

Notice of Exemption

Fee Exempt per Government Code Section 6103

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

Tulare County Clerk
Room 105, Courthouse
221 South Mooney Boulevard
Visalia, California 93291

Date filed with OPR/SCH

Lead Agency: Tulare County Resource Management Agency
5961 South Mooney Blvd.
Visalia, Ca 93277 (559) 624-7000
Attn: hguerra@tularecountv.ca.gov and jwillis@tularecounty.ca.gov

Applicant(s): County of Tulare Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer
4437 S. Laspina St.
Tulare, CA 93274 (559) 684-3397

Project Title: CDFA Bee Safe Program July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022

Project Location - Specific: Various locations within Tulare County, CA

Project Location- Section, Township, Range: N/A

Project Location - City: N/A

Project Location - County: Tulare

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project: The Tulare County Board of Supervisors (on August 17, 2021) entered into an Agreement with the State of California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) to provide funding for the County of Tulare Agriculture Commissioner's Office to offset costs of the Bee Safe Program activities. Protecting the health of bee hives is critically important to the agricultural industry within Tulare County and the State of California. Implementing the programs as provided by CDFA (i.e., the use of equipment, pesticides, chemicals, personnel, etc.) would mitigate the spread of exotic pests that threaten the apiary industry. As such, the funds will result in a public benefit by providing the actions necessary to protect and promote bee health and a vibrant apiary industry as noted above.

Exempt Status:

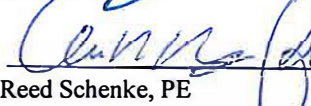
- Ministerial (Sect. 21080(b)(1); 15268; Declared Emergency (Section 21080(b)(3); 15269(a)); Emergency Project (Section 21080(b)(4); OR 15269(b)(c)) Statutory Exemptions
- Common Sense Exemption: CEQA guidelines 15061 (b)(3)
- Categorical Exemption Section 15307 Actions by Regulatory Agencies for Protection of Natural Resources and 15308 Actions by Regulatory Agencies for Protection of the Environment:

Reasons why project is exempt: This action is consistent with CEQA Guidelines (California Administrative Code, Title 14, Division 6) Sections 15307 and 15308. Further, CDFA certified a Final Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) for the Statewide Plant Pest Prevention and Management Program as an ongoing effort by CDFA to protect California's agriculture from damage caused by invasive pest species. CDFA also certified Addendum No. 1 (on July 15, 2016) and Addendum No. 2 (on April 17, 2017) to the PEIR. As such, the use of Sections 15307 Actions by Regulatory Agencies for Protection of Natural Resources and 15308 Actions by Regulatory Agencies for Protection of the Environment are appropriate and applicable.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: County of Tulare, Resource Management Agency

Project Representative: Marianna Gentert, Deputy Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer Telephone: 559-684-3358

Signature:  Date: 8/11/21 Title: Chief Environmental Planner
Hector Guerra

Signature:  Date: 8-11-21 Title: Environmental Assessment Officer
Reed Schenke, PE RMA Director

Signed by Lead Agency

Date received for filing at OPR: 8/11/21