

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: County of Tulare c/o Resource Management Agency
5961 S. 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: Emergency Road and Bridge Repairs Related to March 2023 Storm Event Damages

Project Location: Various road and bridges located throughout Tulare County

- Mountain Road 109 (M109) over White River Bridge, approximately 8 mile south of Fountain Springs.
- Road 224 over Deer Creek, approximately 1 mile south of Avenue 112.
- Road 248 over Deer Creek, approximately 1 mile south of Avenue 120 near the City of Porterville.
- Pratt St. (Road 96) over Tule River, approximately 2 miles south of Avenue 184 near the City of Tulare.
- M357A Mineral King Road from State Route 198 to Sequoia Gate (mile post .65), northeast of Three Rivers.
- M99 from Tulare County Line to M50 (mile post 20.5), located north of the community of Kernville.
- M208A Wishon Drive from SR 190 to mile post 4.23, located northwest of the community of Springville.

Project Location County: Tulare

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project: The County of Tulare (County) experienced a series of rainstorms (atmospheric rivers) beginning in January of 2023, causing significant and widespread flooding and damage to critical transportation infrastructure. The Resource Management Agency (RMA) staff has identified over 225 locations, including three bridges, in need of critical emergency repairs as a result of the March 2023 storm events.

Exempt Status: (check one)

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
- Declared Emergency (PRC Sec. 21080(b)(3); California Code of Regulations, sections 15269(a) and (c));
- Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- Common Sense Rule: CEQA guidelines 15061(b)(3)
- Categorical Exemption:
- Statutory Exemptions:

Reasons why project is exempt: This activity/project is intended and necessary to protect the health and safety of the public through the construction of replacement bridges and roads (as noted earlier) due to severe damage caused by catastrophic floodwater flows during March 2023. Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations (CCR), section 15269, sets forth emergency projects that are exempt from the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). California Governor Gavin Newsom proclaimed a State of Emergency on March 4, March 8, and March 13, 2023 which included Tulare County. President Joseph R. Biden, Jr. declared an emergency for the State of California on March 10, 2023 for the California counties consistent with Governor Newsom's proclamations. Lastly, the Tulare County Board of Supervisors (Board) proclaimed a Local Emergency due to Winter Storms and Flooding March 9, 2023. As noted above, the President, Governor, and Board of Supervisors all declared emergencies due to the severe damage caused by catastrophic flooding. At their meeting of May 16, 2023, the Board approved Resolution No. 2023-0424 The construction of the new replacement bridges and roads fall within the scope of CCR sections 15269 (a) and (c) as they are specific actions necessary to prevent or mitigate an emergency. As such the activity/project is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to

FILED
TULARE COUNTY

MAY 17 2023

ASSESSOR/CLERK RECORDER
BY:

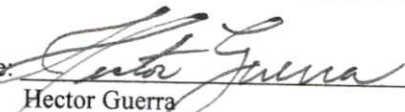
DATE FILED AT TULARE COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE

Title 14 California Code of Regulations, section 15269 (Emergency). Therefore, the application of CEQA sections 15269(b) and (c) are applicable and appropriate for this project.

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

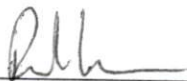
Project Planner/Representative: Reed Schenke, RMA Director

Telephone: 559-624-7135

Signature: 
Hector Guerra

Date: 05/17/23

Title: Chief Environmental Planner

Signature: 
Reed Schenke, P.E.

Date: 5/17/23

Title: Environmental Assessment Officer
RMA Director

Signed by Lead Agency

Date submitted to OPR: _____