



SIERRA CLUB

TEHIPITE CHAPTER

FRIANT RANCH IS BACK!

In February 2011, the Fresno County Board of Supervisors gave developers the green light to construct the *Friant Ranch Project* — a 2,550-unit residential development on former grazing lands, rolling hills along the east side of Friant Road near the community of Friant.

But there are no houses there today — and that's because we successfully sued Fresno County for violations of CEQA, the California Environmental Quality Act.

Although we lost initially, our Sierra Club Tehipite Chapter and the League of Women Voters of Fresno won in the Court of Appeal, and in December 2018, the California Supreme Court handed down a unanimous, landmark decision in our favor. The high court ruled that the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) prepared by the County failed to analyze how increased air pollutants from new homes and 5,000 additional daily auto trips to Fresno would harm the health of residents.

As a result of that court ruling, in the spring of 2021, the Board of Supervisors had no choice but to decertify the EIR and void its 2011 project approvals. To reapprove the project, the County would first need to revise the EIR, and the Board of Supervisors would need to go through the process again to certify the EIR and approve the project.

The County has just recently revised the EIR. *Comments are due to the County by 5:00 PM on April 24th.* The revised Draft EIR is available on the County's website at: <https://www.co.fresno.ca.us/departments/public-works-planning/divisions-of-public-works-and-planning-development-services-division/planning-and-land-use/environmental-impact-repo-1580>.

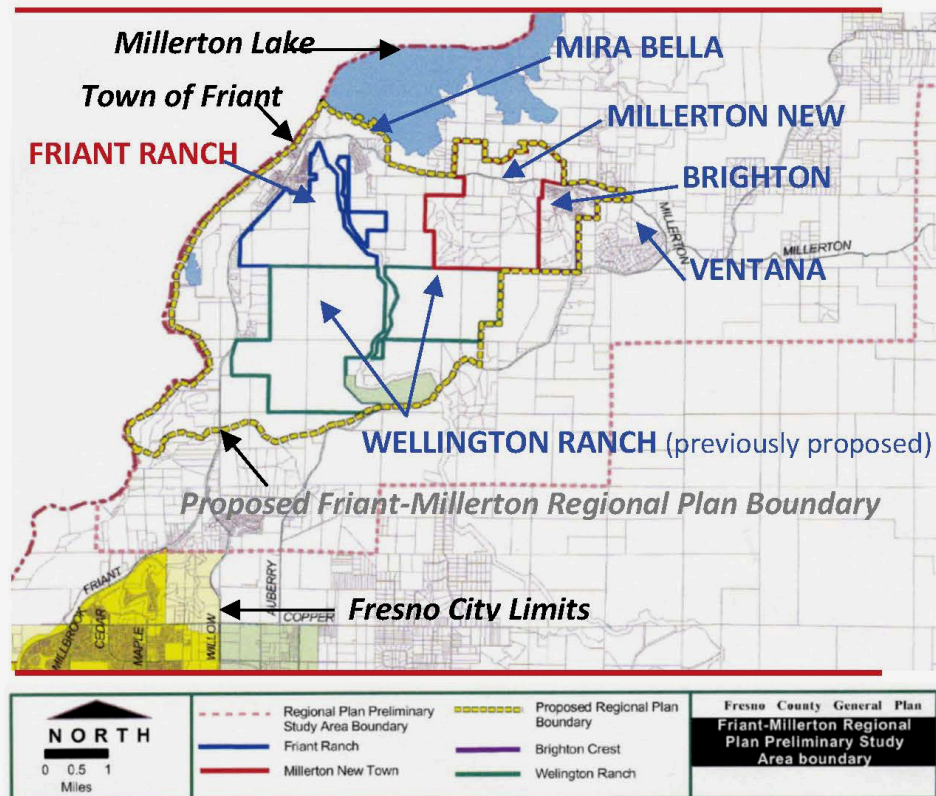
TO LEARN MORE about how you can help us in our successful effort to halt the Friant Ranch housing project, contact Gary at the Sierra Club, at 559-790-3495.

SIERRA CLUB TEHIPITE CHAPTER APRIL ZOOM MEETING

Wednesday, April 19, 2023 at 7 PM:
"The Buzz Around Regenerative Agriculture and What This Looks Like in California"

Our guest presenter is Jeff Mitchell, the Leader of UC's Conservation Agriculture Systems Innovation Center with the University of California, Davis. Jeff will discuss ongoing work to create, test and refine conservation agriculture food production systems in the San Joaquin Valley. This work is becoming widely known as "regenerative agriculture." He will trace the development of Ag conservation and share the recent evolution of these food production systems right here in California.

This event is free and open to the general public. **Visit www.sierraclub.org/tehipite to register in advance.** The Zoom link will be emailed to you the day of the event."



A NEW, SERIOUS PROBLEM HAS ARISEN!

The County is telling county residents to public comments to the subject of air quality. **NOT TRUE! CEQA requires the County to review ALL new information and changed conditions** since the project was approved in 2011. **THESE CHANGES INCLUDE:**

- Passage of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act in 2014.
- Discovery that water contracts could leave the project without water.
- New California climate-change and transportation policy & legislation.
- Changes in California law related to environmental justice analysis.
- New information regarding seepage from project's wastewater pond.
- Application by CEMEX for a 100-year hard rock mine near the project.
- Table Mountain Casino is 8x larger (w/ concert arena & 12-story hotel).

