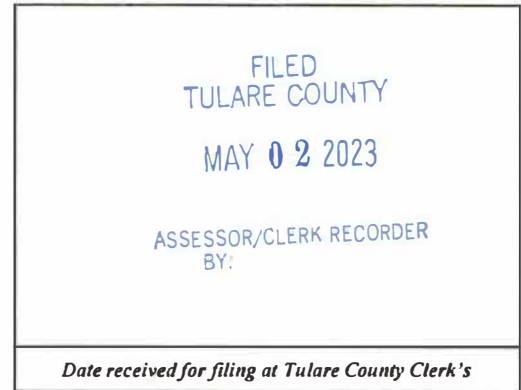


Notice of Exemption

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 Boulevard
Visalia, California 93291



Lead Agency: Tulare County – Resource Management Agency
5961 South Mooney Blvd.
Visalia, CA 93277
(559) 624-7000

Applicant(s): County of Tulare c/o Resource Management Agency
Public Works Branch
5961 South. Mooney Blvd.
Visalia, CA 93277
(559) 624-7000 Attn. hguerra@tularecounty.ca.gov and jwillis@tularecounty.ca.gov

Activity/Project Title: West Goshen Emergency Water Supply Consolidation Project

Activity / Project Location – Specific: West Goshen, CA in Tulare County

Activity / Project Location- Section, Township, Range: Por. NE. ¼ of Section 22, Township 18 South, Range 24 East and Section 23 & 24, Township 18 South, Range 23 East; M.D.B.&M.

Activity / Project Location – City: NA / unincorporated community of West Goshen, CA

Activity / Project Location - County: Tulare County

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Activity / Project: The Project consists of extending the water mains from the Cal Water Visalia Service Area into the Community of West Goshen. The Project includes installing approximately 6,500 feet of an 8-inch Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC) water main, approximately 2,200 feet of a 12-inch Ductile Iron Pipe (DIP) water main, approximately 53 metered service connections (main to meters), approximately 4,400 feet of private service lines, and approximately 20 backflow preventers and the destruction of approximately ten wells. Also, five wells that supplied seven households are currently dry. In addition, all the wells (12) that supply 27 households have exceeded the maximum contaminant level (MCL) for one or more of the following constituents: nitrate, uranium, and 1,2,3-Tricholopropane. The community is currently relying on hauled water or water from neighboring properties. The Project will provide a sustainable source of water for the Community of West Goshen during drought conditions and also provides a reliable/safe drinking source for all West Goshen residents. Further, this Project is consistent with the West Goshen Hamlet Plan 2017 (adopted via Tulare County Board of Supervisors Resolution 2017-0976, December 5, 2017) to increase water system improvement (e.g., water distribution piping, storage tank, other appurtenances) as funding becomes available. This project is supported by California Water Service Company (Cal Water); the current provider of water service following consolidation with the former West Goshen Mutual Water Company.

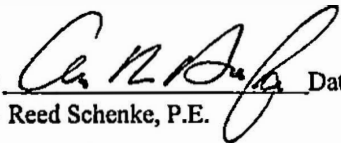
Exempt Status:

- Ministerial (PRC Sections 21080(b)(1); 15268);
- Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b), (2), (3), (4); 15269(a), (b), (c); 15359);
- Emergency Project (PRC Sections 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- Categorical Exemptions 14 Cal. Code Regs. Section 15303(d) New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures (per PRC 21080.47)
- Statutory Exemptions: N/A.

Reasons Why Activity/Project are Exempt from CEQA: The proposed project is excluded or exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) on the grounds that the project is consistent with Section 15303(d) New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures (per PRC 21080.47) as the overall intent is to provide a reliable, safe-drinking, and sustainable water supply for the community of West Goshen. In support of this determination, it is noted that the California Water Boards cites to Senate Bill 974 Public Resource Code § 21080.47 as it pertains to exemption of certain projects that consist solely of the installation, repair, or reconstruction of water infrastructure from CEQA.

Name of Public Agency Approving Activity / Project: Tulare County Resource Management Agency
Activity/Project Representative: Denise England, Grants & Resource Manager - Telephone: (559) 624-7035

Signature:  Date: 05/12/23 Title: Chief Environmental Planner
Hector Guerra

Signature:  Date: 5.2.23 Title: RMA Director
Aaron Bock for Reed Schenke, P.E. Environmental Assessment Officer

Signed by Lead Agency

Date filed at OPR: _____