

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

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 and jwillis@tularecounty.ca.gov

FILED TULARE COUNTY MAR 31 2022 ASSESSOR/CLERK RECORDER BY: DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING AT TULARE COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE

Applicant(s): H & R Partnership
11188 Road 192
Porterville, CA 93257 (559) 784-8916

Project Title: Agricultural Well for the Richard W. Merritt Property (CEQ 22-004)

Project Location - Specific: The project is located at 13235 Road 216, approximately 1,360 feet south of Avenue 136 (Scranton Ave) and 40 feet west of Road 216, near the City of Porterville. (APN 302-090-005)

Project Location- Section, Township, Range: Section 7, Township 22S, Range 27E

Project Location - City: Porterville **Project Location - County:** Tulare

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project: The project site is located within the Porterville Urban Area Boundary, and is zoned AE-20 (Exclusive Agriculture – 20 Acre Minimum). The property owner is constructing a new well to supply the property with water for the agricultural uses consistent with the existing zoning. Tulare County Solid Waste consultant suggests extending the annular well seal from the ground surface to >150 feet below ground surface (bgs). Sealing off the shallow-zone in an area, where water levels could increase in the future, will 1) reduce the potential for lateral migration of shallow groundwater (>150 ft bgs) under pumping conditions; and 2) eliminate this well as a vertical conduit for potential regional contaminants in the shallow aquifer to migrate downward into better quality water zones as required by California Well Standards (Department of Water Resources, Bulletin 74). The extended seal will minimally-impact well yield since only the bottom 10-30 feet of the suggested sealed zone is in first groundwater in current groundwater conditions. Tulare County Solid Waste recommends placing the seal through a tremie pipe.

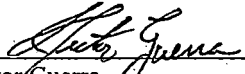
Exempt Status: (check one)

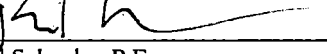
- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
- Categorical Exemption: CEQA Guidelines Class 3 Section 15303 New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures
- Statutory Exemptions:

Reasons why project is exempt: This action is consistent with Section 15303 Class 3, New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures; in this instance, the new structure will provide irrigation water for the AE-10 (Exclusive Agriculture – 10 Acre Minimum) zoned property. Also, construction of wells are subject to Tulare County Ordinance Code Part IV. Health, Safety and Sanitation Chapter 13. Construction of Wells. Therefore, the application of CEQA Section 15303 is applicable and appropriate for this project.

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

Project Planner/Representative: Hector Guerra, Chief Environmental Planner **Telephone:** (559) 624-7121

Signature:  Date: 03/30/22 Title: Chief Environmental Planner
Hector Guerra

Signature:  Date: 3/31/22 Title: Environmental Assessment Officer
Reed Schenke, P.E. RMA Director

Signed by Lead Agency

Date submitted to the OPR/SCH: 3/31/22