

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@tularecountv.ca.gov and jwillis@tularecountv.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 roads and bridges located throughout Tulare County as per Attachment "A"

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)

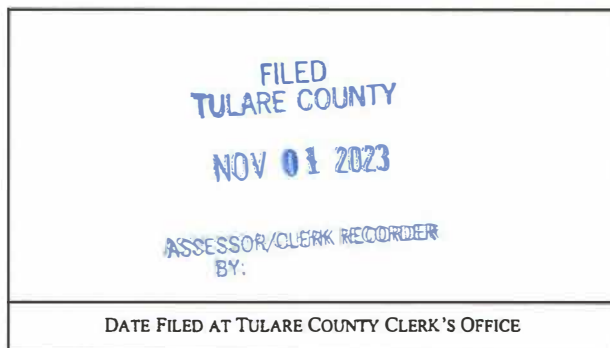
- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
- Declared **Emergency (PRC Sec. 21080(b)(3); California Code of Regulations, sections 15269(a) and (c));**
- Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- Common Sense Rule: CEQA guidelines 15061(b)(3)
- Categorical Exemption:
- Statutory Exemptions:


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 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

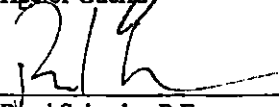
Telephone: 559-624-7135



Signature: 
Hector Guerra

Date: 10/31/23

Title: Chief Environmental Planner

Signature: 
Reed Schenke, P.E.

Date: 10/31/23

Title: Environmental Assessment Officer
RMA Director

Signed by Lead Agency

Date submitted to OPR: _____

Attachment A: Project Locations

- Road 256 over Deer Creek, approximately 0.8 miles north of Avenue 104 near the City of Porterville.
- Redwood Drive from mile post 0.0 to mile post 7.3, located north of the unincorporated community of Camp Nelson.
- Reservation Road near mile post 7.9, located approximately 11 miles southeast of the City of Porterville.
- Ferguson Drive from mile post 0.0 to mile post 0.22, located in the unincorporated community of Camp Nelson.
- Mariposa Drive from mile post 0.0 to mile post 0.19, located west of the unincorporated community of Camp Nelson.
- Bear Creek Road from mile post 7.0 to mile post 17.0, located approximately 7 miles northeast of the unincorporated community of Springville.
- Balch Park Road from mile post 28.3 to mile post 38.0, located approximately 9 miles northeast of the unincorporated community of Springville.
- Lower Globe Drive at Tule River and Upper Globe Drive at Tule River from mile post 0.08 to mile post 0.36, located in the unincorporated community of Springville.
- Pierce Valley Drive between mile post 0.2 to mile post 1.14, located in the unincorporated community of Badger.
- Eshom Valley Drive between mile post 1.49 to mile post 10.24, located in the unincorporated community of Badger.
- Whitaker Forest Road between mile post 2.81 and mile post 12.33, located in the unincorporated community of Badger.
- Mountain Road 112 (M112) at Deer Creek, located approximately 10 miles southeast of the City of Porterville.
- Blue Ridge Drive between mile post 0.5 to mile post 8.0, located approximately 10 miles north of the unincorporated community of Springville.
- Old Stage Drive (M3), located in the unincorporated community of Posey.
- Avenue 404 at Cottonwood Creek, located approximately 8 miles northwest of the City of Woodlake.
- Diagonal 60 (D60) at Cross Creek, located approximately 4 miles north of the unincorporated community of Goshen.
- Great Western Divide Hwy (M107), located approximately 3 radial miles northwest of the unincorporated community of Johnsondale.
- Osborn Ct at Eshom Creek, located in the unincorporated community of Badger.
- Globe Drive (M172A); upper and lower
- Wishon Drive (M191C)
- Ferguson Drive (M167C)
- Yokohl Valley Drive (M296)
- Balch Park Road (M296)
- Bear Creek Road (M220)

- Coy Flat Drive (M192A)
- Airport Bridge over North Fork Kaweah (M363A)
- North Fork Drive "Bailey" Bridge over North Fork Kaweah (M357)
- South Fork Drive "Connelly" Bridge over Kaweah River (M348)
- South Fork Drive at Cinnamon Creek (M348)
- Whitaker Forest Road
- Eshom Valley Drive (M469)
- Stage Coach Drive (M453)
- Mineral King Road (M375A)
- Reservation Road (M137)
- Manter Meadows at Capinero Creek (M56)
- M50 from M107 to M99