

Notice of Exemption

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To: Office of Planning and Research
1400 Tenth Street, Room 121
Sacramento, CA 95814

Lead Agency: Tulare County Resource Management Agency
5961 South Mooney Boulevard
Visalia, CA 93277 Ph: (559) 624-7000
Attn: hguerra@co.tulare.ca.us

Applicant: Tulare County Resource Management Agency – Public Works
5961 South Mooney Boulevard
Visalia, CA 93277 Ph: (559) 624-7000

Project Title: M109 over White River Bridge Replacement Project (Project) – Geotechnical Investigations

Project Location - Specific: M109 White River Bridge in White River, Tulare County, CA

Project Location – General: M109 over White River Bridge Replacement Project Area

Project Location City: White River

Project Location County: Tulare

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project: The purpose of the geotechnical investigations is to determine existing conditions and to test the suitability of the ground to support future abutments of the replacement bridge structure. Geotechnical investigation will include six (6) borings, three on the west side of M109 and three on the east side of the M109. No permanent impacts from the geotechnical investigation are anticipated to occur. Borings will require less than 3 square feet of soil disturbance from the six, 6-inch, diameter bore holes. Upon completion, backfill of the borings will be completed with neat cement grout, and native soils, or in accordance with County requirements.

Excluded / Exempt Status:

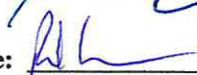
- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268)
- General Rule:
- Categorical Exemption: (14 Cal. Code Regs. CEQA guidelines 15304(f)) (Minor Alterations to Land)
- Statutory Exemptions:

Reasons why project is excluded/exempt: CEQA Guidelines Section 15304(f) sets forth the categorical exemption, which consists of “minor public or private alterations in the conditions of land, water, and/or vegetation which do involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees except for forestry or agricultural purposes.” Subsection (f) specifically notes the process of “minor trenching and backfilling where the surface is restored.” Categorical Exemption 15304(f) is applicable to the proposed geotechnical investigations due to the fact that no healthy, mature, scenic trees will be removed and that all boring activities will be backfilled, and surfaces will be restored to current conditions. Therefore, the use of Section 15304(f) is applicable and appropriate for this project.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Tulare County Resource Management Agency – Public Works

Project Planner/Representative: Jason Vivian, PE, Engineer IV Telephone: (559) 624-7135

Signature:  Date: 7/20/20 Title: Chief Environmental Planner
Hector Guerra (559) 624-7000

Signature:  Date: 7/20/20 Title: Environmental Assessment Officer
Reed Schenke RMA Director
(559) 624-7000

X Signed by Lead Agency

Date filed with OPR/State Clearinghouse: _____