

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 and jwillis@tularecounty.ca.gov

Applicant(s): Tulare County Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer
4437 South Laspina Street Ste A
Tulare Ca 9374 (559) 684-3350

Project Title: CDFA Area Wide Glassy-Winged Sharpshooter Control Program FY 22/23 & 23/24

Project Location - Specific: Tulare County

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

Project Location - City: Tulare County, CA **Project Location - County:** Tulare

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project: The Tulare County Board of Supervisors on (July 1, 2022) entered into an Agreement with the State of California Department of Food & Agriculture (CDFA) to provide funding for the County of Tulare Agricultural Commissioner's Office to offset costs of providing and continuing the area wide pest management program to mitigate the presence of Glassy-winged Sharpshooter (GWSS). The continuation of this program is important in substantially reducing the populations of GWSS in order to decrease the potential for the spread of Pierce's Disease. The detection and treatment of this invasive Pest is critically important to the agricultural industry within Tulare County and State of California. Implementing the programs as provided by CDFA (i.e., providing grower reimbursements for those who participate in this program for pre-approved treatment costs) would mitigate the spread of the invasive GWSS Pest that threaten the Agricultural Industry. As such, the funds will result in a public benefit by supporting the actions necessary to mitigate the invasive GWSS Pest and protect the Agricultural Industry as noted above.

Exempt Status: (check one)

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
- Common Sense Rule: CEQA guidelines 15061(b)(3)
- Categorical Exemption: CEQA Guidelines Class 1 Section 15308 Actions by Regulatory Agencies for Protection of the Environment
- Statutory Exemptions:

Reasons why project is exempt: The CDFA certified a Final Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) Project No. 11001 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 plant species. This program provides reimbursement to Tulare County growers that are using licensed Pest Control Advisors (PCA's) and licensed applicators to apply pre-approved chemicals targeted to control the invasive Glassy-winged Sharpshooter pest in their orchards. This action is consistent with CEQA Guidelines (California Administrative CODE, Title 14; ss such, the use of Section 15308 Actions by Regulatory Agencies for Protection of the Environment is appropriate and applicable.

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

Project Planner/Representative: Christopher P. Greer, Assistant Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer
Telephone: (559) 684-3350

Signature: Aaron R. Bock
Aaron R. Bock, MCRP, JD, LEED AP

Date: 6.28.2022

Title: Assistant Director, Economic Development and Planning

Signature: Reed Schenke, P.E.
Reed Schenke, P.E.

Date: 6.30.22

Title: Environmental Assessment Officer
RMA Director

Signed by Lead Agency

Date submitted to the OPR/SCH: 6/30/22

<p>FILED TULARE COUNTY</p> <p>JUN 30 2022</p> <p>ASSESSOR/CLERK RECORDER BY:</p>
<p>DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING AT TULARE COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE</p>