

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: gmills@tularecountv.ca.gov and jwillis@tularecountv.ca.gov

Applicant(s): Tulare County Solid Waste Department
5955 S. Mooney Blvd.
Visalia, CA 93277 (559) 624-7195

Project Title: Report of Waste Discharge (ROWD) Alternative Source for Active Face Dust Control Water, Visalia Landfill, Tulare County, California

Project Location - Specific: Visalia Landfill, 8614 Avenue 328, Visalia, CA 93291 (APNs 077-020-018, 077-020-021, 077-020-024, 077-020-026 and 077-020-030)

Project Location- Section, Township, Range: Section 5, Township 18S, Range 24E

Project Location - City: North of City of Visalia **Project Location - County:** Tulare

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project: Groundwater is currently utilized for dust control operations at the Landfill property which is provided by an on-site well. Based upon data provided by the County, an average of approximately 45,000 gallons per day (GPD) are used for dust control operations. Of this, the County estimates that an average of 8,000 to 12,000 GPD (i.e., two to three 4,000-gallon truck loads) are used for dust control on the active face of WMU-2, with daily water use volumes fluctuating up to 16,000 GPD (i.e., four 4,000-gallon truck loads) contingent upon weather conditions and operational needs. The proposed operations associated with this ROWD include the usage of process wastewater effluent generated at the California Dairy, Inc., (CDI) Facility as an alternate water source for dust control operations within the active face of the WMU. CDI will contract water hauling trucks to transport the processed wastewater effluent from the CDI Facility. The water hauling trucks will be scheduled based upon daily dust control operational requirements and each truck will be equipped with the equipment necessary to apply the process wastewater effluent directly to the active face of WMU-2. No intermediary storage of the process wastewater effluent on the Landfill property is proposed.

The proposed operation provides environmental benefits to both CDI and the County that include reduced groundwater usage, reduced carbon footprint, and reduced food waste by providing resiliency to CDI's operations. Expanding CDI's options for the use of this material provides resiliency to CDI's operations and mitigates potential environmental impacts that may be caused by reduced processing capacity at the CDI Facility if existing outlets are unable to accept CDI's process wastewater effluent. Specifically, if CDI is unable to receive milk or has a reduced capacity to receive milk, then some of CDI's members may be left with no outlet for their milk. In such circumstances, dairymen are left with no other option than to "spill milk" on land. Resiliency is necessary because there are few existing outlets that can receive CDI's process wastewater effluent seven days a week. The proposed operations would be performed through a partnership of and coordination with CDI and the County.

Exempt Status: (check one)


- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
- Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
- Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- Common Sense Rule: CEQA guidelines 15061(b)(3)
- Categorical Exemption: CEQA Guidelines Class 1 Section 15301 Existing Facilities (c)
- Statutory Exemptions: CEQA Guidelines Section 15262 Feasibility and Planning Studies


| |
|--|
| <p>FILED TULARE COUNTY</p> <p>JAN 26 2024</p> <p>ASSESSOR / CLERK-RECORDER BY:</p> <p>DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING AT TULARE COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE</p> |
|--|

Reasons why project is exempt: This action is consistent with Section 15301 Class 1, Existing Facilities, operation, repair maintenance, permitting, leasing, licensing, or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features. In this instance, the project consists of using an alternative water source for dust control operations at a Landfill. It should be noted that any environmental impacts would be offset by mitigation identified in the *Focused Subsequent EIR Visalia Disposal (Landfill) Site and Biogas and Compost Facility – Land Fill Operations SCH#2021020054 (December 2023)*. Therefore, the application of CEQA Section 15301 is applicable and appropriate for this project.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Tulare County Resource Management Agency

Project Planner/Representative: Gary Mills, Chief Environmental Planner **Telephone:** (559) 624-7199

Signature:  Date: 1/24/2024 Title: Chief Environmental Planner
Gary A. Mills

Signature:  Date: 01/26/2024 Title: Environmental Assessment Officer
Reed Schenke, P.E. RMA Director

Signed by Lead Agency Date submitted to the OPR/SCH: _____