

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@tularecounty.ca.gov and jvillis@tularecounty.ca.gov

Applicant(s): Tulare County General Services Agency
2637 W. Burrell Avenue, Suite 200
Visalia, CA 93291 Ph: (559) 205-1100

Project Title: New Morgue at Hillman Center

Project Location - Specific: 1225 S. O St., Tulare, CA 93274

Project Location- Section, Township, Range: Section 14, Township 20S, Range 24E, MDBM

Project Location - City: Tulare, CA Project Location - County: Tulare

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project: The current Tulare County Sheriff's Office morgue is 980 sq. ft. and was opened in the 1980's. The building originally housed the office of Weights and Measures. It was retrofitted to accommodate the needs of a Coroner's Office at the time. The facility has not had a significant remodel in over thirty (30) years. The Sheriff's Coroner's Office is considered a high-volume "busy" office and is currently forced to hold bodies at mortuaries throughout the County. The new facility will help eliminate additional operating expenses and transport charges and will store all the bodies in one location. The project includes the design of a new, single-story morgue building of approximately 6,000 square feet on an existing site adjacent to other Sheriff's facilities in Tulare, California. The building will contain an autopsy suite with six sinks supporting twin carriers to create three separate cutting stations, histology room with controlled storage, radiology suite for cat-scan and portable x-ray, refrigerated storage for fifty bodies, secure loading area, staff support facilities, administrative areas including three private offices, and public lobby with separate counseling room. Related site improvements will include on-site utility connections, parking, and limited landscaping.

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 3 Section 15303 New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures, and Class 32, Section 15332 In-fill Development Projects
- Statutory Exemptions:


Reasons why project is exempt: This action is consistent with Section 15303 Class 3, New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures and Section 15332 Class 32, In-fill Development Projects. Tulare County General Services will be constructing the New Morgue to provide a modern facility that can accommodate the County's need for storage of bodies in one facility. The proposed facility is less than 10,000 square feet and will comply with Tulare County Environmental Health Division regulations, including a Hazardous Materials Business Plan if necessary. The proposed new morgue will be located within the existing Hillman Center campus in the City of Tulare. The project is consistent with the 2035 Tulare General Plan land use and zoning designations. The project site is currently developed and has no value as habitat for special status species. The site is currently served by utilities and public services and will not result in significant impacts to special status species, traffic, noise, air quality, or water quality. As such, Sections 15303 and 15332 are applicable and appropriate for this project.

FILED TULARE COUNTY
APR 4 2024
ASSESSOR / CLERK-RECORDER BY:
DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING AT TULARE COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE

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

Project Planner/Representative: Mark Van Fossen, Capital Projects Coordinator III Telephone: (559) 205-1140

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

Signature:  Date: 4/4/24 Title: Environmental Assessment Officer
Reed Schenke, P.E. RMA Director

Signed by Lead Agency

Date submitted to the OPR/SCH: _____