

Alexandra Owens



From: Zachariasen, Judith@DOC <Judith.Zachariasen@conservation.ca.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, December 20, 2023 8:53 AM
To: gmills@tularecounty.ca.gov
Cc: OLRA@DOC; OPR State Clearinghouse
Subject: East Orosi Community Services District Water Supply and Infrastructure Project - SCH No. 2023100252

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Dear Gary Mills,

The California Geological Survey (CGS) has received the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) for the Tulare County East Orosi Community Services District Water Supply and Infrastructure Project. This email conveys the following recommendations from CGS concerning geologic issues related to the project area:

1. Seismic-related Ground Failure Hazards

In the section titled "Seismic-related Ground Failure" in Section 3.4.7, the IS/MND reports that the city is not located in a "seismic hazard zone," as depicted on a map (Figure 10-5) included in the Tulare County General Plan. The seismic hazard zones depicted in this map appear to have been defined by the county in the 1970s, based on criteria utilized at that time. The IS/MND concludes, based on this, that there is no hazard from seismically induced ground failure, which includes liquefaction, dry seismic settlement, and soil compaction. However, the General Plan also notes that no countywide assessments to identify liquefaction hazards have been performed in Tulare County. Furthermore, the state has also not yet evaluated the area in and around the project location for seismic hazard zoning under the Seismic Hazards Mapping Act; we note that the lack of a CGS zone does not indicate a determination that there is no hazard. CGS recommends that the final MND be revised to clarify the lack of recent evaluation by the state or county regarding seismically induced ground failure and should independently address this hazard as it relates to the proposed project elements.

If you have any additional comments or questions, please feel free to call or email.

Thank you,
Judy Zachariasen



Judith Zachariasen, PhD, PG, CEG

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