

Sergio Vazquez

I am writing in support of the proposed expansion of West River Dairy. As an employee, I have first-hand experience with the daily operations and environmental practices implemented at the facility, and I believe the project reflects a strong commitment to responsible and sustainable agriculture. I had been working 21 years with Riverview.

Through my work, I actively participate in programs designed to ensure the most efficient use of water. We closely monitor water consumption on a daily basis, including tracking usage per cow, and continuously look for ways to improve efficiency. The water used for the expansion will come from a previously vetted and permitted source, and the total appropriation has already been proposed to be reduced significantly. Additionally, the construction of water storage basins will serve as both a contingency and a climate-resiliency measure, further strengthening responsible water management.

Environmental stewardship is a core part of our operations. Employees are trained and continuously educated on best practices, including preventing manure spills and protecting surrounding land and water resources. We have systems in place to ensure manure is properly managed, not only onsite but also beneficially reused as an organic fertilizer for surrounding farmland. This reduces reliance on synthetic fertilizers and helps improve soil health. We also recycle manure solids for use as comfortable bedding for the cows, demonstrating a full-cycle approach to resource management.

Animal care is another top priority. The cows are treated with respect and provided with excellent living conditions, including proper ventilation systems that keep them cooler in the summer—often up to 10 degrees lower—and protected during winter from extreme cold and freezing temperatures. Healthy animals are essential, as they are the foundation of our work and livelihood.

I can also personally speak to the quality of life near the dairy. I lived for four years less than a mile from the facility, where my children grew up. Odors were rare and only noticeable on limited occasions, and beyond one to two miles, it is nearly impossible to detect any smell. The lagoons are properly covered, and fly control measures are effective, maintaining a clean and controlled environment.

West River Dairy also values its employees and community. The company treats its workforce with respect, fosters strong relationships with vendors, and actively seeks to collaborate with local businesses and individuals. There is an ongoing effort to involve the local community and provide opportunities for those interested in the dairy industry, especially local residents.

The operation is supported by trained professionals in every area, including dedicated teams that monitor water use and ensure full compliance with all permitting requirements. Every regulation is followed carefully, and decisions are guided by data, science, and a commitment to continuous improvement.

Based on my experience, I strongly support this expansion. It represents not only economic growth, but also a responsible and forward-thinking approach to agriculture that prioritizes environmental protection, animal welfare, and community engagement.

Sincerely,
Sergio Vazquez