOI). The Stanislaus County General Plan Land Use Element Policy 27 requires all discretionary projects within the sphere of influence of a city gain written support of the project and be referred to that city for an application of that city's development standards. Consequently, the project was referred to the City of Ceres who indicated support for

the project and deferred to the County's development standards. Any applicable city standards may be applied as conditions of approval to the project.

With the application of conditions of approval, there is no indication that, under the circumstances of this particular case, the proposed operation will be detrimental to the health, safety, and general welfare of persons residing or working in the neighborhood of the use or that it will be detrimental or injurious to property and improvements in the neighborhood or to the general welfare of the County.

The project will not physically divide an established community nor conflict with any habitat conservation plans.

Mitigation: None.

References: Application information; E-mail correspondence from the City of Ceres, dated September 28, 2024; Stanislaus County General Plan and Support Documentation¹.

XII. MINERAL RESOURCES Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Included	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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?			x	
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?			X	

Discussion: The location of all commercially viable mineral resources in Stanislaus County has been mapped by the State Division of Mines and Geology in Special Report 173. There are no known significant resources on the site, nor is the project site located in a geological area known to produce resources.

Mitigation: None.

References: Stanislaus County General Plan and Support Documentation¹.

XIII. N	OISE Would the project result in:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Included	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
а)	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?			x	
b)	Generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?			х	
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?			х	

Discussion: The Stanislaus County General Plan identifies noise levels up to 75 dB Ldn (or CNEL) as the normally acceptable level of noise for industrial and agricultural uses. No construction is proposed and noise impacts associated with on-site activities and traffic are not anticipated to exceed the normally acceptable level of noise. Moreover, proposed operating hours are year-round Monday through Sunday, from 5:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. The nearest sensitive noise receptor is a residence on a parcel located 180-feet to the northeast of the project area. The applicant proposes that all trucks accessing the parking area at the rear of the parcel will utilize the southern-most drive aisle to reduce noise at the adjacent residence. The site itself is impacted by the noise generated from traffic on Faith Home Road and farming operations in the surrounding area. While no construction is currently proposed, any future construction activities will be required to meet the noise ordinance and Noise Element standards.

The site is not located within an airport land use plan. Noise impacts associated with the proposed project are considered to be less than significant.

Mitigation: None.

References: Application information; Stanislaus County General Plan and Support Documentation¹.

XIV. POPULATION AND HOUSING Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Included	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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)?			x	
b) Displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?			Х	

Discussion: The site is not included in the vacant sites inventory for the 2016 Stanislaus County Housing Element, which covers the 5th cycle Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) for the County and will therefore not impact the County's ability to meet their RHNA. No population growth will be induced nor will any existing housing be displaced as a result of this project.

Mitigation: None.

References: Stanislaus County General Plan and Support Documentation¹.

XV. PUBLIC SERVICES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Included	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Would the project result in the substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, 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 public services:			X	
Fire protection?			Х	

Police protection?	X	
Schools?	X	
Parks?	X	
Other public facilities?	X	

Discussion: The project site is served by the Ceres Fire Protection District for fire protection, the Stanislaus County Sheriff's Office for police protection, Ceres Unified for schools, Stanislaus County for parks, and Turlock Irrigation District for irrigation and electrical service. The project was referred to these agencies and no concerns were identified with respect to the proposed project. The County has adopted Public Facilities Fees, as well as Fire Facility Fees on behalf of the appropriate fire district, to address impacts to public services. School Districts also have their own adopted fees. The project was referred to the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board; however, no response was received to date. The project was also referred to the City of Ceres due to the project being within their Local Agency Formation Commission's (LAFCO) adopted Sphere of Influence (SOI), who indicated support for the project and deferred to the County's development standards. Any applicable city standards may be applied as conditions of approval to the project.

This project was circulated to all applicable school, fire, police, irrigation, and public works departments and districts during the Early Consultation referral period and no concerns or limitations were identified with regard to public services.

Mitigation: None.

References: Application information; Stanislaus County General Plan and Support Documentation¹.

XVI. RECREATION	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Included	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Would the project 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?			x	
b) Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?			X	

Discussion: This project will not increase demands for recreational facilities, as such impacts typically are associated with residential development.

Mitigation: None.

References: Stanislaus County General Plan and Support Documentation¹.

XVII. TRANSPORTATION Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Included	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
 a) Conflict with a program plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities? 			X	
b) Would the project conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3, subdivision (b)?			X	

c) Substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	х	
d) Result in inadequate emergency access?	Χ	

Discussion: The project proposes to establish a truck parking facility for up to 12 tractor-trailers. Proposed hours of operation are Monday through Sunday, from 5:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. The facility will have 12 employees and expects 12 truck trips and 12 passenger vehicle trips per-day.

Potential impacts to transportation from the proposed project are also evaluated by Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT). The calculation of VMT is the number of cars/trucks multiplied by the distance traveled by each car/truck. California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Section 15064.3, subdivision (a), defines VMT as the amount and distance of automobile travel attributable to a project. A technical advisory on evaluating transportation impacts in CEQA published by the Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR) in December of 2018 clarified the definition of automobiles as referring to on-road passenger vehicles, specifically cars and light trucks. While heavy trucks are not considered in the definition of automobiles for which VMT is calculated for, heavy-duty truck VMT could be included for modeling convenience. According to the same OPR technical advisory, many local agencies have developed a screening threshold of VMT to indicate when detailed analysis is needed. Absent substantial evidence indicating that a project would generate a potentially significant level of VMT, or inconsistency with a Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) or general plan, projects that generate or attract fewer than 110 trips per-day generally may be assumed to cause a less than significant transportation impact. The proposed project will generate 12 passenger vehicle trips per-day, and 12 truck trips per-day, for a total of 24 heavy-truck trips (inbound and outbound trips for 12 trucks). As this is below the screening threshold of significance for vehicle and heavy truck trips, no significant impacts from vehicle and truck trips to transportation are anticipated.

Access to the site is provided via County-maintained Faith Home Road, with the entire 158-foot length of the parcel's road frontage paved with asphalt with a driveway not specifically delineated. Two gated asphalt drive aisles provide access from the parcel's frontage to the rear yard parking area; however, only the southern-most drive aisle, 25-feet in width, is proposed to be utilized by the trucking facility to access the rear parking area. It is not anticipated that the project would substantially affect the level of service on Faith Home Road. The project was referred to Public Works, who responded to the project with requirements for installation of signage if warranted, an encroachment permit, providing adequate storage depth for trucks accessing the site, an irrevocable offer of dedication (IOD), and prohibition of parking and unloading of vehicles in the right-of-way. Specific to the IOD requirements, Public Works indicated that Faith Home Road is classified as a 135-foot Principal Arterial. The existing right-of-way is 30-feet west of centerline, and that the remaining 37.5-feet west of the centerline of Faith Home Road be dedicated as an IOD. Public Works' comments will be added to the project as conditions of approval.

The proposed project is not anticipated to conflict with any transportation program, plan, ordinance, or policy.

Mitigation: None.

References: Application information; Referral response from Public Works, dated April 16, 2024; Governor's Office of Planning and Research Technical Advisory, December 2018; Stanislaus County General Plan and Support Documentation¹.

XVIII. TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Included	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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:			X	
i) 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			x	
ii) A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set for the in subdivision (c) of Public Resource 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.			X	

Discussion: It does not appear that this project will result in significant impacts to any archaeological or cultural resources. The project does not include any construction or ground-disturbance. In accordance with SB 18 and AB 52, this project was not referred to the tribes listed with the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) as the project is not a General Plan Amendment and no tribes have requested consultation or project referral noticing. A condition of approval regarding the discovery of cultural resources will be added to the project.

Mitigation: None.

References: Application information; Stanislaus County General Plan and Support Documentation¹.

XIX. project	UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS Would the t:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Included	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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?			X	
b)	Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years?			X	
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?			x	
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?			X	
е)	Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?			х	

Discussion: Limitations on providing services have not been identified. The project proposes to utilize an existing private well and existing private septic facilities. Stormwater is proposed to be handled overland. There are no additional wells proposed as part of this request. The project was referred to Department of Environmental Resources – Environmental Health Division who did not provide comments on the project.

The Department of Environmental Resources - Groundwater Resources Division provided a referral response for the project indicating no comment on the project.

While the project site does not currently receive irrigation water, the project site is located within the boundaries of the Turlock Irrigation District (TID). The project was referred to TID who responded indicating the presence of an existing irrigation pipeline at the western edge of the project site, and provided requirements related to plan review and facility modifications. Conditions will be applied addressing their comments. As a result of the conditions of approval required for this project, impacts associated with drainage, water quality, and runoff are expected to have a less than significant impact.

The project was referred to the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board; however, no response was received to date.

The project is not anticipated to have a significant impact to utilities and service systems.

Mitigation: None.

References: Application information; Referral response from the Department of Environmental Resources – Groundwater Division, dated March 7, 2024; Referral response from the Turlock Irrigation District, dated March 15, 2024; Stanislaus County General Plan and Support Documentation¹.

XX. WILDFIRE – If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Included	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?			X	
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?			x	
c) Require the installation of 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?			X	
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?			X	

Discussion: The Stanislaus County Local Hazard Mitigation Plan identifies risks posed by disasters and identifies ways to minimize damage from those disasters. The terrain of the site is relatively flat, and the site has access to County-maintained Faith Home Road. The site is located in a Local Responsibility Area (LRA) for fire protection and is served by Ceres Fire Protection District. The project was referred to the District, and no comments have been received to date. California Building and Fire Code establishes minimum standards for the protection of life and property by increasing the ability of a building to resist intrusion of flame and burning embers. No construction is proposed; however, any future construction will be subject to building permits and will be reviewed by the County's Building Permits Division and Fire Prevention Bureau to ensure all State of California Building and Fire Code requirements are met prior to construction.

Wildfire risk and risks associated with postfire land changes are considered to be less than significant.

Mitigation: None.

References: Application information; Stanislaus County General Plan and Support Documentation¹.

XXI. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Included	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Does the project 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?			X	

b) Does the project 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.)	x	
c) Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	х	

Discussion: The 1.9± acre project parcel is designated Urban Transition by the Stanislaus County General Plan land use diagrams and zoned General Agriculture (A-2-10). The site is classified as "Rural Residential" by the California Department of Conservation's Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program. The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service's Eastern Stanislaus County Soil Survey indicates that approximately 90 percent of the project site is comprised of Hanford sandy loam, 0 to 3 percent slopes (HdA). The northwest 10 percent of the project site is comprised of Hanford sandy loam, moderate to deep over silt, 0 to 1 percent slopes (HdpA). The parcel is not enrolled in a Williamson Act Contract. While the site's soils are characterized as prime farmland under the County's Uniform Rules; however, the parcel size, location within a Local Agency Formation Commission's (LAFCO) adopted Sphere of Influence (SOI) for the City of Ceres dictate that the parcel is not within the County's "most productive agricultural lands" and is therefore not considered Prime Farmland. The proposed project will not convert any Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance to non-agricultural use.

The project proposes to be served by an existing well and septic system; however, no impacts with respect to either have been raised. The project will be unmanned, and no construction is proposed.

The surrounding area is comprised of rural ranchettes and irrigated agriculture in all directions, a mobile home park and the Community of Keyes to the south, the City of Ceres and State Route 99 to the west, and the Turlock Irrigation District (TID) Lateral No. 6 to the north. Any development of the surrounding area would be subject to the permitted uses of the A-2 Zoning District or would require additional land use entitlements and environmental review. The project was also referred to the City of Ceres due to the project being within their Local Agency Formation Commission's (LAFCO) adopted Sphere of Influence (SOI), who indicated support for the project and deferred to the County's development standards. Any applicable city standards may be applied as conditions of approval to the project.

The project is not anticipated to substantially degrade the quality of the impact.

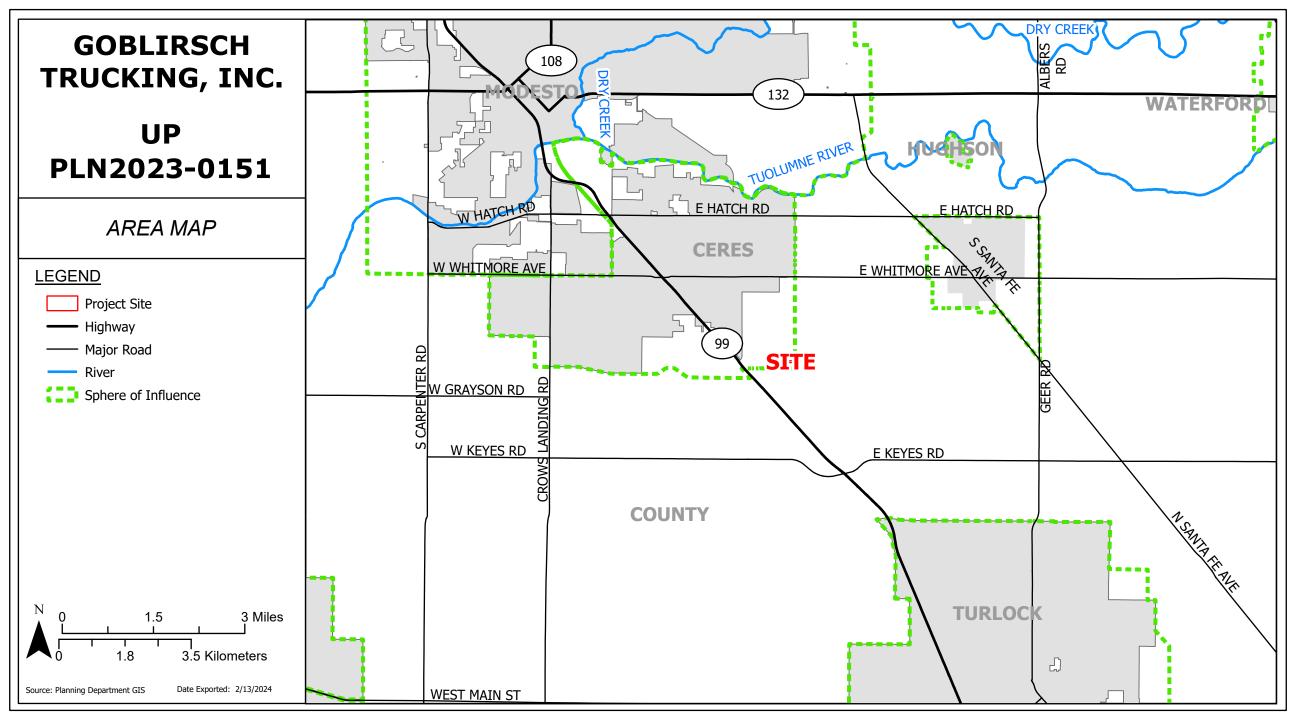
The proposed project will generate a low amount of vehicle trips with 12 passenger trips per-day and 12 truck trips per-day, for a total of 24 heavy-truck trips (inbound and outbound trips for 9 trucks). Accordingly, no significant impacts from vehicle and truck trips to transportation are anticipated.

Review of this project has not indicated any features which might significantly impact the environmental quality of the site and/or the surrounding area or contribute to cumulatively significant impacts.

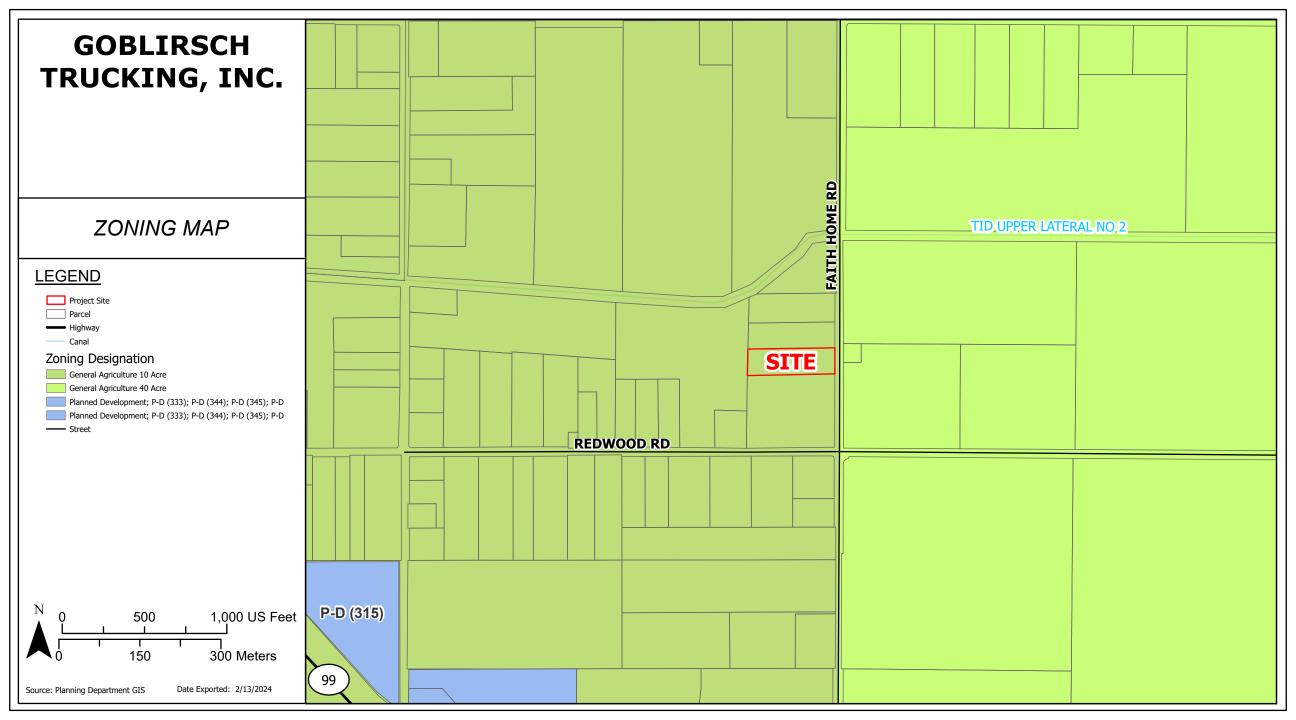
Mitigation: None.

References: Initial Study; Stanislaus County General Plan and Support Documentation¹.

¹Stanislaus County General Plan and Support Documentation adopted in August 23, 2016, as amended. *Housing Element* adopted on April 5, 2016.







GOBLIRSCH TRUCKING, INC.

UP PLN2023-0151

2023 AERIAL AREA MAP

LEGEND

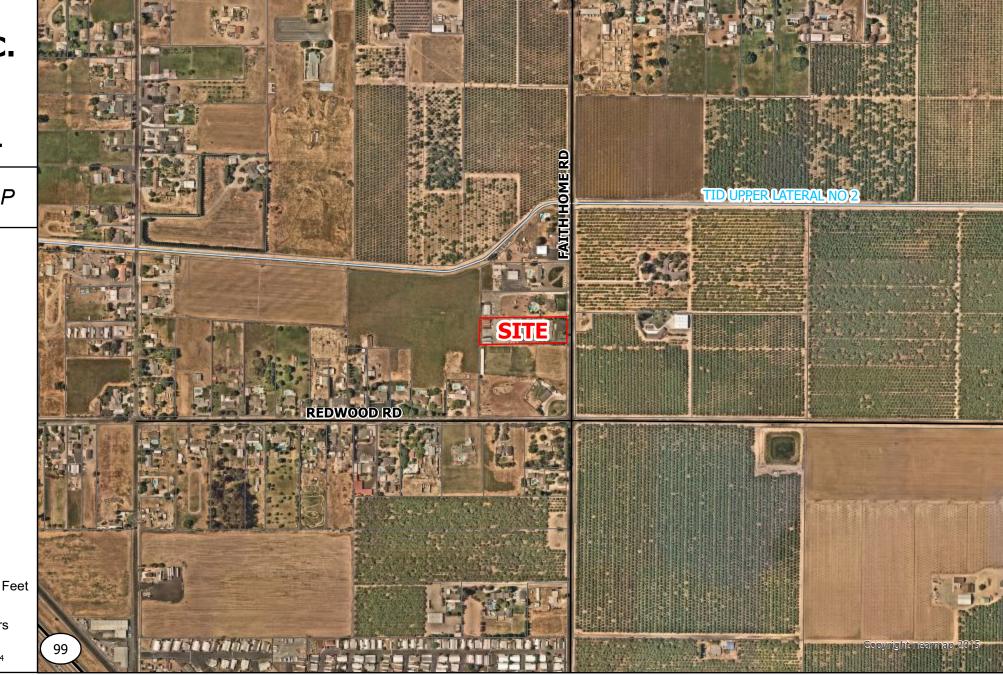
Project Site

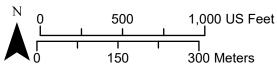
Parcel

Highway

— Canal

---- Street





Source: Planning Department GIS Date Exported: 2/13/2024

GOBLIRSCH TRUCKING, INC.

UP PLN2023-0151

2023 AERIAL SITE MAP

LEGEND

Project Site

Parcel

Street

Source: Planning Department GIS





