Initial Study and Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration

Date: March 13, 2008

To: Distribution List

From: SJVUAPCD Permit Services Department – CEQA Division

Subject: Initial Study and Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration
Bar 20 Dairy Expansion
Project No. C-1060791

Respond By: April 16, 2008

The San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (District), serving as Lead Agency, has completed a revised Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the Bar 20 Dairy expansion. The original MND was circulated from September 13, 2007, through October 13, 2007. In response to comments received during the comment period, the MND has been revised to provide to the public, responsible and trustee agencies supplemental and clarifying information regarding the project’s potential environmental impacts, including greenhouse gas emissions. The revised MND is being recirculated in accordance with California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines §15073.5.

The District dutifully considered comments that were received for the original MND and amended the MND as appropriate. Although part of the administrative record, comments previously received by the District will not receive a written response. Parties wishing to comment on this project will need to submit new comments on the recirculated MND.

Please contact the District with any comments pertaining to the project. Comments identifying potential impacts should be as specific as possible and should be based on supporting data. Comments should emphasize the impacts within your agency’s area of expertise and/or jurisdictional responsibilities.

Please submit your comments via email to chris.kalashian@valleyair.org or mail to:

San Joaquin Valley APCD
ISR / CEQA Department.
Attn: Chris Kalashian, AQS
1990 East Gettysburg Avenue
Fresno, CA  93726-0244
Applicant: Bar 20 Dairy

Project Location: Bar 20 Dairy is located at 24387 Whitesbridge Road (State Route 180), approximately 6 miles west of Kerman, in Fresno County, California.

Project Description: The project proponent has applied to the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (District) for a permit to increase the number of milking cows on the existing dairy facility from 2,904 (6,204 total head) to 9,400 (19,120 total head); and make concomitant changes in the dairy’s support stock. In addition, Bar 20 Dairy has proposed to install an anaerobic digester as an integral part of the project. The anaerobic digester will collect and digest cow manure from the dairy expansion and from the existing dairy to produce biogas. The biogas will then be piped approximately 5.5 miles by a pipeline that will extend from the Bar 20 Dairy to an existing PG&E pipeline. The dairy facilities (corrals, dairy barn, feed storage, manure management area and process water storage area, etc.) are located at 24387 Whites Bridge Road (SR 180), approximately 6 miles west of Kerman, in Fresno County.

The Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration is based upon finding that the project may have significant impacts on biological resources, but these impacts can be mitigated to a less than significant impact. The reasons to support such a finding are documented in the Initial Study and Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration prepared by the District.