



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

**Darling International, Inc. - Turlock
Expansion of Animal Rendering Operations**

(Project Numbers: N-1042932, N-1062584, N-1073682)

**Initial Study and Proposed
Mitigated Negative Declaration**

October 2007

INITIAL STUDY AND PROPOSED
MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

**DARLING INTERNATIONAL, INC. - TURLOCK
EXPANSION OF ANIMAL RENDERING OPERATIONS**

October 2007

Lead Agency: San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District
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Project Location: Darling International
11946 Carpenter Road
Crows Landing, CA 95313

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 Crows Landing, Stanislaus County, California. The San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District (District) has received three (3) Authority to Construct (ATC) applications from Darling to: (i) replace the existing animal by-product cooker and supporting equipment, (ii) add a new boiler, (iii) cease the use of the hatchery waste process, (iv) discontinue blood meal production operations, (v) discontinue feather meal production operations and incorporate the existing feather meal processing equipment into the raw material cooking process to produce only meat and bone meal, (vi) upgrade the raw material receiving and grinding handling system, and (vii) upgrade the finished feather meal and blood meal product storage and loadout systems to handle only meat and bone meal. Collectively these modifications constitute the Darling International Inc. – Turlock Expansion of Animal Rendering Operations Project, hereafter referred to as Project.

The project is located in Stanislaus County. The Stanislaus County Planning Department has determined that the proposed project is a legal non-conforming use regulated through Chapter 21.80 of the Stanislaus County Code and only building permits are required. As the issuance of building permits is considered ministerial, Stanislaus County has no discretionary approval over the Project. The District has discretionary approval power over the Project via its Permits Rule (Rule 2010) and New Source Review Rule (Rule 2201). No other Agency is known to have discretionary approval over the Project. As such, the District is the public agency having principal responsibility for approving the Project and serves as Lead Agency (California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines 15367).

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.

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.

B. PROJECT BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Project Location

The Project will be located at the existing animal rendering facility at 11946 Carpenter Road, Crows Landing, California. The site is located within Stanislaus County and is bounded by Carpenter Road to the west and Harding Road to the south. The site is approximately nine (9) miles west of the City of Turlock (APN 058-022-005). Figure 1 indicates the facility'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 A2-40 (*General Agriculture, 40 acre minimum*) and is designated in the 1994 General Plan as General Agriculture. The facility is a legal non-conforming use as the facility was in existence prior to Stanislaus County requirements for discretionary approvals.

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 Authority to Construct (ATC) applications to (i) replace the existing animal by-product cooker and supporting equipment, (ii) add a new boiler, (iii) cease the use of the hatchery waste process, (iv) discontinue blood meal production operations, (v) discontinue feather meal production operations and incorporate the existing feather meal processing equipment into the raw material cooking process to produce only meat and bone meal, (vi) upgrade the raw material receiving and grinding handling system, and (vii)



upgrade the finished feather meal and blood meal product storage and loadout systems to handle only meat and bone meal.

Figure 1

Regional Location within the SJVAB

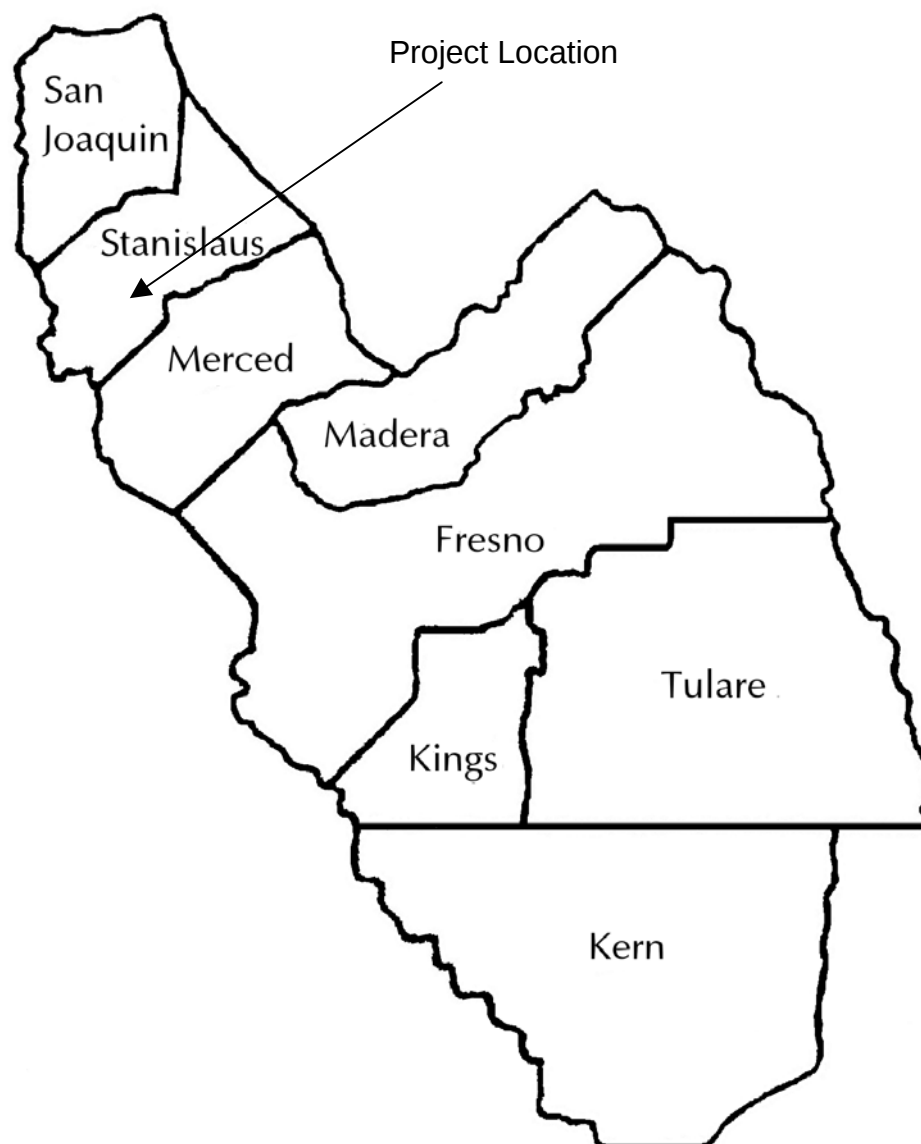
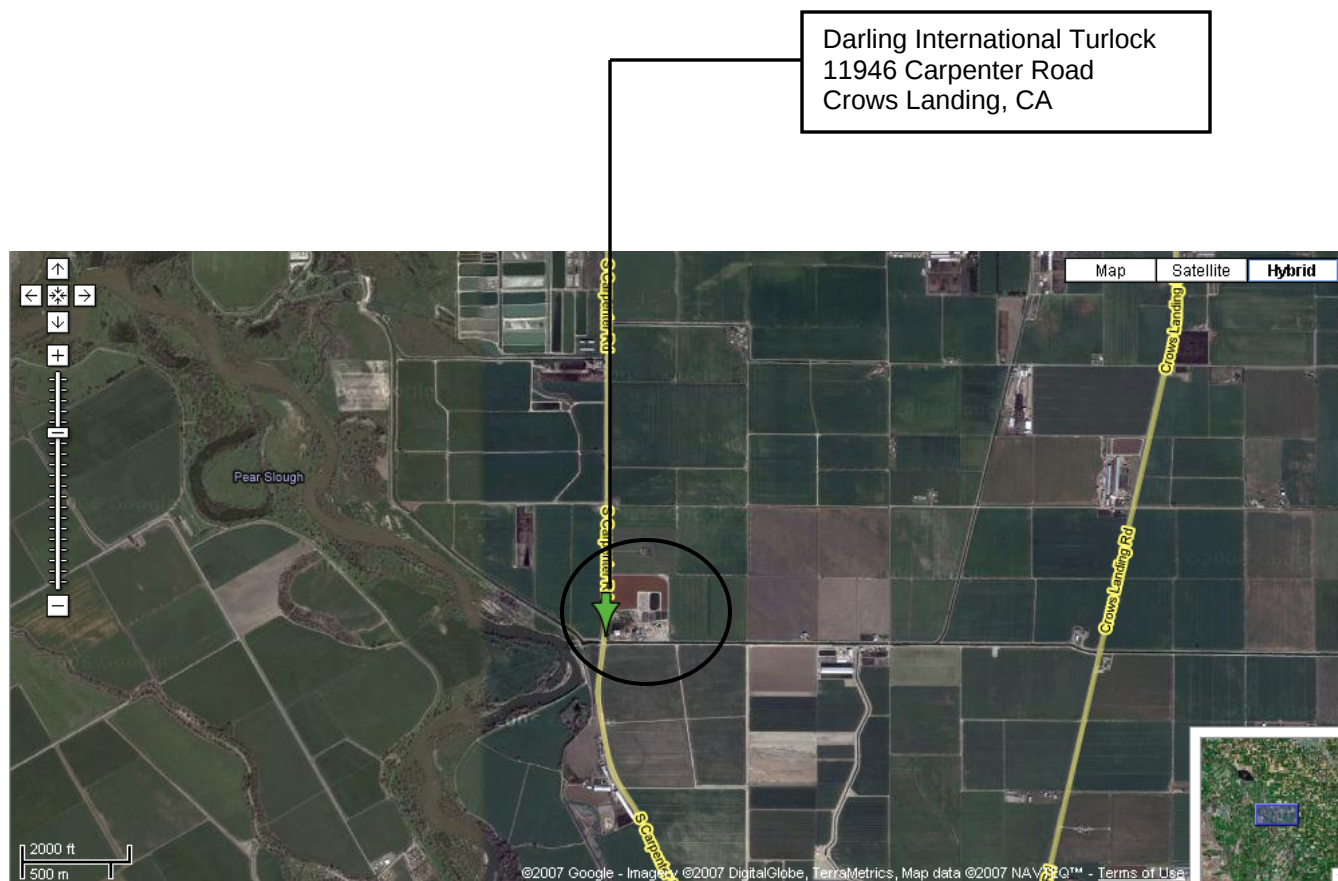




Figure 2

Facility Location and Surrounding Area



Meat and Bone Meal (MBM) Cooker Replacement

Darling is proposing to replace the existing cooker with a Haarslev TST 2564 cooker. The new cooker will be able to handle feathers in conjunction with raw material. It also has a greater cooking surface area compared to the existing cooker. Darling is also proposing to add seven (7) feather pre-heaters to work in conjunction with the raw material cooker.

Darling is proposing to take advantage of this increase in cooking area with an 11,000 lb/hour increase in raw material capacity. The current permit does not include raw material limits, and Darling will establish the baseline raw material throughput, based on past production records. Post-project raw material throughput limit will be set at



1,650,000 lbs/day. To process the additional raw material, additional steam load will be required. Darling is proposing to install an additional boiler.

Cessation of Hatchery Waste Processing and Cessation of Blood Drying

Darling is proposing to cease hatchery waste processing and blood drying operations.

Feather Processing and Hydrolyzers Removal

Darling is proposing to cease feather meal manufacturing operations. Feathers will still be received and processed by the facility; however, they will be incorporated into the MBM processing operation. Feathers will be pre-heated in a new steam-heated feather pre-heating unit to soften them for processing in the cooker. The existing feather meal storage and loadout system will be converted for use with MBM production as described below.

New MBM Storage and Loadout System

Darling is proposing to replace the MBM handling system from a front loader moving bulk material operation to an overhead bin with truck loadout scenario (converted from the feather meal processing operations). The proposed MBM loadout system consists of several enclosed screws to convey finished product (crax or MBM) from the finishing area to overhead storage bins. Finished product is then transferred from the storage bins directly into trucks for transport to customers.

C. FACILITY PROCESS DESCRIPTION (WITH PROJECT)

MBM Processing

Darling is an animal rendering facility that currently receives raw material from local slaughterhouses and other sources into an outdoor receiving area. Raw material (meat byproduct) is conveyed to grinders where it is ground and chopped into uniform size pieces. Feathers are conveyed to a pre-heater to soften and begin the denaturation process.

The chopped raw material and denatured feathers are then introduced into cookers where they are indirectly heated with the heat provided by boiler-generated steam. In the cooker, water is evaporated and the solids are separated from fat and tallow. The liquids are separated and pumped into holding tanks. Vapors that escape the cooking process are passed through an air-cooled condenser and a knockout cyclone before being treated by a 3.0 MMBtu/hr regenerative thermal oxidizer, and then finally venting to the atmosphere. The remaining solids (called crax) are sent to the crax grinder where it is ground into MBM (MBM). MBM is placed into storage containers for shipping.



Wastewater System Not Currently Under Permit

Darling operates a wastewater system that includes several open lagoons. Wastewater is collected in a scupper system and in floor drains, and is separated from solids before being discharged via underground piping to three lagoons that are operated onsite. The water undergoes anaerobic digestion, wherein bacteria break down any dissolved solids, before the water is applied to crops not used for human consumption.

Fat, Yellow Grease, and Tallow Storage Tanks Not Currently Under Permit

Darling operates 18 fat, yellow grease, and tallow storage tanks that hold rendered material from the cookers. The tanks are fully enclosed and the liquids they store are not volatile. However, these tanks present a potential nuisance problem should they not be maintained properly. As the tanks only serve the cookers operated at the facility, they are considered a part of the rendering equipment and not as separately permitted storage tanks.

D. OTHER AGENCY APPROVAL AND PERMITS NEEDED

Stanislaus County Planning Department

The Stanislaus County Planning Department staff has determined the proposed project is a legal non-conforming use and only building permits are 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.

☐	Aesthetics	☐	Agriculture Resources	☒	Air Quality
☐	Biological Resources	☐	Cultural Resources	☐	Geology/Soils
☐	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		

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 Permit Services



H. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT CHECKLIST

I. AESTHETICS	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Impact Unless Mitigated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the Project				
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 replace a cooker and supporting equipment, add a new boiler, cease hatchery waste processing, cease feather meal and blood meal production, upgrade the receiving and grinding system, and upgrade the finished product storage and loadout system. The project is not located in or near a national park or state scenic highway. The construction and operation of the project 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	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Impact Unless Mitigated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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?				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 replace a cooker and supporting equipment, add a new boiler, cease hatchery waste processing, cease feather meal and blood meal production, upgrade the receiving and grinding system, and upgrade the finished product storage and loadout system. There is no impact on agricultural land use. The site is currently a legal non-conforming use and the project 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: Darling International has proposed to replace a cooker and supporting equipment, add a new boiler, cease hatchery waste processing, cease feather meal and blood meal production, upgrade the receiving and grinding system, and upgrade the finished product storage and loadout system.

The District has prepared an Authority to Construct (ATC) Application Review (Project Numbers. N-1042932, N-1062584, and N-1073682) 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 (NO_x), oxides of sulfur (SO_x), 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.

Criteria Pollutants (a, b, c)

The District's ATC Application Review concludes that the Project will generate criteria pollutant emissions through the installation and operation of the new boiler. However, the Project includes discontinuing three (3) major processing operations at the facility



and will decrease the facility's overall emissions. The Project's emissions are discussed in more detail below.

The District's ATC Application Review has calculated the facility's Pre- and Post-Project Emissions as identified below in Table 1. The table also identifies the facility's Stationary Source Increase in Permitted Emissions (SSIPE).

The Pre-Project Stationary Source Potential to Emit (SSPE1) and the Post-Project Stationary Source Potential to Emit (SSPE2) are the Potential to Emit (PE), prior to and after implementation of the project, 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 1. Stationary Source Increase in Permitted Emissions

	NO _x	SO _x	PM ₁₀	CO	VOC
Post-Project Emissions (SSPE2) (lb/year)	49,925	27,039	29,200	95,528	6,470
Pre-Project Emissions (SSPE1) (lb/year)	82,994	25,307	29,200	57,392	3,547
Project Emission Increase (SSIPE) (lb/year)	(33,069)	1,732	0	38,136	2,923
Project Emission Increase (SSIPE) (tons/year)	(16.53)	0.87	0	19.07	1.46

*PM10 emissions are under an SLC of 29,200, established in project N-1053157 to avoid triggering offsets for PM10

Offset requirements shall be triggered on a pollutant by pollutant basis and shall be required if the Post Project SSPE2 equals to or exceeds the offset threshold levels in Table 4-1 of District Rule 2201 (New and Modified Stationary Source Review). The following table compares the SSPE2 with the offset thresholds in order to determine if offsets will be triggered for this project.



Table 2. Offset Determination

	NO _x (lb/year)	SO _x (lb/year)	PM ₁₀ (lb/year)	CO (lb/year)	VOC (lb/year)
SSPE2	49,925	27,039	29,200	95,528	6,470
Offset Threshold	20,000	54,750	29,200	200,000	20,000
Offsets Triggered	Yes	No	No	No	No

As seen above, NO_x was the only criteria pollutant that triggered offset requirements. Table 3 below demonstrates that although offsets are triggered, due to the contemporaneous decrease in NO_x emissions resulting from the removal of the blood meal and feather meal operations, offsets will not be required.

Table 3. NO_x Offset Requirements

Unit	Pre-Project NO _x (lb/yr)	Post-Project NO _x (lb/yr)	NO _x Offsets Required (lb/yr)
Blood Processing Plant, N-2107-6	14,345	0	(14,345)
Feather Processing Plant, N-2107-7	24,528	0	(24,528)
Animal Rendering Operations (with new cooker), N-2107-9	28,973	27,364	(1,609)
New Boiler, N-2107-13	0	7,413	7,413
Total Offsets Required			(33,069)

* The thermal oxidizers are the control devices for the rendering operation, in order for the operation to meet BACT. The cooker has no criteria pollutant emissions of its own.

Nuisance Odors (e)

It is understood that no matter how well controlled a rendering facility is operated, some odors will escape and there is always a potential for machinery breakdowns, and thusly nuisance conditions. The facility will be required to operate as efficiently as possible in order to minimize nuisance odors, and to have odor mitigation plans in effect in the case of malfunctions.

The raw material accepted at these types of facilities is in various stages of decay; therefore the potential for odors is great, especially during the warmer summer months when the higher ambient temperature speeds decomposition. To address these odor concerns, Darling has employed the use of various odor control techniques. These techniques are outlined and incorporated into the Project as conditions of the District's permits.



To add to the odors from raw material handling, cooking of the raw material can present nuisance problems, since the cooker exhaust is ultimately emitted into the atmosphere.

Once raw material has entered the processing stream, however, nuisance odors are mostly mitigated since the material is under odor control at this point, and the cooking of the raw material kills bacteria, thusly slowing the decomposition process. Darling's request to increase raw material receiving and throughput is based upon the capacity of the new cooker. As Darling is requesting an increase that will allow production to match the cooker's capacity, an increase in nuisance is not expected since:

- 1) The cooker already has the capacity to process the proposed increase,
- 2) The raw material storage pit is not proposed to be expanded,
- 3) Delivery trucks are required to be unloaded within 2 hours of entering the facility grounds, and
- 4) Raw material is required to be tracked and processed within 24 hours of receipt.

Sensitive Receptors (d)

District Policy APR 1905 – Risk Management Policy for Permitting New and Modified Sources specifies that for an increase in emissions associated with a proposed new source or modification, the District perform an analysis to determine the possible impact to the nearest sensitive receptor (off-site residents or worksites). Analysis may or may not include a Health Risk Assessment (HRA) depending on the project's prioritization score. An HRA is required for a project only if the total facility prioritization score is greater than one (1).

Darling's total facility prioritization score including this project was less than or equal to one. Therefore, no further analysis is required to determine the impact from this project and compliance with the District's Risk Management Policy is expected.

Mitigation:

The project has an overall net benefit to air quality, reducing the facility's overall stationary source emissions by 31,460 pounds (15.73 tons) of NO_x per year. No mitigation is required.

References:

SJVUAPCD, *Authority to Construct Application Review*, Application Numbers. N-2107-5-3, 7-4, 8-3, 9-9, 12-0, and 13-0; Project Numbers N-1042932, N-1062584 and N-1073682



IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Impact Unless Mitigated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the Project:				
a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the 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 replace a cooker and supporting equipment, add a new boiler, cease hatchery waste processing, cease feather meal and blood meal production, upgrade the receiving and grinding system, and upgrade the finished product storage and loadout system. The site is currently a legal non-conforming use and the project can be accommodated under the existing land use entitlements. The construction and operation of the project would not have an impact on biological resources, as identified above.

Mitigation: None required.



V. CULTURAL RESOURCES Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Impact Unless Mitigated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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 replace a cooker and supporting equipment, add a new boiler, cease hatchery waste processing, cease feather meal and blood meal production, upgrade the receiving and grinding system, and upgrade the finished product storage and loadout system. The site is currently a legal non-conforming use and the project can be accommodated under the existing land use entitlements. The site has no evidence of archeological or paleontological significance. The construction and operation of the project would not have an impact on cultural resources, as identified above.

Mitigation: None required.

VI. GEOLOGY / SOILS Would the Project	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Impact Unless Mitigated	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:				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
iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?				X
iv) Landslides?				X
b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?				X



VI. GEOLOGY / SOILS (CONTINUED) Would the Project	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Impact Unless Mitigated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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 replace a cooker and supporting equipment, add a new boiler, cease hatchery waste processing, cease feather meal and blood meal production, upgrade the receiving and grinding system, and upgrade the finished product storage and loadout system. The site is currently a legal non-conforming use and the project can be accommodated under the existing land use entitlements. The construction and operation of the project would not have an impact on geology and soils, as identified above.

Mitigation: None required.

VII. HAZARDS & HAZARDOUS MATERIALS Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Impact Unless Mitigated	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?				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
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



VII. HAZARDS & HAZARDOUS MATERIALS (CONTINUED)				
Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Impact Unless Mitigated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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 replace a cooker and supporting equipment, add a new boiler, cease hatchery waste processing, cease feather meal and blood meal production, upgrade the receiving and grinding system, and upgrade the finished product storage and loadout system. The site is currently a legal non-conforming use and the project can be accommodated under the existing land use entitlements. The construction and operation of the project 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



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

Discussion: The proposed project will replace a cooker and supporting equipment, add a new boiler, cease hatchery waste processing, cease feather meal and blood meal production, upgrade the receiving and grinding system, and upgrade the finished product storage and loadout system. The site is currently a legal non-conforming use and the project can be accommodated under the existing land use entitlements. The construction and operation of the project would not have an impact on hydrology and water quality, as identified above.



Mitigation: None required.

IX. LAND USE / PLANNING	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Impact Unless Mitigated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the Project:				
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 replace a cooker and supporting equipment, add a new boiler, cease hatchery waste processing, cease feather meal and blood meal production, upgrade the receiving and grinding system, and upgrade the finished product storage and loadout system. The site is currently a legal non-conforming use and the project can be accommodated under the existing land use entitlements. The construction and operation of the project would not have an impact on land use and planning, as identified above.

Mitigation: None required.

X. MINERAL RESOURCES	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Impact Unless Mitigated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the Project:				
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 replace a cooker and supporting equipment, add a new boiler, cease hatchery waste processing, cease feather meal and blood meal production, upgrade the receiving and grinding system, and upgrade the finished product storage and loadout system. The site is currently a legal non-conforming use



and the project can be accommodated under the existing land use entitlements. The construction and operation of the project would not have an impact on mineral resources, as identified above.

Mitigation: None required.

XI. NOISE Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Impact Unless Mitigated	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?				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
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 replace a cooker and supporting equipment, add a new boiler, cease hatchery waste processing, cease feather meal and blood meal production, upgrade the receiving and grinding system, and upgrade the finished product storage and loadout system. The site is currently a legal non-conforming use and the project can be accommodated under the existing land use entitlements. The construction and operation of the project would not have an impact on noise, as identified above.

Mitigation: None required.



XII. POPULATION / HOUSING				
Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Impact Unless Mitigated	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)?				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 replace a cooker and supporting equipment, add a new boiler, cease hatchery waste processing, cease feather meal and blood meal production, upgrade the receiving and grinding system, and upgrade the finished product storage and loadout system. The site is currently a legal non-conforming use and the project can be accommodated under the existing land use entitlements. The construction and operation of the project 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



XIII. PUBLIC SERVICES (CONTINUED) Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Impact Unless Mitigated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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 replace a cooker and supporting equipment, add a new boiler, cease hatchery waste processing, cease feather meal and blood meal production, upgrade the receiving and grinding system, and upgrade the finished product storage and loadout system. The site is currently a legal non-conforming use and the project can be accommodated under the existing land use entitlements. The construction and operation of the project would not have an impact on public services, as identified above.

Mitigation: None required.

XIV. RECREATION Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Impact Unless Mitigated	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?				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 replace a cooker and supporting equipment, add a new boiler, cease hatchery waste processing, cease feather meal and blood meal production, upgrade the receiving and grinding system, and upgrade the finished product storage and loadout system. The site is currently a legal non-conforming use and the project can be accommodated under the existing land use entitlements. The construction and operation of the project would not have an impact on recreation, as identified above.

Mitigation: None required.



XV. TRANSPORTATION / TRAFFIC Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Impact Unless Mitigated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Cause an increase in traffic, which is substantial in relation to the existing traffic load and capacity of the street system (i.e., result in 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
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: Currently the facility receives raw material and ships finished product from four (4) processing operations. These operations are hatchery waste processing, feather meal processing, blood meal processing, and meat and bone meal (MBM) processing. The project includes the cessation of all operations but the MBM processing, which they are proposing to expand. Due to the cessation of the three (3) processing operations identified above, vehicle miles traveled in the San Joaquin Valley will be reduced, as trucks will no longer be needed to deliver raw material and pick up finished product for these operations.

Furthermore, although the MBM processing operations will increase, vehicle miles traveled in the Valley will still be reduced. Currently unfinished MBM (known as crax) is transported from Darling's Turlock facility to their Fresno facility where it is further



processed and made into finished product. The finished product is then shipped back to Turlock for delivery to the end users. The project will allow the rendering process to be completed in the Turlock facility, therefore, removing the truck trips to and from the Fresno facility.

Mitigation: None required.

References:

SJVUAPCD, *Authority to Construct Application Review*, Application Numbers. N-2107-5-3, 7-4, 8-3, 9-9, 12-0, and 13-0; Project Numbers N-1042932, N-1062584 and N-1073682

Darling International Inc., Correspondence dated August 28, 2006 and September 21, 2007

XVI. UTILITIES / SERVICE SYSTEMS				
Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Impact Unless Mitigated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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



XVI. UTILITIES / SERVICE SYSTEMS				
Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Impact Unless Mitigated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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.

XVII. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE				
Would the Project	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Impact Unless Mitigated	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?				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



XVII. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE (CONTINUED)				
Would the Project	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Impact Unless Mitigated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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 replace a cooker and supporting equipment, add a new boiler, cease hatchery waste processing, cease feather meal and blood meal production, upgrade the receiving and grinding system, and upgrade the finished product storage and loadout system. 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.