

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

Fee Exempt per Government Code Section 6103

To: Office of Planning and Research
1400 Tenth Street, Room 121
Sacramento, CA 95814
Via ceqanet.opr.ca.gov/

Tulare County Clerk
Room 105, Courthouse
221 South Mooney Blvd.
Visalia, CA 93291

Lead Agency: County of Tulare c/o Resource Management Agency
5961 S. Mooney Blvd.
Visalia, CA 93277 (559) 624-7000
Attn: hguerrra@tularecounty.ca.gov and jwillis@tularecounty.ca.gov

Applicant(s): Tulare County Resource Management Agency
5961 S. Mooney Blvd.
Visalia, CA 93277 (559) 624-7000

Project Title: Tulare County Local Hazard Mitigation Plan Update

Project Location – Specific: N/A

Project Location- Section, Township, Range: all within Tulare County

Project Location - City: County-wide Project Location - County: Tulare

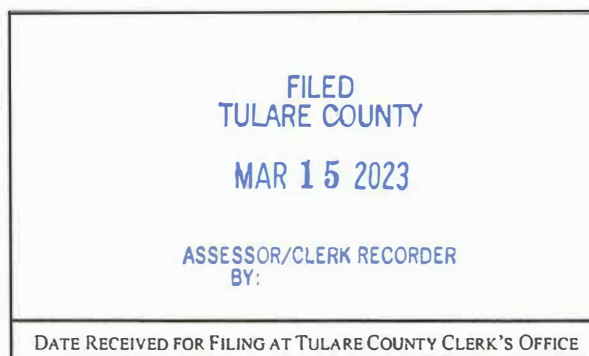
Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project: The project is the adoption of the 2023 Tulare County Local Hazard Mitigation Plan Update (LHMP) and amendment of the Tulare County General Plan (GPA No. 22-007). The Disaster Mitigation Act (DMA) of 2000 (Public Law 106-390) requires local governments to develop and adopt pre-disaster mitigation plans to minimize property damage and risk to the public that might result from the effects of natural or man-made disaster. Local communities must prepare LHMPs and update them in accordance with the Federal Act to remain eligible for FEMA mitigation project grants. The related General Plan Amendment adopts the LHMP into the General Plan by reference.

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:
- Statutory Exemptions: CEQA Guidelines Section 15262 Feasibility and Planning Studies

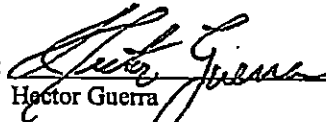
Reasons Why Project/Activity is Exempt: The proposed project/planning activity is exempt from the provisions of the CEQA Guidelines pursuant to the provisions of Title 14 of the California Administrative Code, Section 15061(b)(3)(Common Sense Exemption) and Section 15262 (Feasibility and Planning Studies), each on a separate and independent basis. The LHMP identifies hazard risk and offers a mitigation strategy of possible future actions the County and planning partners may take to reduce hazard risk depending on funding and staffing availability. Some of the mitigation actions may be implemented through regulatory mechanisms and some through education programs, interagency coordination, or public participation. Environmental factors were considered in preparation of the LHMP and are considered throughout the document.

The Common Sense exemption applies because it can be seen with certainty that the adoption of the LHMP and its' incorporation into the General Plan by reference, will not have a significant effect on the environment. The LHMP is a planning study which informs the County and its planning partners of vulnerabilities to natural hazards and potential future actions to mitigate risks. Adoption of the LHMP is exempt from CEQA under Section 15262 because its adoption is not a commitment to any future mitigation action, nor is it a decision to approve, adopt, or fund any of the potential mitigation actions identified. No exceptions listed under Section 15300.2 apply to this activity. This Notice of Exemption is filed pursuant to the provisions of Section 15062 (Notice of Exemption) of the State CEQA Guidelines.



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

Project Planner/Representative: Aaron Bock, RMA Assistant Director Telephone: (559) 624-7000

Signature:  Date: 03/15/23 Title: Chief Environmental Planner
Hector Guerra

Signature: Aaron R. Bock For Date: 3.15.2023 Title: Environmental Assessment Officer
Reed Schenke, P.E. RMA Director

Signed by Lead Agency

Date submitted to the OPR/SCH: _____