

**NOTICE OF PREPARATION AND NOTICE OF SCOPING MEETING,  
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** of Tulare County's intent to prepare a Draft Focused Environmental Impact Report (EIR). A public scoping meeting will be held on Thursday, December 28, 2023, at 1:30 p.m., to receive oral comments concerning the scope of this EIR in the Main Conference Room of the Resource Management Agency at 5961 South Mooney Blvd., Visalia, California 93277-9394. The scoping meeting can also be attended via phone conference at (559) 624-7116.

1. **PROJECT:** Touchstone Pistachio Modification
2. **APPLICANT/AGENT:** Touchstone Pistachio/Jeff Roberts, Assemi Group
3. **PROJECT LOCATION:** The proposed project is located at 19570 Avenue 88, Terra Bella, CA 93270 and situated on a ±46-acre site north of Avenue 88 (between Road 192 and Queen Road), west of the Friant-Kern Canal, approximately four (4) miles west of unincorporated community of Terra Bella in Tulare County. The project site is located on Tulare County APNs 319-130-024 and 319-130-025. The site is within the Section 2, Township 23 South, Range 26 East, MDBM., outside of any County Urban Development Boundary.
4. **PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** The following is a summary of the proposed modifications to the existing pistachio processing facility: addition of a future metal pistachio warehouse/multipurpose building: (max. size 160,000 sq. ft. (200' x 800')); future regrading/paving of the employee parking lot; addition of two future truck scales; and addition of a new "Shipping" office (Approximately 7,280 sq. ft.). The proposed modifications, when implemented, will result in more efficient facility operations for Touchstone and its employees. The proposed modifications would not add employees or truck trips, and it would not result in additional groundwater consumption. The facility will continue its typical operations of 12 hours per day (6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.) except during the harvest period when it operates 24 hours per day. The full project description can be found in the Notice of Preparation (NOP) prepared for the proposed project, which is available at the locations provided below.
5. **ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT:** Notice of Preparation of a Focused Environmental Impact Report. The NOP is available on the County website at:  
<https://tularecounty.ca.gov/rma/planning-building/environmental-planning/environmental-impact-reports/touchstone-pistachio-modification-project/>.
6. **NOTICE OF PREPARATION COMMENT PERIOD:** December 13, 2023 – January 12, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.

All interested parties are invited to attend and be heard. If you have any questions regarding this environmental document please call Gary Mills, Chief Environmental Planner, at (559) 624-7199 (**para Español llame Brenda Alcantar** (559) 624-7000).

If you challenge the decision on any of the foregoing matters in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the Tulare County Resource Management Agency, Economic Development and Planning Branch within the review period described herein.

In compliance with the American Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in meetings call (559) 624-7000 48-hours in advance of the meeting.

GARY MILL, CHIEF ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNER  
REED SCHENKE, P.E., ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT OFFICER