

OLAM TOMATO PROCESSORS, LLC

**CEQA INITIAL STUDY/PROPOSED NEGATIVE DECLARATION
FOR
WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS FOR
OLAM TOMATO PROCESSING LEMOORE PLANT**

10 September 2012

Prepared, Edited, and Distributed by:

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
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I. PROPOSED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

Project title: OLAM Tomato Processors, Inc., Olam Tomato Processing Lemoore Plant

Project Location: The plant is located at 1175 19th Avenue, Lemoore, Kings County. The new 995-acre land application area is located in sections 14, 23, and 24, Township 20 South, Range 19 East, Mount Diablo Base and Meridian.

Summary Description of Project: Operations at the plant include: washing, dicing and remanufacturing tomatoes into products such as pasta sauce, along with cleaning and disinfecting equipment. Wastewater produced is collected, screened, and treated in an aerated pond. Historically the wastewater was discharged to a 2,600-acre land application area owned by SSC Farms I, LLC and SCC Farms II, LLC (SCC Farms). The wastewater is now discharged to the 995-acre land application area to the south of the previous land application area. Approximately, 555 acres out of the 995-acre land application area is currently in agricultural production: 125 acres are used for cattle pasture, and 430 acres are rotated with sudan grass during the summer months, alfalfa and winter wheat during the winter months. The remainder 440 acres had winter wheat in 2009, and then grazed by sheep from 2010 to 2011 and disked at the end of the season. Currently the 440 acres are fallow and will be used for emergency purposes only. OLAM Tomato Processors, Inc., (OLAM) submitted, a Report of Waste Discharge (RWD) requesting new Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) from the Central Valley Water Board to allow land application of wastewater produced from the Olam Tomato Processing Lemoore Plant (Olam Plant) to the new property.

Wastewater from the tomato processing facility is being reused for crop irrigation on the new property. Wastewater is pumped into head ditches and distributed by ridge and furrow irrigation. Planting and harvesting is staggered to allow continual irrigation during drying and harvesting activities. Daily monitoring of flow rate and application schedules are used to calculate mass balances to demonstrate that the quantity of wastewater and organic material applied are not exceeding the capacity of the land. Wastewater is blended with irrigation water to meet the irrigation requirement of the crop.

II. INITIAL STUDY

PROJECT SUMMARY

1. Project title:
OLAM Tomato Processors, Inc., and Westlake Farms, Inc., Olam Tomato Processing Lemoore Plant
2. Lead agency name and address:
Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region
1685 E Street
Fresno, California 93706
559-445-5116
3. Contact person and phone number:
Denise Soria
559-444-2488
dsoria@waterboards.ca.gov
4. Project location:
The plant is located at 1175 19th Avenue, Lemoore, Kings County. The new land application area is bounded to the north by Lansing Avenue, to the south by Madison Avenue, to the east by 22nd Avenue, and to the west by a levee. The Site Incorporates sections 14, 23, and 24, Township 20 South, Range 19 East, Mount Diablo Baseline and Meridian.
5. Project sponsor's name and address:
Olam Tomato Processors, Inc.
1175 19th Avenue
Lemoore, CA 93245
6. General plan designation:
Not Applicable
7. Zoning:
Not Applicable
8. Description of project:
Operations at the plant include: washing, dicing and remanufacturing tomatoes into products such as pasta sauce, along with cleaning and disinfecting equipment. Wastewater produced is collected, screened, and treated in an aerated pond prior to being discharged. Historically discharge was to a 2,600-acre land application area owned by SSC Farms. The new 995-acre property has replaced the existing 2,600-acre land application area. OLAM submitted, a Report of Waste Discharge requesting new WDRs from the Central Valley Water Board for the discharge of wastewater to the new land application area.

Wastewater from the tomato processing facility is reused for crop irrigation on the new property. Wastewater is pumped into head ditches and distributed by ridge and furrow. Planting and harvesting is staggered to allow continual irrigation during drying and harvesting activities. Daily monitoring of flow rate and application schedules are used to calculate mass balances to demonstrate that the quantity of wastewater and organic material applied are not exceeding the capacity of the land. Wastewater is blended with irrigation water to meet the irrigation requirement of the crop.

9. Surrounding land uses and settings:

Land surrounding the tomato processing plant is as follows:

- North – Native vegetation, vacant parcels, and a commercial parcel
- East – alfalfa, and a dairy
- South – alfalfa, a farmstead parcel, and an extractive industries parcel
- West – cotton, and Sudan grass

Land surrounding the land application area is as follows:

- North – Field crops that can include any of the following: cotton, safflower, flax, hops, sugar beets, corn, sudan, grain sorghum, beans, and sunflowers
- East – Mixed pasture, and cotton
- South – Grain and hay crops such as: barley, wheat, and oats, and field crops
- West – Field crops

10. Other public agencies whose approval is required:

The Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board will act as the lead agency as it is preparing WDRs to regulate the discharge of wastewater to land. No other agency approval is needed for the adoption of the WDRs. However, permits may be required from Kings County for use of food processing wastewater on farmland.

INTRODUCTION

This Initial Study provides the necessary California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) documentation to support OLAM's lease of and discharge to the 995-acre property owned by Westlake Farms, Inc., in Kings County ([Figure 1](#)). The Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) will act as the lead agency in adoption of this Initial Study/Negative Declaration and WDRs.

Project Description

OLAM's current operation at the plant consists of washing and condensing tomatoes ("fresh pack") and tomato remanufacturing ("food process") into products such as pasta sauce. The fresh pack process season lasts from July through October. The off-season runs from late October through June. Both fresh pack and food process wastewater are discharged to the land application area after passing through a screen and an aerated pond. The plant is currently operating under WDRs R5-2007-0157, issued to SK Foods, L.P., for the discharge of up to 4.5 million gallons per day (mgd) to a 2,600-acre land application area owned by SSC Farms. The new 995-acre property

has replaced the existing 2,600-acre land application area. Waste application rates to the new land application area will not exceed the environmental conditions at the site or 100 lbs BOD/acre/day as described in the Report of Waste Discharge.

Wet waste and pomace produced at the plant is hauled off-site for livestock feed. Processing solids that settle at the bottom of the aerated pond and settling tank are applied to the 13-acre land application area adjacent to the processing plant (Figure 1).

Groundwater

The area of the new land application area was identified as having saline soils and shallow groundwater requiring drainage in various studies dating back to 1966. Portions of the new land application area are tile drained. Depth to groundwater below the new land application area is approximately 4 to 8 feet below ground surface (bgs). Confined groundwater exists below the Corcoran Clay, which is at depth of about 450 feet bgs.

The Olam Plant has a four monitoring well network (MW-8, and MW-20 through MW-22) throughout the new land application area (Figure 1). Monitoring well MW-8 was installed in 2007 and MW-20 through MW-22 were installed in October 2011. Monitoring wells MW-20 through MW-22 have a total depth of 25 feet bgs and are screened between 5 and 20 feet bgs.

Groundwater quality below the land application area is summarized in Table 1. Monitoring well MW-8 is upgradient of the land application area. Monitoring wells MW-20 through MW-21 are downgradient of the land application area.

Table 1 – Groundwater Quality below the New Land Application Area

<u>Constituent/Parameter</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>MW-8</u>	<u>MW-20</u>	<u>MW-21</u>	<u>MW-22</u>
EC	umhos/cm	13,933 ¹	6,400 ²	41,000 ²	2,100 ²
TDS	mg/L	9,331 ¹	5,000 ²	46,000 ²	1,700 ²
FDS	mg/L		4,600 ²	42,000 ²	1,600 ²
Na	mg/L	2,669 ¹	1,000 ²	13,000 ²	230 ²
Cl	mg/L	509 ¹	650 ²	4,800 ²	85 ²

¹ Average groundwater quality based on monitoring data from 2007-2011.

² Groundwater quality based on data from October 2011 sampling event.

Soils within the land application area consist of Lethen Clay Loam and Pitco Clays and are classified as having severe limitations that restrict the choice of plants or require special conservation practices, and water in or on the soil interferes with plant growth or cultivation.

Constituents of Concern

The primary constituents of concern that have the potential to cause groundwater degradation include, in part, organics, nutrients, and salts. Excessive application of

high organic strength wastewater to land can create objectionable odors, soil conditions that are harmful to crops, and degradation of underlying groundwater with nitrogen species and metals. Such groundwater degradation can be prevented or minimized through implementation of best management practices which include planting crops to take up plant nutrients and maximizing oxidation of BOD to prevent nuisance conditions. The *Water Quality Control Plan for the Tulare Lake Basin, Second Edition, 2004* indicates the greatest long-term problem facing the entire Tulare Lake Basin is the increase of salinity in groundwater. Controlled groundwater degradation by salinity in the most feasible and practical short-term management alternative for the Tulare Lake Basin.

New Land Application Area

OLAM submitted a Report of Waste Discharge in December 2011 requesting updated Waste Discharge Requirements for the change in land application area. The lease agreement between OLAM and SSC Farms ended on 1 July 2012. OLAM is discharging its wastewater to the new 995-acre land application area owned by Ceil and Gerri Howe and Westlake Farms, Inc., see [Figure 1](#) for new land application area.

PURPOSE

This CEQA Initial Study addresses OLAM's discharge to a new land application area. The project area is shown on [Figure 1](#).

Section 15063 of the CEQA Guidelines provides for preparation of Initial Studies. The purpose of an Initial Study is to:

1. Provide the lead agency with information to use as the basis for deciding whether to prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) or Negative Declaration.
2. Enable an applicant or lead agency to modify a project, mitigating adverse impacts before an EIR is prepared, thereby enabling a project to qualify for a Negative Declaration.
3. Assist in the preparation of an EIR, if one is required.
4. Facilitate environmental assessment early in the design of a project.
5. Provide documentation of the factual basis for the finding in a Negative Declaration that a project will not have a significant effect on the environment.
6. Eliminate unnecessary EIRs.
7. Determine whether a previously prepared EIR could be used with the project.

SOURCES

The primary source of information for this Initial Study is the Report of Waste Discharge, and monitoring data collected from the operation of the existing land application facility. The Report of Waste Discharge and monitoring reports are part of public record and are available for review at the Central Valley Water Board's Fresno office.

California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region
1685 E Street
Fresno, California 93706
559-445-5116
Project Contact: Denise Soria

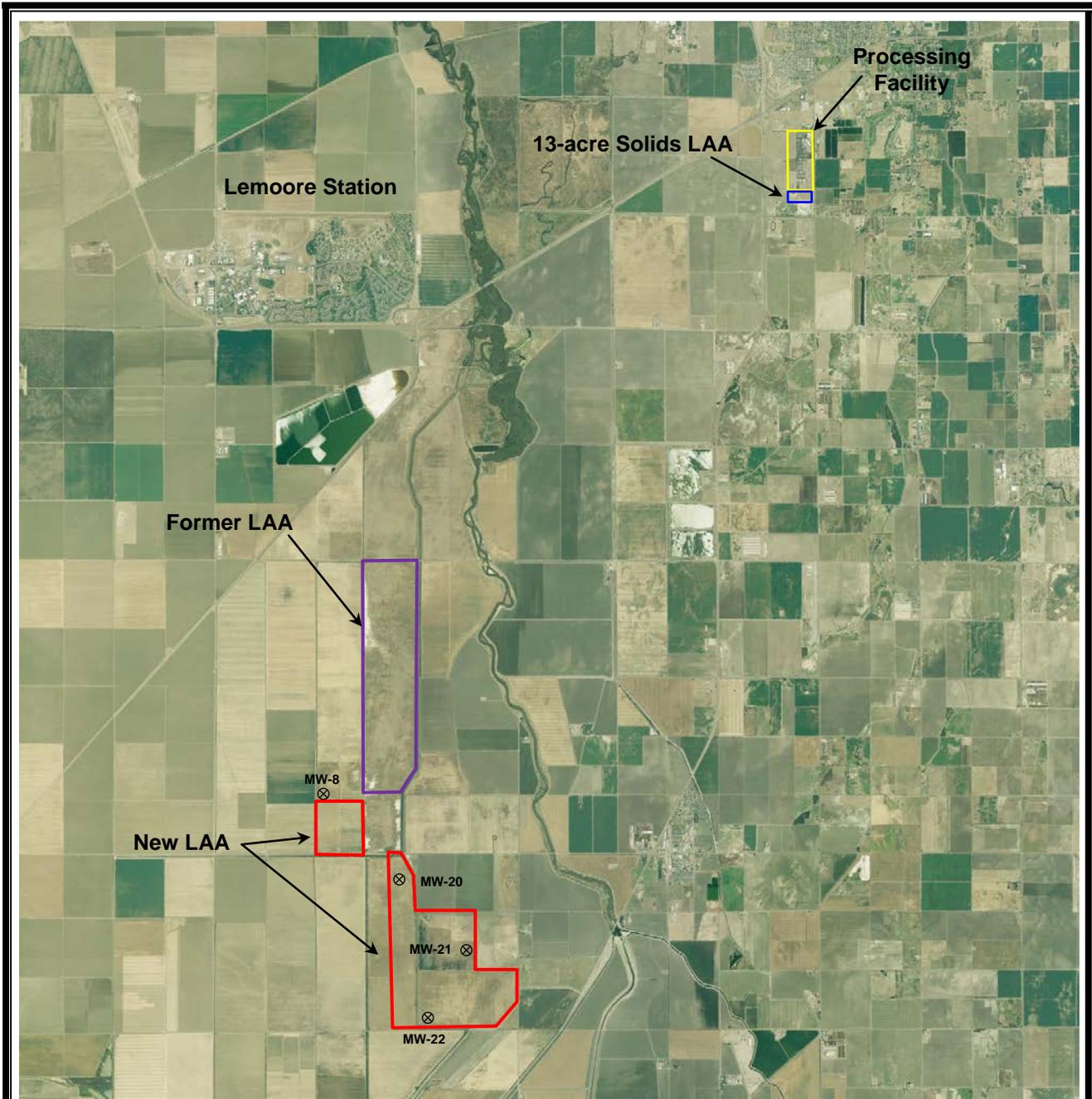


Figure 1 – Project Location

OLAM TOMATO PROCESSORS, INC., AND
WESTLAKE FARMS, INC.
OLAM TOMATO PROCESSING LEMOORE PLANT
KINGS COUNTY

DISCUSSION OF INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST

The following discussion provides an evaluation of the environmental factors listed in the environmental checklist form below, which may be potentially affected by the project. A brief explanation is provided for each factor in the order presented in the environmental checklist form.

I. Aesthetics

Would the project:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

I. a, b, d) The project will not affect a scenic vista, damage scenic resources, or create a new source of light or glare.

I. d) The project site will be planted with a variety of annual crops, which would not diminish the visual quality of the site and is consistent with the agricultural nature of surrounding areas. Thus, the impact is less than significant.

II. Agricultural Resources

Would the project:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

II. a – c) *The site would not be converted to a non-agricultural use. Approximately, 555 acres of the new land application site are developed agricultural land and will continue to be operated to grow a variety of crops such as sudan grass and milo during the summer months and alfalfa and winter wheat during the winter. The remainder 440 acres of the land application area are currently fallow but were in agricultural production in 2009 with winter wheat and from 2010 to 2011 grazed by sheep and disked at the end of the season. The project would introduce needed organic material.*

Crop management is a critical factor in operating and maintaining a land application system. Healthy and productive crops are required to remove nutrients and salts as part of the treatment of applied wastewater. Much of the crop management is accomplished in the same way for land application sites as conventional agricultural operations. Crops will be rotated to allow for cultivation between crops, irrigation with wastewater, and harvesting of crops. Discharging wastewater to farmland provides a majority of the crop needs for water and nutrients. Supplemental water and fertilizers will be added as required to maintain a healthy crop.

III. Air Quality

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) 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 (including releasing emissions which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

III. a – c) *The project would not conflict with the local air quality plan, violate any air quality standard, or result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant.*

III. d – e) *The project should not expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations or create objectionable odors that affect a substantial number of*

people. New WDRs to be issued by the Central Valley Water Board will require that any objectionable odors originating at the land application site not be perceivable beyond the limits of the property.

Potential sources of nuisance odors include anaerobic conditions within the distribution pipelines, stagnant puddles or pools of wastewater allowing to stand on the land application field (especially during hot weather), or saturation of the soil with wastewater due to hydraulic overloading and/or insufficient drying times between applications. Various onsite management measures shall be incorporated in to the project to minimize the potential for nuisance odors.

The wastewater will pass through on 0.020-inch rotary screen, and an aerated pond prior to discharge from the processing facility. The screen removes coarse solids and organic matter from the wastewater, which will eliminate or reduce solids build up on the irrigated land, which would otherwise become a significant source of odors.

Wastewater will be applied to the land application areas at rates to allow the water to infiltrate within 48 hours, a requirement the Central Valley Water Board includes in new WDRs. Minimum drying cycles determined by the expected hydraulic and organic loadings will maximize oxygen transfer through the soil, lead to aerobic conditions, and reduce the potential for odor issues.

Water balances were conducted for both normal-year and 100-year precipitation scenarios to determine the hydraulic capacity of the land. Precipitation, wastewater, and supplemental water for crop irrigation were incorporated into the water balance to ensure that the additional hydraulic loading would not exceed typical soil loading limitations.

The new Monitoring and Reporting Program to be adopted by the Central Valley Water Board will require process wastewater and supplemental flow rates to be recorded. Land application areas will also be inspected at least daily during irrigation events. Monitoring observations will be documented for inclusion in monthly monitoring reports submitted to the Central Valley Water Board. In addition, any other relevant field conditions and corrective actions (i.e. pipeline flushing, pipe/valve repair, etc.) taken will be recorded. If standing water or odors from the fields are observed, the frequency of rotation of the irrigated checks would be increased to reduce the time wastewater is applied to a given field, thereby minimizing soil saturation and reducing potential for odors.

IV. Biological Resources

Would the project:

- a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the

Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?

- | | | | | |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 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 US Fish and Wildlife Service? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| c) Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 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? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 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? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

IV. a – f) *Approximately, 555 acres out of the 995-acre land application area are in agricultural production: 125 acres are used for cattle pasture, and 430 acres are rotated with sudan grass during the summer months, alfalfa and winter wheat during the winter months. The remainder 440 acres were farmed with winter wheat in 2009, and then grazed by sheep from 2010 to 2011 and disked at the end of the season. The 440 acres are currently fallow and will be used for emergency discharges only. The property is located in an area zoned for agricultural production. No wildlife impacts are expected as the land is already in agricultural use or has been in used for agriculture in the past.*

V. Cultural Resources

Would the project:

- | | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|--------------------------------|---|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in Section 15064.5? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

Section 15064.5?

- | | | | | |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| c) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| d) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

V. a – d) *The project site is currently in agricultural production and is located in an area zoned for agricultural production. No cultural resources impacts are expected as the land is already in agricultural use.*

VI. Geology and Soils

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
iv) Landslides?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial risks to life or property?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) 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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

- VI. a – d) *The project site is not located in an Alquist-Priolo Special Studies Zone designated by the California Department of Conservation, Division of Mines and Geology. Therefore, it is not susceptible to rupture of a known earthquake fault. Because the project site is not located in close proximity to an active fault, there is a low potential for the project site to experience seismic activity, including strong seismic ground shaking, which could cause structural and nonstructural damage to the project. The project is located on flat land and is not susceptible to landslide hazards. Therefore, implementation of the project would not expose persons or structures to landslide-related risks. Agricultural activities will introduce organic material needed to return the fields to a prime and would not result in soil erosion or loss of topsoil.*
- VI. e) *The project is anticipated to have no such impact.*

VII. Hazards and Hazardous Materials

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) 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 for people residing or working in the project area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

- | | | | | |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| g) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| h) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wild lands? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

VII. a – h) *The Project does not use hazardous materials, does not create hazardous wastes, nor does it have any other characteristics that could create hazards to the public or the environment.*

VIII. Hydrology and Water Quality

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level which would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned storm water drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f) Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g) Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

map?

- h) Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures which would impede or redirect flood flows?
- i) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss injury or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam?
- j) Inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?

VIII. a & f) *The area of the new land application area was identified as having saline soils and shallow groundwater requiring drainage in various studies dating back to 1966. Portions of the new land application area are tile drained. Based on data collected since 1985, the tile drained groundwater is poor quality, with electrical conductivity ranging from 13,140 to 130,000 umhos/cm, total dissolved solids from 13,000 to 49,000 mg/L, sodium from 2,450 to 13,600 mg/L, and chloride from 1,790 to 11,000 mg/L.*

Groundwater data from four groundwater monitoring wells in the new land application further show that groundwater below the new land application area is of poor quality. Quality of groundwater upgradient of the land application area has electrical conductivity ranging from 7,300 to 94,000 umhos/cm, total dissolved solids from 1,100 to 12,000 mg/L, sodium from 2,400 to 3,100 mg/L, and chloride from 210 to 920 mg/L. Downgradient groundwater quality has electrical conductivity ranging from 2,100 to 41,000 umhos/cm, total dissolved solids from 1,700 to 46,000 mg/L, sodium from 230 to 13,000 mg/L, and chloride from 85 to 4,800 mg/L. Limited groundwater data from the groundwater monitoring wells is inconclusive regarding the quality of the groundwater with respect to nitrogenous compounds.

Underlying groundwater is of poor quality and already exceeds the water quality objectives for electrical conductivity and salinity objectives. The electrical conductivity of the discharge (820-3,600 umhos/cm) is less than the electrical conductivity of underlying groundwater and will not cause degradation with respect to salinity constituents. Some degradation with respect to nitrogenous compounds may occur. However, the WDRs includes loading limits that require nitrogen to be applied at agronomic rates and groundwater limits that proscribe the discharge from causing groundwater nitrate and nitrite as nitrogen from exceeding the Primary Maximum Contaminant Level of 10 mg/L, or background, whichever is higher.

The Central Valley Water Board will issue WDRs for the new land application area with compliance limits to protect existing groundwater. The wastewater being reuse for irrigation will be monitored regularly. The monitoring will help in process control and ensure that the effluent can be safely applied to the copping system. In addition, Olam has installed a monitoring well network at the project site to verify the discharge is in compliance with the WDRs.

VIII. b) *The project is not anticipated to deplete groundwater supplies. Groundwater used in the facility will eventually be discharged to cropland where a significant amount will percolate back to groundwater.*

VIII. c – e) *The project is anticipated to have no such impact.*

VIII. g – j) *The project is not located within a 100-year flood hazard area.*

IX. Land Use and Planning

Would the project:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Physically divide an established community?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to the general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

IX. a, c) *The project would not divide an established community or conflict with a habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan.*

IX. b) *The project is consistent with the County General Plan and Zoning Ordinance.*

X. Mineral Resources

Would the project:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

X. a, b) *The project would not involve the loss of a mineral resource.*

XI. Noise

Would the project result in:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) 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 expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

XI. a – d) *There would be no substantial permanent noise issues associated with operation of the project. Noise associated with farming equipment used to harvest crops would produce a temporary increase in ambient noise levels. Impacts associated with agricultural operations are less-than-significant due to the lack of sensitive receptors in the vicinity of the project site.*

XI. e, f) *The project is not within an airport land use plan or in the vicinity of a private airstrip.*

XII. Population and Housing

Would the project:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by processing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

- | | | | | |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| b) Displace substantial numbers of existing housing necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| c) Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

XII. a – c) *The property is currently in agricultural production and is located in an area zoned for agricultural production. The project would not induce population growth, displace existing housing, or displace substantial numbers of people.*

XIII. Public Services

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Would the project result in 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:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Fire protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Police protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Schools?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Parks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other public facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

XIII. a) *The project would not result in the need for new or physically altered governmental facilities. No additional demand on, or impacts to, public utilities or services are expected.*

XIV. Recreation

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

the environment?

XIV. a, b) *The project would not affect the use of existing recreational facilities, does not include recreational facilities, nor does it require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities.*

XV. Transportation/Traffic

Would the Project:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Cause an increase in traffic which is substantial in relation to the existing traffic load and capacity of the street system (i.e., result in substantial increase in either the number of vehicle trips, the volume to capacity ratio on roads, or congestion at intersections)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Exceed, either individually or cumulatively, a level of service standard established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Result in inadequate emergency access?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f) Result in inadequate parking capacity?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
g) Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation (e.g., bus turnouts, bicycle racks)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

XV. a – c, f, g) *The project will not substantially increase the number of new vehicle trips or change air traffic patterns. The project will also not result in inadequate parking capacity or emergency access; conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation; or substantially increase hazards due to a design feature or incompatible uses.*

XV. d, e) *The new land application area will be used for agricultural purposes, requiring the use of farm equipment for planting and harvesting various annual crops. The project consists of fields and dirt agricultural roads with limited emergency access. Additional infrastructure for emergency access is not planned as part of the project.*

XVI. Utilities and Service Systems

Would the project:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or the expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) 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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
g) Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

XVI. a) *The Central Valley Water Board will issue revised WDRs for disposal of wastewater of the project site. A monitoring program would be adopted with the revised WDRs requiring the performance of the waste disposal operation to be monitored and to assure that compliance limits will be met. No significant impacts are anticipated.*

XVI. b) *No new water or wastewater treatment facilities would be expected or required for the project. Existing pre-treatment facilities will provide adequate treatment prior to discharging the wastewater to the new land application sites.*

XVI. c – g) *Waste generation and disposal comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste.*

XVII. Mandatory Findings of Significance

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Does the project have the potential to 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, 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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

XVII. a) The project does have the potential to nominally degrade groundwater quality. However, proper management of the wastewater will reduce this impact to less-than-significant levels.

XVII. b, c) The project does not have cumulative impacts, nor would substantial adverse effects occur on human beings.

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED

The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project:

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Aesthetics | <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural Resources | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Air Quality |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Biological Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural Resources | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Geology/Soils |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hazards & Hazardous Materials | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hydrology/Water Quality | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Land Use/Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mineral Resources | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Noise | <input type="checkbox"/> Population/Housing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public Services | <input type="checkbox"/> Recreation | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation/Traffic |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Utilities/Service Systems | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mandatory Findings of Significance | |

DETERMINATION

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

- I find that the project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- I find that although the project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- I find that the project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.
- I find that the project MAY have a “potentially significant impact” or “potentially significant unless mitigated” impact on the environment, but at least one effect 1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and 2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. An ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.
- I find that although the project could have a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION pursuant to applicable standards. And (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the project, nothing further is required.

_____/S/_____
Signature

Original signed 9/10/12
Date

Lonnie Wass, Supervising Water Resource Control Engineer
Printed name