



**San Joaquin Valley Unified  
Air Pollution Control District**

**Darling International, Inc.  
Fresno Upgrades Project**

**(Project No. C-1070484 & C-1073300)**

**Initial Study and Proposed  
Mitigated Negative Declaration**

August 2007

INITIAL STUDY AND PROPOSED  
MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

**DARLING INTERNATIONAL, INC.  
FRESNO UPGRADES PROJECT**

August 2007

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Project Location: Darling International  
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Fresno, CA

Project Sponsor: Darling International  
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## **A. PURPOSE AND AUTHORITY**

Darling International Inc., hereafter referred to as Darling, is an existing animal rendering facility located in Fresno, California. Darling has submitted an Authority to Construct (ATC) application to allow an increase in the daily raw material processing limits from 850,000 pounds per day to 1,510,560 pounds per day (project #C-1070484). Additionally, Darling is proposing to remove the raw material limiting condition from the meat and bone meal (MBM) storage permit since raw material is not processed in this permit unit. Darling has also submitted an ATC to install a new boiler and condenser system to accommodate the increase in daily throughput and mitigate potential nuisance odor impacts (project # C-1073300). Collectively these modifications constitute the Darling International Inc., Fresno Upgrades Project, hereafter referred to as the Project.

The California Environmental Quality Act (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 San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District (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 the 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.

The City of Fresno Planning Department has determined the proposed project is permitted within the zone and the City of Fresno has no discretionary approval over the Project. The District is unaware of any other Agency having discretionary approval over the Project. As such, the District is the public agency having principal responsibility for approving the Project. Because of its discretionary approval power over the Project via its Permits Rule (Rule 2010) and New Source Review Rule (Rule 2201), (CEQA Guidelines §15381), the District serves as the Lead Agency for the Project. Rule 2010 requires operators of emission sources to obtain an authority to construct and permit to operate from the District. Rule 2201 requires that new and modified stationary sources of emissions mitigate their emissions using best available control technology (BACT).

Under CEQA the Lead Agency is required to (ERG, Section 3.2.1, page 3-4):

- 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.

## **B. PROJECT BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

### ***Project Location***

The Project will be located at the existing animal rendering facility at 795 W. Belgravia Avenue, Fresno, California. The site is bounded by S. Teilman Avenue to the west, W. Church Avenue to the south, S. Fruit Avenue to the east and W. Belgravia/W. Florence Avenues to the north, within Fresno city limits (APN 477-054-12). Figure 1 indicates the Project's regional location within the San Joaquin Valley Air Basin (SJVAB). Figure 2 identifies the facility's location and the surrounding areas.

### ***General Plan Designation and Zoning***

The property is currently zoned M-3 (*Heavy Manufacturing District*) on the north 3/4 of the property, including the area where the rendering plant facilities are located. The remainder of the property is zoned M-1 (*Light Manufacturing District*). The north 1/2 of the property, including the area where the rendering plant facilities are located, is designated in the 2025 Fresno General Plan for Heavy Industrial land uses, and the south 1/2 of the property is designated for light industrial land uses.

The District has verified that the proposed Project is not within 1,000 feet of the outer boundary of any schools. Therefore, the public notification requirement of California Health and Safety Code 42301.6 is not applicable to the Project.

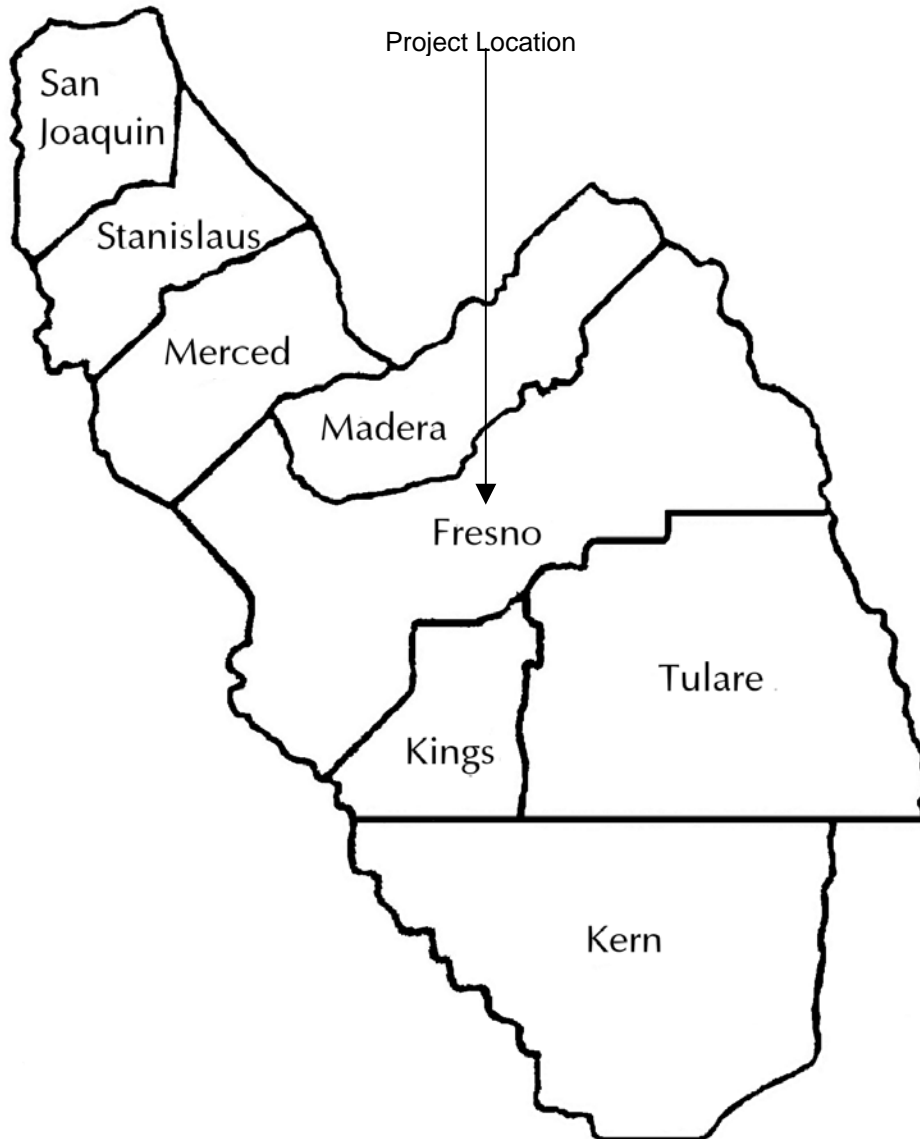
### ***Project Description***

Darling has submitted an Authority to Construct (ATC) application to allow an increase in the daily raw material processing limits from 850,000 pounds per day to 1,510,560 pounds per day (project #C-1070484). Additionally, Darling is proposing to remove the raw material limiting condition from the meat and bone meal (MBM) storage permit since raw material is not processed in this permit unit. Darling has also submitted an ATC to install a



**Figure 1**

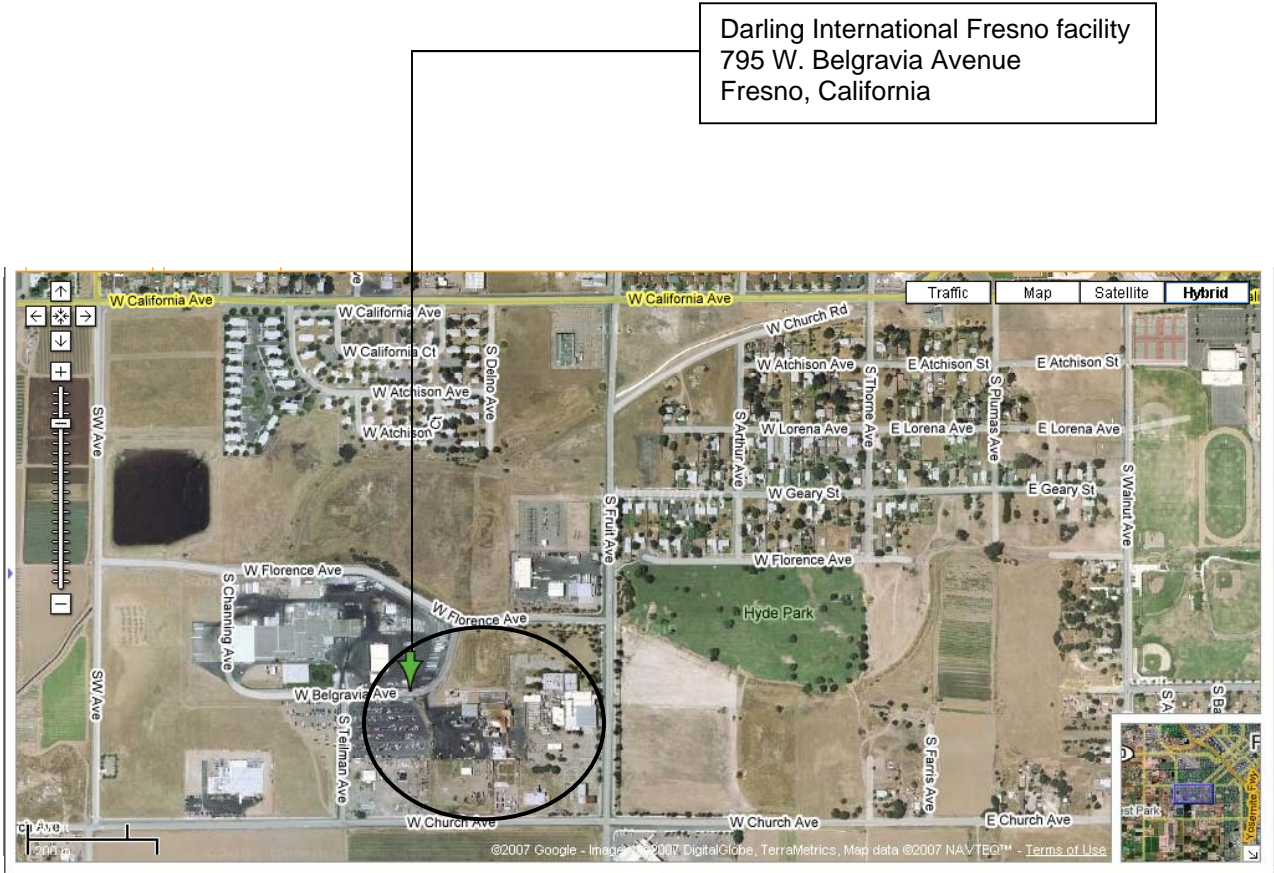
Regional Location within the SJVAB





**Figure 2**

Regional Location within the SJVAB



new boiler and condenser system to accommodate the increase in daily throughput and mitigate potential nuisance odor impacts (project # C-1073300).

The Fresno facility currently operates 6 days per week, 24 hours per day. The hours of operation will not change with the Project. However, to evaluate potential impact for a worst-case scenario, emissions have been estimated under the assumptions that the facility will run 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

**Permitting History**

Darling is an animal rendering facility that operates at 795 W. Belgravia in Fresno, CA. This site is very near several residential neighborhoods, located to the east-northeast, and to the south-southeast of the facility site. Fresno County APCD (prior to District



unification) had received many odor complaints from the nearby residents stating that Darling (or its predecessors) were the cause of disagreeable odors. Upon District unification, these complaints continued. Fresno County APCD and District investigations revealed many different causes, but much of the odor complaints could be traced to either poor housekeeping or poorly maintained, old equipment that was reaching the end of its service life.

On November 5, 2003, the District received applications from Darling International to rebuild or replace much of its processing and odor abatement equipment. The following lists some of the work undertaken at this facility:

- Replace the existing concrete floor to include new scupper and sump collection system, eliminating the main sump outside
- Replace the existing wastewater pre-treatment system with a new system to include a roto strainer, mechanical skimmer, dissolved air flotation unit (DAF), air system, sludge tank, and associated plumbing, pumps, and control systems
- Upgrade packing, plumbing, and controls on the existing 75,000 cfm room air scrubber
- Upgrade packing, plumbing, and controls on the existing 100,000 cfm room air scrubber
- Upgrade the existing scrubber and thermal oxidizer ductwork
- Install a new 12,000 cfm venturi scrubber in the cooker exhaust prior to the thermal oxidizer
- Replace the existing 12,000 cfm thermal oxidizer fan with a new fan
- Replace the existing Dupps Hogger (a grinding unit) with one new Atlas-Stord Model TMA UNI 4 grinder
- Install a new 27,000 pound surge bin to stage ground raw materials
- Install 19 new material conveyors (inside the main production building) to replace and supplement existing conveyors
- Replace motor control center and other electrical upgrades
- Replace the existing Dupps press with a new Atlas-Stord Model AS-300 High Pressure press
- Replace the existing control room with a new control room
- Install a new fat tallow work tank with pumps to work with the new cooker
- Replace the existing 260 J Dupps Cooker with an Atlas-Stord Model TST-2264 Cooker
- Install a new Roto-Shear free fat drainer to the new cooker
- Replace chlorine gas in room air scrubbers with either Radox or chlorine dioxide (ability to use both, not simultaneously)
- Install closing devices on all entry/exit doors (per applicant)

As a part of the equipment upgrade, Darling requested an increase in raw material throughput to match the maximum rendering capacity of its new cooker. This request was withdrawn, however, when public opposition to the increase was voiced during several public hearings held by the City of Fresno. Neighborhood leaders voiced



concerns regarding an increase in potential odors due to an increase in raw material processing. It was not known at the time if the new equipment and facility upgrades would mitigate all nuisance odors. As a result, on July 18, 2005, the District issued ATC permits authorizing only equipment and facility upgrades, while the raw material throughput remained the same at 850,000 pounds per day. Darling completed the implementation of the upgrades and the District certified the equipment upgrades on September 25, 2006.

The facility upgrades have sufficiently addressed the existing nuisance odors. Darling is now re-applying for the raw material process rate increase to 1,510,560 pounds per day and additional equipment to accommodate and mitigate potential impacts from that increase.

### **C. FACILITY PROCESS DESCRIPTION**

Darling is an animal rendering facility that currently receives raw material (animal byproducts) from local slaughterhouses and other sources into an enclosed receiving area. The raw material is conveyed to grinders where it is ground and chopped into uniform size pieces. The material is then introduced into the cooker where the raw material is indirectly heated with heat supplied by steam generated by boilers to separate proteins from tallow. Water is evaporated off and vapors are condensed in an air-cooled condenser that collects heavier condensable vapors. The condensate is sent to the municipal sewers. Vapors that are not condensed are delivered and pre-treated by a 12,000 cfm venturi scrubber. The venturi scrubber exhausts to a thermal oxidizer where any remaining emissions are incinerated before being vented to the atmosphere. The resulting material from the cooker is crax.

Once crax is ground it is referred to as meat and bone meal (MBM). MBM is conveyed to storage silos where it is stored for loadout. Insignificant amounts of particulate matter are emitted from the loadout system; however, these emissions are controlled with a 75,000 cfm room air scrubber. The loadout system is enclosed in the processing building, which is kept under negative pressure, ensuring 100% capture efficiency.

The Fresno facility also operates as a transfer station for Darling's other facilities in San Francisco and Los Angeles. The Fresno facility receives crax from these two facilities in addition to the raw material received from slaughterhouses. Any raw material that cannot be processed in Fresno, due to permit limitations on raw material processing operation, must be re-loaded onto trucks and shipped back out to other rendering facilities that Darling operates.





**D. OTHER AGENCY APPROVAL AND PERMITS NEEDED**

***City of Fresno Planning***

The City of Fresno Planning Department staff has determined the proposed use is permitted within the zone and as such, no discretionary approval of the Project is required.

**E. DECISION TO PREPARE A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION**

The District has considered the environmental effects of the Project and has determined that project specific emissions will have a less than significant impact on the environment. Although project specific emissions are less than significant, facility wide emissions would be significant without mitigation. Permit conditions and offset fees have been established to mitigate facility wide emissions to less than significant. Consistent with CEQA requirements, the District has prepared an Initial Study and determined that a Mitigated Negative Declaration would be appropriate for the Project.



**F. ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED**

The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by the proposed Project, involving at least one impact that is a “Potentially Significant Impact” or “Potentially Significant Unless Mitigated”, as indicated by the checklist on the following pages.

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

**G. 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 the mitigation measures described have been added to the Project. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be 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 significant effect(s) 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, if the effect is a “potentially significant impact” or “potentially significant unless mitigated.” An ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed name: David Warner Title: Director of Permits Services



**H. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT CHECKLIST**

I. AESTHETICS  Would the Project	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Impact Unless Mitigated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Affect a scenic vista or scenic highway?				X
b) Have a demonstrable negative aesthetic effect?				X
c) Create light or glare?				X

**Discussion:** The proposed project will allow an increase in the facility's daily raw material throughput and the operation of a new boiler to accommodate the increased raw material processing. The project is not located in or near a national park or state scenic highway. The construction of the boiler and condenser would not significantly alter the existing general industrial appearance of the site. The project is in concert with the existing site usage. There is no additional lighting proposed for the project.

**Mitigation:** None required.

II. AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES  Would the Project	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Impact Unless Mitigated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?				X
b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?				X
c) Involve other changes in the existing environment, which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use?				X

**Discussion:** The proposed project will allow an increase in the facility's daily raw material throughput and the operation of a new boiler to accommodate the increased raw material processing. There is no impact on agricultural land use. The site is currently zoned, developed and utilized as an industrial site and the project can be can



be accommodated under the existing land use entitlements. The project can be completed without conflicting with existing zoning for agricultural use, or Williamson Act Contracts, as identified above.

**Mitigation:** None required.

III. AIR QUALITY Would the Project	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Impact Unless Mitigated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?				X
b) Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or Projected air quality violation?			X	
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)?		X		
d) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?				X
e) Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?			X	

**Discussion:** The District has prepared an Authority to Construct Application Review (Project No. C-1070484 and C-1073300) incorporated herein by reference, in which the District evaluated project related emissions. Project-related emissions are characterized as being criteria pollutants or nuisance odors. Criteria pollutants, identified as oxides of nitrogen (NOx), oxides of sulfur (SOx), particulate matter (PM10), carbon monoxide (CO), and volatile organic compounds (VOC), are quantifiable and thresholds have been established to determine the significance of their emissions. Nuisance odors are not quantifiable and can only be evaluated in a qualitative manner.

The District's Authority to Construct Application Review concludes that the Project will generate criteria pollutant emissions through the installation and operation of the new boiler. Furthermore, the increase in raw material processing has the potential to generate nuisance odor emissions as vapors from the cooking process are vented into the atmosphere.



**Criteria Pollutants**

Darling is proposing to install a new 25.2 MMBtu/hr natural-gas-fired boiler with an American Combustion Technologies ultra low NO<sub>x</sub> burner and flue gas recirculation system. Ultra Low-NO<sub>x</sub> burners reduce NO<sub>x</sub> formation by producing lower flame temperatures (and longer flames) than conventional burners. Conventional burners thoroughly mix all the fuel and air in a single stage just prior to combustion, whereas low-NO<sub>x</sub> burners delay the mixing of fuel and air by introducing the fuel (or sometimes the air) in multiple stages. Generally, in the first combustion stage, the air-fuel mixture is fuel rich. In a fuel rich environment, all the oxygen will be consumed in reactions with the fuel, leaving no excess oxygen available to react with nitrogen to produce thermal NO<sub>x</sub>. In the secondary and tertiary stages, the combustion zone is maintained in a fuel-lean environment. The excess air in these stages helps to reduce the flame temperature so that the reaction between the excess oxygen with nitrogen is minimized.

The use of flue gas re-circulation (FGR) can reduce nitrogen oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>) emissions by 60% to 70%. In an FGR system, a portion of the flue gas is re-circulated back to the inlet air. As flue gas is composed mainly of nitrogen and the products of combustion, it is much lower in oxygen than the inlet air and contains virtually no combustible hydrocarbons to burn. Thus, flue gas is practically inert. The addition of an inert mass of gas to the combustion reaction serves to absorb heat without producing heat, thereby lowering the flame temperature. Since thermal NO<sub>x</sub> is formed by high flame temperatures, the lower flame temperatures produced by FGR serve to reduce thermal NO<sub>x</sub>.

Criteria pollutant emissions generated by the Project are identified in Table 1 below. These emissions fall below the District's 10 ton/year Thresholds of Significance for NO<sub>x</sub> and VOC.

However, because the Project is a modification to an existing facility, all emissions sources are incorporated into the evaluation to determine if offsets are needed to mitigate emissions to a less-than-significant level.

**Table 1. Project Criteria Pollutant Emissions**

<b>Pollutant</b>	<b>Daily Emissions (lbs/day)</b>	<b>Annual Emissions (lbs/year)</b>	<b>Annual Emissions (tons/year)</b>
NO <sub>x</sub>	6.7	2,428	1.2
SO <sub>x</sub>	1.7	629	0.3
PM10	4.6	1,678	0.8
CO	44.8	16,336	8.2
VOC	3.3	1,214	0.6



Pursuant to Section 4.9 of District Rule 2201, the Pre-Project Stationary Source Potential to Emit (SSPE1) is the Potential to Emit (PE) from all units with valid Authorities to Construct (ATC) or Permits to Operate (PTO) at the Stationary Source and the quantity of emission reduction credits (ERC) which have been banked since September 19, 1991 for Actual Emissions Reductions that have occurred at the source, and which have not been used on-site.

Pursuant to Section 4.10 of District Rule 2201, the Post Project Stationary Source Potential to Emit (SSPE2) is the Potential to Emit (PE) from all units with valid Authorities to Construct (ATC) or Permits to Operate (PTO) at the Stationary Source and the quantity of emission reduction credits (ERC) which have been banked since September 19, 1991 for Actual Emissions Reductions that have occurred at the source, and which have not been used on-site.

**Table 2. Pre-Project Stationary Source Emissions**

Permit Unit	NO <sub>x</sub> (lb/year)	SO <sub>x</sub> (lb/year)	PM <sub>10</sub> (lb/year)	CO (lb/year)	VOC (lb/year)
C-406-1-2	0	0	0	0	0
C-406-2-2	18,870	75	300	4,717	374
C-406-3-9	9,806	1,091	4,022	56,469	1,134
C-406-4-3	0	0	227	0	0
<b>SSPE1</b>	<b>28,676</b>	<b>1,166</b>	<b>4,549</b>	<b>61,186</b>	<b>1,508</b>

**Table 3. Post-Project Stationary Source Emissions**

Permit Unit	NOX (lbs/year)	SOX (lbs/year)	PM10 (lbs/year)	CO (lbs/year)	VOC (lb/year)
C-406-1-2	0	0	0	0	0
C-406-2-2	18,870	75	300	4,717	374
C-406-3-9	9,806	1,091	4,022	56,469	1,134
C-406-4-3	0	0	227	0	0
C-406-6-0 (new)	2,384	629	1,678	16,336	1,214
<b>SSPE2</b>	<b>31,060</b>	<b>1,795</b>	<b>6,227</b>	<b>77,522</b>	<b>2,722</b>

Pursuant to Section 4.5.3, offset requirements shall be triggered on a pollutant by pollutant basis and shall be required if the Post Project Stationary Source Potential to Emit (SSPE2) equals to or exceeds the offset threshold levels in Table 4-1 of Rule 2201.



Table 4 below compares the post-project facility-wide annual emissions in order to determine if offsets will be required for this project.

**Table 4. Offset Determination (lb/year)**

	<b>NO<sub>x</sub></b>	<b>SO<sub>x</sub></b>	<b>PM<sub>10</sub></b>	<b>CO</b>	<b>VOC</b>
SSPE2	31,060	1,795	6,227	77,522	2,722
Offset Threshold	20,000	54,750	29,200	200,000	20,000
Offsets triggered	Yes	No	No	No	No

As seen above, the SSPE2 is greater than the offset thresholds for NO<sub>x</sub> only; therefore offsets will be required for this project. It has been calculated that 894 pounds of NO<sub>x</sub> must be offset each quarter.

### ***Nuisance Odors***

Raw material receiving operations is the processing unit most likely to generate objectionable odor emissions. These odors would be produced from the decomposition of raw material as it stockpiled in the receiving area awaiting processing. Emissions from raw material decomposition are extremely difficult to quantify as many factors, such as temperature, moisture content, humidity, age of the raw material, and raw material type (cow, sheep, or pig), impact the rate of decomposition. In addition to odors from decay, cooking operations can present odor problems since cooker exhaust is ultimately emitted into the atmosphere.

### **Historical Nuisance Odor Complaints**

A very wide range of compounds are known to exist which would cause a 'disagreeable' olfactory response. Compounds such as skatole and the lighter mercaptans have been described by some people to be quite disagreeable. However, the concentration of these compounds, and the very identity of some of them is a very subjective matter. A compound at a certain level would be very disagreeable to one person, where another might not even notice it. Table 5 below shows the number of nuisance odor complaints the District has received against this facility in the last five years:



**Table 5. Facility Complaints**

<b>Year</b>	<b># of complaints</b>
2003	6
2004	6
2005	10
2006	3
2007	2

The plant upgrades listed above on Page 7 (Permitting History) were implemented and completed in 2006. Warm weather speeds the decaying process of raw material, therefore, it would be expected that nuisance odors would increase during warmer weather. However, as seen above, the number of complaints against the facility dropped dramatically in 2006 despite the unusually warm summer. It is also noted that one of the three complaints against the facility in 2006 was due to a leaking raw material delivery truck and not due to the actual rendering process itself.

The two complaints lodged against Darling during June of 2007 occurred as a result of processing equipment breakdowns. Darling has since addressed the issues leading to the breakdowns and has implemented additional monitoring to ensure that the breakdowns will be minimized in the future. These odor complaints were only related to equipment breakdowns, and were not received during periods of normal facility operations. As breakdown conditions are not indicative of normal plant operations, the proposed increase in raw material handling is not expected to result in an increase in uncontrolled nuisance odors.

The following conditions will be placed on the Project to ensure that equipment will operate at its maximum control capability:

- *Permittee shall inspect the air/fuel mixing cone in the thermal oxidizer at least once quarterly to ensure that the integrity of the cone is not compromised, and to ensure that the thermal oxidizer is operating at optimum. Records of quarterly inspection shall be maintained. [District Rule 4102]*
- *The 75,000 cfm scrubber shall be monitored daily to ensure that the pressure drop does not fall below a minimum pressure of 3 inches of water column or exceed a maximum pressure of 6 inches of water column. [District Rule 4102]*
- *The 100,000 cfm scrubber shall be monitored daily to ensure that the pressure drop does not fall below a minimum pressure of 1 inch of water column or exceed a maximum pressure of 4 inches of water column. [District Rule 4102]*





### Potential Odor Increases Due to Project Implementation

It is generally valid to assume that an increase in the amount of raw material processed at a rendering facility would result in an increase in nuisance odors generated during processing operations. However, the opposite is true for the Project. An increase in the daily limit of raw material processing at Darling's Fresno facility will actually help alleviate nuisance odor emissions from this operation.

Darling's Fresno facility operates as a transfer station for Darling's other facilities in San Francisco and Los Angeles. Slaughterhouses within the Fresno area are continuously generating raw material. This raw material is transported to the Fresno facility where it is unloaded and stockpiled under controlled conditions until it can be processed. Because raw materials are required to be stored under controlled conditions there are no nuisance odor problems expected.

Due to permit limitations on the volume of raw material processing allowed at the Fresno facility, not all raw material received can be processed. This unprocessed raw material is then reloaded onto trucks and shipped back out to other Darling operated rendering facilities. These trucks are open and conditions are not controlled. Reloading raw material from controlled storage into uncontrolled trucks and then transporting the uncontrolled raw material offsite may contribute to nuisance odors.

By increasing the raw material processing limits to what is currently received at the Fresno facility, raw material will not have to remain unprocessed in a stockpile or reloaded onto trucks and taken out of a controlled environment. The raw material that is already onsite may continue to remain onsite and be processed (under controlled conditions), therefore mitigating the potential for nuisance odor creation by the process of truck reloading (an uncontrolled process).

**Mitigation:** NOx emissions offsets of 894 pounds per quarter.

**References:** SJVUAPCD, *Authority to Construct Application Review*, Application Numbers. C-406-1-5, 2-4, and 4-5; Project No. C-1070484  
SJVUAPCD, *Authority to Construct Application Review*, Application Number. C-406-6-0; Project No. C-1073300



IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES  Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Impact Unless Mitigated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?				X
b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, and regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or US Fish and Wildlife Ser				X
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?				X
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?				X
e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?				X
f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?				X

**Discussion:** The proposed project will allow an increase in the facility’s daily raw material throughput and the operation of a new boiler to accommodate the increased raw material processing. The site is currently zoned, developed and utilized as an industrial site. The construction and operation of the boiler and condenser would not have an impact on biological resources, as identified above.



**Mitigation:** None required.

<b>V. CULTURAL RESOURCES</b>				
Would the Project:	<b>Potentially Significant Impact</b>	<b>Potentially Significant Impact Unless Mitigated</b>	<b>Less Than Significant Impact</b>	<b>No Impact</b>
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in '15064.5?				X
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to '15064.5?				X
c) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?				X
d) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?				X

**Discussion:** The proposed project will allow an increase in the facility's daily raw material throughput and the operation of a new boiler to accommodate the increased raw material processing. The site is currently zoned, developed and utilized as an industrial site. The site has no evidence of archeological or paleontological significance. The construction and operation of the boiler and condenser would not have an impact on cultural resources, as identified above.

**Mitigation:** None required.

<b>VI. GEOLOGY / SOILS</b>				
Would the Project	<b>Potentially Significant Impact</b>	<b>Potentially Significant Impact Unless Mitigated</b>	<b>Less Than Significant Impact</b>	<b>No Impact</b>
a) Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:				X
i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.				X
ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?				X



<b>VI. GEOLOGY / SOILS (CONTINUED)</b>				
Would the Project	<b>Potentially Significant Impact</b>	<b>Potentially Significant Impact Unless Mitigated</b>	<b>Less Than Significant Impact</b>	<b>No Impact</b>
iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?				X
iv) Landslides?				X
b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?				X
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?				X
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?				X
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?				X

**Discussion:** The proposed project will allow an increase in the facility's daily raw material throughput and the operation of a new boiler to accommodate the increased raw material processing. The site is currently zoned, developed and utilized as an industrial site. The construction and operation of the boiler and condenser would not have an impact on geology and soils, as identified above.

**Mitigation:** None required.

<b>VII. HAZARDS &amp; HAZARDOUS MATERIALS</b>				
Would the Project:	<b>Potentially Significant Impact</b>	<b>Potentially Significant Impact Unless Mitigated</b>	<b>Less Than Significant Impact</b>	<b>No Impact</b>
a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?				X
b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?				X



<b>VII. HAZARDS &amp; HAZARDOUS MATERIALS (CONTINUED)</b>  Would the Project:	<b>Potentially Significant Impact</b>	<b>Potentially Significant Impact Unless Mitigated</b>	<b>Less Than Significant Impact</b>	<b>No Impact</b>
c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?				X
d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?				X
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?				X
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?				X
g) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?				X
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?				X

**Discussion:** The proposed project will allow an increase in the facility's daily raw material throughput and the operation of a new boiler to accommodate the increased raw material processing. The site is currently zoned, developed and utilized as an industrial site. The construction and operation of the boiler and condenser would not have an impact on hazards and hazardous materials, as identified above.

**Mitigation:** None required.



VIII. HYDROLOGY / WATER QUALITY  Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Impact Unless Mitigated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?				X
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)?				X
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?				X
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?				X
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?				X
f) Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?				X
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?				X
h) Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures which would impede or redirect flood flows?				X
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?				X



VIII. HYDROLOGY / WATER QUALITY (CONTINUED)  Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Impact Unless Mitigated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
j) Inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow				X

**Discussion:** The proposed project will allow an increase in the facility’s daily raw material throughput and the operation of a new boiler to accommodate the increased raw material processing. The site is currently zoned, developed and utilized as an industrial site. The construction and operation of the boiler and condenser would not have an impact on hydrology and water quality, as identified above.

**Mitigation:** None required.

IX. LAND USE / PLANNING  Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Impact Unless Mitigated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Physically divide an established community?				X
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?				X
c) Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan?				X

**Discussion:** The proposed project will allow an increase in the facility’s daily raw material throughput and the operation of a new boiler to accommodate the increased raw material processing. The site is currently zoned, developed and utilized as an industrial site. The construction and operation of the boiler and condenser would not have an impact on land use and planning, as identified above.

**Mitigation:** None required.



<b>X. MINERAL RESOURCES</b> Would the Project:	<b>Potentially Significant Impact</b>	<b>Potentially Significant Impact Unless Mitigated</b>	<b>Less Than Significant Impact</b>	<b>No Impact</b>
a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?				X
b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan?				X

**Discussion:** The proposed project will allow an increase in the facility's daily raw material throughput and the operation of a new boiler to accommodate the increased raw material processing. The site is currently zoned, developed and utilized as an industrial site. The construction and operation of the boiler and condenser would not have an impact on mineral resources, as identified above.

**Mitigation:** None required.

<b>XI. NOISE</b> Would the Project:	<b>Potentially Significant Impact</b>	<b>Potentially Significant Impact Unless Mitigated</b>	<b>Less Than Significant Impact</b>	<b>No Impact</b>
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?				X
b) Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?				X
c) A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the Project vicinity above levels existing without the Project?				X
d) A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the Project vicinity above levels existing without the Project?				X





<b>XI. NOISE (CONTINUED)</b>  Would the Project:	<b>Potentially Significant Impact</b>	<b>Potentially Significant Impact Unless Mitigated</b>	<b>Less Than Significant Impact</b>	<b>No Impact</b>
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?				X
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?				X

**Discussion:** The proposed project will allow an increase in the facility's daily raw material throughput and the operation of a new boiler to accommodate the increased raw material processing. The site is currently zoned, developed and utilized as an industrial site. The construction and operation of the boiler and condenser would not have an impact on noise, as identified above.

**Mitigation:** None required.

<b>XII. POPULATION / HOUSING</b>  Would the Project:	<b>Potentially Significant Impact</b>	<b>Potentially Significant Impact Unless Mitigated</b>	<b>Less Than Significant Impact</b>	<b>No Impact</b>
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)?				X
b) Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?				X
c) Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?				X

**Discussion:** The proposed project will allow an increase in the facility's daily raw material throughput and the operation of a new boiler to accommodate the increased raw material processing. The site is currently zoned, developed and utilized as an



industrial site. The construction and operation of the boiler and condenser would not have an impact on population and housing, as identified above.

**Mitigation:** None required.

XIII. PUBLIC SERVICES  Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Impact Unless Mitigated	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:				X
i) Fire protection?				X
ii) Police protection?				X
iii) Schools?				X
iv) Parks?				X
v) Other public facilities?				X
b) Cumulatively exceed official regional or local population Projections?				X
c) Induce substantial growth in an area either directly or indirectly (e.g., through Projects in an undeveloped area or extension of major infrastructure)?				X
d) Displace existing housing, especially affordable housing?				X

**Discussion:** The proposed project will allow an increase in the facility's daily raw material throughput and the operation of a new boiler to accommodate the increased raw material processing. The site is currently zoned, developed and utilized as an industrial site. The construction and operation of the boiler and condenser would not have an impact on public services, as identified above.

**Mitigation:** None required.



<b>XIV. RECREATION</b>  Would the Project:	<b>Potentially Significant Impact</b>	<b>Potentially Significant Impact Unless Mitigated</b>	<b>Less Than Significant Impact</b>	<b>No Impact</b>
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?				X
b) Include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?				X

**Discussion:** The proposed project will allow an increase in the facility's daily raw material throughput and the operation of a new boiler to accommodate the increased raw material processing. The site is currently zoned, developed and utilized as an industrial site. The construction and operation of the boiler and condenser would not have an impact on recreation, as identified above.

**Mitigation:** None required.

<b>XV. TRANSPORTATION / TRAFFIC</b>  Would the Project:	<b>Potentially Significant Impact</b>	<b>Potentially Significant Impact Unless Mitigated</b>	<b>Less Than Significant Impact</b>	<b>No Impact</b>
a) Cause an increase in traffic, which is substantial in relation to the existing traffic load and capacity of the street system (i.e., result in a substantial increase in either the number of vehicle trips, the volume to capacity ratio on roads, or congestion at intersections)?				X
b) Exceed, either individually or cumulatively, a level of service standard established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways?				X
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?				X



<b>XV. TRANSPORTATION / TRAFFIC            (CONTINUED)</b>  Would the Project:	<b>Potentially            Significant            Impact</b>	<b>Potentially            Significant            Impact            Unless            Mitigated</b>	<b>Less Than            Significant            Impact</b>	<b>No            Impact</b>
d) Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?				X
e) Result in inadequate emergency access?				X
f) Result in inadequate parking capacity?				X
g) Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation (e.g., bus turnouts, bicycle racks)?				X

**Discussion:** There are two operating scenarios for truck traffic, both of which are realized at Darling’s Fresno facility.

1) Loaded trucks arrive at the facility, the material is dumped, and the truck leaves the site empty. Should material not be able to be processed, the truck comes back and reloads the material, and then leaves. In this scenario, there will be a decrease in truck traffic when raw material processing is increased, since materials will not have to be reloaded, therefore sparing the extra truck trip.

2) Loaded trucks arrive at the facility, the material is dumped, and the truck stays onsite empty. Should material not be able to be processed, the truck reloads and leaves the facility full again. In this scenario, truck traffic will remain the same even if raw material throughput is increased. The same amount of traffic is already onsite.

The worst-case scenario for truck traffic as a result of the increase in raw material throughput is that truck traffic will remain at current trip rates. The District does not anticipate any increased impacts to air quality from truck traffic.

**Mitigation:** None required.

**References:** SJVUAPCD, *Authority to Construct Application Review*, Application Numbers. C-406-1-5, 2-4, and 4-5; Project No. C-1070484  
 Yorke Engineering, LLC, Correspondences dated January 17, 2005 and May 8, 2007



<b>XVI. UTILITIES / SERVICE SYSTEMS</b>  Would the Project:	<b>Potentially Significant Impact</b>	<b>Potentially Significant Impact Unless Mitigated</b>	<b>Less Than Significant Impact</b>	<b>No Impact</b>
a) Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?				X
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?				X
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?				X
d) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the Project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed?				X
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?				X
f) Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the Project's solid waste disposal needs?				X
g) Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?				X

**Discussion:** The proposed project will allow an increase the facility's daily raw material throughput and the operation of a new boiler to accommodate the increased raw material processing. Although condensate from the cooking process is discharged to the municipal sewer system, the project is not expected to significantly increase demand on utilities or service systems.

**Mitigation:** None required.



<b>XVII. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE</b>  Would the Project	<b>Potentially Significant Impact</b>	<b>Potentially Significant Impact Unless Mitigated</b>	<b>Less Than Significant Impact</b>	<b>No Impact</b>
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?				X
b) Does the Project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively Considerable" means that the incremental effects of a Project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past Projects, the effects of other current Projects, and the effects of probable future Projects)?				X
c) Does the Project have environmental effects, which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?				X

**Discussion:** The proposed project will allow an increase the facility's daily raw material throughput and the operation of a new boiler to accommodate the increased raw material processing. Review of this project has not indicated any features that might significantly impact the environmental quality of the site and/or adjacent areas.

**Mitigation:** None required.