

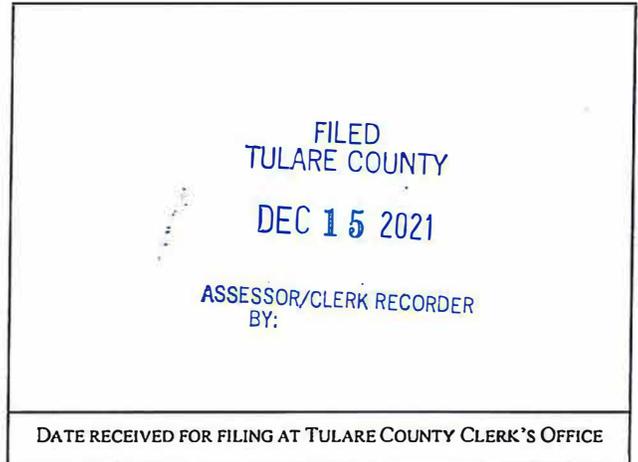
NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

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 Blvd.
Visalia, CA 93291

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



Applicant(s): Tulare County Public Works
5961 S. Mooney Blvd.
Visalia, CA 93277
Phone: 559-624-7121

Project Title: Avenue 174 Friant-Kern Canal Bridge Replacement (Bridge 46C-0263)

Project Location - Specific: The Project is located in Caltrans District 6 within Tulare County. Bridge 46C-0263 carries Avenue 174/Linda Vista Avenue over the over the Friant-Kern Canal. Avenue 174/Linda Vista Avenue is a two-lane paved road in the southern San Joaquin Valley approximately one (1) mile north of the City of Porterville. The Project is located within the USGS 7.5-Minute Porterville Quadrangle and within Sections 9 and 16 Township 21 S, Range 27 E, MDBM. The approximate center point of the bridge is located at GPS coordinates for the bridge (in decimal degrees) are 36.105624 (latitude) and -119.058911 (longitude).

Project Location- Section, Township, Range: Section 9, Township 16S, Range 27E MDBM

Project Location - City: Unincorporated Tulare county

Project Location - County: Tulare

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project: The County of Tulare (County) plans to replace Bridge 46C-0263 over the Friant-Kern Canal on Avenue 174. The project will include the replacement of the deficient two-lane concrete bridge and the widening and improvement of existing roadway approaches on either side of the bridge. The bridge would provide a 12-foot lane and 4-foot shoulder in each direction, would incorporate an open style bridge railing (similar to Caltrans Standard Plan B11-60 or B11-61), and would be approximately 108 feet long. In addition, approach work would extend approximately 600 feet to the east and west of the bridge and roadway approaches would be widened from the existing 20 feet to 32 feet to accommodate two 12-foot lanes and two 4-foot shoulders. Some modifications would be required at private property access points and driveways to tie into the roadway. Utility poles along the approach roadways (power and communication lines). would be relocated as required and would be conducted in coordination with the service providers. The beneficiaries of the Project would be any persons using vehicular travel (personal, work-related, agricultural-related, commerce, etc.) over the bridge to travel across the Friant-Kern Canal at Avenue 174 and to fulfill water delivery requirements of Central Valley Project contracts.

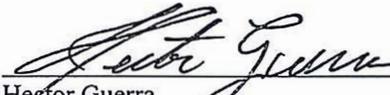
Exempt Status: (check one)

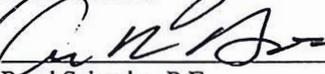
- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
- Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
- Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- General Rule: CEQA Guidelines 15061(b)(3)
- Categorical Exemption: CEQA Guidelines Class 2 Section 15302 Replacement or Reconstruction
- Statutory Exemptions:

Reasons why project is exempt: This action Avenue 174 bridge replacement project is consistent with a Final Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report for the Friant-Kern Canal Middle Reach Capacity Correction Project, (EIS/EIR 18-057/State Clearinghouse No. 2019120007). The EIS/EIR was approved/certified by the Friant Water Authority (as lead agency) on October 22, 2020, and a CEQA Notice of Determination (NOD) was filed with the Tulare County Clerk's office on October 23, 2020. The EIS/EIR addressed canal enlargement and realignment (CER) of the Friant-Kern Canal and the construction-related activities, including bridge replacement, raising embankments, acquisition of easements, etc., of the Project. This action is consistent with Class 2 Section 15302, Replacement or Reconstruction (c), as activities associated with the project will include replacement of existing facilities with negligible or no expansion of capacity. Also, consistent with Section 15300.4, Application by Public Agencies, the County of Tulare Board of Supervisors adopted an exemption for the construction of the aforementioned facilities per the Tulare County Guidelines for the Implementation of California Environmental Quality Act of 1970, Number 300 Section 111. CATEGORICAL EXEMPTIONS Class 2: Replacement or Reconstruction. Therefore, the use of Title 14, Cal. Code Regulations Section 15302, Class 2, pertaining to Replacement or Reconstruction (c) is applicable and appropriate.

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

Project Planner/Representative: Jason Vivian, Project Manager **Area Code/Telephone:** (559) 624-7135

By:  Date: 12/14/20 Title: Chief Environmental Planner
Hector Guerra

By:  Date: 12.14.20 Title: Environmental Assessment Officer/
RMA Director
Reed Schenke, P.E.

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Signed by Lead Agency