

**PARAMOUNT FARMS INTERNATIONAL, LLC
EL DORADO PISTACHIO PROCESSING PLANT
EXPANSION PROJECT
AND PARAMOUNT FARMING COMPANY, LLC

CEQA INITIAL STUDY ADDENDUM**

5 December 2013

Prepared by:

**CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY
CONTROL BOARD
CENTRAL VALLEY REGION
1685 E Street
Fresno, California 93706
(559) 445-5116**

The following clarifications are made to the Initial Study originally signed by Lonnie Wass on 17 September 2013.

The following is added to clarify the Project Description on Page 3:

“The project will involve trenching for installation of a new irrigation line, **through an area of open undisturbed land**, to send the wastewater to the new land application areas where it can be tied into the existing irrigation system.”

The following additions in the Biological Resources section of the Environmental Checklist clarify the Board’s consultation with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife:

“According to the project proponent, a new 12-inch irrigation line will be constructed to send the wastewater from the settling pond to the new irrigation areas. **The new irrigation line will likely pass through an area of open undeveloped land.** DFW staff indicated that ground disturbing activities associated with construction of the new irrigation line **through undisturbed land** may have a potential limited impact on special status or protected species. Specifically, the Blunt-nosed Leopard Lizard, San Joaquin Kit Fox, San Joaquin Antelope Squirrel, Swainson’s Hawk, and Burrowing Owl.

To mitigate potential impacts to special status or protected species, DFW recommends that ~~multiple protocol level~~ surveys be conducted by a qualified wildlife biologist in accordance with approved survey methodologies well in advanced of any ground disturbing activities. **A copy of the early consultation notice from DFW is included in Attachment B.** Prior to initiating any ground disturbing activities, the project proponent will need to contact DFW and the United States Federal Wildlife Service **to determine if pre-construction or protocol level surveys will be required, and** to ensure appropriate measures will be taken to avoid or mitigate potential incidence of “Take”. “Take” means to hunt, pursue, catch, capture, or kill or attempt to hunt, pursue, catch, capture, or kill (DFW Code, Section 86).”

None of these changes would cause the Board to reconsider the determination that the project will not have a substantial effect on the environment.