



San Joaquin Valley
Air Pollution Control District

**PUBLIC NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY
PROPOSED NEGATIVE DECLARATION**

June 20, 2003

Project Title: Reopening (issuing of new Air District Authority to Construct/Permits to Operate) of the formerly permitted El Nido Biomass plant (N-1192), which was operated between 1988 and 1995.

Project Location: This project is located at the northwest corner of State Highway 59 and Sandy Mush Road (30 W Sandy Mush Road in Merced, CA) south of the City of Merced (Section 36, Township 8 South, Range 13 East, MDB&M).

Description of Project:

Merced Power generates electricity by burning biomass in a fluidized bed combustor. Material is received by truckload with a truck tipper and stored in piles. The biomass is then conveyed into the combustor unit and burned. Exhaust is routed through a cyclone and pulse jet baghouse. Steam generated by the boiler drives a turbine, generating electrical energy.

Lead Agency: San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District

Lead Agency Contact Person: Mr. John Cadrett (209) 557-6400 or
Mr. Hector Guerra (559) 230-5800

Addresses where document may be obtained:

San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District:

Headquarters Office
1990 E. Gettysburg Ave.
Fresno, CA 93726

Southern Regional Office
2700 'M' Street, Ste 275
Bakersfield, CA 93301

Northern Regional Office
4230 Kiernan Avenue, Ste 130
Modesto, CA 95356

Or on the internet at www.valleyair.org Click on Public Notices and then click on June 20 2003 item

Public Review Period: Begins: June 20, 2003 and Ends: July 9, 2003

***Anyone interested in this matter is invited to comment on the document
by written response on or before 5:00 P.M., July 9, 2003.***