



Resource Management Agency

COUNTY OF TULARE AGENDA ITEM

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

LARRY MICARI
District One

PETE VANDER POEL
District Two

AMY SHUKLIAN
District Three

EDDIE VALERO
District Four

DENNIS TOWNSEND
District Five

AGENDA DATE: May 2, 2023

Public Hearing Required	N/A
Scheduled Public Hearing w/Clerk	N/A
Published Notice Required	N/A
Advertised Published Notice	N/A
Meet & Confer Required	N/A
Budget Transfer (Aud 308) attached	N/A
Personnel Resolution attached	N/A
Agreement(s) attached	N/A

CONTACT PERSON: Celeste Perez PHONE: (559) 624-7010

SUBJECT: 2022 Annual Report of Total Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Dairies and Feedlots for 2021

REQUEST(S):

That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Hold a public meeting to receive a presentation to consider the 2022 Annual Report of Total Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Dairies and Feedlots for 2021 ("2022 Annual Report") and provide an opportunity for public comment.
2. Accept a Categorical Exemption consistent with the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") Title 14 California Code of Regulations, Section 15061(b)(3) Common Sense Exemption and Section 15306, Information Collection.

SUMMARY:

On August 2, 2019, a Stipulated Settlement ("Settlement") was made and became effective by and among all parties to Case No. 272380, namely the Sierra Club, Association of Irrigated Residents, and Center for Biological Diversity (collectively "Petitioners" or "Plaintiffs") and the County of Tulare ("County").

The Settlement, under Section IV.B., requires the County of Tulare to prepare an Annual Report of Total Dairy Greenhouse Gas ("GHG") Emissions from 2019–2024. The 2022 Annual Report (see Attachment No. 1) is required to include:

1. Total estimated dairy GHG emissions reduced to date compared to the 1.05 million MT/yr by 2023 Dairy and Feedlot CAP reduction goal, and the total dairy GHG emissions reduced to date compared to the maximum projected SB 1383 potential target.

An Air Quality Consultant has prepared a GHG Emissions Reduction Report (see

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Exhibit “A” of Attachment No. 1).

2. Report on the State’s measures pursuant to SB 1383, including but not limited to digester funding and the Alternative Manure Management Program (“AMMP”).

Resource Management Agency (RMA) staff completed an AMMP Spreadsheet (Exhibit “B”) with this information on February 14, 2023.

3. Updated Digester Project list for digesters within the County that lists: 1) the operation name, 2) project title, 3) total project cost, 4) CDFA funding award, additional Federal or State public funding awards, 5) project description, 6) project construction state, 7) location, 8) GHG emission reductions over ten years, and 9) how captured methane is used. The report shall also include any reported problems with completed digesters within the County.

RMA staff completed the Updated Digester Project List (Exhibit “C”) with this information on March 16, 2023.

Pursuant to the Settlement, the Annual Report shall be completed by May 1 each year, beginning in 2020, and made available to the public (through the County website). The County shall hold a public meeting on the Annual Report and the County Board shall provide the Annual Report to the public not less than ten (10) calendar days prior to a duly noticed public meeting, where the report is considered by the Board following a staff presentation and opportunity for public comment.

The 2022 Annual Report of Total Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Dairies and Feedlots for 2021 was completed on March 29, 2023.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUMMARY

Preparation of the 2022 Annual Report makes no physical change to the environment because it only involves gathering information to prepare a written report. As such, it is exempt from CEQA based on the common sense exemption consistent with CEQA and the State CEQA Guidelines pursuant to Title 14, Cal. Code Regulations Section 15061(b)(3) and Section 15306, Class 6, Information Collection.

Staff has prepared and will file a Notice of Exemption (see Attachment No. 2).

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING:

Funding of the implementation of the Stipulated Settlement, including the 2022 Annual Report, is through the previously approved RMA annual budget in association with the County Administrative Office.

LINKAGE TO THE COUNTY OF TULARE STRATEGIC BUSINESS PLAN:

The County’s five-year strategic plan includes the “Economic Well Being Initiative - to promote economic development opportunities, effective growth management and a quality standard of living” and “Quality of Life Initiative – to promote public health and welfare, educational opportunities, natural resource management and continued

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improvement of environmental quality.” The 2022 Annual Report will continue to support the agricultural economy while implementing the County General Plan. In doing so, it will promote sustainability, economic development and prosperity by providing design flexibility, streamline approval process and aid in reducing environmental impacts within unincorporated Tulare County.

ADMINISTRATIVE SIGN-OFF:

/s/ Aaron R. Bock

Aaron R. Bock, MCRP, JD, LEED AP
Assistant Director - Economic Development & Planning

/s/ Michael Washam

Michael Washam, ACE
Associate Director

/s/ Reed Schenke

Reed Schenke, P.E.
Director

Cc: County Administrative Office

Attachment No. 1: 2022 Annual Report

Exhibit “A”: 2021 GHG Emissions Reduction Report

Exhibit “B”: AMMP Spreadsheet

Exhibit “C”: Updated Digester Project List

Attachment No. 2: Notice of Exemption