



**OFFICE OF  
ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR**

**Quincy Yaley, AICP**  
Environmental Coordinator

48 W. Yaney Avenue, Sonora  
Mailing: 2 S. Green Street  
Sonora, CA 95370  
209 533-5633  
209 533-5616 (fax)  
209 533-5909 (fax - EHD)  
[www.tuolumnecounty.ca.gov](http://www.tuolumnecounty.ca.gov)

**NOTICE OF EXEMPTION**

**Filed**

**APR 22 ZK4**

Tuolumne County Clerk  
By *[Signature]*  
Deputy

**PROJECT TITLE:** Tuolumne County Sanctioned Camping

**PROJECT PROPONENT:** County of Tuolumne  
2 South Green Street  
Sonora, CA 95370

**LOCATION:** The project is located on an undeveloped vacant parcel on Justice Center Drive in Sonora, southeast of the intersection of Old Wards Ferry Road and Justice Center Drive. Assessor's Parcel Number 056-570-087. Within a portion of Section 5, Township 1 North, Range 6 East.

**COUNTY:** Tuolumne

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** Tuolumne County is implementing a Sanctioned Camping program as part of the Homeless Services Priority Projects to support the enforcement of local ordinances as well as improve the health and safety of the community. The program will open a non-flammable surface lot available from dusk to dawn, seven days a week. Recreational vehicles, operable cars, and tents will be allowed for the overnight stay of unhoused individuals. Portable bathrooms and garbage collection will be provided along with on-site management. The lot will be routinely cleared and cleaned to maintain sanitary conditions. Individuals utilizing the program will be invited to engage in Health and Human Services Agency programs as they wish. The parcels are zoned Public (P) and have a Public (P) general plan land use.

**APPROVING AGENCY:** Tuolumne County Board of Supervisors

**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))
- Categorical Exemption (Sec. 15307, 15308, 15269(c), 15330)
- Exemption (Sec.)

**RATIONALE FOR EXEMPTION:** The Environmental Coordinator of Tuolumne County has determined that the project is exempt from environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Sections 15307, 15308, 15269(c), 15330 of the *State CEQA Guidelines*.

**LEAD AGENCY CONTACT:** Quincy Yaley

**TELEPHONE NUMBER:** (209) 533-5633

**Signature:** *Quincy Yaley*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Quincy Yaley, AICP  
Environmental Coordinator

**Date:** 4/22/24



# COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

Quincy Yaley, AICP  
Director

Land Use and Natural Resources - Housing and Community Programs - Environmental Health - Building and Safety - Code Compliance

April 22, 2024

48 Yaney Avenue, Sonora  
Mailing: 2 S. Green Street  
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www.tuolumnecounty.ca.gov

TO: Honorable Board of Supervisors  
FROM: Quincy Yaley, AICP, Director, Environmental Coordinator  
RE: Notice of Exemption Supplemental Information

Tuolumne County is considering implementing a Sanctioned Camping program on a undeveloped parcel on Justice Center Drive in Sonora as part of the Homeless Services Priority Projects to support law enforcement in enforcing local ordinances as well as increase the health and safety of the community. The program will open a non-flammable surface lot available for unhoused individuals to utilize from dusk to dawn. Recreational vehicles, operable cars, and tents will be allowed for the overnight stay of unhoused individuals. Portable bathrooms and garbage collection will be provided on-site along with on-site management by an external security firm. The lot will be routinely cleared out and cleaned to ensure it is regularly maintained and sanitary. Individuals utilizing the program will be invited to engage in Health and Human Services Agency programs as they wish.

## California Environmental Quality Act - Definition of a Project

Section 15378 of the CEQA Guidelines provides the following definition of a project: (a) "Project" means the whole of an action, which has a potential for resulting in either a direct physical change in the environment, or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment, and that is any of the following:

- (1) An activity directly undertaken by any public agency including but not limited to public works construction and related activities clearing or grading of land, improvement to existing public structures, enactment and amendment of zoning ordinances, and the adoption and amendment of local General Plans or elements thereof pursuant to Government Code Sections 65100-65700.
- (2) An activity undertaken by a person which is supported in whole or in part through public agency contacts, grants subsidies, or other forms of assistance from one or more public agencies.
- (3) An activity involving the issuance to a person of a lease, permit, license, certificate, or other entitlement for use by one or more public agencies.

This program is an activity undertaken by a public agency, Tuolumne County, therefore the California Environmental Quality Act applies to the project. A project undergoing environmental review may be found to be exempt from CEQA, may require an Initial Study/Negative Declaration, or an Environmental Impact Review. After review of the project, the Environmental Coordinator has determined that the project may be found exempt from CEQA review, based on the information below.

## California Environmental Quality Act - Applicable Exemptions

The implementation of a Sanctioned Camping program is categorically exempt from review under the California Environmental Quality Act pursuant to the sections of the *State CEQA Guidelines* listed below:

- Section 15307
- Section 15308
- Section 15269(c)
- Section 15330

None of the exceptions to the use of a categorical exemption found in Section 15300.2 of the *State CEQA Guidelines* apply to this project. Further explanation of the applicable exemptions and is explained further below.

- Section 15307 - Actions by Regulatory Agencies for Protections of Natural Resources

Class 7 consists of actions taken by regulatory agencies as authorized by state law or local ordinance to assure the maintenance, restoration, or enhancement of a natural resource where the regulatory process involves procedures for protection of the environment. Examples include but are not limited to wildlife preservation activities of the State Department of Fish and Game. Construction activities are not included in this exemption.

This program will be an action taken by Tuolumne County to assure the maintenance, restoration, and enhancement of natural resources such as navigable waterways where unsheltered individuals are currently camping and living outdoors. Consolidating outdoor unhoused shelters into one location with improvements will protect natural resources that are currently threatened by unsanitary conditions and unregulated camping.

- Section 15308 - Actions by Regulatory Agencies for Protection of the Environment

Class 8 consists of actions taken by regulatory agencies, as authorized by state or local ordinance, to assure the maintenance, restoration, enhancement, or protection of the environment where the regulatory process involves procedures for protection of the environment. Construction activities and relaxation of standards allowing environmental degradation are not included in this exemption.

This program will be an action taken by Tuolumne County to assure the maintenance, restoration, and protection of the environment. Consolidating outdoor unhoused shelters into one location with improvements will protect the environment that are currently threatened by unsanitary conditions and unregulated camping.

- Section 15269(c) - Emergency Projects

Specific actions necessary to prevent or mitigate an emergency. This does not include long-term projects undertaken for the purpose of preventing or mitigating a situation that has a low probability of occurrence in the short-term, but this exclusion does not apply (i) if the anticipated period of time to conduct an environmental review of such a long-term project would create a risk to public health, safety or welfare, or (ii) if activities (such as fire or catastrophic risk mitigation or modifications to improve facility integrity) are proposed for existing facilities in response to an emergency at a similar existing facility.

As unsheltered individuals move into new areas and begin camping, there is an immediate threat to the health and safety of the environment. The program will be a specific action to mitigate public health and safety emergencies that are present caused by unsanctioned outdoor living throughout the County.

- Section 15330- Minor Actions to Prevent, Minimize, Stabilize, Mitigate, or Eliminate the Release of Hazardous Waste or Hazardous Substances

Class 30 consists of any minor cleanup actions taken to prevent, minimize, stabilize, mitigate, or eliminate the release or threat of release of a hazardous waste or substance which are small or medium removal actions costing \$1 million or less.

The sanctioned camping area will allow unsheltered individuals to have access to sanitary facilities which will prevent those individuals from discharging hazardous waste and substances into the environment, which may include waste, refuse, illegal dumping, and other similar hazardous materials.

#### CEQA Exceptions to the Categorical Exemptions

(a) Location. Classes 3, 4, 5, 6, and 11 are qualified by consideration of where the project is to be located - a project that is ordinarily insignificant in its impact on the environment may in a particularly sensitive environment be significant. Therefore, these classes are considered to apply in all instances, except where the project may impact on an environmental resource of hazardous or critical concern where designated, precisely mapped, and officially adopted pursuant to law by federal, state, or local agencies.

- *The project site is vacant with areas of barren or ruderal vegetation. There are no mapped environmental resources on the site, including hazardous resources, species of critical concern, or riparian habitat.*

(b) Cumulative Impact. All exemptions for these classes are inapplicable when the cumulative impact of successive projects of the same type in the same place, over time is significant.

- *There is no cumulative impact. No other sanctioned camping site are located or planned in the project vicinity.*

(c) Significant Effect. A categorical exemption shall not be used for an activity where there is a reasonable possibility that the activity will have a significant effect on the environment due to unusual circumstances.

- *There are no unusual circumstances that would result in the activity having a significant impact.*

(d) Scenic Highways. A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project which may result in damage to scenic resources, including but not limited to, trees, historic buildings, rock outcroppings, or similar resources, within a highway officially designated as a state scenic highway. This does not apply to improvements which are required as mitigation by an adopted negative declaration or certified EIR.

- *The project site is not located on a state scenic highway. There are no state scenic highways designated in Tuolumne County.*

(e) Hazardous Waste Sites. A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project located on a site which is included on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code.

- *The property is not located on a site listed in Section 65962.5 of the Government Code.*

(f) Historical Resources. A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project which may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource.

- *The project will not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as there are no historical resources on-site.*



State of California - Department of Fish and Wildlife  
**2024 ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT FILING FEE**  
**CASH RECEIPT**  
 DFW 753.5a (REV. 01/01/24) Previously DFG 753.5a

**Print**   **StartOver**   **Save**

RECEIPT NUMBER:  
 55 — 04/22/2024 — 12  
 STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NUMBER (if applicable)

**SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON REVERSE. TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY.**

LEAD AGENCY Tuolumne County Community Development Department	LEAD AGENCY EMAIL	DATE <b>04/22/2024</b>
COUNTY/STATE AGENCY OF FILING [Tuolumne]		DOCUMENT NUMBER

PROJECT TITLE

**Tuolumne County Sanctioned Camping**

PROJECT APPLICANT NAME <b>County of Tuolumne</b>	PROJECT APPLICANT EMAIL	PHONE NUMBER (209)533-5511
PROJECT APPLICANT ADDRESS <b>2 South Green Street</b>	CITY <b>Sonora</b>	STATE <b>CA</b>
		ZIP CODE <b>95370</b>

**PROJECT APPLICANT** (Check appropriate box)

Local Public Agency  
  School District  
  Other Special District  
  State Agency  
  Private Entity

**CHECK APPLICABLE FEES:**

<input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Impact Report (EIR)	\$4,051.25	\$	0.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Mitigated/Negative Declaration (MND)(ND)	\$2,916.75	\$	0.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Certified Regulatory Program (GRP) document - payment due directly to CDFW	\$1,377.25	\$	0.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Exempt from fee			
0 Notice of Exemption (attach)			
<input type="checkbox"/> CDFW No Effect Determination (attach)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Fee previously paid (attach previously issued cash receipt copy)			
<hr/>			
<input type="checkbox"/> Water Right Application or Petition Fee (State Water Resources Control Board only)	\$850.00	\$	0.00
<input type="checkbox"/> County documentary handling fee		\$	
<input type="checkbox"/> Other		\$	

**PAYMENT METHOD:**

Cash  
  Credit  
  Check  
  Other  
 **TOTAL RECEIVED**  
 \$ 0.00

SIGNATURE <b>X</b>	AGENCY OF FILING PRINTED NAME AND TITLE <b>Rachel Gummerson, Administrative Technician</b>
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