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US DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Empire Island Farming Company LLC, WRP ACEP-WRE Easement Modification, San Joaquin County, CA

AGENCY: Natural Resources Conservation Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of Availability of Finding of No Significant Impact.

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SUMMARY: Pursuant to Section 102[2][c] of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations [40 CFR Part 1500], and the Natural Resources Conservation Service Regulations [7 CFR Part 650], NRCS gives notice that an environmental impact statement is not being prepared for the easement boundary modification of Empire Island Farming Company LLC, San Joaquin County, CA. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is adopting the Environmental Assessment (EA), prepared in January 2017, for the Empire Island Farming Company LLC, WRP ACEP-WRE Easement Modification, San Joaquin County, CA.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Single copies of the EA may be obtained by contacting Karl Kraft, Wildlife Biologist, USDA-NRCS, 3800 Cornucopia Way, Suite E, Modesto, CA 95358-9492, (209) 491-9320. A hard copy of the EA can be viewed at the office of the USDA, 430 G Street, Davis, CA 95616. The EA be viewed at the following web address:

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/ca/newsroom/pnotice/>

Written comments on the EA/FONSI should be submitted to Karl Kraft within 30 days.

EFFECTIVE DATE: February 24, 2017

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The environmental assessment of this federally assisted action indicates that the project will not cause significant local, regional, or national impacts on the environment. In addition, NRCS finds that the modification of the WRP easement will not result in a significant impact on the quality of the human environment, particularly when focusing on the special environmental concerns identified in the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Therefore, NRCS has prepared a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) in compliance with NEPA, as amended, and gives notice that an environmental impact statement is not being prepared.

The sponsoring local organization, Empire Island Farming Company LLC, agrees with carrying forward the proposed project of easement boundary modification. The project purpose is to encumber a 70-acre inholding within, but not part of, the existing WRP easement and unencumber 57.31 acres of land currently in the easement.

This notice of a Finding of No Significant Impact has been forwarded to the appropriate State and Federal agencies and interested parties.

No administrative action on implementation of the proposed action will be taken until 30 days after the date of this notice.

Dated: February 24, 2017

Carlos Suarez,  
State Conservationist  
Natural Resources Conservation Service