San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District

Central Valley Eggs, LLC
Egg Production and Processing Facility

Project Number S-1161654

Kern County

Initial Study and Final Mitigated Negative Declaration

November 2016

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INITIAL STUDY AND FINAL MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

Central Valley Eggs, LLC
Egg Production and Processing Facility
Project Number: S-1161654

November 2016

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A. INTRODUCTION

Central Valley Eggs, LLC (CVE) is an egg production operation with a facility located in Wasco, Kern County, California. The San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District (District) has received an Authority to Construct (ATC) application package from CVE to construct and operate an egg production and processing facility for up to 1,050,000 pullets and 2,289,000 laying hens. CVE's proposed project is a 158-acre facility and includes: three (3) 77,686 square feet (sf) mechanically ventilated pullet houses, seven (7) 61,515 sf mechanically ventilated layer houses, manure handling systems, thirteen (13) backup generators, water treatment system, water storage, wastewater handling, storm drainage storage, associated structures (2,734 sf office, 20,843 sf egg processing plant, 15,162 sf cooler, and 9,700 sf dry storage), access and on-site paving, 53 employees, 112 parking spaces, vehicle wash station and perimeter and facility fencing (Project). The Project is consistent with current agricultural zoning and will allow for agricultural-related operations. Site grading and construction of two (2) pullet houses began in early 2016, however construction was halted due to a Notice of Violation (NOV) issued for not complying with District rule requirements. As such, by submitting an ATC application to comply with District rule requirements, it was determined the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) applied to this Project. As presented in this environmental document, the District has conducted an Initial Study and concludes that, with mitigation, the Project will have a less than significant environmental impact.

B. PURPOSE AND AUTHORITY

The District has discretionary approval power over the Project, pursuant to District Rule 2010 (Permits Required) and District Rule 2201 (New and Modified Stationary Source Review Rule). The District determined that no other agency has broader discretionary approval power over the Project. As such, the District is the public agency having principal responsibility for approving the project and serves as Lead Agency (CCR §15367).

CEQA requires each public agency to adopt objectives, criteria, and specific procedures consistent with CEQA Statutes and the CEQA Guidelines for administering its responsibilities under CEQA, including the orderly evaluation of projects and preparation of environmental documents. The District adopted its *Environmental Review Guidelines* (ERG) in 2001. The ERG was prepared to comply with this requirement and is an internal document used to comply with CEQA.

The basic purposes of CEQA are to:

- Inform governmental decision-makers and the public about the potential, significant environmental effects of proposed activities.
- Identify the ways that environmental damage can be avoided or significantly reduced.

- Prevent significant, avoidable damage to the environment by requiring changes in projects through use of alternatives or mitigation measures when the governmental agency finds the changes to be feasible.
- Disclose to the public the reasons why a governmental agency approved the project in the manner the agency chose if significant environmental effects are involved.

Under CEQA the Lead Agency is required to:

- Conduct preliminary reviews to determine if applications are subject to CEQA [CCR §15060].
- Conduct review to determine if projects are exempt from CEQA [CCR §15061].
- Prepare Initial Studies for projects that may have adverse environmental impacts [CCR §15063].
- Determine the significance of the environmental effects caused by the project [CCR §15064].
- Prepare Negative Declarations or Mitigated Negative Declarations for projects with no significant environmental impacts [CCR §15070].
- Prepare, or contract to prepare, EIRs for projects with significant environmental impacts [CCR §15081].
- Adopt reporting or monitoring programs for the changes made to projects or conditions of project approval, adopted in order to mitigate or avoid significant effects on the environment [PRC §21081.6 & CCR §15097].
- Comply with CEQA noticing and filing requirements.

C. PROJECT BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Project Description

The proposed Project is an egg production and processing facility in Kern County, California. The proposed Project includes multiple stationary source equipment that is subject to District permitting requirements. One of the major District requirements is that new and modified stationary source equipment that has air contaminant emissions must satisfy the requirements of New Source Review (NSR). The main requirements of NSR are to require the installation of Best Available Control Technology (BACT) if certain thresholds are exceeded to minimize emission increase from such equipment, and to mitigate emission increases over certain thresholds by providing emission reductions either by limiting the use of existing equipment or by providing emission offsets.

The District has received an ATC application package from CVE proposing to construct and operate an egg production and processing facility for up to 1,050,000 pullets and 2,289,000 laying hens Kern County, California. CVE's proposed Project is a 158-acre

facility and includes: three (3) 77,686 square feet (sf) mechanically ventilated pullet houses, seven (7) 61,515 sf mechanically ventilated layer houses, manure handling systems, thirteen (13) backup generators, water treatment system, water storage, wastewater handling, storm drainage storage, associated structures (2,734 sf office, 20,843 sf egg processing plant, 15,162 sf cooler, and 9,700 sf dry storage), access and on-site paving, 53 employees, 112 parking spaces, vehicle wash station and perimeter and facility fencing.

Process Description

Poultry Ranch

The primary function of CVE is the production and packing of eggs for human consumption. These eggs may be sold as shell eggs (table eggs), or may be used in the production of liquid, frozen, or dehydrated eggs.

Laying hens reach sexual maturity and begin laying eggs between sixteen (16) and twenty (20) weeks of age, depending on breed. Before the onset of egg production, birds are referred to as pullets. CVE will operate three (3) pullet houses. Baby chicks will be purchased and brought to the facility between 24 to 48 hours of age. After 16 weeks of age, the pullets will be moved from the pullet houses to one of the proposed laying hen houses where they will begin producing eggs.

The laying hens at CVE typically have a production life of 102 weeks. The laying hens are usually replaced after 102 weeks because the natural decreasing rate of egg production becomes inadequate to cover feed costs. At this point, laying hens become spent hens and may be slaughtered or rendered to recover any remaining value.

Proposed Cage-Free Aviary Houses

The laying hens will be confined in any of seven (7) proposed cage-free housing systems which allows for automation of feed distribution and egg collection. In cage-free aviary houses laying hens are housed in climate-controlled buildings with multiple levels that allow the hens to roam freely in defined sectors of the building. Cage-free aviary houses have perches and nesting areas as well as open floor space that allows for natural bird behaviors, such as scratching and dust bathing. As in other houses for laying hens, there are wire mesh floors under the nesting areas that are slightly sloped so the eggs roll down to an egg collection belt; however, because the hens can move throughout the house, workers must also manually collect eggs from the feeding and watering and floor areas. As in other houses, the laying hens have constant access to food and water. Manure is removed from cage-free aviary houses by mechanized belts below the nesting and feeding areas and scrapers below the bottom belt. In cage-free aviary houses manure must also be periodically removed from the house aisle ways.

Each of the new laying hen houses will have a total bird living space that measures 651 feet x 90 feet x 43.5 feet and have a capacity of 327,000 birds. Additionally, each laying hen house will be equipped with forty-eight 1.5 horsepower exhaust fans, each with a total airflow rate of 26,200 cfm. Each pullet house will have a bird living space that measures 684 feet x 111 feet x 25 feet and have a capacity of 350,000 birds. Each pullet house will be equipped with thirty-eight 1.5 horsepower exhaust fans, each with a total airflow rate of 26,200 cfm. All houses will be mechanically ventilated to remove moisture and carbon dioxide produced by respiration.

All of the exhaust fans will be located on the end of each house. The exhaust fans draw air into the building through slots located under the eaves along the perimeter of the roof and exhaust air out the end of each building. When ambient temperatures call for it, the inlet air will be cooled using water and evaporative cooling cells. The cold air from each side will be directed toward the ceiling, and will get pushed toward the center of each house. The cold air will then mix with the hot air inside the house before it descends into the area occupied by the birds.

Manure Management

Wet manure from the new poultry houses will be conveyed to a segregated enclosure at the end of each poultry house, on the opposite side of the wall where the fans exhaust air from the poultry living area. The end of the house is partially open; a tarp covers approximately 40% of the upper part of the opening. Numerous belts under each tier of bird cages will collect and convey the manure from the front of the house to a floor conveyor at the back of the house. The floor conveyor transfers the manure to a covered incline conveyor located on the outside of the house. The incline conveyor carries the manure to an automated belt system that spreads the wet manure in three windrows to allow for efferent-controlled drying while maintaining a higher value of nitrogen and other elements, which lowers PM10 and ammonia (NH3) emissions. The manure drying and storage operation will take place within each poultry house, in a separate room adjacent to the bird living area. Storing the manure inside each poultry house eliminates exposure to wind and rain.

The entire drying process will be managed to maintain a specific moisture content in the manure and retain as much of the nitrogen content as possible without creating a public nuisance. Additionally, the exhaust fans for the hen houses will operate 24 hours per day and will provide air flow for drying of the manure. The number of exhaust fans in operation will vary based on ambient temperature. The pullet houses require one exhaust fan to be in continuous operation. The layer houses require a minimum of three exhaust fans to be in continuous operation. An automated system turns on additional fans as temperature increases; above 100 degrees Fahrenheit all fans are in operation. The manure will be continuously removed from the aviary section of the houses and deposited in the manure drying and storage section of the houses where it will be held until it is viable for the applicable byproduct market then shipped via truck.

Feed Storage and Handling

Each of the proposed poultry houses will be connected to two (2) dedicated silos, for a total of twenty (20) silos, which will be used to receive and store chicken feed. The feed is loaded through a screw auger, and then sent to the poultry houses through a network of enclosed augers and pipes.

Each house at the facility will receive approximately 19.6 tons of feed per day. Therefore, between the ten poultry houses, the facility receives approximately 196 tons of feed per day. As discussed in Section VIII under District Rule 2020 (Exemptions), emissions from the feed storage and handling operation are less than 2.0 lb/day. Therefore, the feed storage and handling operation is exempt from permits.

Emergency Standby IC Engines

The emergency standby engines each power an electrical generator that will provide back electrical power to the facility in the event of a power outage. Other than emergency operation, Central Valley Eggs has proposed that each engine be operated no more than 50 hours per year for maintenance and testing purposes.

Project Location

The proposed Project will be located at the southeast corner of Gun Club Road and Hanawalt Avenue in Wasco, Kern County, California. Also, the proposed Project is located within the boundaries of Kern County, which is in the San Joaquin Valley Air Basin (see Figure 1). Furthermore, Table 1 and Figures 2 through 4 present the location and boundaries of CVE's Project.

Table 1: Project Location

Assessor's Parcel Number	Section	Township	Range
059-13-011	21	26S	23E

Figure 1: The San Joaquin Valley Air Basin

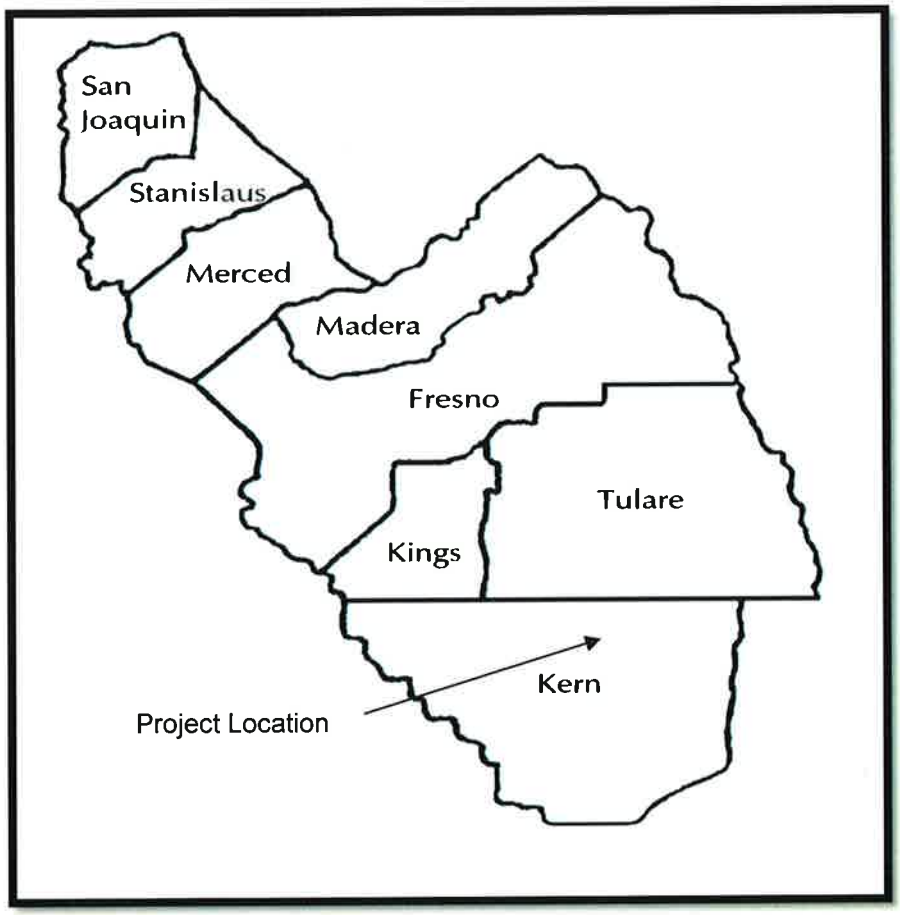


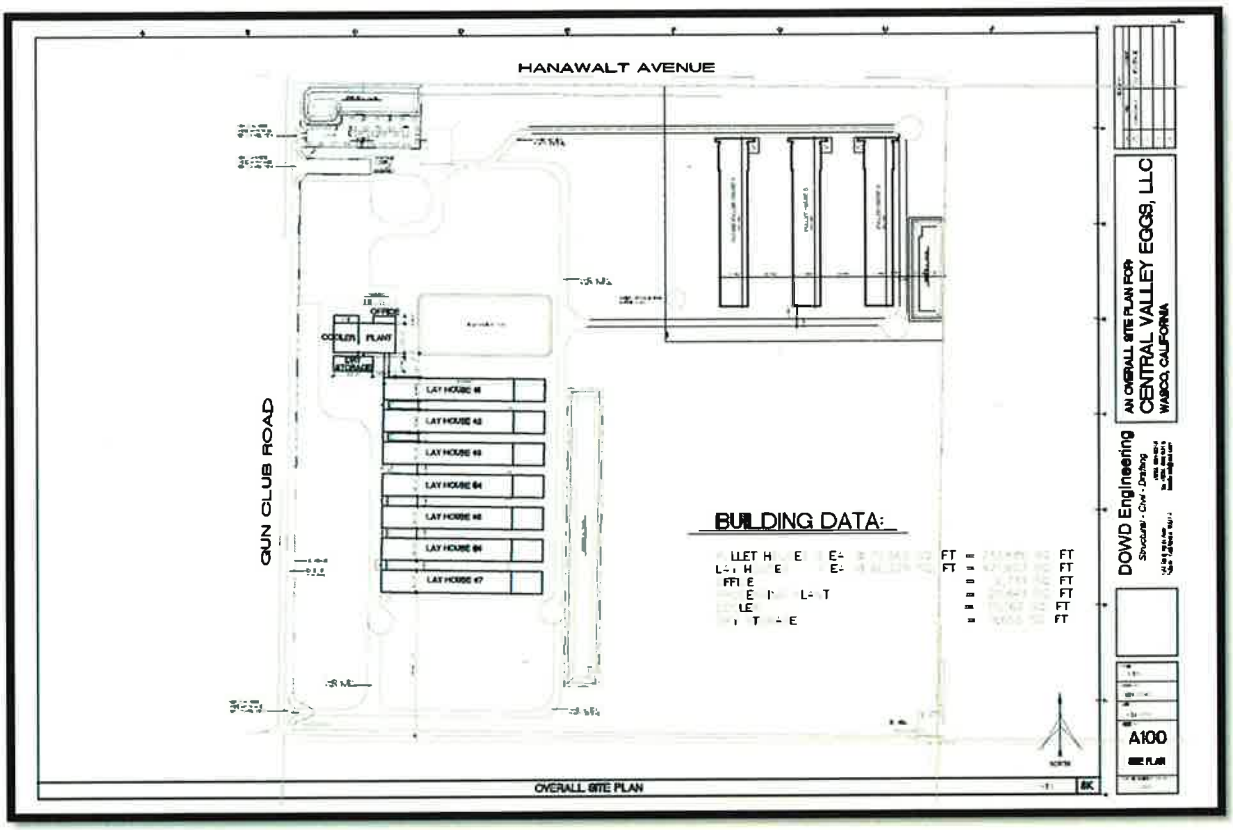
Figure 2: CVE Regional Location

Source: Google Maps 2016

Figure 3: CVE Project Site Location

Source: USGS Topographic Map, Taft CA Quadrangle

Figure 4: CVE Boundaries & Project Site Plan



Source: CVE 2016

General Plan Designation and Zoning

The proposed Project site is currently designated in the Kern County General Plan as Extensive Agriculture (Code 8.3) and is zoned Exclusive Agriculture (Zone A) and designated 8.1 (Intense Agriculture). Pursuant to Section 19.12.020 of the Kern County Zoning Ordinance, poultry operations are a permitted use in Zone A, provided the criteria in Kern County Zoning Ordinance Chapter 19.12.130, Section E are satisfied.

Surrounding Land Uses and Setting

The Project site is within the existing agricultural area. The area immediately surrounding the Project site is zoned agricultural and is designated as Extensive Agriculture (Code 8.3). These uses include general agricultural operations. The Project was previously occupied by Carl R. Daniel Farms who previously farmed for row crops, cattle and goat grazing. Immediately adjacent uses are active agricultural operations including row crops, orchards and a dairy. Figures 5 through 8 present photos of the surrounding area. Furthermore, the District has verified that the Project is not within 1,000 of a school's outer boundary; therefore the public notification requirement of California Health & Safety Code 42301.6 is not applicable to the Project.

Figure 5: CVE View to North

Figure 6: CVE View to East

Figure 7: CVE View to South

Figure 8: CVE View to West

Other Public Agencies Whose Approval Is Required

The District has identified the following agency as having approval authority for the Project.

Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB)

The Project will result in waste and water discharge. As such, the proposed Project has prepared and submitted a Report of Waste Discharge (RWD) in application for a RWQCB permit. The RWQCB is in the process of developing a Poultry General Order. Once the Poultry General Order is adopted, the Project will have to comply with "Waste Discharge Requirements General Order for Poultry Operations." Additionally, no streambed or lake alterations will occur as a result of the Project.

D. DECISION TO PREPARE A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

Consistent with CEQA requirements the District prepared an Initial Study that evaluated potential environmental effects of the Project. The District issued a Notice of Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration that was made available for public review and comment from September 14, 2016 to October 17, 2016. The District did not receive comments during the public comment period. Thus, the District has determined that with mitigation, the Project would have a less than significant impact on the environment. The District concludes that a Mitigated Negative Declaration would be appropriate for the Project. Project design elements and mitigation measures that reduce the Project's impact on environment would be enforced through mitigation and District permits.

E. ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED

The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project, involving at least one impact that is a "Potentially Significant Impact" as indicated by the checklist on the following pages.

☐ Aesthetics	☐ Agriculture and Forestry Resources	☒ Air Quality
☒ Biological Resources	☒ Cultural Resources	☐ Geology / Soils
☐ Greenhouse Gas Emissions	☐ Hazards & Hazardous Materials	☐ Hydrology / Water Quality
☐ Land Use / Planning	☐ Mineral Resources	☐ Noise
☐ Population / Housing	☐ Public Services	☐ Recreation
☐ Transportation / Traffic	☐ Utilities / Service Systems	☒ Mandatory Findings of Significance

F. DETERMINATION

I certify that the Project was independently reviewed and analyzed and that this document reflects the independent judgment of the District.

☐ I find that the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.

☒ I find that although the proposed 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 has been prepared.

☐ I find that the proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.

☐ I find that the proposed 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 proposed 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 proposed project, nothing further is required.

Signature: _____ Date: NOV 0 3 2016

Printed Name: Arnaud Marjollet

Title: Director of Permit Services

G. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT CHECKLIST

I. Aesthetics Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?				✓
b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to trees, rock, outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?				✓
c) Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?				✓
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?			✓	

I. AESTHETICS

a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?

No Impact

There are no designated scenic vistas on the Project site or adjacent properties. The absence of these features on or nearby the Project site precludes the possibility of potential adverse impacts. Therefore, the Project would have no impact on scenic vistas.

b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to trees, rock, outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?

No Impact

There are no scenic resources such as trees, rock outcroppings, or historic buildings on the Project site or adjacent properties. The absence of these features on or nearby the Project site precludes the possibility of potential adverse impacts. Therefore, the Project would have no impact on scenic resources.

c) *Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?*

No Impact

The Project site is currently designated in the Kern County General Plan as Extensive Agriculture (Code 8.3) and is zoned Exclusive Agriculture (Zone A). Pursuant to Section 19.12.020 of the Kern County Zoning Ordinance, poultry operations are a permitted use in Zone A, provided the criteria in Kern County Zoning Ordinance Chapter 19.12.130, Section E are satisfied.

Kern County Zoning Ordinance Chapter 19.12.130, Section E states that: "Commercial poultry farms are permitted if all the following criteria are satisfied:

1. No portion of the proposed site lies within two (2) miles of the City of Bakersfield or within one (1) miles of any other incorporated city.

2. The General Plan designation of the entire site is 8.1 or 8.3 and no portion of the site is designated 2.3 (Shallow Groundwater) or is located in a floodway.

3. There is no property zoned or designated by the General Plan or applicable Specific Plan for residential development (E or R-1, R-2, and R-3) within three (3) miles from the exterior boundary of the site.

4. There is no property designated 4.2 (Rural Community) within one (1) mile from the exterior boundary of the site from the exterior boundary of the site and no property designated 4.3 (Specific Plan Required) within three (3) miles from the exterior boundary of the site.

5. There are no areas zoned or designated by the General Plan or applicable Specific Plan for commercial uses and no retail commercial uses, including hotels and motels, within a one (1) mile radius from the exterior project boundary.

6. There are no residential facilities, community care facilities, hospitals, recreational vehicle parks, or public or private schools within a two (2) mile radius from the exterior project boundary.

7. The facility operator obtains all local, State, and federal approvals, licenses, and permits prior to the commencement of operations."

Kern County prepared a Kern County Poultry Siting Map identifying sites which meet the above criteria[1]. Based on a review of this Kern County Poultry Siting Map, the Project is located in an area which meets all of the Kern County buffering requirements.

The Project site and its surroundings are currently developed for agricultural activities. As such, the Project will not degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings. Therefore, the Project would have no impact on visual character.

d) *Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?*

Less than Significant

Ground preparation activities such as site preparation, grading of the area, and pouring foundation for each structure will be conducted prior to operation. Construction activities will occur during daylight hours only. As such, no lighting impacts associated with construction are anticipated. Safety and security lightings will be installed throughout the Project site area and are consistent with the existing operations of the adjacent dairy facility; the Project's new safety and security lighting would be focused on-site and not interfere with the off-site dairy operations to the northwest. Once construction has been completed and the egg production and processing buildings have been installed, no additional lighting sources would be required. Therefore, the Project would have less than significant impacts on light or glare.

1 http://www.arcgis.com/home/webmap/viewer.html?webmap=65e82441d2f34f2988126502d4e5737a&extent=-120.5919,34.1619,-117.2191,36.4126

II. Agricultural Resources	**Potentially Significant Impact**	**Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated**	**Less Than Significant Impact**	**No Impact**
In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Department of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agricultural 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 Resource Board. Would the Project				
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?				✓
b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or 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 Public Resource 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 forest land to non-forest use?				✓

II. Agricultural Resources (continued)	**Potentially Significant Impact**	**Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated**	**Less Than Significant Impact**	**No Impact**
e) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?				✓

II. AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES

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?

No Impact

The California Department of Conversation prepared the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program (FMMP) designating important farmland in California. Based on the FMMP, the Project site is not designated as Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or of Statewide importance. Therefore, the Project would have no impact on farmland.

b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?

No Impact

The Project site is zoned Exclusive Agriculture (Zone A). Pursuant to the Kern County Zoning Ordinance Section 19.12.020(E), agricultural operations, such as an egg production and processing facility, are a permitted use in Exclusive Agriculture zoning designation. The Project is consistent with current and surrounding land uses, including the existing dairy to the northwest and the surrounding fields and orchards. The Project site is not designated as an active Williamson Act contract. As such, the Project will not conflict with existing zoning or a Williamson Act contract. Therefore, the Project would have no impact.

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 Public Resource Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104 (g))?*

No Impact

The Project site is located within an existing agricultural operation which historically has been allowed for agriculture. No forest lands exist on the Project site or within general area. Therefore, the Project would have no impact on forest lands.

d) *Result in the loss of forest lands or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?*

No Impact

As discussed above, the Project is not located on forest lands. As such, implementation of the Project will not result in the loss of forest lands or conversion of forest land to non-forest use. Therefore, the Project would have no impact on loss of forest lands.

e) *Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?*

No Impact

As discussed above, the Project is consistent with current and surrounding land uses for agricultural activities and will not convert farmland or forest lands to non-farmland or non-forest use. Therefore, the Project would have no impact.

III. Air Quality Would the Project:		Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations. Would the Project:					
a)	Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?		✓		
b)	Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?			✓	
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)?			✓	
d)	Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?			✓	
e)	Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?			✓	

III. AIR QUALITY

a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?

Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated

The District is tasked with implementing programs and regulations by the Federal Clean Air Act and the California Clean Air Act and has prepared plans to attain federal and state Ambient Air Quality Standards (AAQS). The District has established thresholds of significance for criteria pollutant emissions, which are based on federal and District NSR offset requirements for stationary sources. Stationary sources in the District are subject to some of the toughest regulatory requirements in the nation.

The significance of the impacts of the emissions from construction, operational non-permitted equipment and activities, and operational permitted equipment and activities are evaluated separately. The thresholds of significance are based on a calendar year basis. For construction emissions, the annual emissions are evaluated on a consecutive 12-month period. A project would be determined to have a significant impact on air quality if the emissions sum for any criteria pollutant exceeds its respective threshold of significance. The District's thresholds of significance for criteria pollutant emissions are presented below in Table 2.

Table 2: District Thresholds of Significance for Criteria Pollutants

Pollutant	Construction Emissions Threshold (*tpy)	Permitted Operational Emissions Threshold (*tpy)	Non-Permitted Operational Emissions Threshold (*tpy)
NOx	10	10	10
SOx	27	27	27
PM_{10}	15	15	15
$PM_{2.5}$	15	15	15
CO	100	100	100
ROG (VOC)	10	10	10

*tpy = tons per year

Note: For construction emissions, the annual emissions are evaluated on a consecutive 12-month period.

Project Details

CVE's proposed Project is a 158-acre facility and includes: three (3) 77,686 sf mechanically ventilated pullet houses, seven (7) 61,515 sf mechanically ventilated layer houses, manure handling systems, thirteen (13) backup generators (one per ventilated house), water treatment system, water storage, wastewater handling, storm drainage storage, associated structures (2,734 sf office, 20,843 sf egg processing plant, 15,162 sf cooler, and 9,700 sf dry storage), access and on-site paving, 53 employees, 112 parking spaces, vehicle wash station and perimeter, and facility fencing.

Construction Emissions

Construction of the Project began in early 2016. However, the District issued a Notice of Violation (NOV) to halt construction for non-compliance with District rules and regulations. Construction of the Project is expected to occur over a twelve (12) to twenty-two (22) month period and the assessment of construction emissions includes activities that occurred prior to issuance of the NOV. Construction will include site preparation, grading of the area, pouring concrete foundation for each structure, associated worker trips, assembling the pre-fabricated buildings, and installing the manure conveyance systems, the mechanical ventilation, the back-up generators, the

water and wastewater tanks, pipes and pumps. New pipelines for water and wash water will be installed within the Project boundaries. In addition, the Project will utilize existing roads, therefore no new roads wills be constructed.

Table 3: Project Construction Emissions

12-month Construction Period	Annual Emissions (tons)			
	NO_x	PM_{10}	ROG (VOC)	CO
Year 1 (2016/2017)	9.48	0.96	0.55	9.20
Year 2 (2017)	4.04	0.57	0.28	4.39
District Threshold of Significance	10	15	10	100
Exceed District Threshold?	**No**	**No**	**No**	**No**

Notes: Estimated using CalEEMod 2013.2.2. Insight Environmental Consultants 2016.

The construction emissions are assessed on a consecutive 12-month period with construction expected to take two (2) years for the Project. As shown in Table 3 above, construction emissions will not exceed the District thresholds of significance. Furthermore, in order to ensure construction air quality emissions are minimized, CVE has implemented the following Best Management Practice (BMP):

Construction equipment: Use of tier 2 engines or newer.

Operational Emissions

Operational Non-Permitted Activities – Employee Mobile Source Emissions: At full build-out the Project is expected to require 53 employees. The employees are expected to travel approximately 32 miles roundtrip. To assess the Project impacts at worst-case scenario from employee mobile sources, 100% of the employee trips were assumed to be Light Duty Truck -2 (LDT-2) vehicles, assuming the facility was fully operational in year 2016.

Operational Non-Permitted Activities – Trucks: At full build-out the Project is expected result in approximately 15 feed trucks per day, 10 packing egg truck trips per day, and 11 manure truck trips per day for a total of 36 truck trips per day.
At worst case scenario, the feed trucks will travel approximately 32 miles roundtrip, the packing egg trucks will travel approximately 230 miles roundtrip, and the manure feed

trucks will travel approximately 60 miles roundtrip. To assess the Project impacts at worst-case scenario from non-permitted activities, 100% of the truck trips were assumed to be Heavy-Heavy Duty Trucks (HHDT) vehicles, and assuming the facility is fully operational in year 2016.

As shown below in Table 4, operational non-permitted source emissions will not exceed the District thresholds of significance for criteria pollutants. Therefore, the District concludes that Project non-permitted activities will have a less than significant impact on air quality.

Table 4: Project Operational Mobile Emissions

Mobile Source	Annual Emissions (tons)			
	NO_x	PM_{10}	ROG (VOC)	CO
Employees	0.8627	0.3769	0.1828	2.2431
Feed Deliveries	1.7831	0.1416	0.1587	1.5274
Egg Collections	4.3478	0.3679	0.2593	1.8412
Manure Collection	1.7428	0.1399	0.1467	1.3151
Total:	**8.7364**	**1.0263**	**0.7475**	**6.9268**
District Threshold of Significance	10	15	10	100
Exceed District Threshold?	**No**	**No**	**No**	**No**

Notes: Estimated using CalEEMod 2013.2.2.

Operational Permitted Equipment – Stationary Source Emissions: The Project consists of the installation of three (3) 77,686 sf mechanically ventilated pullet houses, seven (7) 61,515 sf mechanically ventilated layer houses, seven (7) solid manure handling systems (one for each layer house), thirteen (13) cummins power generation 464 HP Intermittent backup generators (one per ventilated house) tier 3 certified diesel-fired emergency stand-by generators. The District has conducted an engineering evaluation for the Project stationary source emissions and determined that BACT is triggered for NOx, VOC, and PM10.

CVE is a new Major Source and will be required to comply with New Source Review requirements. District implementation of District Rule 2201 (New and Modified Stationary Source Review Rule) ensures that there are no net increase in emissions above the District thresholds of significance from new and modified stationary sources for all nonattainment pollutants and their precursors. As such, emission increases for this Project will be mitigated through offsetting requirements in form of surrendering Emission Reduction Credits (ERCs). By surrendering ERCs, the Project stationary source operational emissions will be mitigated to below the District thresholds of significance.

Table 5 below presents the operational permitted stationary source emissions at full build-out for the three (3) 77,686 sf mechanically ventilated pullet houses, seven (7) 61,515 sf mechanically ventilated layer houses, seven (7) solid manure handling systems (one for each layer house), thirteen (13) back-up generators.

Table 5: Project Operational Stationary Source Emissions

	Annual Emissions (tons/year)				
	NOx	**SOx**	**PM_{10}**	**CO**	**VOC**
Total Operations Emissions	0.9	0	10.8	0.5	19.3
Emission Reduction Credits (ERCs) to be Surrendered per Rule 2201	0	0	0	0	13.9
Final Project Stationary Source Emissions	0.9	0	10.8	0.5	5.4
District Threshold of Significance	10	27	15	100	10
Exceed District Threshold?	No	No	No	No	No

Table 6 below presents the Emission Reduction Credits (ERCs) required. As presented in Tables 5 and 6, compliance with District Rule 2201 (New Source Review Rule) will ensure Project related criteria pollutant emissions be offset through surrendering of ERCs. The requirement for offsets will be enforced through permit conditions. Therefore, the District concludes that through a combination of project design features and permit conditions, Project related stationary source emissions would have a less than significant impact with mitigation on air quality.

Table 6: Project Stationary Source Offset Requirements

	Offsets Required *				
	NOx	SOx	PM_{10}	CO	VOC
Total ERCs to be Surrendered per Rule 2201 (tpy)	0	0	0	0	13.9
ERCs to be Surrendered per Rule 2201 (lbs/quarter**)	0	0	0	0	6,951.75
ERCs to be Surrendered per Rule 2201 (lbs/year)	0	0	0	0	27,807

*Offset requirements were calculated at the ratios identified in District Rule 2201 (New and Modified Stationary Source Review)

**Due to rounding, the lbs/quarter emissions in this table may not match exactly the lbs/quarter in MM AIR-1.

Air Quality Plans

As summarized in Table 3 and 4, Project related construction and operational non-permitted source emissions are below the District's thresholds of significance. Furthermore as summarized in Tables 5 and 6, operational stationary source emissions will be mitigated to below the District's thresholds through the surrendering of ERCs. The ERCs must be surrendered to the District prior to commencement of operation of the equipment proposed under the ATC. As such, the Project does not conflict with the implementation strategy of the District's air quality plans (2007 Ozone Plan; 2007 PM10 Maintenance Plan and Request for Redesignation; *2008 PM 2.5 Plan*; *2012 PM2.5 Plan, 2013 Plan for the Revoked 1-hour Ozone Standard, 2015 Plan for the 1997 PM2.5 Standard; 2016 Plan for the 2008 8-Hour Ozone Standard*). Therefore, the Project would have a less than significant impact with mitigation measures.

Mitigation: To ensure compliance with District NSR requirements for offsetting operational emissions, CVE shall surrender ERCs sufficient to offset operational emissions as required by District NSR requirements. The following measures will be made conditions of Project approval and will be included in the Project ATCs:

AIR-1: To ensure compliance with District NSR requirements for offsetting operational emissions, the following measures will be made conditions of Project approval (S-1161654) and will be included in the Project ATCs:

Prior to operating equipment under this Authority to Construct, permittee shall surrender VOC emission reduction credits for the following quantity of emissions: 1st quarter – 6,951 lbs, 2nd quarter – 6,951 lbs, 3rd quarter – 6,951 lbs, and fourth quarter – 6,952 lbs. These amounts include the applicable offset ratio specified in Rule 2201 Section 4.8 (as amended 2/18/16). [District Rule 2201]

b) *Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?*

Less Than Significant Impact

Determination of whether project emissions would violate any ambient air quality standard is largely a function of air quality dispersion modeling. If project emissions would not exceed State and Federal ambient air quality standards at the project's property boundaries, the project would be considered to not violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation. The District performed an Ambient Air Quality Analysis (AAQA) for both the national and state AAQS to determine whether Project related criteria pollutant emissions have the potential to cause or contribute to a violation of existing air quality standards. The AAQA indicates that Project related criteria pollutant emissions will not cause or contribute to an exceedance of either national or state AAQS. Therefore, the Project is not expected to result in a violation of an air quality standard and the impact would be less than significant.

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)?*

Less Than Significant Impact

By its very nature, air pollution has a cumulative impact. The District's nonattainment status is a result of past and present development within the San Joaquin Valley Air Basin (SJVAB). Furthermore, attainment of ambient air quality standards can be jeopardized by increasing emissions-generating activities in the region. No single project would be sufficient in size, by itself, to result in nonattainment of the regional air quality standards. Instead, a project's emissions may be individually limited, but cumulatively considerable when taken in combination with past, present, and future development within the San Joaquin Valley Air Basin.

The District's thresholds of significance for criteria pollutants are based on District Rule 2201 (New Source Review) offset requirements. Furthermore, NSR is a major component of the District's attainment strategy. NSR provides mechanisms, including emission trade-offs, by which Authorities to Construct such sources may be granted, without interfering with the attainment or maintenance of ambient air quality standards.

District implementation of NSR ensures that there is no net increase in emissions above specified thresholds from new and modified Stationary Sources for all nonattainment pollutants and their precursors. In fact, permitted emissions above offset thresholds equivalent to the District's thresholds of significance for criteria pollutants are mitigated to below the thresholds, and the District's attainment plans show that this level of emissions increase will not interfere with attainment or maintenance of ambient air quality standards.

The District's attainment plans demonstrate that project-specific net emissions increase below NSR offset requirements will not prevent the District from achieving attainment. Consequently, emission impacts from sources permitted consistent with NSR requirements are not individually significant and are not cumulatively significant.

As discussed above, the Project construction is short term and will not exceed any significance threshold. The Project operational non-permitted sources will not exceed any significance thresholds, and operational stationary sources will not exceed any significance thresholds by complying with all District rules and regulations and the surrendering of ERCs. Therefore, Project related emissions would have a cumulatively less than significant impact on air quality with mitigation.

d) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?

Less Than Significant Impact

Under the Clean Air Act, toxic air contaminants (TACs) are airborne pollutants that may be expected to result in an increase in mortality or serious illness or which may pose a present or potential hazard to human health. Potential health impacts from TACs include long-term health effects such as cancer, birth defects, neurological damage, or genetic damage; or short-term effects such as eye watering, respiratory irritation, throat pain and headaches. TACs may also be referred to as hazardous air pollutants (HAPs). There are currently more than seven hundred (700) substances classified by the US Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) and California Air Resources Board (CARB) as TACs. Air Quality problems occur when sources of TACs and sensitive receptors are located in proximity to one another.

TACs can be separated into carcinogens and non-carcinogens based on the nature of the physiological degradation associated with exposure to the pollutant. For regulatory purposes, carcinogens are assumed to have no safe threshold below which health impacts would not occur. Cancer risk is expressed as excess cancer cases per one million exposed individuals.

Non-carcinogens differ in that there is generally assumed to be a safe level of exposure below which no negative health impact would occur. These levels are determined on a pollutant-by-pollutant basis. Acute and chronic exposure to non-carcinogens is

expressed by using a Hazard Index, which is the ratio of expected exposure levels to acceptable health-acceptable exposure levels.

The Air Toxics "Hot Spots" Information and Assessment Act (AB 2588, 1987, Connelly) was enacted in 1987, and requires stationary sources to report the type and quantities of certain substances routinely released into the air. The goals of AB 2588 are to collect emission data, to identify facilities having localized impacts, to ascertain risks to acceptable levels. AB 2588 requires air districts to establish the prioritization score threshold at which facilities are required to prepare a health risk assessment (HRA). In establishing priorities, an air district must consider potency, toxicity, quantity, and volume of hazardous materials released from the facility, the proximity of the facility to potential receptors, and any other factors that the district determines may indicate that the facility may pose a significant risk.

In implementing its responsibilities under AB 2588, the District Governing Board adopted notification procedures, including prioritization score thresholds, for notifying the public of significant carcinogenic and non-carcinogenic health risks. The District concludes that use of the existing prioritization score thresholds to establish thresholds of significance under CCR §15064.7 is an appropriate and effective means of promoting consistency in significance determinations within the environmental review process. The District's thresholds of significance for determining whether project emissions would expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations are:

- Carcinogens: Probability of contracting cancer for the Maximally Exposed Individual (MEI) exceeds ten (20) in one million.

- Non-Carcinogens: Ground Level concentrations of non-carcinogenic TACs would result in a Hazard Index greater than one (1) for the MEI.

The HRA demonstrates that the Project will not exceed the above levels of significance for Carcinogens and Non-Carcinogens. Specific conditions will be placed into the permit to ensure that human health risks will not exceed the District allowable levels. Therefore, the District concludes that there is no substantial evidence of record to support a conclusion that the Project would expose sensitive receptors to significant health risks. Therefore, the Project would have a less than significant impact on sensitive receptors.

e) Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?

Less Than Significant Impact

While offensive odors rarely cause any physical harm, they can be very unpleasant, leading to considerable distress among the public and often generating citizen complaints to local governments and the District. Any project with the potential to frequently expose members of the public to objectionable odors should be deemed to

have a significant impact. Due to the subjective nature of odor impacts, the number of variables that can influence the potential for an odor impact, and the variety of odor sources, there is no quantitative or formulaic methodologies to determine if potential odors would have a significant impact. Rather, projects must be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

Diesel exhaust from construction activities may generate odors. However, construction emissions are temporary in nature and the project construction phase is not expected to affect a substantial number of people.

The District's *Guide for Assessing and Mitigating Air Quality Impacts* (GAMAQI) defines a significant odor impact as either:

- More than one (1) confirmed complaint per year averaged over a three (3) year period, or
- Three (3) unconfirmed complaints per year averaged over a three (3) year period.

Since the CVE Project is new, the District searched its Compliance Database for odor complaints received for similar facilities. Per the District's research, one (1) confirmed complaint and zero unconfirmed complaints were received over a three (3) year period for a similar egg processing facility in the San Joaquin Valley. Therefore, since no more than one (1) confirmed complaint and three (3) unconfirmed complaints were received over the last three (3) years, the District concludes that there is no substantial evidence of record to support a conclusion that the Project would create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people. As such, the Project would have a less than significant impact on odors.

IV. Biological Resources Would the Project:		**Potentially Significant Impact**	**Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated**	**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 Wildlife 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, and regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?			✓	
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?			✓	
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?			✓	
e)	Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?			✓	
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?				✓

IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

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 Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?*

Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated

M.H.Wolfe and Associates prepared a *Reconnaissance Survey and Evaluation* of the Project site in August 2016 (M.H.Wolfe 2016a; and Appendix A). The M.H.Wolfe reconnaissance survey documents that the Project site has previously been used for grazing. Also, over two thirds of the parcel (the location of the Project) has recently been bladed or graded and is completely void of vegetation. The Project area and adjacent properties offer no natural habitat (M.H.Wolfe 2016a).

Most of land that has not been bladed is dominated by *Atriplex rosea* and *Bassia hyssopifolia*; however, the southeastern corner of the property is dominated by non-native grasses and *Solanum elaeagnifolium.* A few large *Sorghum halepense* were observed on the property as well. The following plants were also observed in limited quantities throughout the property: *Lactuca serriola*, *Conyza canadensis, Distichlis spicata, Salsola tragus, Rumex crispus,* and *Tamarisk sp.* A row of eucalyptus trees, which have been there since the 1940's, line a portion of the property along Hanawalt Avenue (Figure 7 in Appendix A). There is an irrigation pond on the northwest corner which is also surrounded by non-native grasses (Figure 8 in Appendix A). No threatened or endangered plants were observed. (M.H.Wolfe 2016a)

The California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB) identified the federally endangered, San Joaquin Kit Fox (SJKF) (*Vulpes macrotis mutica*) and Tipton kangaroo rat (*Dipodomys nitratoides nitratoides*), as well as the state threatened, Nelson's antelope squirrel (*Ammospermophilus nelsoni*) documented to occur on or directly adjacent to the Project site in the past. Blunt-nosed Leopard Lizards (BNLL) have been documented to occur approximately four (4) miles to the north and the south of the Project site. The Species of Special Concern, tricolored blackbird (*Agelaius tricolor*), Le conte's thrasher (*Toxostoma lecontei*), and the western burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*) are documented to have occurred approximately two (2) miles to the northeast, three (3) miles to the south, and three and a half (3 ½) miles to the southwest, respectively. The federally endangered *Monolopia congdonii* (San Joaquin woollythreads) is identified five (5) miles to the southwest of the Project site. Additionally, the Kern National Wildlife Refuge is located approximately six and a half miles (6 ½) to the northwest of the Project site and is known to sustain, year round and migrating, populations of BNLL, SJKF, western snowy plover, and the Buena Vista Lake ornate shrew, to name a few, as well as listed and rare plants species. (M.H.Wolfe 2016a)

The only wildlife observed during the survey was a purple finch and a tree swallow in and flying over the grasses on the southeast corner of the property. Also, one California ground squirrel burrow along the southern fence line, and some immature fish in the irrigation pond. (M.H.Wolfe 2016a)

The United States Fish and Wildlife Service's National Wetlands Inventory identified a drainage which runs through the Project site at a diagonal from the center of the northern border in a southeasterly manner (Appendix A). A freshwater emergent wetland is shown to be adjacent to the northeastern corner of the site. Two freshwater ponds are also shown as being present, approximately a half of a mile to the east of the Project site. (M.H.Wolfe 2016a)

No listed or special status wildlife nor plant species were observed on the Project site. Due to the lack of any natural habitat, the likelihood of occurrences in the future is none with the exception of the SJKF which could potentially range through at any time and excavate a den overnight. This species is known to occur in agricultural and rural, as well as urban environments. (M.H.Wolfe 2016a)

Construction activities associated with the Project will include: site preparation, grading of the area, pouring concrete foundation for laying house and associated structure, worker trips, installation of backup generators, water treatment and wastewater facilities. Upon installation of the new poultry production and processing facility, new pipelines for water and wastewater will be installed at the Project site. The Project will be implemented utilizing existing roads and therefore, no new roads will be constructed. The Project has the potential to result in injury, mortality, harassment, and/or displacement of special statues species and degradation of their habitat. If a potential den is observed at any time during construction, a qualified biologist must be contacted to avoid any possibility of take occurring. (M.H.Wolfe 2016a)

Project operational activities typically involve maintenance activities, deliveries of feed and supplies, export of manure and eggs, and minimal vehicle travel within the Project site. The following operational activities could have the potential to directly or indirectly impact sensitive or special status species:

1. Operation and maintenance of poultry production and processing.
2. Use, storage, transportation, and management of chemicals related to water treatment, wastewater management and manure management and transport.
3. Travel on existing roadways.

Although the types of direct and indirect impacts would be similar to the impacts of construction-related activities described above, the intensity of the impact and area of effect would be less because most activities associated with operations are expected to occur in previously disturbed areas (i.e. – travel on existing roadways, routine operation and maintenance of egg production facility.)

To minimize impacts during construction and operation of the Project on candidate, sensitive and special status species, CVE has precautionary measures in place to avoid 'take" of threatened and endangered species on property due to construction and operational activities ongoing by CVE. The term "take" means to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct of endangered species. "Take" includes the modification or degradation of habitat that could result in death or injury to listed species through the interference of behavioral patterns of those species. The precautionary measures in place include the requirement of a biological survey to determine the presence or absence of candidate, sensitive, and special status species identified prior to all ground-disturbing activities.

CVE agrees to maintain a practice of take avoidance for all species that are listed as threatened and/or endangered under *California Endangered Species Act* (CESA) and *Federal Endangered Species Act* (FESA). Under this practice, CVE will perform pre-activity biological surveys by using qualified biological consultants for any proposed Project activity requiring ground disturbance in previously undisturbed areas. CVE will comply with all U.S. Fish and Wildlife (USFWS); and/or California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) recommendations for assessment, analysis, and protection of biological resources. With precautionary measures in place, it is reasonable to conclude the Project will not result in direct or indirect impacts to threatened or endangered species. In addition, CVE will incorporate mitigation measures to ensure potential impacts on biological resources would be mitigated to less than significant.

Mitigation Measures:

- **BIO-1** – A Qualified Biologist will conduct a focused pre-construction survey to determine the presence/absence of potential impacts on sensitive species prior to the onset of ground disturbance. The survey shall be conducted in accordance with appropriate standard protocols of the USFWS and CDFW. If more than 30 days pass before the onset of ground disturbance, an additional survey shall be conducted by a Qualified Biologist within 30 days prior to the onset of ground disturbance. Permittee shall make all biological surveys available to District staff upon request. [*Public Resources Code 21000-21177: California Environmental Quality Act*]

- **BIO-2** – A biological monitor will be present during ground disturbing activities that will result in impacts to sensitive species habitat, such as a SJKF, as determined by the qualified biologist during pre-construction surveys. [*Public Resources Code 21000-21177: California Environmental Quality Act*]

b) *Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, and regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?*

Less Than Significant Impact

The Project site is not located near riparian or sensitive natural communities; therefore, activities related to the Project will not impact riparian habitats or other sensitive natural communities. In order to minimize potential impacts to riparian and sensitive natural communities, CVE has implemented BMPs to minimize any potential impacts to such communities. BMPs implemented by CVE will include, but not be limited to the following:

Management Practices: Construction activities shall be limited to the Project area as evaluated in this Initial Study. The work area will be clearly identified on the construction drawings and will be staked and flagged prior to initiation of construction activities. CVE and its contractors shall adhere to practices which conform to environmental protections for preserving the landscape of the CVE site. Many provisions for environmental protection are established in existing regulations in California Code of Regulations (CCR), Title 14, Division 2, Chapter 4, Subchapter 2, entitled "Environmental Protection and Other State and Federal Regulations."

Egg Production Waste and Refuse: Egg production wastes, including wash water, shall be disposed in a manner so as not to cause damage to wildlife or plants and in accordance with State and local regulations. Idle equipment, scrap, trash, or other egg production waste materials shall not be disposed of or stored in a disorganized manner or create a hazard (CCR Section 1774). Trash receptacles shall be covered in a manner that prohibits access by animals.

Based on the above, the District concludes that the Project would have a less than significant impact on riparian habitat or other sensitive natural communities.

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?*

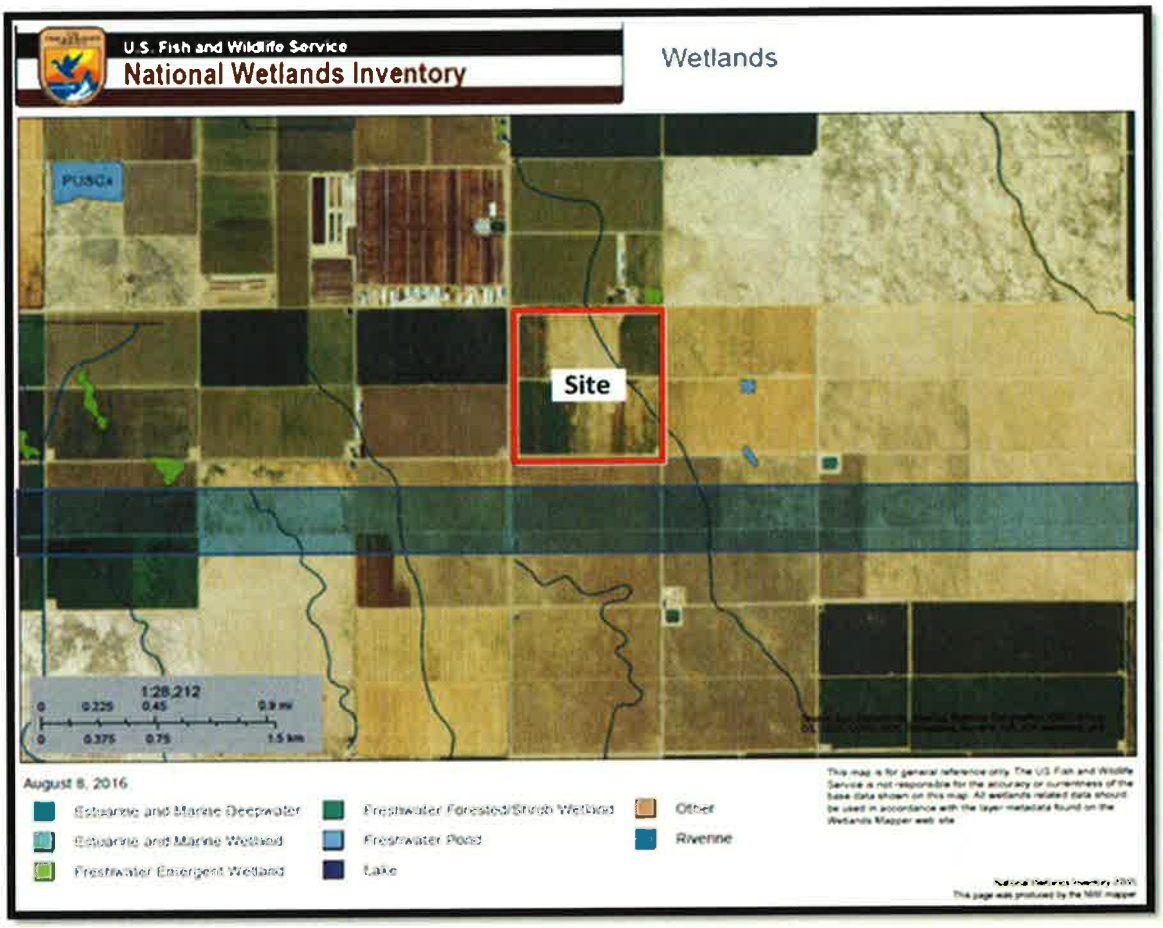
Less Than Significant Impact

Section 404 of the Clean Water Act defines wetlands as "areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or ground water at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions. Wetlands generally include swamps, marshes, bogs, and similar areas."

In more common language, wetlands are areas where the frequent and prolonged presence of water at or near the soil surface drives the natural system meaning the kind of soils that form, the plants that grow, and the fish and/or wildlife communities that use the habitat. Swamps, marshes, and bogs are well-recognized types of wetlands. However, many important specific wetland types have drier or more variable water systems than those familiar to the general public. Some examples of these are vernal pools (pools that form in the spring rains but are dry at other times of the year), playas (areas at the bottom of undrained desert basins that are sometimes covered with water), and prairie potholes.

The U.S. Department Fish and Wildlife Services National Wetlands Inventory identified several wetlands (small freshwater ponds) around in the vicinity of the Project site (see Figure 9 below). However, no wetlands exist on the Project site. As such, the Project is not expected to have an adverse impact on wetlands. Therefore, the Project would have a less than significant impact.

Figure 9: Wetlands Inventory



Source: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services, National Wetlands Inventory.
Website: www.fws.gov/wetlands/Data/Mapper.html

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?*

Less Than Significant Impact

The Project's development will result in a defined area of disturbance. The Project is located in an area that has previously been used for grazing. Also, over two thirds of the parcel (location of the Project) has recently been bladed or graded and is completely void of vegetation. The Project area and adjacent properties offer no natural habitat. As such, the area that will be impacted by the Project is expected to add minimal increase, if any, to much more extensive, impassible, and permanent barriers that already exist.

The Project would result in no native resident or migratory fish species impacts and it would not impede or adversely affect the use of any native wildlife nursery sites. Based on the above, the District concludes that construction and operational impacts regarding the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors associated with the Project would be less than significant.

e) *Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as tree preservation policy or ordinance?*

Less than Significant Impact

The Kern County General Plan Land Use, Open Space, and Conservation Element outlined policies for tree conservation. The policy requires protection of oak woodlands and large oak trees. There are no oak woodlands trees present on the Project site. There are a line of eucalyptus trees bordering Hanawalt Avenue which may be removed as part of Project implementation. Because the eucalyptus trees are not protected, the Project would have a less than significant impact.

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?*

No Impact

The CVE site is not located in or near any area identified in the United States Fish and Wildlife Service's Recovery Plan for Upland Species of the San Joaquin Valley, California (Recovery Plan). There is already a relatively high level of existing disturbance from previous agricultural activities. Similarly, the Project site does not contain any significant blocks of natural lands that would provide contiguous high-quality habitat for any of the species addressed in the Recovery Plan. Overall, the Project is

consistent with any Kern County objectives to encourage protection of sensitive species. Therefore, the Project would have no impact on conservation plans.

V. Cultural Resources Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in '15064.5?			✓	
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to '15064.5?		✓		
c) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?		✓		
d) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?		✓		
e) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource as defined in Public Resources Code 21074?		✓		

V. CULTURAL RESOURCES

a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in '15064.5?

Less Than Significant Impact

M.H.Wolfe and Associates prepared a Cultural Resource Study (CRS) for the Project site in August 2016 (M.H.Wolfe 2016b; and Appendix B). According to the CRS, there has been one previous cultural resource study conducted for the eastern half of the project area, KE-01041. Based on the CRS, there are no recorded cultural resources within the project area or within the one-half mile radius and it is not known if any exist in the majority of this area. There are also no recorded cultural resources within the project area or radius that are listed in the National Register of Historic Places, the California Register of Historical Resources, the California Points of Historical Interest, California Inventory of Historic Resources, or the California State Historic Landmarks (M.H.Wolfe, 2016b). Therefore, the Project would have a less than significant impact.

b) *Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to '15064.5?*

Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated

Ground-disturbing work such as site preparation and grading in the Project area may have the potential to impact archaeological resources. The CRS indicates that the Project site has unknown sensitivity for historical archaeological resources. The Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) in Sacramento was contacted on August 16, 2016 to provide a tribal consultation list and sacred lands file search for the Project area; consultation letters were sent out on August 19, 2016. Additionally, to minimize impacts to archaeological resources, mitigation measure CUL-1 has been incorporated into the Project to address the possibility that archaeological resources might be unearthed during any Project related ground disturbance activities. Therefore, the Project will have a less than significant impact with mitigation.

Mitigation Measure:

- **CUL-1** – In the event that archaeological resources are discovered during ground-disturbing activities, all work within 100 feet of the find shall cease and the Permittee shall notify and retain a qualified archaeologist to assess and provide an evaluation of the significance of the find. A qualified archaeologist shall determine whether avoidance is necessary and feasible in light of the factors such as the nature of the find, project design, costs, and other considerations, and, if necessary, develop appropriate mitigation measures in consultation with Kern County and the NAHC. In addition, should archaeological resources be discovered, the Permittee shall provide the District a written report in relation to the nature of the find. [*Public Resources Code 21000-21177: California Environmental Quality Act*]

c) *Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?*

Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated

Ground-disturbing work such as site preparation and grading in the Project area has the potential to impact paleontological resources. To minimize impacts to paleontological resources, mitigation measure CUL-2 has been incorporated into the Project to address the possibility that paleontological resources might be unearthed during any Project related ground disturbance activities. Therefore, the Project would have a less than significant impact with mitigation.

- **CUL-2** – In the event that paleontological resources are discovered during ground-disturbing activities, all work within 100 feet of the find shall cease and the Permittee shall notify and retain a qualified paleontologist to assess and provide an evaluation of the significance of the find. A qualified paleontologist shall determine whether

avoidance is necessary and feasible in light of the factors such as the nature of the find, project design, costs, and other considerations, and, if necessary, develop appropriate mitigation measures in consultation with Kern County and the NAHC. In addition, should paleontological resources be discovered, Permittee shall provide the District a written report in relation to the nature of the find. [*Public Resources Code 21000-21177: California Environmental Quality Act*]

d) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?

Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated

No cemeteries, burial sites, or archaeological deposits containing human remains have been identified on the Project site. Although it's highly unlikely, there could be a potential to disturb human remains. In the event of an unanticipated discovery of human remains during the construction or operation of the Project, mitigation measure CUL-3 has been incorporated into the Project to address the possibility that human remains might be unearthed during any Project related ground disturbance activities. Therefore, the Project would have a less than significant impact with mitigation. .

Mitigation Measure:

- **CUL-3** – In the event that human remains are discovered during ground-disturbing activities, all work within 100 feet of the find shall cease and the discovery shall immediately be reported to the County Coroner (CC) and NAHC for further assessment. Permittee shall identify appropriate measures for treatment or disposition of the remains in consultation with the CC and NAHC. In addition, should human remains be discovered during ground-disturbing activities, Permittee shall provide the District a written report in relation to the nature of the find. [*Public Resources Code 21000-21177: California Environmental Quality Act*]

e) Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource as defined in Public Resources Code 21074?

Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated

Ground-disturbing work such as site preparation and grading in the Project area may have the potential to impact tribal cultural resources. The CRS indicates that the Project site has unknown sensitivity for historical tribal cultural resources. The NAHC in Sacramento was contacted on August 16, 2016 to provide a tribal consultation list and sacred lands file search for the Project area; consultation letters were sent out on August 19, 2016. Additionally, to minimize impacts to tribal cultural resources, mitigation measure CUL-4 has been incorporated into the Project to address the possibility that tribal cultural resources might be unearthed during any Project related ground disturbance activities. Therefore, the Project would have a less than significant impact with mitigation.

Mitigation Measure:

- **CUL-4** – In the event that tribal cultural resources are discovered during ground-disturbing activities, all work within 100 feet of the find shall cease and the Permittee shall notify and retain a qualified archaeologist to assess and provide an evaluation of the significance of the find. A qualified Native American Organization shall determine whether avoidance is necessary and feasible in light of the factors such as the nature of the find, project design, costs, and other considerations, and, if necessary, develop appropriate mitigation measures in consultation with Kern County and the NAHC. In addition, should tribal cultural resources be discovered, the Permittee shall provide the District a written report in relation to the nature of the find. [*Public Resources Code 21000-21177: California Environmental Quality Act*]

VI. Geology / Soils Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	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: 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.				✓
ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?			✓	
iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?			✓	
iv) Landslides?				✓
b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?			✓	
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?				✓
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?				✓
e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater?			✓	

VI. GEOLOGY/SOILS

a) *Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving;*

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.

No Impact

The Project is not located within an Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone, as published by the California Department of Conservation. The nearest active earthquake fault to the CVE site is the Pond Fault in Northern Kern County and is located approximately seven (7) miles from the Project site (California Department of Conservation, 2016). Therefore, the Project would have no impact.

ii. Strong seismic ground shaking?

Less Than Significant Impact

According to the Safety Element of the Kern County General Plan, Kern County is susceptible to moderate-to-extreme ground shaking from a number of seismic sources. This hazard exists because elastic strains that accumulate deep within the earth become so great that the rock can no longer be contained. When this happens, movement along a fracture zone occurs, releasing enormous amounts of energy. At any given location, the amount of the resulting shaking motion caused by the sudden movement depends to a large extent on local ground condition. The Kern County Safety Element has policies and implementing measures in place to minimize concerns from ground shaking. The Project is not located within an Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone, as published by the California Department of Conservation. The nearest active earthquake fault to the CVE site is the Pond Fault in Northern Kern County and is located approximately seven (7) miles from the Project site (California Department of Conservation, 2016). Therefore, the Project would have a less than significant impact.

iii. Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?

Less Than Significant Impact

According to the Safety Element of the Kern County General Plan, land subsidence is a type of ground failure that can be aggravated by ground shaking. It is most often caused by the withdrawal of large volumes of fluids from underground reservoirs, but it can also occur by the addition of surface water to certain types of soil. There are four (4) types of subsidence occurring in Kern County:

- Tectonic subsidence: a long-term, very slow sinking of the valley, which is significant only over a geologic time period.

- Subsidence caused by the extraction of oil and gas: this type of subsidence is still too small to be of serious concern. The State Division of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources monitors subsidence in oil and gas fields and regulates oil and gas withdrawal and re-pressurizing of the fields.

- Subsidence caused by withdrawal of groundwater: in quantities much larger than replacement can occur, causing a decline of water level. This type of subsidence is of major concern and should be regulated and reduced, especially in urbanizing areas. This practice has lowered the ground level over a large area south of Bakersfield and in other areas of the County.

- Subsidence caused by hydrocompaction of moisture – deficient alluvial deposits: this is a one-time densification from collapse of the soil structure in near surface strata where the rainfall of other moisture has not penetrated during a long period of time.

The proposed Project will involve the use of an existing on-site well that will withdraw groundwater at a rate of 8,000 gallons per day; this demand rate is consistent with the well production history. As such, ground failure is not expected to occur at the Project site.

Liquefaction can occur in certain types of soil that are associated with shallow water table. It has been observed in many areas of the world that ground shaking produced by earthquakes tends to cause liquefaction to the extent that buildings have fallen over on their sides due to the lack of ground support. Some buildings designed to withstand earthquake shock waves, have been deemed inhabitable due to earthquake-triggered liquefaction. The Department of Conservation has mapped liquefaction hazard areas in Kern County (California Department of Conservation, 2016). As such, no liquefaction hazard area are located within the Project area.

The Project site is consistent with current land use and will be designed in accordance with all building code requirements including those pertaining to excavations, grading, and foundations. Adherence to California Buildings Standards Code (CBSC) requirements and compliance with California seismic design requirements would ensure that the Project would not expose persons or property to substantial risk of loss, injury, or death resulting from seismic activity. Therefore, the Project would have a less than significant impact.

iv. Landslides?

No Impact

According to the Safety Element of the Kern County General Plan, Kern County is susceptible to small landsides in mountainous areas of the county as loose material moves naturally down slope or fires have caused loss of soil-stabilizing vegetative

cover. The Project is located on flat terrain away from any mountains and is not expected to experience any landslides. Therefore, the Project would have no impact.

b) *Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?*

Less Than Significant Impact

The buildings and equipment will be manufactured off-site and be delivered to the Project site for assembly and installation. Any potential impacts to soil erosion will be reduced by compliance with the Kern County Planning and Building Department requirements. Therefore, the Project would have a less than significant impact.

c) *Be located on a geological 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?*

No Impact

The Project is located on agricultural land designated for agricultural activities and will be used for such purpose. Per the Kern County General Plan Safety Element, subsidence caused by agriculture is not expected and therefore is not expected to be a concern. The Project is not located near mountainous areas where there is a potential for landslides and is not located in a liquefaction area. Therefore, the Project would have no impact.

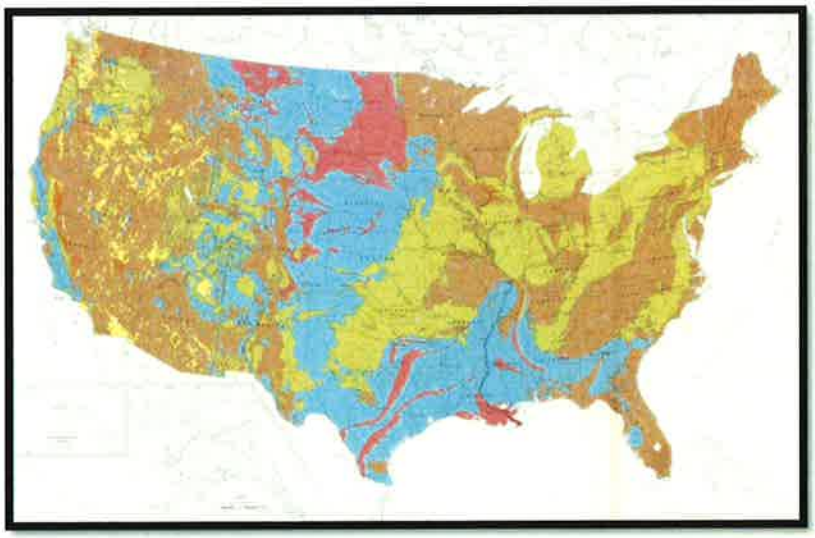
d) *Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial risk to life or property?*

No Impact

Expansive soils are soil that swell and contract depending on the amount of water that is present. Expansive soils contain minerals such as smectite clays that are capable of absorbing water. When they absorb water they increase in volume. The more water they absorb the more their volume increases. Expansions of ten percent or more are not uncommon. This change in volume can exert enough force on a building or other structure to cause damage.

According to the United States Geological Survey, *Swelling Clays Map of the Conterminous United States* identified geologic units that contain swelling clays, and within broad limits, categorized the units according to their swelling potential (see Figures 10 and 11).

Figure 10: Swelling Clays Map of the Conterminous United States



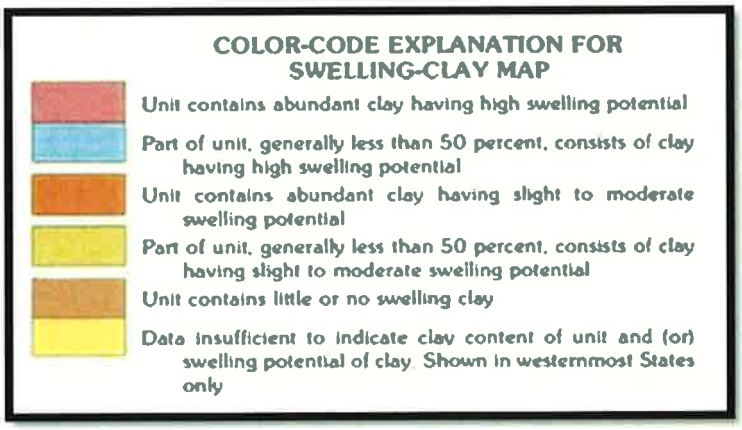
Source: United States Geological Survey
Website: http://ngmdb.usgs.gov/Prodesc/proddesc_10014.htm

Figure 11: Swelling Clays Map of the Conterminous United States (Project Area)

Source: United States Geological Survey
Website: http://ngmdb.usgs.gov/Prodesc/proddesc_10014.htm

The color coded explanation for the swelling-clay map is shown in Figure 12 below:

Figure 12: Color-Coded Explanation for Swelling Clay Map



Source: United States Geological Survey
Website: http://ngmdb.usgs.gov/Prodesc/proddesc_10014.htm

Based on the *Swelling Clays Map of the Conterminous United States* prepared by the United States Geological Survey, the soil in Kern County contains little or no swelling potential. Therefore, there would be no impact on expansive soil.

e) *Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal system where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater?*

Less Than Significant Impact

The Project includes a wastewater treatment system for facility operations that will be released to an evaporation pond. Employee restroom wastewater will be managed through an on-site septic system. During construction and operation, portable restrooms will be maintained by an outside service company or existing facilities will be used. The soils at the site, based on a soil survey conducted by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), have a very slow permeability (US Department of Agriculture, 2016). As such, the Project would have a less than significant impact on the soil or its capacity to support potential wastewater disposal.

VII. Greenhouse Gas Emissions Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?			✓	
b) Conflict with an applicable plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?			✓	

VII. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

The District has received an ATC application package from CVE to construct and operate an egg production and processing facility for up to 1,050,000 pullets and 2,289,000 laying hens. CVE's proposed 158-acre facility includes: three (3) 77,686 sf mechanically ventilated pullet houses, seven (7) 61,515 sf mechanically ventilated layer houses, manure handling systems, thirteen (13) backup generators, water treatment system, water storage, wastewater handling, storm drainage storage, associated structures (2,734 sf office, 20,843 sf egg processing plant, 15,162 sf cooler, and 9,700 sf dry storage), access and on-site paving, 53 employees, 112 parking spaces, vehicle wash station and perimeter and facility fencing (Project). The Project is consistent with current agricultural zoning and will allow for agricultural-related operations.

Greenhouse Gases (GHGs) are gases that absorb and emit radiation within the thermal infrared range, trapping heat in the earth's atmosphere. There are no "attainment" standards established by the Federal or State government for GHGs. In fact, GHGs are not generally thought of as traditional air pollutants because GHGs, and their impacts, are global in nature, while traditional "criteria" air pollutants affect the health of people and other living things at ground level, in the general region of their release to the atmosphere. Some GHGs occur naturally and are emitted into the atmosphere through natural processes. Other GHGs are created and emitted solely through human activities. The principal GHGs that enter the atmosphere because of human activities are carbon dioxide (CO_2), methane (CH_4), nitrous oxide (N_2O), and fluorinated carbons. Additional information on GHG and global climate change can be found in the District staff report titled: *Addressing Greenhouse Gas Emissions Impacts Under the California Environmental Quality Act.*

Assembly Bill 32 (AB 32)

Assembly Bill 32 (California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006) is a key piece of California's effort to reduce its GHG emissions. AB 32 was adopted establishing a cap on statewide greenhouse gas emissions and sets forth the regulatory framework to

achieve the corresponding reduction in statewide emissions levels. AB 32 requires CARB to establish regulations designed to reduce California's GHG emissions to 1990 levels by 2020. In executing its legislative mandate under AB 32, CARB developed a Scoping Plan that contains the main strategies California will use to reduce GHG from Business-as-Usual (BAU) emissions projected for 2020 levels back down to 1990 levels. BAU is the projected emissions caused by growth, without any GHG reduction measures. CARB determined that a 29% reduction from BAU is necessary to achieve the 1990 GHG emissions level. On December 11, 2008, ARB adopted its AB 32 Scoping Plan, setting a framework for future regulatory action on how California will achieve the goal of reducing GHG emissions to 1990 levels.

Cap & Trade

The AB 32 Scoping Plan identifies a Cap and Trade program as one of the strategies California will employ to reduce the GHG emissions that cause climate change. The Cap and Trade program is implemented by the CARB and caps GHG emissions from the industrial, utility, and transportation fuels sectors – which account for roughly 85% of the state's GHG emissions.

The program works by establishing a hard cap on about 85% of total statewide GHG emissions. The cap starts at expected BAU emissions levels in 2012, and declines 2-3% per year through 2020. Fewer and fewer GHG emissions allowances are available each year, requiring covered sources to reduce their emissions or pay increasingly higher prices for those allowances. The cap level is set in 2020 to ensure California complies with AB 32's emission reduction target of returning to 1990 GHG emission levels.

The scope of GHG emission sources subject to Cap and Trade in the first compliance period (2013-2014), included:

- All electricity generated and imported into California. The first deliverer of electricity into the state is the capped entity (the one that will have to purchase and surrender allowances).
- Large industrial facilities emitting more than 25,000 metric tons of GHG pollution/year. Examples include oil refineries and cement manufacturers.

The scope of GHG emission sources subject to Cap and Trade during the second compliance period (2015-2017), expands to include distributors of transportation fuels (including gasoline and diesel), natural gas, and other fuels. The regulated entity will be the fuel provider that distributes the fuel upstream (not the gas station). In total, the Cap and Trade program is expected to include roughly 350 large businesses, representing about 600 facilities. Individuals and small businesses will not be regulated. Under the program, companies do not have individual or facility-specific reduction requirements. Rather, all companies covered by the regulation are required to turn in allowances in an amount equal to their total greenhouse gas emissions during each phase of the program. The program gives companies the flexibility to either trade allowances with

others or take steps to cost-effectively reduce emissions at their own facilities. Companies that emit more will have to turn in more allowances. Companies that can cut their emissions will have to turn in fewer allowances. Furthermore, as the cap declines, total emissions are reduced.

On October 20, 2011, CARB's Board adopted the final Cap and Trade regulation and Resolution 11-32. As part of finalizing the regulation, the Board considered the related environmental analysis and, consistent with CEQA requirements, approved CARB's functionally equivalent document (FED).

CEQA Requirements

In December, 2009, the California Natural Resources Agency (NRA) amended the CEQA Guidelines to include Global Climate Change, which is now generally accepted by the scientific community to be occurring and caused by GHG emissions. The amendments address analysis and mitigation of the potential effects of GHG emissions in CEQA documents. In their *Final Statement of Reasons for Regulatory Action,* NRA recognizes that the analysis of GHG emissions in a CEQA document presents unique challenges to lead agencies. NRA amended section 15064(h)(3) of the CEQA guidelines to add compliance with plans or regulations for the reduction of GHG emissions to the list of plans and programs that may be considered in a cumulative impacts analysis. In their *Final Statement of Reasons for Regulatory Action*, NRA discusses that AB 32 requires CARB to adopt regulations that achieve the maximum technologically feasible and cost effective GHG reductions to reach the adopted state-wide emissions limit. NRA goes on to state that a lead agency may consider whether CARB's GHG reduction regulations satisfy the criteria in existing subdivision (h)(3).

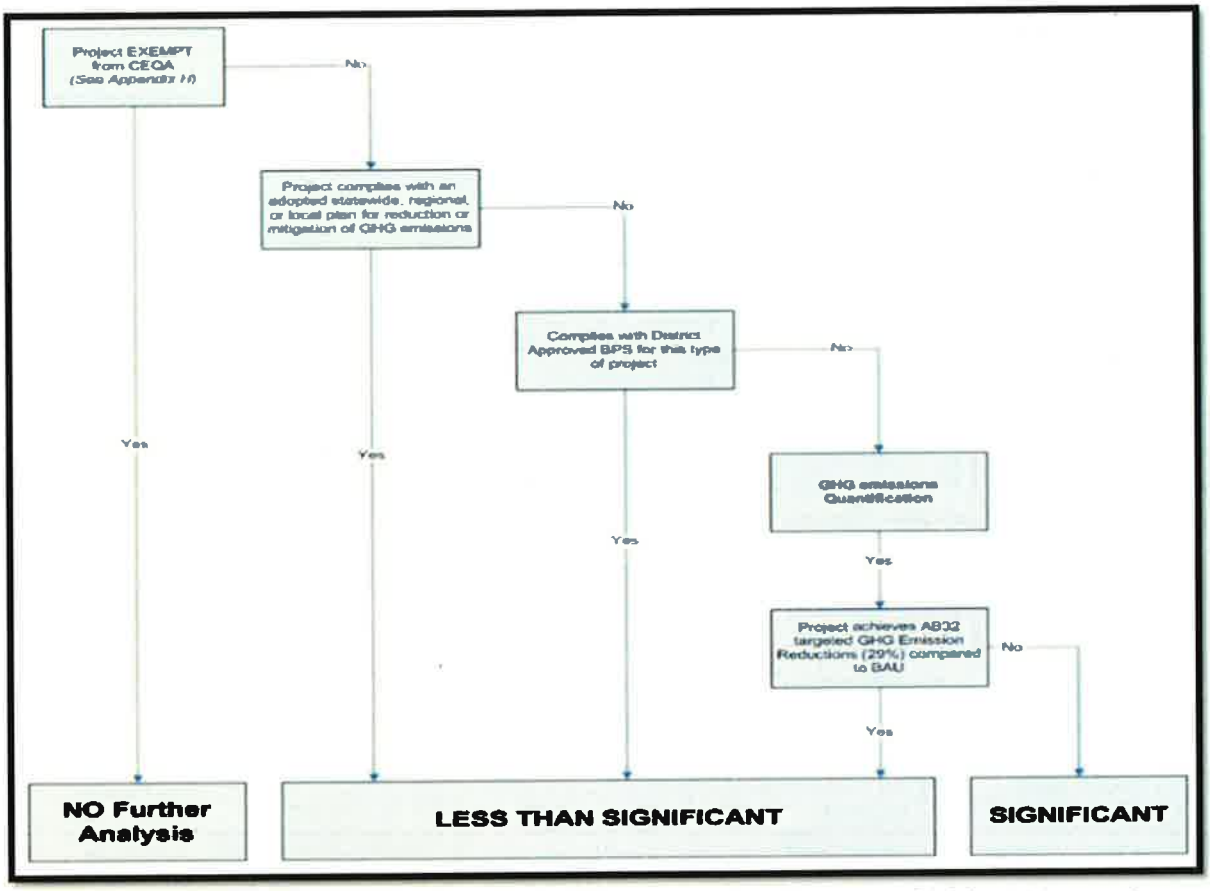
District CEQA Policy

CEQA requires each public agency to adopt objectives, criteria, and specific procedures consistent with CEQA Statutes and the CEQA Guidelines for administering its responsibilities under CEQA, including the orderly evaluation of projects and preparation of environmental documents. On December 17, 2009, the District adopted the policy "*District Policy (APR 2005) – Addressing GHG Emissions Impacts for Stationary Source Projects Under CEQA When Serving as the Lead Agency*" and approved the District's guidance document for use by other agencies when addressing GHG impacts as lead agencies under CEQA. The policy applies to all District permitting projects that have an increase in GHG emissions, regardless of the magnitude of the increase. Under this policy, the District's determination of significance of project-specific GHG emissions is founded on the principal that projects with GHG emission reductions consistent with AB 32 emission reduction targets are considered to have a less than significant impact on global climate change.

As illustrated below in Figure 13, the District's board-adopted policy for determining significance of project-specific GHG emissions employs a tiered approach. Of specific

relevance to Cap and Trade is the provision that: "Projects complying with an approved GHG emission reduction plan or GHG mitigation program, which avoids or substantially reduces GHG emissions within the geographic area in which the project is located, would be determined to have a less than significant individual and cumulative impact for GHG emissions. Such plans or programs must be specified in law or approved by the lead agency with jurisdiction over the affected resource and supported by a CEQA compliant environmental review document adopted by the lead agency. Projects complying with an approved GHG emission reduction plan or GHG mitigation program would not be required to implement best performance standards (BPS)." Projects that do not comply with such a plan or program must incorporate BPS or undergo a project-specific analysis demonstrating that GHG emissions would be reduced by at least 29%, as compared to BAU.

Figure 13: Determination of Significance for Stationary Source Projects



Determining the Significance of GHG Emissions for Projects Subject to an Approved GHG Emissions Reduction Plan

The NRA amended the CEQA Guidelines to include Global Climate Change and added compliance with plans or regulations to reduce GHG emissions to the list of plans and programs that should be considered in a cumulative impacts analysis. In their *Final*

Statement of Reasons for Regulatory Action, the NRA discusses that AB 32 requires CARB to adopt regulations that achieve the maximum technologically feasible and cost effective GHG reductions to reach the adopted state-wide emissions limit. NRA goes on to state that a lead agency may consider whether CARB's GHG reduction regulations satisfy the criteria in section 15064(h)(3).

The District's board-adopted policy determines that "Projects complying with an approved GHG emission reduction plan or GHG mitigation program, which avoids or substantially reduces GHG emissions within the geographic area in which the project is substantially reduces GHG emissions within the geographic area in which the project is located would be determined to have a less than significant individual or cumulative impact for GHG emissions. Such plans or programs must be specific in law or approved by the lead agency with jurisdiction over the affected resource and supported by a CEQA compliant environmental review document adopted by the lead agency."

AB 32 and the AB 32 scoping plan adopted by CARB is a GHG reduction plan for CEQA purposes. It is directly and wholly responsible for meeting the GHG reduction targets for the State of California and is supported by an environmental review process that has been successfully defended in court as equivalent to, and compliant with, CEQA requirements. However, there are some sources of GHG emissions that are discussed in the AB 32 scoping plan that are not required to mitigate emissions via implementation of the plan, and some of the plan is devoted to implementing regulations that address existing emissions, and will have only minimal impact on increases in emissions. Since it is these increases that must be addressed under CEQA, the District conducts its own analysis to determine whether compliance with AB 32 and its scoping plan are adequate to conclude that a particular GHG emissions increase is less than significant.

Determination of Significance for Projects Subject to CARB's GHG Cap and Trade Regulation

One regulation proposed in AB 32 scoping plan that does address increases in GHG emissions is the Cap and Trade regulations discussed above. Facilities subject to the Cap and Trade regulation are subject to an industry-wide cap on overall GHG emissions, and any growth in emissions must be accounted for under that cap, so that a corresponding and equivalent reduction in emissions must occur to allow any increase. Further, the cap decreases over time, resulting in an overall decrease in GHG emissions. It is therefore reasonable to conclude that facilities subject to and in compliance with CARB's Cap and Trade requirements will not, and in fact, cannot, contribute significantly towards any global GHG emissions growth. While this inherent mitigation process is not a necessary component of a finding that compliance with a plan for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions may be considered in a cumulative impact analysis [(CCR Section 15064(h)(3))], the fact that all growth in emissions at covered sources is mitigated provides a certainty that compliance with the Cap and

Trade program eliminates any potential for significant impacts from those GHG emissions.

a) *Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?*

Less than Significant Impact

Determination of Significance of GHG Emissions for Projects Achieving AB 32 Targeted GHG Emission Reduction (29%) Compared to BAU and Projects Covered Under Cap and Trade Regulation.

The CVE facility is not a covered entity under the Cap and Trade regulation, and BPS has not been established for the source category. The District has conducted an assessment of GHG emissions associated with the Project.

On November 4, 2008, California voters passed Proposition 2 (Standards for Confining Farm Animals Initiative) on the ballot. Proposition 2 required calves raised for veal, egg laying hens, and pregnant pigs be confined in ways that allows these animals to lie down, stand up, fully extend their limbs and turn around freely. As such, the California Department of Food and Agriculture adopted Section 1350 (Shell Egg Food Safety) of Title 3 of the California Code of Regulations, which lists stocking density guidelines for all hens whose eggs are sold in California (Section 1350).

Table 7 below presents the minimum floor space per number of hens in an enclosure.

Table 7: Hens per Enclosure

Number of Hens	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	≥9
Square Inches/Hens	322	205	166	146	135	127	121	117	116

CVE is designing individual open enclosures, an open style aviary, for all of its houses, and is in accordance with the stocking densities required by Section 1350, which went into effect on January 1, 2015. As such, the Project provides seven houses for 2,289,000 laying hens. By complying with Proposition 2 Section 1350, the District determined that the Project is expected to generate a total of 5,044 metric tons of CO2eq/year of GHG emissions.

However, if CVE were operating in the BAU baseline period of 2002-2004 as identified in CARB's Scoping Plan, there were no stocking density requirements such as those required now by Proposition 2. As such, CVE would be capable of housing more hens in the same amount of space. Based on the pre and post Proposition 2 standards

described above, CVE would be capable of housing 777,886 hens per house, for a total of 5,445,202 hens. Pullet houses are not subject to Proposition 2, therefore, it will be assumed that the pullet houses have the same capacity as proposed for the Project with a total of 1,050,000 pullets. Therefore under pre-Proposition 2 standards, CVE would generate a total of 10,463 tons of CO2eq/year of GHG emissions.

Based on the pre and post Proposition 2 standards described above, Project stationary source emissions result in approximately 51.8% reduction compared to BAU. As such, the District concludes that the Project stationary source emissions achieve the AB 32 targeted GHG emission reductions of 29% compared to BAU.

Although CVE is a facility that is not considered a covered entity under the Cap and Trade regulation, the regulation now includes distributors of transportation fuels (including gasoline and diesel), natural gas and other fuels. This accounts for combustion of fossil fuels including transportation fuels used in California (on and off road including locomotives). As such, mobile sources, and off-road sources associated with the Project are covered under Cap and Trade regulation. Furthermore, the Project will decrease the imports of eggs currently originating from out of state. This would result in an overall decrease in mobile fuels and related GHG emissions from the egg distribution portion of mobile sources.

Therefore, the District finds that because the Project would comply with AB 32 targeted GHG emission reductions of 29% compared to BAU for Project stationary sources and with Cap and Trade regulation for Project mobile sources, the project would therefore have a less than significant individual and cumulative impact on global climate change.

b) *Conflict with an applicable plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?*

Less Than Significant Impact

As discussed above, the Project would be in compliance with AB 32 and any relevant greenhouse gas regulations (e.g., Cap and Trade). As such, the Project would not conflict with an applicable plan, policy, or regulation for the purpose of reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Therefore, the Project would have a less than significant impact on applicable GHG plans, policies or regulations.

VIII. Hazards and Hazardous Materials Would the Project:	**Potentially Significant Impact**	**Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated**	**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?			✓	
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?			✓	
c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?			✓	
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?				✓
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?				✓
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?				✓
g) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?				✓
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 wildlands?			✓	

VIII. HAZARDS & HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

a) *Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?*

Less Than Significant Impact

Potential hazardous materials to be used on the Project site would include: cleaners containing nitric and phosphoric acid, disinfectants, heavy duty degreasers, oils, and lube. The materials and waste would be transported in placarded vehicles in packaging or containers. Although the Project would include some routine transport, use and disposal of hazardous materials, all of these materials are commonly used chemicals and lubricants which do not have an expansive impact area if accidentally released on-site and the handling and transport of these materials would be subject to the review and reporting of a Hazardous Materials Business Plan. Further, the potential hazardous materials would be handled by trained employees and be used only on-site for facility sanitation and operations.

The closest sensitive receptor is an agricultural dairy operation located less than 0.1 miles from the Project site. The dairy is handling the same or similar hazardous materials. Additionally, the HRA, the Project is not expected to create a health risk above acceptable risk thresholds for off-site receptors, including the dairy.

Because the use of hazardous materials would be subject to a Hazardous Materials Business Plan and would only be handled by trained personnel, and further the Project's HRA found no unacceptable health risks, the Project would not be expected to expose the public to a substantial risk from the transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials. Therefore, the Project would have a less than significant impact.

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?*

Less Than Significant Impact

Each project component has been evaluated for applicable hazards, such as the transport, use, and disposal of hazardous materials. Potential hazardous materials used on site could include: cleaners containing nitric and phosphoric acid, disinfectants, heavy duty degreasers, oils, and lube. The Project's expected use of hazardous materials are not expected to create a significant hazard for the public or the environment because the use of hazardous materials would be subject to a Hazardous Materials Business Plan and would only be handled by trained personnel, and further the Project's HRA found no unacceptable health risks. Hazardous materials handled

during construction or operations will be in accordance with Federal, State, and local regulations (such as the Solid Waste Management Act, the Hazardous Materials Transportation Act, and the Hazardous Waste Control Act). Also, the California Department of Industrial Relations Division of Occupational Safety and Health (Cal/OSHA) is responsible for developing and enforcing safety standards and assuring worker safety in the handling and use of hazardous materials. Among other requirements, Cal/OSHA obligates many businesses prepare Injury and Illness Prevention Plans and Chemical Hygiene Plans. Therefore, the impacts would be less than significant.

c) *Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?*

Less Than Significant Impact

As discussed, potentially hazardous materials are not expected to be associated with this Project. The nearest school is John L Prueitt Elementary School which is located approximately 9.1 miles southeast of the Project site. Therefore, the Project would have a less than significant impact.

d) *Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials site compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?*

No Impact

Per the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) EnviroStor Database, the Project is not located on a site that meets the definition of Government Code Section 65962.5, which requires specific hazardous waste facilities to submit required information to the DTSC. Therefore, there would be no impact.

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?*

No Impact

The Project site is not located within two (2) miles of a public airport. The nearest public airport is the Wasco-Kern County Airport located approximately nine (9) miles from the Project site. Therefore, the Project would have no impact on people residing or working in the Project area.

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?

No Impact

The Project site is not located within the vicinity of a private airport. The nearest private airport is the Cashen Airport located approximately two and half (2.5) miles from the Project site. Therefore, the Project would have no impact on people residing or working in the Project area.

g) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?

No Impact

The Safety Element within the Kern County General Plan outlines the requirements for an emergency plan. No County or State designated emergency evacuation routes were identified near the Project. The Project would therefore have no effect on the Kern County General Plan requirements for emergency access and evacuation routes.

Construction of the Project will be minimal and temporary in nature and is not expected to impact public roads. However, should construction activities span out to a public road causing temporary lane closure, CVE will coordinate with the local jurisdiction so as not to cause closure of a public roadway. Flaggers may briefly hold traffic back for construction equipment, but emergency vehicles would be provided access in the event of a temporary road closure. For operations, CVE personnel will be present at the site at all times for operation, maintenance and emergency repair, the Project will not impair or physically interfere with the implementation of adopted emergency response and evacuation plans. The Project will not demolish any existing public roadways and would not interfere with existing emergency response or evacuation plans. Therefore, the Project would have no impact on emergency response plan.

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 wildlands?

Less Than Significant Impact

According to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Cal FIRE), fire hazards within the proposed Project site are primarily designated as a Local Responsibility Area (LRA). Throughout the Project site, fire hazard severity is moderate. Potential fire risks associated with the proposed Project for construction will

be very low, because the Project site will be slightly graded, and concrete will be poured as a foundation for each unit. The Project would not expose people or structures to significant risk of loss due to a potential wildfire. Therefore, the Project would have a less than significant impact on wildfires.

IX. Hydrology / Water Quality Would the Project:	**Potentially Significant Impact**	**Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated**	**Less Than Significant Impact**	**No Impact**
a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?			✓	
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)?			✓	
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?			✓	
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?				✓
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?			✓	
f) Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?			✓	
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 map?				✓
h) Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures which would impede or redirect flood flows?				✓

IX. Hydrology / Water Quality (Continued)	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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				✓

IX. HYDROLOGY / WATER QUALITY

a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?

Less Than Significant Impact

Operation of the facility for the Project will require the use of approximately 8,000 gallons per day of water for operations of the egg production houses and sanitation of the eggs at the packing house. Construction and operation of the Project is subject to waste discharge requirements from the Regional Water Quality Control Board. As such, the Project will be subject to monitoring and reporting through a RWD; therefore, the Project is not expected to violate any water quality standards and would have a less than significant impact.

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)?

Less Than Significant Impact

Operation of the Project will require the use of an existing well at a rate of approximately 8,000 gallons per day. The existing well is drilled down to 800 feet and the well pump has the capacity to pump 1670 gallons per minute. During due diligence, the well was tested and was reported to have little draw down. The previous agriculture operation was irrigating 24 hours per day at the maximum pumping rate of 1670 gallons per minute. The Project is designed to pump at 350 gallons per minute and store the well water into a one (1) million gallon water storage tank with the pump cycling off when the storage tank is full. The Project demand is substantially less than previous agricultural operations on-site and due diligence testing established the well was more than sufficient to operate at the proposed production rate. (Sweeney personal communications)

As such, the applicant's due diligence established there will be sufficient water supplies and the Project's projected use will not deplete ground water supplies. Further, because the Project's groundwater use substantially less than the previous agricultural operation and due diligence established the well is productive, the Project is not expected to adversely affect the groundwater supplies being used by the nearby dairy. Therefore, the Project would have a less than significant impact.

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?*

Less Than Significant Impact

The Project site has been graded so that on-site storm water runoff will flow to on-site storm water retention basins at the east edge of the laying houses and pullet houses; no off-site storm water will be allowed to enter or contaminate the Project area. While there is no stream or river on the Project site, a natural drainage which has traversed the Project will be altered (refer to Figure 9 above); natural off-site storm water will be redirected into drainage channels around the northern and eastern boundaries of the Project to reconnect with its natural channel to the southeast of the Project site. Because all on-site storm water will be retained on-site and off-site storm water will be redirected to connect with its natural channel (and thus would have a less than significant effect on the nearby dairy's storm water drainage), the Project therefore would have a less than significant impact on drainage patterns.

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?*

No Impact

The existing Project site is currently developed for agricultural activities and would be designed to ensure there would be no negative effect on surface runoff or increase flooding potential. The Project is not in a flood zone and there is no stream traversing the Project site. Additionally, water discharge occurring during construction and operations or precipitation at the Project site would not be sufficient to cause flooding. The Project also includes on-site drainage to ensure off-site water would not cross into the CVE operations (to avoid any contamination) and on-site (both construction and operations-related) water would be handled within on-site storm drainage. The Project would not alter the course of a stream or river, nor substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would introduce a new flood hazard and would necessitate any new flood control projects. Therefore, there would be no impact.

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?*

Less Than Significant Impact

As discussed above, the Project site is currently developed for agricultural production activities and will be graded to direct on-site surface runoff to on-site storm retention. Additionally, the site will be graded so that off-site run-off will not flow on-site during operations. Water activities occurring during construction activities or precipitation at the Project site is rarely sufficient to cause runoff. Therefore, the impact would be less than significant.

f) *Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?*

Less Than Significant Impact

Construction and operational activities associated with the Project may potentially affect water quality. However, BMPs have been established by CVE to minimize any potential impact to water quality. Therefore, the impact would be less than significant impact.

Construction-specific BMPs that will be implemented by CVE will include, but not be limited to the following:

Erosion Control: Areas where surface soil is susceptible to erosion will employ erosion control construction BMPs to prevent excessive erosion or contaminated soil migration. Erosion controls that may be implemented during construction include soil binders, geotextiles and mats, earth dikes and drainage swales, silt fence, fiber rolls, gravel bag berms, sandbag barriers, placement of gravel on exposed soil areas, such as access roads and laydown areas.

Wind Erosion Control: Wind erosion control measures, such as covering soil stockpiles or application of water will be used in areas subject to soil erosion caused by wind.

Housekeeping Practices: General good housekeeping practices, such as trash and debris removal, and drainage systems maintenance will be conducted during construction activities.

Vehicle and Equipment Cleaning, Fueling, and Maintenance: Vehicle and equipment cleaning, fueling and maintenance will be conducted off-site when possible and will be restricted to designated areas onsite.

Material Delivery and Storage: Outdoor material delivery activities will be performed properly, and only in designated areas to reduce the potential for contaminating storm

water. Any materials stored outdoors will be stored properly in designated areas. Liquids stored outdoors will be stored in proper containers and only in designated areas to reduce the potential for contaminating storm water.

Spill Prevention, Control, and Cleanup: Spill prevention and control measures will be implemented during construction to minimize the potential for spills to occur. Spills that may occur will be contained and cleaned up properly.

Solid Waste Management: Solid waste generated during construction activities will be handled and disposed of per applicable regulatory guidelines.

Sanitary/Septic Waste Management: Proper sanitary and septic waste management prevent the discharge of pollutants to storm water from sanitary and septic waste by providing convenient, well-maintained facilities, and arranging for regular service and disposal. Temporary sanitary facilities should be located away from drainage facilities, watercourse, and from traffic circulation. If site conditions allow, portable facilities should be placed at minimum of fifty (50) feet from drainage conveyance and traffic areas.

Liquid Waste Management: Liquid waste generated during construction activities will be handled, stored, and disposed of in accordance with regulatory guidelines.

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 map?*

No Impact

The Project does not include the construction of any housing units and is not located within the 100-year flood zone as mapped on the Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs); nor is the Project located in a Flood Hazard Safety Zone (FHSZ) as designated by Kern County. Therefore, there Project would have no impact.

h) *Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures which would impede or redirect flood flows?*

No Impact

The Project includes the construction and installation of an egg production and processing facility. The Project site is not located within the 100-year flood zone as mapped on the FIRMs; nor is the Project located in a FHSZ as designated by Kern County. Therefore, the Project would have no impact.

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?

No Impact

The Project does not propose to place people or structures within any area that is subject to flooding through any cause, including as a result of failure of a levee or dam nor will there be habitable structures proposed for construction of the Project. Therefore, the Project would have no impact.

j) Inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?

No Impact

The Project site is not within a county that is identified in the Tsunami Inundation Maps prepared by the California Geological Survey. Therefore, the Project would have no impact.

X. Land Use / Planning Would the Project:	**Potentially Significant Impact**	**Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated**	**Less Than Significant Impact**	**No Impact**
a) Physically divide an established community?				✓
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?				✓
c) Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan?				✓

X. LAND USE/PLANNING

a) Physically divide an established community?

No Impact

The Project site has been in agricultural operations including grazing and animal management since as early as the 1930's. The Project site and surrounding area is currently zoned Exclusive Agriculture (Zone A). The Project is consistent with current

and surrounding land uses. There is no established community that will be physically divided. Therefore, the District concludes that there is no substantial evidence of record to support a conclusion that the Project will physically divide an established community. Therefore, the Project would have no impact.

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 mitigation an environmental effect?*

No Impact

The Project site is currently designated in the Kern County General Plan as Intensive Agriculture (Code 8.1). The Project site is currently zoned Exclusive Agriculture (Zone A). Pursuant to Section 19.12.020 of the Kern County Zoning Ordinance, poultry operations are a permitted use in Zone A, provided the criteria in Kern County Zoning Ordinance Chapter 19.12.130, Section E are satisfied; poultry operations have specific buffering requirements. Pursuant to Section 19.12.020 of the Kern County Zoning Ordinance, poultry operations are a permitted use in Zone A, provided the criteria in Kern County Zoning Ordinance Chapter 19.12.130, Section E are satisfied.

Kern County Zoning Ordinance Chapter 19.12.130, Section E states that: "Commercial poultry farms are permitted if all the following criteria are satisfied:

1. No portion of the proposed site lies within two (2) miles of the City of Bakersfield or within one (1) miles of any other incorporated city.

2. The General Plan designation of the entire site is 8.1 or 8.3 and no portion of the site is designated 2.3 (Shallow Groundwater) or is located in a floodway.

3. There is no property zoned or designated by the General Plan or applicable Specific Plan for residential development (E or R-1, R-2, and R-3) within three (3) miles from the exterior boundary of the site.

4. There is no property designated 4.2 (Rural Community) within one (1) mile from the exterior boundary of the site from the exterior boundary of the site and no property designated 4.3 (Specific Plan Required) within three (3) miles from the exterior boundary of the site.

5. There are no areas zoned or designated by the General Plan or applicable Specific Plan for commercial uses and no retail commercial uses, including hotels and motels, within a one (1) mile radius from the exterior project boundary.

6. There are no residential facilities, community care facilities, hospitals, recreational vehicle parks, or public or private schools within a two (2) mile radius from the exterior project boundary.

7. The facility operator obtains all local, State, and federal approvals, licenses, and permits prior to the commencement of operations."

Kern County prepared a Kern County Poultry Siting Map identifying sites which meet the above criteria[2]. Based on a review of this Kern County Poultry Siting Map, the Project is located in an area which meets all of the Kern County buffering requirements. Therefore, the Project is consistent with current and surrounding land uses and will not conflict with an applicable land use plan. Therefore the Project would have no impact.

c) *Conflict with an applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan?*

No Impact

In December of 2006, Kern County issued a Draft County Valley Floor Habitat Conservation Plan (DVFHCP). The DVFHCP divides Kern County program area into three separate habitat zone categories based on the habitat value as follows: Red Zone (the highest valued conservation habitat), Green Zone (area with some disturbance but important for movement of covered habitat species), and White Zone (limited importance due to intensive land uses). According to Figure 3-1 (Habitat Zones) of the DVFHCP, the Project is located outside the Red, Green and White Zones and is located in an area designated as Agricultural Land. As such, the Project is consistent with the DVFHCP. The District concludes that there is no substantial evidence of record to support a conclusion that the Project would conflict with an applicable habitat conservation plan. Therefore, the Project would have no impact on habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan.

2 http://www.arcgis.com/home/webmap/viewer.html?webmap=65e82441d2f34f2988126502d4e5737a&extent=-120.5919,34.1619,-117.2191,36.4126

XI. Mineral Resources Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	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?				✓
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?				✓

XI. MINERAL RESOURCES

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?*

No Impact

The Surface Mining and Reclamation Act of 1975 (SMARA) mandated the initiation by the State Geologist of mineral land classification in order to help identify and protect mineral resources in areas within the State subject to urban expansion or other irreversible land uses which would preclude mineral extraction. SMARA also allowed the State Mining and Geology Board (SMGB) to designate lands containing mineral deposits of regional or statewide significance. Construction aggregate was selected by the SMBG to be the initial commodity target for classification because of its importance to society, its unique economic characteristics, and the imminent threat that continuing urbanization poses to that resource.

According to the California Geological Survey's Aggregate Availability Map, the Project is not located in or within the vicinity of a site being used for aggregate production (California Department of Conservation 2016). As such, the Project has no potential to result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource. Therefore, the Project would have no impact.

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?*

No Impact

As discussed above, the Project site is not located in an area that contains aggregate production. As such, the Project will not result in the loss of important mineral resource recovery site. Therefore, the Project would have no impact.

XII. Noise Would the Project:	**Potentially Significant Impact**	**Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated**	**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?			✓	
b) Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?			✓	
c) A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the Project vicinity above levels existing without the Project?			✓	
d) A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the Project vicinity above levels existing without the Project?			✓	
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?				✓
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?				✓

XII. NOISE

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?

Less Than Significant Impact

The Kern County General Plan Noise Element identifies the following land uses as noise sensitive:

- Residential areas
- Schools
- Convalescent and acute care hospitals
- Parks and recreational areas
- Churches

The Project may result in a slight increase in ambient noise levels. However, noise types and volumes will be consistent with current land uses and existing agricultural operations. The Project has been determined to be a permitted-use by Kern County, located on a parcel zoned Exclusive Agriculture (Zone A). Furthermore, there are no schools, parks, or recreational areas, convalescent or care hospitals, or churches within the immediate vicinity of the Project. The nearest sensitive receptor (John L Prueitt Elementary School) to the Project is located approximately 48,000 feet from the Project site. The nearby dairy is the closest neighbor at less than 0.1 miles to the northwest; however, as an operating agricultural facility, it is not defined as a sensitive receptor. As such, the Project would not expose persons located at sensitive receptors (defined above) to noise levels in excess of standards. Therefore, the Project would have a less than significant impact.

b) *Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?*

Less Than Significant Impact

The Project may result in a slight increase in groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels during construction and operations. Groundborne vibration and noise levels associated with these activities are expected to be minor. Construction will be temporary and at least one (1) year and no longer than eighteen (18) months. There would be no groundborne vibration expected during Project operations. Operations-related noise sources would be from truck deliveries and on-site materials movement, which would be short-term in nature; operations would not generate exterior noise levels at noise-sensitive land uses in excess 65 decibels (dBs) for a 24 hour period, the day-night average sound level (Ldn), as established by Kern County's Noise Element. Therefore, the Project would have a less than significant impact.

c) *A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the Project vicinity above levels existing without the Project?*

Less Than Significant Impact

The Project may result in a slight increase in ambient noise levels. However, future noise types and volumes will be consistent with current land use and existing agricultural operations. State and federal standards set by the U.S. Department of Labor Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) regulate the amount of time workers may be exposed to sound levels above 90 dB. The proposed Project operations is not expected to reach this threshold. Therefore, the Project would have a less than significant impact.

d) A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the Project vicinity above levels existing without the Project?

Less Than Significant Impact

During construction activities, noise levels are expected to be elevated. However, the increase in noise is temporary and will subside once construction of the Project is complete. Operations-related noise sources would be from truck deliveries and on-site materials movement, which would be short-term in nature; Project operations would not generate exterior noise levels at noise-sensitive land uses in excess 65 dB for a 24 hour period, the day-night average sound level (Ldn), as established by Kern County's Noise Element. Therefore, the Project would have a less than significant impact.

e) For a Project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within 2 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?

No Impact

The Project site is not located within two (2) miles of a public airport. The nearest public airport is the Wasco-Kern County Airport located approximately nine (9) miles from the Project site. Therefore, the Project would have no noise impact on people residing or working in the Project area.

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?

No Impact

The Project site is not located within the vicinity of a private airport. The nearest private airport is the Cashen Airport located approximately two and a half (2.5) miles from the Project site. Therefore, the Project would have no noise impact on people residing or working in the Project area.

XIII. Population / Housing Would the Project:	**Potentially Significant Impact**	**Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated**	**Less Than Significant Impact**	**No Impact**
a) Induce substantial 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)?				✓
b) Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?				✓
c) Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?				✓

XIII. POPULATION AND HOUSING

a) *Induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extensions of roads or other infrastructure)?*

No Impact

The Project does not include the development of homes, nor does it include the extension of roads or infrastructure. The Project is expected to employ up to fifty-three (53) employees from the greater region; given the availability of potential employees in Kern County, most of these employees (except for a few management positions) are anticipated to be hired from the available labor pool. As such, the Project will not induce substantial population growth in the area. Therefore, the Project would have no impact.

b) *Displace a substantial number of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?*

No Impact

There is no housing on the Project site. As such, the Project will not displace a substantial number of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere. Therefore, the Project would have no impact.

c) *Displace substantial number of people necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?*

No Impact

There are no workers living on-site. As such, the Project will not displace a substantial number of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere. Therefore, the Project would have no impact.

XIV. Public Services Would the Project:	**Potentially Significant Impact**	**Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated**	**Less Than Significant Impact**	**No Impact**
a) 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:				
i) Fire protection?				✓
ii) Police protection?				✓
iii) Schools?				✓
iv) Parks?				✓
v) Other public facilities?				✓

XIV. PUBLIC SERVICES

a) *Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provisions 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:*

i. Fire protection?

No Impact

The Project is located in a LRA and State Responsibility Area (SRA) for fire protection. As such, CAL FIRE has determined that the Project site is designated as Other Moderate Fire Hazard Severity Zones in the LRA and Moderate Fire Hazard Severity

Zones in the SRA. The Project will be designed to conform to current California Fire Code and Federal safety standards. Therefore, installation and operation of Project in accordance with these standards will minimize the potential for a fire. Fire protection for this property is currently under the jurisdiction of the Kern County Fire Department. The nearest fire station to the Project is Station 31 – Wasco located approximately thirteen (13) miles southeast of the Project site. This fire station covers approximately 157 square miles and would be adequate to cover the Project. No new or altered fire protection facility would be necessary. No additional increase in fire protection demand is anticipated. Therefore, the Project would have no impact on fire protection.

ii. Police protection?

No Impact

The nearest police station to the Project is the Kern County Sherriff's Office located in Wasco, California. This police station is adequate to cover the Project. No new or altered police protection facility would be necessary and no additional increase in police protection demand is anticipated. Therefore, the Project would have no impact on police protection.

iii. Schools?

No Impact

The Project will not increase population in the surrounding areas necessitating the need for new schools. Therefore, the Project would have no impact on schools.

iv. Parks?

No Impact

The Project will not increase population in the surrounding areas necessitating the need for new parks. Therefore, the Project would have no impact on parks.

v. Other public facilities?

No Impact

The Project will not increase population in the surrounding areas necessitating the need for other public facilities. Therefore, the Project would have no impact.

XV. Recreation Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) 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?				✓
b) Include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?				✓

XV. RECREATION

a) 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?

No Impact

The Project area does not currently contain any recreational facilities. Construction and operation of the Project will be expected to primarily draw from the greater regional employment pool and as such, would not be expected not increase population of the surrounding area and therefore no increase the use of recreational facilities. Therefore, the Project would have no impact.

b) Include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?

No Impact

Construction and operation of the Project will not increase population of the surrounding area. As such, the Project will not require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities. Therefore, the Project would have no impact.

XVI. Transportation / Traffic Would the Project:	**Potentially Significant Impact**	**Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated**	**Less Than Significant Impact**	**No Impact**
a) Conflict with an applicable plan, ordinance or policy establishing measures of effectiveness for the performance of the circulation system, taking into account all modes of transportation including mass transit and non-motorized travel and relevant components of the circulation systems, including but not limited to intersections, streets, highways and freeways, pedestrian and bicycle paths, and mass transit?				✓
b) Conflict with an applicable congestion management program, including, but not limited to level of service standards and travel demand measures, or other standards established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways?			✓	
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?				✓
d) Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?				✓
e) Result in inadequate emergency access?				✓
f) Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs regarding public transit, bicycle, or pedestrian facilities, or otherwise decrease the performance or safety of such facilities?				✓

XVI. TRANSPORTATION / TRAFFIC

a) *Conflict with an applicable plan, ordinance or policy establishing measures of effectiveness for the performance of circulation system, taking into account all modes of transportation including mass transit and non-motorized travel and relevant components of the circulation systems, including but not limited to intersections streets, highways, and freeways, pedestrian and bicycle paths, and mass transit?*

No Impact

The Kern County General Plan Circulation Element considers Level of Service (LOS) D as acceptable within the general plan area for County maintained roads. Gun Club Road is located to the west of the Project site. Hanawalt Avenue is located to the north of the Project site. Both roads serve as the main access roadway to the Project site. The local roadways are both paved and unpaved and provide access for facility employees and truck deliveries. The Project will be maintained and manned by CVE personnel and contractors. As such, the Project will not substantially increase delays at intersections. The traffic to and from the site is estimated in Table 8 below; based on estimates, there would be 106 additional daily passenger vehicle trips and 35 daily truck trips (17.3 inbound and 17.3 outbound) from the proposed project. There are no anticipated pedestrian, bicycles, or mass transit circulation from the Project and no new public roadways would be built and no existing roadways would be altered during Project activities. The Project will have restricted access; accordingly, bicyclist and pedestrians will not have access to the site. Therefore, the Project would have no impact on applicable traffic and circulation plans, ordinances or policies.

Table 8: Traffic Generation Estimates

Trip Type	Daily Trips	Year Trips	Ave Trip Length	Annual VMT
Employees				
- Inbound	53	19,345	16	309,520
- Outbound	53	19,345	16	309,520
Feed				
- Inbound	7.2	2,628	22	57,816
- Outbound	7.2	2,628	22	57,816
Packaged Eggs				
- Inbound	5	1,825	115	209,875
- Outbound	5	1,825	115	209,875
Manure				
- Inbound	5.1	1,862	30	55,860
- Outbound	5.1	1,862	30	55,860
Vehicle Type				
Passenger Vehicles	106	38,690	-	619,040
Trucks	34.6	12,630	-	647,102

b) *Conflict with an applicable congestion management program, including but not limited to level of service standards and travel demand measures, or other standards established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways?*

Less Than Significant Impact

The Kern Council of Government's (COG's) 2014 Preliminary Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) established LOS E as the minimum system-wide LOS traffic standard in the Kern County Congestion Management Program (CMP). LOS is a qualitative measure that represents the collective factors of speed, travel time, traffic interruptions, freedom to maneuver, safety, driving comfort and convenience, and operating costs provided by a highway facility under a particular volume condition. LOS is ranked from A to F, with A being the best and F being the worst. Kern COG's RTP indicates that there are no designated CMP corridor near Gun Club Road and Hanawalt Avenue that would be at or exceed the CMP standard of LOS E. Gun Club Road is located to the west of the Project site and Hanawalt Avenue is located to the north of the Project site. Both roads serves as the main access roadways to the Project site. Additionally, the nearby dairy is also located on Gun Club Road and Hanawalt Avenue, just northwest of the project. The combined level of traffic generation from both the Project and the dairy would not exceed the roadway capacity or cause the area roadways to exceed LOS E. As such, the new employee and truck trips from the Project shown above in Table 8 (above) would not conflict with the Kern County Congestion Management Program. Therefore, there would be a less than significant impact.

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?*

No Impact

The Project site is not located within two (2) miles of a public or private airport. The nearest public airport is the Wasco-Kern County Airport located approximately nine (9) miles from the Project site. The nearest private airport is the Cashen Airport located approximately two and half (2.5) miles from the Project site. Project construction and operation would not result in a change in air traffic pattern and thus would not result in safety risk. Therefore, the Project would have no impact on air traffic patterns.

d) *Substantially increase hazards due to design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?*

No Impact

The Project will not include the construction of new public roads or alterations to existing public roads or intersections. Temporary equipment staging areas may become part of the Project site and may be set aside for employee and visitor vehicle parking. As such,

the Project will not result in hazards due to sharp curves, dangerous intersections, or incompatible uses. Therefore, the Project would have no impact.

e) *Result in an inadequate emergency access?*

No Impact

The Kern County Safety Element requires new development of properties have sufficient access for emergency vehicles. The Project site and surrounding roadway network do not have any conditions that would restrict or delay emergency vehicle access to the Project site. Gun Club Road is located to the west of the Project site. Hanawalt Avenue is located to the north of the Project site. Both roads serve as the main access roadway to the Project site. Therefore, the Project would have no impact on emergency access.

f) *Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs regarding public transit, bicycle, or pedestrian facilities, or otherwise decrease the performance or safety of such facilities?*

No Impact

There are no pedestrian or bicycle circulation as no new public roadways will be constructed for the proposed Project and no existing roadways will be altered during Project activities. The Project will have restricted access; accordingly, bicyclists and pedestrians will not have access to the site. Therefore, the Project would have no impact.

XVII. Utilities / Service Systems Would the Project:	**Potentially Significant Impact**	**Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated**	**Less Than Significant Impact**	**No Impact**
a) Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?			✓	
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?			✓	
c) Require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?			✓	
d) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the Project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed?			✓	
e) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider that 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?			✓	
f) Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the Project's solid waste disposal needs?			✓	
g) Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?			✓	

XVII. UTILITIES / SERVICE SYSTEMS

a) Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?

Less Than Significant Impact

The Project includes a wastewater treatment system for facility sanitary wash basins and facility washdown operations that will be released to an evaporation pond and monitored through the RWQCB's RWD. Employee restroom wastewater will be managed through an on-site septic system. During construction and operation, portable restrooms will be maintained by an outside service company or existing facilities will be used (when operational). The wash water will be stored in an evaporation pond that occupies a 250-foot by 540-foot area in the northwest quadrant of the facility. As such, the Project is not expected to exceed wastewater treatment requirements. Therefore, the Project would have a less than significant impact.

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?*

Less than Significant Impact

The Project will provide construction and operation of small on-site water and wastewater treatment system sufficient for Project operations. Storage tanks will be manufactured off site and installed on site and connected through a pipe system. On-site water treatment and storage will produce 8,000 gallons per day from an on-site well and meet the California Department of Public Health regulations as overseen by the State Water Resources Control Board and its RWQCB. The Project includes a wastewater treatment system for facility sanitary wash basins and facility washdown operations that will be released to an evaporation pond and monitored through the RWQCB's RWD. Employee restroom wastewater will be managed through an on-site septic system. Because the facility will design and operate in compliance with the regulations and requirements of the Department of Public Health, the State Water Resources Control Board and the RWQCB, the Project would have a less than significant impact.

c) *Require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?*

Less than Significant Impact

The Project will include grading to allow for on-site stormwater retention and prevent off-site water from contaminating the on-site operations (See also response to question IXc). At the Project site, storm water runoff will be designed to flow through site grading to on-site storm water retention basins at the east edge of the laying houses and pullet houses. While there is no stream or river on the Project site, a natural drainage which has historically traversed the Project will be altered (refer to Figure 9 above); natural off-site will be redirected into drainage channels around the northern and eastern boundaries of the Project to reconnect with its natural channel to the southeast of the Project site. Additional standard storm water BMPs (also outlined above in Section IX,

Hydrology and Water Quality) will be implemented; therefore impact to storm water drainage facilities would be less than significant.

Construction-specific BMPs that will be implemented by CVE will include, but not be limited to the following:

Erosion Control: Areas where surface soil is susceptible to erosion will employ erosion control construction BMPs to prevent excessive erosion or contaminated soil migration. Erosion controls that may be implemented during construction include soil binders, geotextiles and mats, earth dikes and drainage swales, silt fence, fiber rolls, gravel bag berms, sandbag barriers, placement of gravel on exposed soil areas, such as access roads and laydown areas.

Wind Erosion Control: Wind erosion control measures, such as covering soil stockpiles or application of water will be used in areas subject to soil erosion caused by wind.

Housekeeping Practices: General good housekeeping practices, such as trash and debris removal, and drainage systems maintenance will be conducted during construction activities.

Vehicle and Equipment Cleaning, Fueling, and Maintenance: Vehicle and equipment cleaning, fueling and maintenance will be conducted off-site when possible and will be restricted to designated areas onsite.

Material Delivery and Storage: Outdoor material delivery activities will be performed properly, and only in designated areas to reduce the potential for contaminating storm water. Any materials stored outdoors will be stored properly in designated areas. Liquids stored outdoors will be stored in proper containers and only in designated areas to reduce the potential for contaminating storm water.

Spill Prevention, Control, and Cleanup: Spill prevention and control measures will be implemented during construction to minimize the potential for spills to occur. Spills that may occur will be contained and cleaned up properly.

Solid Waste Management: Solid waste generated during construction activities will be handled and disposed of per applicable regulatory guidelines.

Sanitary/Septic Waste Management: Proper sanitary and septic waste management prevent the discharge of pollutants to storm water from sanitary and septic waste by providing convenient, well-maintained facilities, and arranging for regular service and disposal. Temporary sanitary facilities should be located away from drainage facilities, watercourse, and from traffic circulation. If site conditions allow, portable facilities should be placed at minimum of fifty (50) feet from drainage conveyance and traffic areas.

Liquid Waste Management: Liquid waste generated during construction activities will be handled, stored, and disposed of in accordance with regulatory guidelines.

d) *Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the Project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed?*

Less Than Significant Impact

Water supply for the Project will be provided by an existing well on the Project site. At full capacity, the Project will consume approximately 8,000 gallons per day of water. As such, since existing water supplies are sufficient for the Project, no new or expanded entitlements are required (Sweeney personal communications). Therefore, the Project would have a less than significant impact.

e) *Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider that 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?*

Less than Significant Impact

The Project includes a wastewater treatment system for facility sanitary wash basins and facility washdown operations that will be released to an evaporation pond and monitored through the RWQCB's RWD. Employee restroom wastewater will be managed through an on-site septic system. The Project will have no impact on outside wastewater treatment providers. Therefore, the Project would have a less than significant impact on wastewater treatment.

f) *Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the Project's solid waste disposal needs?*

Less Than Significant Impact

The facility would be served by the Kern County Sanitary Landfill waste management services at either the Shafter or McFarland locations. Only minimal short-term impacts to this landfill are anticipated during construction from temporary increase in construction. The Project's long term operational waste generation is anticipated to be from office and employee waste streams; all poultry waste would be managed and recovered as fertilizer. Operations-related waste stream would not impact the available land fill capacity at either the Shafter or McFarland waste management facilities. As such, the Kern County Sanitary Landfill has sufficient capacity to accommodate the Project's solid waste disposal needs. Therefore, the Project would have a less than significant impact.

g) Comply with federal, state, and local statues and regulations related to solid wastes?

Less Than Significant Impact

Solid wastes generated from the site would include office and employee waste streams and manure from the poultry operations. These waste streams will be stored and handled in accordance with all federal or state regulation for solid wastes; the poultry manure will be reused as agricultural fertilizer. Therefore, the Project would have less than significant impact.

XVIII. Mandatory Findings of Significance Would the Project:	**Potentially Significant Impact**	**Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated**	**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?		✓		
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)?		✓		
c) Does the Project have environmental effects, which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?		✓		

XVIII. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

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?*

Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated

With the incorporation of required permit conditions and the incorporation of mitigation measures as outlined in the Initial Study, the Project would have a less than significant impact with mitigation on the environment and special status species.

Mitigation Measures: See Mitigation Measures AIR-1, BIO-1 and BIO-2, CUL-1 through CUL-4.

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)?*

Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated

CEQA Guidelines state that a Lead Agency shall consider whether the cumulative impact of a Project is significant and whether the effects of the project are cumulatively considerable (CCR §15065). The assessment of the significance of the cumulative effects of the Project must, therefore, be conducted in connection with the effects of past projects, other current projects, and probable future projects. Due to the nature and location of the Project and consistency with environmental policies, incremental contributions to impacts are considered less than cumulatively considerable. The Project is not a part of any larger planned developments. Therefore, the Project would not contribute substantially to adverse cumulative conditions, or create any substantial indirect impacts (i.e., an increase in population that could lead to an increase need to housing, increase in traffic, air pollutants, etc.). The Project would have a less than significant impact with mitigation.

Mitigation Measures: See Mitigation Measures AIR-1, BIO-1 and BIO-2, and CUL-1 through CUL-4.

c) *Does the Project have environmental effects, which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?*

Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated

The analyses of environmental issues contained in this Initial Study indicate that the Project is not expected to have a substantial impact on human beings, either directly or indirectly. Project design elements and mitigation measures have been incorporated into the Project to reduce all potentially significant impacts to less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: See Mitigation Measures AIR-1, BIO-1 and BIO-2, CUL-1 through CUL-4.

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I. APPENDICES

Appendix A. Acronyms and Abbreviations
Appendix B. Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program
Appendix C. Reconnaissance Survey and Evaluation at the Central Valley Eggs Project Site, Gun Club Road and Hanawalt Avenue, near Semitropic, Kern County, CA.
Appendix D. Cultural Resources Records Search
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Appendix F. Operational Non-Permitted Source Emissions
Appendix G. Engineering Evaluation
Appendix H: Risk Management Review

Appendix A. Acronyms and Abbreviations

AAQA	Ambient Air Quality Analysis
AAQS	Ambient Air Quality Standards
AB 2588	Assembly Bill 2588 – Air Toxics "Hot Spots" Information and Assessment Act
AB 32	Assembly Bill 32 – California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006
ATC	Authority to Construct
BACT	Best Available Control Technology
BAU	Business as Usual
BMP	Best Management Practice
BNLL	Blunt-Nosed Leopard Lizard
BPS	Best Performance Standards
Cal/OSHA	California Department of Industrial Relations - Division of Occupational Safety and Health Administration
CalEEMod	California Emissions Estimator Model
CARB	California Air Resources Board
CBSC	California Building Standards Code
CC	County Coroner
CCR	California Code of Regulations
CDFW	California Department of Fish and Wildlife
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CESA	California Endangered Species Act
CH_4	Methane
CMP	Congestion Management Program
CNDDB	California Natural Diversity Database
CO	Carbon Monoxide
CO_2	Carbon Dioxide
COG	Council of Governments
CRS	Cultural Resource Study
CVE	Central Valley Eggs
dB	Decibel
District	San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District
DTSC	California Department of Toxic Substances Control
DVFHCP	Draft County Valley Floor Habitat Conservation Plan
ERC	Emission Reduction Credit
ERG	Environmental Review Guidelines
FED	Functionally Equivalent Document
FESA	Federal Endangered Species Act
FIRM	Flood Insurance Rate Map
FHSZ	Flood Hazard Safety Zone
FMMP	Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program

GAMAQI	Guide for Assessing and Mitigating Air Quality Impacts
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
gpm	gallons per minute
HAP	Hazardous Air Pollutant
hp	horsepower
HRA	Health Risk Assessment
LDN	day-night average sound level
LOS	Level of Service
LRA	Local Responsible Agency
MEI	Maximally Exposed Individual
NAHC	Native American Heritage Commission
N_2O	Nitrous Oxide
NO_x	Oxides of Nitrogen
NRA	California Natural Resources Agency
NRCS	Natural Resources Conservation Service
NSR	New Source Review
OSHA	Occupational Safety and Health Administration
PM_{10}	Particulate Matter 10 microns in diameter
$PM_{2.5}$	Particulate Matter 2.5 microns in diameter
ROG	Reactive Organic Gases
RTP	Regional Transportation Plan
RWD	Report of Waste Discharge
RWQCB	Regional Water Quality Control Board
SJKF	San Joaquin Kit Fox
SJVAB	San Joaquin Valley Air Basin
SMARA	Surface Mining and Reclamation Act of 1975
SMGB	State Mining and Geology Board
SO_x	Sulfur Oxides
SRA	State Responsibility Area
TAC	Toxic Air Contaminant
TPY	Tons Per Year
US EPA	US Environmental Protection Agency
USFWS	US Fish and Wildlife Service
USGS	US Geological Survey
VOC	Volatile Organic Compound

Appendix B. Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program

Impact	Significance Prior to Mitigation	Measure Number	Mitigation Measure	Enforcement Agency	Significance After Mitigation
Project operational emissions may exceed the District's thresholds of significance.	Potentially Significant	AIR-1	Prior to operating equipment under this Authority to Construct, permittee shall surrender VOC emission reduction credits for the following quantity of emissions: 1st quarter – 6,951 lbs, 2nd quarter – 6,951 lbs, 3rd quarter – 6,951 lbs, and fourth quarter – 6,952 lbs. These amounts include the applicable offset ratio specified in Rule 2201 Section 4.8 (as amended 2/18/16). [District Rule 2201]:	San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District	Less than Significant
The project could result in take of a candidate, sensitive, or special status species.	Potentially Significant	BIO-1	A Qualified Biologist will conduct a focused pre-construction survey to determine the presence/absence of potential impacts on sensitive species prior to the onset of ground disturbance. The survey shall be conducted in accordance with the standard protocol of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW). If more than 30 days pass before the onset of ground disturbance, an additional survey shall be conducted by a Qualified Biologist within 30 days prior to the onset of ground disturbance. Permittee shall make all biological surveys available to District staff upon request. [*Public Resources Code 21000-21177: California Environmental Quality Act*]	San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District	Less than Significant
		BIO-2	A biological monitor will be present while ground-disturbing activities are occurring based on the sensitivity of the habitat in which a project occurs. [*Public Resources Code 21000-21177: California Environmental Quality Act*]		

Impact	Significance Prior to Mitigation	Measure Number	Mitigation Measure	Enforcement Agency	Significance After Mitigation
The project could have an impact on archaeological resources, paleontological resources, or human remains.	Potentially Significant	CUL-1	In the event that archaeological resources are discovered during ground-disturbing activities, all work within 100 feet of the find shall cease and the Permittee shall notify and retain a qualified archaeologist to assess and provide an evaluation of the significance of the find. A qualified archaeologist shall determine whether avoidance is necessary and feasible in light of the factors such as the nature of the find, project design, costs, and other considerations, and, if necessary, develop appropriate mitigation measures in consultation with Kern County and the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC). In addition, should archaeological resources be discovered, the Permittee shall provide the District a written report in relation to the nature of the find. [*Public Resources Code 21000-21177: California Environmental Quality Act*]	San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District	Less than Significant
		CUL-2	In the event that paleontological resources are discovered during ground-disturbing activities, all work within 100 feet of the find shall cease and the Permittee shall notify and retain a qualified paleontologist to assess and provide an evaluation of the significance of the find. A qualified paleontologist shall determine whether avoidance is necessary and feasible in light of the factors such as the nature of the find, project design, costs, and other considerations, and, if necessary, develop appropriate mitigation measures in consultation with Kern County and the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC). In addition, should paleontological resources be discovered, Permittee shall provide the District a written report in relation to the nature of the find. [*Public Resources Code 21000-21177: California Environmental Quality Act*]		
		CUL-3	In the event that human remains are discovered during ground-disturbing activities, all work within 100 feet of the find shall cease and the discovery shall immediately be reported to the County Coroner (CC) and Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) for further assessment. Permittee shall identify appropriate measures for treatment or disposition of the remains in consultation with the CC and NAHC. In addition,		

Impact	Significance Prior to Mitigation	Measure Number	Mitigation Measure	Enforcement Agency	Significance After Mitigation
			should human remains be discovered during ground-disturbing activities, Permittee shall provide the District a written report in relation to the nature of the find. [*Public Resources Code 21000-21177: California Environmental Quality Act*]		
		CUL-4	In the event that tribal cultural resources are discovered during ground-disturbing activities, all work within 100 feet of the find shall cease and the Permittee shall notify and retain a qualified archaeologist to assess and provide an evaluation of the significance of the find. A qualified Native American Organization shall determine whether avoidance is necessary and feasible in light of the factors such as the nature of the find, project design, costs, and other considerations, and, if necessary, develop appropriate mitigation measures in consultation with Kern County and the NAHC. In addition, should tribal cultural resources be discovered, the Permittee shall provide the District a written report in relation to the nature of the find. [*Public Resources Code 21000-21177: California Environmental Quality Act*]		

Appendix C. Reconnaissance Survey and Evaluation at the Central Valley Eggs Project Site, Gun Club Road and Hanawalt Avenue, near Semitropic, Kern County, CA.

Available Upon Request at District Office:

San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District
Central Region
1990 E. Gettysburg Ave.
Fresno, CA 93726
(559) 230-6000

Appendix D. Cultural Resources Records Search

Available Upon Request at District Office:

San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District
Southern Region
34946 Flyover Court
Bakersfield, CA 93308
(661) 392-5500

Appendix E. Construction Emissions

Available Upon Request at District Office:

San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District
Central Region
1990 E. Gettysburg Ave.
Fresno, CA 93726
(559) 230-6000

Appendix F. Operational Non-Permitted Source Emissions

Available Upon Request at District Office:

San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District
Central Region
1990 E. Gettysburg Ave.
Fresno, CA 93726
(559) 230-6000

Appendix G. Engineering Evaluation

Available Upon Request at District Office:

San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District
Central Region
1990 E. Gettysburg Ave.
Fresno, CA 93726
(559) 230-6000

Appendix H. Risk Management Review

Available Upon Request at District Office:

San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District
Central Region
1990 E. Gettysburg Ave.
Fresno, CA 93726
(559) 230-6000