

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

FILED TULARE COUNTY SEP 14 2022 ASSESSOR/CLERK RECORDER BY:
DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING AT TULARE COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE

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 Public Works
5961 South Mooney Blvd.
Visalia, CA 93277 (559) 624-7000

Project Title: Avenue 144 & Road 96 Roundabout Project

Project Location - Specific: The project site is located at the intersection of Avenue 144 & Road 96, 2.5 miles west of Tipton in Tulare County.

Project Location- Section, Township, Range: S 3&4, T 22S, R 24E & Por. T22S, R 23E; Sec 33 & 34, T 21 S, R 24E; and S1/2 Sec 35, T21 S, R24E

Project Location - City: West of the unincorporated community of Tipton, CA

Project Location - County: Tulare

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project: The project consists of safety improvements at the intersection of Avenue 144 and Road 96. Project includes the removal of a two-way stop-controlled intersection by converting the intersection into a single lane rural roundabout, the installation of ADA compliant ramp facilities within project limits, and related improvements (e.g., signing, striping, etc.). The project would require the acquisition of right-of-way and temporary easements for construction from four adjacent parcels, which consist of less than two acres of agriculturally productive land, to accommodate intersection widening associated with the installation of the roundabout. Construction activities will include roadway excavation, placement of aggregate base and pavement, construction of roadside drainage swales, lighting, and signing/striping installations. Other components of the project include the removal of a tree, the abandonment of one agricultural well and the relocation of three utility (distribution) poles. Other utility relocations such as phone/cable pedestals, and telephone manhole grade adjustment will be required as well. Traffic may be diverted using directional detours during construction. Detour routes may include Road 80, Road 112, Avenue 152, and Avenue 128. Traffic may be detoured for up to 6-7 miles. Construction is anticipated to begin during the 1st Quarter of 2024 and is anticipated to take between nine and twelve months.

Exempt Status: *(check one)*

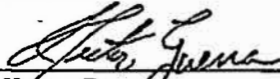
- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
- Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
- Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- Common Sense Rule: CEQA guidelines 15061(b)(3)
- Categorical Exemption: CEQA Guidelines Class 1 Section 15301 Existing Facilities (c)
- Statutory Exemptions:

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 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)(7)(10)(14), and (15); and Class 2(e). Therefore, the application of CEQA Section 15301 and Tulare County Guidelines for the Implementation of CEQA of 1970, Section 300 Class 1(c)(7)(10)(14), and (15); 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: 
Hector Guerra

Date: 09/13/22

Title: Chief Environmental Planner

Signature: 
Reed Schenke, P.E.

Date: 09/14/22

Title: Environmental Assessment Officer
RMA Director

Signed by Lead Agency

Date submitted to OPR: _____