

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AGENCY PLANNING DEPARTMENT

2037 W. Cleveland Avenue Madera, CA 93637 (559) 675-7821 FAX (559) 675-6573 TDD (559) 675-8970 mc_planning@madera-county.com

Norman L. Allinder, AICP Director

PLANNING COMMISSION DATE: January 8, 2013

AGENDA ITEM:

#6

GP	#2012-004	Amend the 1979 O'Neals Area Plan to eliminate Policy 2.b of the Goals and Policies for rural commercial land
i		use
APN	Various	Applicant: Dennis Jonathan

CEQA ND #2012-31

Negative Declaration

REQUEST:

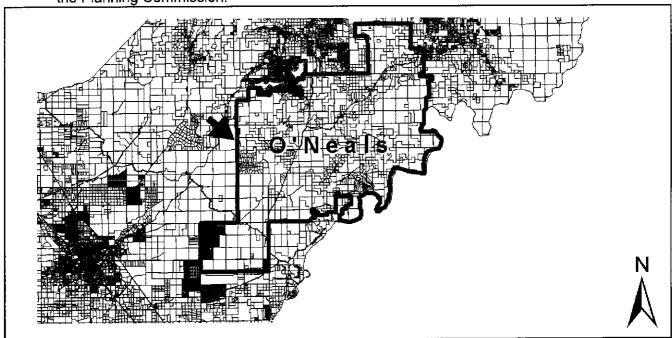
The application is to amend the 1979 O'Neals Area Plan to eliminate Policy 2.b of the Goals and Policies for rural commercial land use to allow for additional commercial uses.

LOCATION:

The O'Neals Area Plan consists of lands mostly in eastern Madera County going as far south as the Bonadelle Ranchos, west to Raymond, north to Yosemite Lakes Park, and east to the County line.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT:

A Negative Declaration (ND #2012-31) has been prepared and is subject to the review by the Planning Commission.



RECOMMENDATION: Approval of General Plan Amendment (text change) #2012-004 amending and not eliminating Policy 2.b in the O'Neals Plan and Negative Declaration #2012-31.

STAFF REPORT GP #2012-004

GENERAL PLAN DESIGNATIONS (Exhibit A):

SITE:

Various

SURROUNDING: Various

ZONING (EXHIBIT B)

SITE:

Various

SURROUNDING: Various

LAND USE:

SITE:

Various

SURROUNDING: Various

SIZE OF PROPERTY (EXHIBIT C):

ACCESS (EXHIBIT C):

The O'Neals Area Plan consists of approximately 127,000 acres, through which Highways 145 and 41, and Road 200 traverse.

WILLIAMSON ACT:

Approximately 81,000 acres (482 parcels) in the O'Neals Area Plan are subject to Williamson Act contracts.

BACKGROUND AND PRIOR ACTIONS:

The O'Neals Area Plan was originally adopted in 1980 as the goals and policies for growth, development, and resource management within the study area.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The application is to amend the 1979 O'Neals Area Plan to eliminate Policy 2.b of the Goals and Policies for rural commercial land use. This will allow for additional entitlements (rezonings and general plan amendments) for site specific development to be considered.

ORDINANCES/POLICIES:

<u>California Government Code Section 65358(a)</u> establishes authority for amending the General Plan by the Board of Supervisors.

ANALYSIS:

The application is to amend the 1979 O'Neals Area Plan (Plan) to eliminate Policy 2.b of the Goals and Policies for rural commercial land use.

"Rural commercial development shall be limited to land that was zoned for commercial use prior to the adoption of this plan."

This will allow for additional entitlements (rezonings and general plan amendments) for site specific development to be considered. The goals and policies were designed to provide guidance for the next twenty years. At the time the Plan was adopted, it was recognized the goals and policies were to be evaluated regularly and updated accordingly to reflect new opportunities, conditions, and attitudes within the study area. The Plan has vet to undergo a comprehensive update due to lack of resources.

The Plan consists of approximately 127,000 acres. Lands within the boundaries of the Plan have historically been used as cattle grazing land. The Plan was originally designed to enhance the existing rural-foothill environment. Since the implementation of the Plan, the population of the area has increased and the demand for local services has become

STAFF REPORT GP #2012-004

apparent. Originally, commercial development was to be restricted to those parcels zoned for commercial use prior to adoption of the Plan. Currently, commercial development for the approximately 127,000 acres is limited to small pockets, mostly along Highway 41 and some along Road 200.

Apart from commercial development and agricultural land, the Plan includes five phases of the Bonadelle Ranchos subdivision, the Kennedy Estates subdivision, and Hidden Lakes Estates subdivision. The existing residential development outweighs the commercial development leaving little to choose from for shopping and employment opportunities.

In today's world, it is important to plan for areas that allow residents to live, work and play within their community; reducing dependence on the automobile and combating sprawl. The 1995 General Plan policies embraced the principles of smart growth providing for a jobs/housing ratio and the implementation of mixed-use village centers. The O'Neals plan does not allow for the commercial zoning that will allow jobs or shopping close to home. The O'Neals plan is based upon the concept-that the historical use of land for cattle grazing should be maintained as the predominant land use within the study area. In order to preserve the goals of the O'Neals plan and the recommended agricultural use of the area, staff is proposing that Policy 2.b not be eliminated but amended to parallel goal 1.D.1 of the General Plan which states that new community commercial centers should be located adjacent to major activity nodes and major transportation corridors.

2.b. Rural commercial development shall be limited to land that was zoned for commercial use prior to the adoption of this plan. locations adjacent to major activity nodes and major transportation corridors.

The General Plan also talks about job to housing balance in Policy 1.F.2

"The County shall designate and encourage the development of employment-generating uses in appropriate areas near existing and designated residential development."

Therefore, allowing commercial development within the plan will employment opportunities and reduce distance of travel.

GENERAL PLAN CONSISTENCY STATEMENT:

The proposed amendment to the O'Neals Area Plan will be consistent with the 1995 Madera County General Plan Policies 1.D.1, 1.D.4, 1.D.5 and 1.F.2.

- 1.D.1 The County shall require that new community commercial centers locate adjacent to major activity nodes and major transportation corridors.
- 1.D.4 The County shall promote new commercial development in rural communities that provides for the immediate needs of the local residents and services to tourists and travelers. The scale and character of such commercial development should be compatible with and complement the surrounding area.
- 1.D.5 The County shall encourage significant new office developments to locate near major transportation corridors and concentrations of residential uses. New office development may serve as buffers between residential uses and higher-intensity commercial uses.

GP #2012-004

1.F.2 The County shall designate and encourage the development of employment-generating uses in appropriate areas near existing and designated residential development."

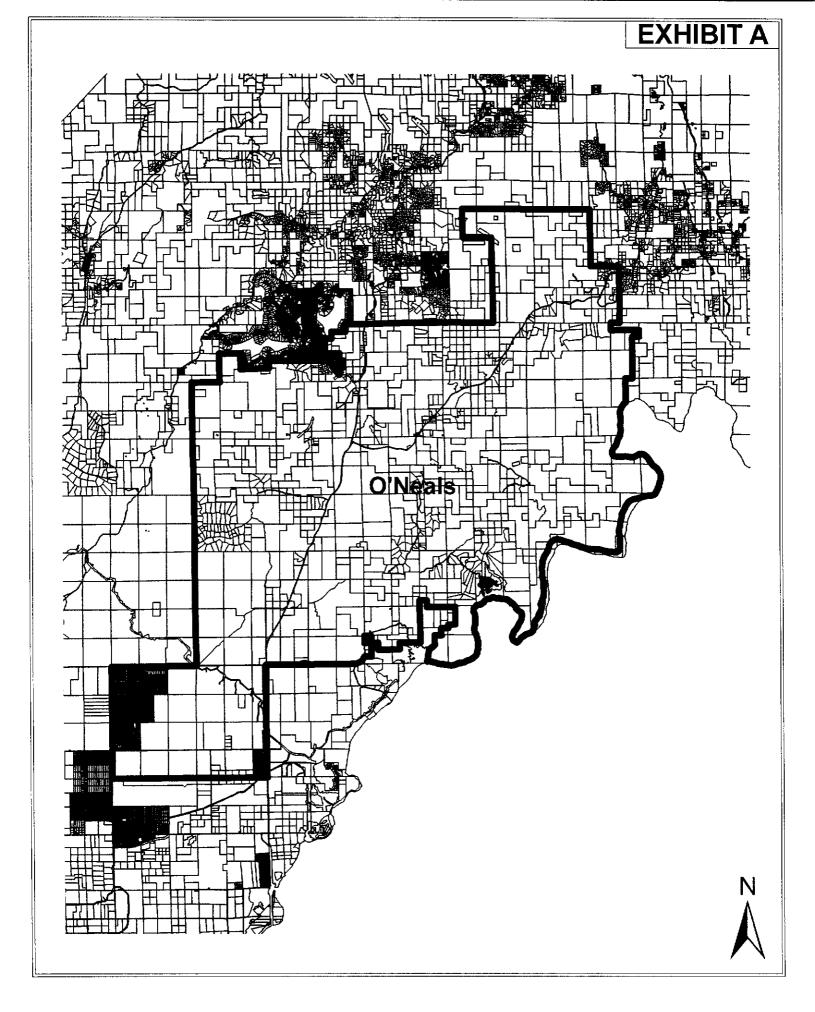
Highways 145 and 41, and Road 200 (all major transportation corridors) traverse through the O'Neals Area Plan.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval of General Plan Amendment (text change) #2012-004 amending but not eliminating Policy 2.b as proposed by staff and Negative Declaration #2012-31.

ATTACHMENTS:

- 1. Exhibit A, Area Plan Map
- 2. Exhibit B, Initial Study
- 3. Exhibit C, Negative Declaration



O'NEALS AREA PLAN MAP

Environmental Checklist Form

EXHIBIT A

Title of Proposal: GP #2012-004, General Plan Text Change - O'Neals Area Plan

Date Checklist Submitted: December 10, 2012

Agency Requiring Checklist: Madera County

Agency Contact: Jamie Bax, Planner III Phone: (559) 675-7821

Description of Project:

The applicant has requested to amend the O'Neals Area Plan to eliminate Policy 2.b of the Goals and Policies for rural commercial land use. This would potentially allow applications for new commercial land use to be processed.

The Initial Study is a public document used by the decision-making lead agency to determine whether a project may have significant effects on the environment. In the case of the proposed project, the Madera County Planning Department, acting as lead agency, will use the initial study to determine whether the project has a significant effect on the environment. In accordance with CEQA, Guidelines (Section 15063[a]), an environmental impact report (EIR) must be prepared if there is substantial evidence (such as results of the Initial Study) that a project may have significant effect on the environment. This is true regardless of whether the overall effect of the project would be adverse or beneficial. A negative declaration (ND) or mitigated negative declaration (MND) may be prepared if the lead agency determines that the project would have no potentially significant impacts or that revisions to the project, or measures agreed to by the applicant, mitigate the potentially significant impacts to a less-than-significant level.

The initial study considers and evaluates all aspects of the project which are necessary to support the proposal. The complete project description includes the site plan, operational statement, and other supporting materials which are available in the project file at the office of the Madera County Planning Department.

Project Location:

The project is located in eastern Madera County within the O'Neals Area Plan boundaries.

Applicant Name and Address:

Dennis Jonathan P O Box 2207 Oakhurst, CA 93644

General Plan Designation:

Various

Zoning Designation:

Various

Surrounding Land Uses and Setting:

The O'Neals Area Plan is generally comprised of agricultural and resource conservation areas in addition to rural residential and small areas of commercial use in eastern Madera County.

Other Public Agencies whose approval is required:

None

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED:

impact that is "Potentially Significant Impact" as indicated by the checklist on the following pages. Air Quality Agriculture and Forestry Aesthetics П Resources Geology /Soils **Biological Resources** Cultural Resources Hazards & Hazardous Hydrology / Water Quality Greenhouse Gas **Materials Emissions** Mineral Resources Noise Land Use/Planning **Public Services** Recreation Population / Housing \Box Transportation/Traffic Utilities / Service Systems Mandatory Findings of Significance DETERMINATION: (To be completed by the Lead Agency) On the basis of this initial evaluation: I find that the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a \square NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared. I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there \Box will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared. I find that the proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an П ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required. I find that the proposed project MAY have a "potentially significant impact" or "potentially significant unless mitigated" impact 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. An ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed. I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project, nothing further is required. Signature

The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project, involving at least one

AE	STHETICS Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a)	Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?				\square
b)	Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?				
c)	Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?				
d)	Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?				

١.

Any development within the area could degrade the visual quality of the area; however, this project is not designating any particular parcel for commercial development, but amending the area plan to allow for commercial development to be considered. At the time new entitlements are submitted, detailed analysis will be conducted for site specific development pending this project's approval.

A nighttime sky in which stars are readily visible is often considered a valuable scenic/visual resource. In urban areas, views of the nighttime sky are being diminished by "light pollution." Light pollution, as defined by the International dark-Sky Association, is any adverse effect of artificial light, including sky glow, glare, light trespass, light clutter, decreased visibility at night, and energy waste. Two elements of light pollution may affect city residents: sky glow and light trespass. Sky glow is a result of light fixtures that emit a portion of their light directly upward into the sky where light scatters, creating an orange-yellow glow above a city or town. This light can interfere with views of the nighttime sky and can diminish the number of stars that are visible. Light trespass occurs when poorly shielded or poorly aimed fixtures cast light into unwanted areas, such as neighboring property and homes.

Light pollution is a problem most typically associated with urban areas. Lighting is necessary for nighttime viewing and for security purposes. However, excessive lighting or inappropriately designed lighting fixtures can disturb nearby sensitive land uses through indirect illumination. Land uses which are considered "sensitive" to this unwanted light include residences, hospitals, and care homes.

Daytime sources of glare include reflections off of light-colored surfaces, windows, and metal details on cars traveling on nearby roadways. The amount of glare depends on the intensity and direction of sunlight, which is more acute at sunrise and subset because the angle of the sun is lower during these times.

H.	when Ag present and of I and and add	ether impacts to agricultural resources are significant vironmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California ricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) epared by the California Dept. of Conservation as an optional odel to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. Indetermining whether impacts to forest resources, including oberland, are significant environmental effects, lead agencies by refer to information compiled by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection regarding the state's inventory of est land, including the Forest and Range Assessment Project of the Forest Legacy Assessment project and forest carbon resources by the California Air Resources Board. Would the opject:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
	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?				Ø
	b)	Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?				☑
	c)	Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resource Code section 12220(g)) or timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526) or timberland zoned Timberland Protection (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g))?				Ø
	d)	Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest land?				Ø
	e)	Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?				Ø

This project could have the potential to negatively impact agricultural land in the County; however, since no particular parcel is being designated for commercial use it should not negatively impact agricultural land. Upon analyzing new proposals for changes in zoning and land use, proper environmental evaluations will be conducted to determine the impacts to agricultural land.

Approximately 81,000 acres (482 parcels) in the O'Neals Area Plan are subject to Williamson Act contracts. Therefore, staff is proposing that commercial zoning be restricted to locations adjacent to major activity nodes and major transportation corridors. This would preserve the agricultural land. As a rezoning application is received, a site specific analysis will be made.

Madera County recognizes the importance of farmland, by restricted the commercial zoning to locations adjacent to major activity nodes and major transportation corridors the amount converted to non-agricultural uses will to be insignificant given the total amount of acreage available. The County will continue to evaluate farmland conversion and will take appropriate action as deemed necessary.

III.	esta poll	R QUALITY Where available, the significance criteria ablished by the applicable air quality management or air lution control district may be relied upon to make the following erminations. Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impaci
	a)	Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?				
	b)	Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?				\square
	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)?				
	d)	Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?				V
	e)	Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?				V

The requested project will not obstruct the implementation of any air quality plan nor violate air quality standards or contribute substantially to an air quality violation. Any new proposals submitted as a result of potential project approval will be subject to standards as established by the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District.

Allowing additional commercially zoned property adjacent to major activity nodes and major transportation corridors will bring jobs and services closer to the residences in the O'Neals Area Plan, therefore reducing the trips into Fresno or Madera and reducing emissions.

Global Climate Change

Climate change is a shift in the "average weather" that a given region experiences. This is measured by changes in temperature, wind patterns, precipitation, and storms. Global climate is the change in the climate of the earth as a whole. It can occur naturally, as in the case of an ice age, or occur as a result of anthropogenic activities. The extent to which anthropogenic activities influence climate change has been the subject of extensive scientific inquiry in the past several decades. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), recognized as the leading research body on the subject, issued its Fourth Assessment Report in February 2007, which asserted that there is "very high confidence" (by IPCC definition a 9 in 10 chance of being correct) that human activities have resulted in a net warming of the planet since 1750.

CEQA requires an agency to engage in forecasting "to the extent that an activity could reasonably be expected under the circumstances. An agency cannot be expected to predict the future course of governmental regulation or exactly what information scientific advances may ultimately reveal" (CEQA Guidelines Section 15144, Office of Planning and Research commentary, citing the California Supreme Court decision in Laurel Heights Improvement Association v. Regents of the University of California [1988] 47 Cal. 3d 376).

Recent concerns over global warming have created a greater interest in greenhouse gases (GHG) and their contribution to global climate change (GCC). However at this time there are no generally accepted thresholds of significance for determining the impact of GHG emissions from an individual project on GCC. Thus, permitting agencies are in the position of developing policy and guidance to ascertain and mitigate to the extent feasible the effects of GHG, for CEQA purposes, without the normal degree of accepted guidance by case law.

Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions: The potential effect of greenhouse gas emission on global climate change is an emerging issue that warrants discussion under CEQA. Unlike the pollutants discussed previously that may have regional and local effects, greenhouse gases have the potential to cause global changes in the environment. In addition, greenhouse gas emissions do not directly produce a localized impact, but may cause an indirect impact if the local climate is adversely changed by its cumulative contribution to a change in global climate. Individual development projects contribute relatively small amounts of greenhouse gases that when added to other greenhouse gas producing activities around the world would result in an increase in these emissions that have led many to conclude is changing the global climate. However, no threshold has been established for what would constitute a cumulatively considerable increase in greenhouse gases for individual development projects. The State of California has taken several actions that help to address potential global climate change impacts.

California Assembly Bill (AB) 1493 (Pavley) enacted on July 22, 2002, required CARB to develop and adopt regulations that reduce GHG emitted by passenger vehicles and light duty trucks. Regulations adopted by CARB will apply to 2009 and later model year vehicles. CARB estimates that the regulation will reduce climate change emissions from light duty passenger vehicle fleet by an estimated 18 percent by 2020 and by 27 percent in 2030 (CARB 2004a).

California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger announced on June 1, 2005, through Executive Order S3-05, the following GHG emission targets: by 2010 reduce GHG emissions to 2000 levels; by 2020, reduce GHG emissions by 1990 levels; by 2050, reduce GHG emissions to 80 percent below 1990 levels.

IV.	BIC	BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES Would the project:		Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
	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?				Ø
	b)	Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Game or US Fish and Wildlife Service?				ā
	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?	_		_	Ø
	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?				
	e)	Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?				
	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?				V

There are special status plants and animals within the vicinity of the project.

Special Status Species include:

- Plants and animals that are legally protected or proposed for protection under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA) or Federal Endangered Species Act (FESA);
- Plants and animals defined as endangered or rare under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) §15380;
- Animals designated as species of special concern by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) or California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG);
- Animals listed as "fully protected" in the Fish and Game Code of California (§3511, §4700, §5050 and §5515); and
- Plants listed in the California Native Plant Society's (CNPS) Inventory of Rare and Endangered Vascular Plants of California.

The following species have been identified as being within the vicinity of the property, however there are no indications that they forage, nest, or otherwise use the property for any reason.

Species	Federal Listing	State Listing
American badger	None	None
burrowing owl	None	None
California Tiger Salamander	Threatened	None
California linderiella	None	None
Central Valley Drainage Rainbow Trout/Cyprinid Stre	None	None
Central Valley Drainage Hardhead/Squawfish Stream	None	None
foothill yellow-legged frog	None	None
golden eagle	None	None
midvalley fairy shrimp	None	None
molestan blister beetle	None	None
Northern Basalt Flow Vernal Pool	None	None
prairie falcon	None	None
spiny-sepaled button-celery	None	None
Swainson's hawk	None	Threatened
valley elderberry longhorn beetle	Threatened	None
vernal pool fairy shrimp	Threatened	None
vernal pool tadpole shrimp	Endangered	None
western mastiff bat	None	None
western pond turtle	None	None
western spadefoot	None	None
Boggs Lake hedge-hyssop	None	Endangered
Hartweg's golden sunburst	Endangered	Endangered
Madera leptosiphon	None	None
Mariposa pussypaws	Threatened	None
orange lupine	None	None
San Joaquin Valley orcutt		
grass	Threatened	Endangered
succulent owl's-clover	Threatened	Endangered
tree-anemone	None	Threatened

This proposal will not result in any negative impact to any biological resources; however, detailed analysis of these resources will be conducted at the time that additional entitlements are received. As a rezoning application is received, a site specific analysis will be made.

V.	CU	ILTUR	AL RESOURCES Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
	a)		ise a substantial adverse change in the significance of a prical resource as defined in §15064.5?				
	b)		ise a substantial adverse change in the significance of archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5?				Ø
	c)		ectly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological purce or site or unique geologic feature?				Ø
	d)		urb any human remains, including those interred ide of formal cemeteries?				☑
	Dis	cussi	on:				
	in a	any ne	ect was forwarded to all known Native American Tribes in egative impact to any cultural or historic resources; howe cted at the time that additional entitlements are received.				
VI.	GE	OLOG	SY AND SOILS Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
	a)	adve	ose people or structures to potential substantial erse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death lving:				
		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.				Ø
		ii)	Strong seismic ground shaking?				Ø
		iii)	Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?				
		iv)	Landslides?				☑
	b)	Res	ult in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?				☑
	c)	woul pote	ocated on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that id become unstable as a result of the project, and ntially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral ading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?				☑
	d)	the l	ocated on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of Jniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial risks e or property?				Ø

	e)	Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?				Ø
	Dis	cussion:				
	doe sha it's no	ere are no active or potentially active faults of major historic signs not lie within any Alquist Priolo Special Studies Zone for sucking; however, is the primary seismic hazard in Madera County record of historical activity (General Plan Background Elemen specific threat or hazard from seismic ground shaking, any new proval will comply with current local and state building codes.	rface faultin because of and Progr	g or fault cre f the County; am EIR). T	eep. Seismi s seismic se he project re	ic ground etting and epresents
VII.	GR	EENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS - Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
	a)	Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?				Ø
	b)	Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?				☑
	Dis	cussion:				
		e project itself will not contribute to greenhouse gas emissions; on submittal of any additional entitlements for site specific develo			rsis will be co	onducted
VIII.	HAZ proj	ZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS – Would the lect:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	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?				Ø
	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?				☑
	c)	Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?				\square
	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?				Ø
	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?				☑

	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?				Ø
	g)	Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?				Ø
	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?				Ø
	Dis	cussion:				
		s proposal will not result in any potential impacts related to handled upon submittal of additional entitlements for site specific			tailed analys	is will be
X.	HYI	DROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY – Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
	a)	Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?				
	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)?				Ø
	c)	Substantially after 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?				Ø
	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?				
	e)	Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?				Ø
	f)	Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?				\square
	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?				Ø
	h)	Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures which would impede or redirect flood flows?				

	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?				Ø
	j)	Inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?				\square
	Dis	scussion:				
	lmp spe	pacts to hydrology and water quality will not occur as a resu ecific development will be conducted as new entitlements are so	lt of this pro ubmitted per	oposal; howending this pro	ever, analys pject's appro	is for site
Χ.	LAI	ND USE AND PLANNING – Would the project result in:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
	a)	Physically divide an established community?				$\overline{\checkmark}$
	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?				☑
	c)	Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan?				
XI.	use con sub	e proposed project will not physically divide an established co plan of any other agency. It will not conflict with any hab isservation plan. Detailed analysis for site specific development of the pending this project's approval. SERAL RESOURCES – Would the project result in:	itat conserv nt will be co	ration plan of Inducted as Less Than Significant	or natural conew entitlen	ommunity
			Significant Impact	with Mitigation Incorporation	Significant Impact	Impact
	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?				Ø
	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?				Ø
	Dis	cussion:				
		s project will not result in the loss of any known mineral remitted, detailed analysis will be conducted for the potential of a				
XII.	NO	SE – Would the project result in:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	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				\square

		noise ordinance or applicable standards of other agencies?				
	b)	Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?				v
	c)	A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?				abla
	d)	A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?				
	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?	0			☑
	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?				Ø
	Disc	cussion:				
		e impacts will not occur as a result of this project; however nittal of new entitlements pending this project's approval.	, additional	analysis wil	be conduct	ted upor
XIII.	POF	PULATION AND HOUSING Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	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)?				Ø
	b)	Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?				Ø
	c)	Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?				Ø
	Disc	ussion:				
	spec	acts to population and housing will not result as part of this pr sific development proposals submitted pending this project's a art of future proposals.				
	acco deve	enever new commercial centers are proposed, it must be commodating a need. The General Plan Policy 1.F.2 states "The lopment of employment-generating uses in appropriate are elopment."	ne County s	hall designat	e and encou	rage the
XIV.	PUB	LIC SERVICES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact

	a)	impa alter alter coul mair	acts associated with the provision of new or physically red governmental facilities, need for new or physically red governmental facilities, the construction of which d cause significant environmental impacts, in order to nation acceptable service ratios, response times or other formance objectives for any of the public services:				
		i)	Fire protection?				\square
		ii)	Police protection?				
		iii)	Schools?				\square
		iv)	Parks?				$\overline{\mathbf{Q}}$
		v)	Other public facilities?				Ø
	Dis	cussi	on:				
	enti	tleme	ect will not have any impacts at this time to any public ser nts are submitted pending this project's approval, detailed d for site specific development.				will be
XV.	RE	CREA	TION	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
	a)	facili	old the project increase the use of existing hborhood and regional parks or other recreational ties such that substantial physical deterioration of the ty would occur or be accelerated?				\square
	b)	cons	s the project include recreational facilities or require the struction or expansion of recreational facilities which at have an adverse physical effect on the environment?				Ø
	Dis	cussi	on:				
			ect will have no negative impacts to existing parks. The require construction of any kind relating to recreational		loes not incl	ude any rec	reational
XVI.	TRA	ANSP(ORTATION/TRAFFIC Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
	a)	estal of th trans trave inclu	flict with an applicable plan, ordinance or policy blishing measures of effectiveness for the performance e circulation system, taking into account all modes of sportation including mass transit and non-motorized el and relevant components of the circulation system, ding but not limited to intersections, streets, highways freeways, pedestrian and bicycle paths, and mass sit?				Ø
		Conf	lict with an applicable congestion management				

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? Discrete substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)? Result in inadequate emergency access? Discrete substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)? Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation (e.g., bus turnouts, bicycle racks)?	b)	standards and travel demand measures or other standards, established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways?		☑
(e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)? e) Result in inadequate emergency access? f) Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation (e.g., bus turnouts,	c)	increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results		☑
f) Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation (e.g., bus turnouts,	d)	(e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or		
supporting alternative transportation (e.g., bus turnouts,	e)	Result in inadequate emergency access?		
	f)	supporting alternative transportation (e.g., bus turnouts,		Ø

At this time this project does not have the potential to impact traffic or transportation in the project area; however, site specific development may result in impacts which will be analyzed upon new project submittals pending this project's approval. It is staff's recommendation to only allow commercial zoning in locations adjacent to major activity nodes and major transportation corridors

The General Plan Policy 1.F.2 states "The County shall designate and encourage the development of employment-generating uses in appropriate areas near existing and designated residential development."

The action would reduce the district residence would need to travel.

XVII.	UTI	LITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS – Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
	a)	Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?				
	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?				Ø
	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?				Ø
	d)	Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed?				Ø
	e)	Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which 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?				Ø
	f)	Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?				
	g)	Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and				v

regulations related to solid waste?

Discussion:

The proposed project will not create an impact to any utilities or service systems; however, site specific development may result in impacts which will be analyzed upon new project submittals pending this project's approval.

XVIII.	MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE		Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporation	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?				Ø
	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)?				
	c)	Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?				

Discussion:

The proposed project does not have the potential to degrade fish and wildlife, or their habitat, or to eliminate major periods of California history or prehistory. The incremental effect of the current project, when viewed in light of both existing development and reasonably foreseeable future projects, does not yield impacts which are cumulatively considerable. No significant opportunities for direct or indirect adverse effect on human beings have been identified for the project.

Documents/Organizations/Individuals Consulted In Preparation of this Initial Study

Madera County General Plan

O'Neals Area Plan

California Department of Finance

California Integrated Waste Management Board

California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines

United States Environmental Protection Agency

Madera County Environmental Health Department

Madera County Roads Department

Caltrans website http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/LandArch/scenic highways/index.htm accessed October 31, 2008

California Department of Fish and Game "California Natural Diversity Database" http://www.dfg.ca.gov/biogeodata/cnddb/

NEGATIVE DECLARATION

ND

GP #2012-004 (text change), O'Neals Area Plan amendment Project Name

<u>Dennis Jonathan</u> Name of Proponents

Project Location:

The O'Neals Area Plan consists of lands mostly in eastern Madera County going as far south as the Bonadelle Ranchos, west to Raymond, north to Yosemite Lakes Park, and east to the County line.

Project Description:

The application is to amend the 1979 O'Neals Area Plan to eliminate Policy 2.b of the Goals and Policies for rural commercial land use to allow for additional commercial uses.

PROPOSED FINGDINGS

☑An Initial Study has been conducted and a findings made that the proposed project will have no significant effect on the environment (CEQA 15070(a)).

Madera County Environmental Committee

A copy of the negative declaration and all supporting documentation is available for review at the Madera County Planning Department, 2037 West Cleveland Avenue, Madera, California.

DATED:

FILED:

PROJECT APPROVED: