

# NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

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@tularecounty.ca.gov](mailto:gmills@tularecounty.ca.gov) and [jwillis@tularecounty.ca.gov](mailto:jwillis@tularecounty.ca.gov)

**Applicant(s):** Lower Tule River Irrigation District  
357 E. Olive Ave  
Tipton, CA 93272 (559) 686-4716

**Project Title:** Tule Subbasin GSA/Tule Basin Water Quality Coalition (TBWQC) Monitoring Well: Drilling - 1 MW (TSMW-4) (CEQ 24-001)

**Project Location - Specific:** The project is located approximately 0.15 miles southwest of Road 192 and Terra Bella Avenue (Avenue 96), and approximately 5 miles west of the community of Terra Bella. (APN 319-100-012)

**Project Location- Section, Township, Range:** Section 27, Township 23S, Range 26E, MDBM

**Project Location - City:** west of the Community of Terra Bella

**Project Location - County:** Tulare

**Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:** The project includes the installation of a groundwater monitoring "single nested" well within the Tule Subbasin compliant with applicable laws and regulations for the California Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program and the California Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). The well has been designed and will be in an area considered "data-gap" based on existing wells and monitoring data. The well was designed to monitor separate confined aquifers underlying the parcel. Well TSMW-4 will be drilled to a depth of 1,360 feet.

**Exempt Status:**

Categorical Exemption: **CEQA Guidelines Class 3 Section 15303 New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures**


**Reasons why project is exempt:**


This action is consistent with Section 15303 Class 3, New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures; as activities associated with the project include the drilling, construction, and testing of the groundwater monitoring well consistent with Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) requirements. Also, construction of a well is subject to Tulare County Ordinance Code Part IV. Health, Safety and Sanitation Chapter 13, Construction of Wells. Therefore, the application of CEQA Section 15303 is applicable and appropriate for this project.

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

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

**Lead Agency Representative:**

Signature:  Date: 2/8/2024 Title: Chief Environmental Planner  
Gary A. Mills

Signature:  Date: 2/8/24 Title: Environmental Assessment Officer  
Reed Schenke, P.E. RMA Director

Signed by Lead Agency

Date submitted to OPR: 2/9/24

<b>FILED TULARE COUNTY</b>
<b>FEB 9 2024</b>
<b>ASSESSOR / CLERK-RECORDER BY:</b>
DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING AT TULARE COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE