

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@tularecountv.ca.gov and jwillis@tularecounty.ca.gov

Applicant(s): Tulare County Public Works
5961 South Mooney Blvd.
Visalia, CA 93277 (559) 624-7000

Project Title: Road 67 Operational Improvements

Project Location - Specific: Road 67/Betty Dr intersection and west side of Road 67 (between Betty Dr. and Fig St.).

Project Location- Section, Township, Range: Section 24, Township 18S, Range 23E, M.D.M.

Project Location - City: In and near the unincorporated community of Goshen, CA **Project Location - County:** Tulare

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project: The Project consists of improvements at the northeast quadrant and southwest quadrant of the intersection of Road 67 and Betty Dr., the west approach traffic median of Betty Dr. and the west side of the south approach of Road 67 (approximately 250'). The Project would reconstruct the existing median west of the intersection on Betty Dr. to accommodate an additional eastbound left turn lane on Betty Dr. and an eastbound right turn lane on Betty Dr., add a westbound right turn lane on Road 67 at the northeast quadrant, traffic signal modifications, underground drainage construction, a concrete retaining wall (spanning approximately 200 feet along the north side of Betty Dr.), the addition of 6 streetlights on Betty Dr., between Road 67 and Robinson Road, and concrete/asphaltic improvements. The concrete improvements involve the construction of curb and gutter, sidewalk, driveways, and median curbs on all roads. They will span approximately 250 feet easterly on Betty Dr., 250 feet southerly on Road 67, and 650 feet westerly on Betty Dr. Asphaltic improvements will consist of pavement sections ranging in width from 4 feet to 25 feet on Betty Dr. & 4 feet to 10 feet on Road 67. The intersection widening element of Road 67 and Betty Dr. will accommodate design vehicles (i.e. CA Legal 65 truck) and maintain accessibility for pedestrians/bicyclists.

Also, the Project would require the acquisition of one temporary construction easement for construction for APN 075-050-037 (see EX A), the acquisition of two underlying fee frontage areas along Road 67, and right of way takes from two parcels (APN 075-050-037 and APN 075-050-006, see EX A & EX B respectively). Utility relocations will consist mainly of utility vault adjustments at the southwest quadrant, along the south side of Betty Dr. and the west side of Road 67 and the relocation of a traffic signal service pedestal at the northeast quadrant.

It is noted that the project is generally consistent with and implements the adopted/certified Goshen Community Plan 2018 Update Environmental Impact Report approved by the Tulare County Board of Supervisors on June 5, 2018 (Resolution No. 2018-0392). As summarized below in the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP) – 8 Betty Drive/Road 67:

- Widen the northbound approach to 1 left turn lane and 1 through lane with a shared right (adding 1 left turn lane)
- Widen the southbound approach to 1 left-through lane and 1 right turn lane with overlap phasing* (adding 1 right turn lane)
- Widen the eastbound approach to 1 left turn lane*, 2 through lanes, and 1 right turn lane (adding 1 right turn lane)
- Widen the westbound approach to 1 left turn lane, 2 through lanes, and 1 right turn lane (adding 1 right turn lane)

<p>FILED TULARE COUNTY</p> <p>JUL 13 2022</p> <p>ASSESSOR/CLERK RECORDER BY:</p>
<p>DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING AT TULARE COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE</p>

*Supplemental traffic analyses for the Valley Fuel Travel Plaza and Western Milling CNG station found that certain intersection improvements recommended in the Goshen Community plan, including the addition of third eastbound thru lane and overlap phasing for the southbound right turn movement were determined to be unfeasible, and in place of the Community Plan recommendations, dual eastbound left turn lanes would provide acceptable levels of service under cumulative (build-out) conditions.

Thus, this project will enhance the safety and security of the public by improving the transportation infrastructure (e.g., better surface drainage, smooth riding surface, striping visibility, and greater pavement structural capacity) for the general population throughout the region and motorists using these facilities. Construction is anticipated to begin during the Summer of 2023 and completed in approximately 50 working days. It is anticipated that traffic management will require one-lane closure on Betty Drive in both directions (westbound and eastbound), and Road 67 in both directions (northbound and southbound) limiting travel to one (1) lane in both directions for approximately three (3) weeks. Delays are anticipated; however, construction will not result in full closure of Betty Drive or Road 67 to traffic and emergency responders will be given priority of passage as appropriate.

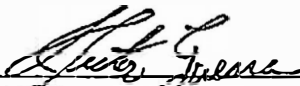
Exempt Status: (check one)


- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
- Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
- Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- Common Sense Rule: CEQA guidelines 15061(b)(3)
- Categorical Exemption: CEQA Guidelines Class 1 Section 15301 Existing Facilities (c); and Section 15300.4 Application by Public Agencies**
- Statutory Exemptions:

Reasons why project is exempt: This action is consistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15301 Class 1, Existing Facilities (c) Existing highways and streets, sidewalks, gutters, bicycle and pedestrian trails, and similar facilities. Also, consistent with CEQA Guidelines 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, Section 300 Class 1(c)(2)(7), and (14); and Class 2(e). Therefore, the use of CEQA Section 15301 and Tulare County Guidelines for the Implementation of CEQA of 1970, Section 300 (c)(2)(7), and (14); and Class 2(e) are applicable and appropriate for this project.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Tulare County Board of Supervisors

Project Planner/Representative: Michael Winton, Engineer IV **Telephone:** 559-624-7107

Signature:  Date: 07/12/22 Title: Chief Environmental Planner
Hector Guerra

Signature:  Date: 7/12/22 Title: Environmental Assessment Officer
Reed Schenke, P.E. RMA Director

Signed by Lead Agency Date submitted to OPR: _____