

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

FILED TULARE COUNTY
MAR 13 2024
ASSESSOR / CLERK-RECORDER BY:
DATE FILED BY TULARE COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE

Lead Agency: Tulare County
c/o Resource Management Agency
5961 South Mooney Blvd
Visalia, CA 93277 (559) 624-7000
Attn: gmills@tularecounty.ca.gov and jwillis@tularecounty.ca.gov

Applicant(s): Tulare County Public Works
5961 South Mooney Blvd.
Visalia, CA 93277 (559) 624-7000

Project Title: West Sierra Avenue Earlimart CA, LP, Road 88 Indemnification Agreement

Project Location - Specific: Road 88 between Avenue 56 and Avenue 64 (Deer Creek Avenue)

Project Location- Section, Township, Range: Section 27, Township 23S, Range 24E

Project Location - City: unincorporated community of Allensworth, CA (nearest)

Project Location - County: Tulare

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project: West Sierra Avenue Earlimart CA, LP, is proposing to terminate Indemnification Agreement Permit No. 29536, and add a second irrigation pipeline in the County's right-of-way pursuant to a new Indemnification Agreement. Indemnification Agreement No. 29536 was issued in conjunction with an encroachment permit to install one pipeline in the County's right of way. The new Indemnification Agreement provides that the pipelines shall extend one (1) mile north on the east side of Road 88 starting on the south side of Avenue 56 ending at Avenue 64 or Deer Creek Avenue. The County Right-of-Way only extends from south of Avenue 56 half a mile north on the east side of Road 88. The remaining half a mile of pipelines is on private property. The project consists of two 36" PVC pipelines placed in parallel to convey fresh water from Deer Creek to a private farming operation. The pipelines shall be installed a minimum of three (3) feet below the existing ground surface, with minor trenching and backfilling along the one (1) mile length of the pipeline. The upstream end of the pipeline shall be a small turnout structure at Deer Creek to convey water to the landowner.

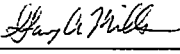
Exempt Status: (check one)

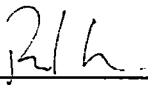
- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
- Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
- Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- Common Sense Rule: CEQA guidelines 15061(b)(3)
- Categorical Exemption: **CEQA Guidelines Cal. 14 Section 15303 (New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures)**
- Statutory Exemptions:

Reasons why project is exempt: The activity/project is consistent with Guidelines Section 15303 because the activity/project is undergrounded pipelines to convey water to a private farming operation using trenching and backfilling (with surface conditions restored to original condition) and jack-and-bore (to minimize traffic disruption and for safety). Further, the activity/project will be required to comply with permitting, regulations, etc., from any entity with jurisdictional authority as applicable. Therefore, it can be reasonably concluded that proposed activity/project is exempt from California Environmental Quality Act per Section 15303.

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

Project Planner/Representative Reed Schenke, P.E. - RMA Director **Telephone:** (559) 624-7000

Signature:  Date: 3/4/2024 Title: Chief Environmental Planner
Gary A. Mills

Signature:  Date: 3/13/24 Title: Environmental Assessment Officer
Reed Schenke, P.E. RMA Director

Signed by Lead Agency

Date submitted to the OPR/SCH: _____