

# 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 South Mooney Blvd  
Visalia, CA 93277 (559) 624-7000  
Attn: [gmills@tularecounty.ca.gov](mailto:g mills@tularecounty.ca.gov) and [jwillis@tularecounty.ca.gov](mailto:jwillis@tularecounty.ca.gov)

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

Project Title: Avenue 430 over Buttonwillow Ditch Bridge Project

Project Location - Specific: The proposed project is located approximately 3 miles northwest of the City of Dinuba and adjacent to Road 64.

Project Location- Section, Township, Range: Section 02, Township 16S, Range 23E MDBM

Project Location - City: northeast of Dinuba, CA

Project Location - County: Tulare

**Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:** The proposed project would replace the existing two-lane bridge on Avenue 430 over Buttonwillow Ditch and widen Avenue 430 near the intersection to accommodate truck turning movement from Road 64 to westbound Avenue 430 and from eastbound Avenue 430 to southbound Road 64 to avoid off-tracking into the opposing lanes of both roadways. The existing bridge consists of a 19-foot long by 20-foot wide two-cell cast-in-place (CIP) concrete box culvert. It is unknown when the bridge was originally constructed since no as-built information for this crossing is available. The bridge lacks an adequate railing system and is a safety concern due to its narrow width. The proximity of the narrow bridge relative to the intersection of Road 64 and Avenue 430 has made turning movements difficult for larger farming equipment and vehicles. There have been several instances of vehicles partially or fully driving off the sides of the existing box culvert. A replacement structure would provide a wider structure, allowing traffic to safely negotiate turns at the intersection of Avenue 430 and Road 64. The proposed bridge will consist of an approximately 20-foot long by 85-foot wide, double box CIP concrete culvert, similar to the existing structure. Avenue 430 will be widened at the intersection to approximately 50 feet with two 12-foot lanes and gradually transition back to match the existing width of the roadway approximately 70 feet west of the ditch. Construction of the proposed improvements would require temporary construction easements and minor right-of-way acquisition from the property northwest of the bridge and potentially from the property southwest of the bridge. Utilities that may conflict with the proposed improvements include a power pole on the southeast corner of the bridge. A power pole located northwest of the bridge is also within the limits of the proposed roadway widening and may potentially need relocation. In addition, the existing irrigation infrastructure south of the bridge conflicts with the proposed roadway approach widening, therefore some facilities will be reconstructed upstream of the bridge in coordination with the irrigation district. Construction is anticipated to start in the fall of 2025 and will be completed in approximately 6 months. This project will provide a public benefit by improving safety and security of the public by improving transportation infrastructure for the general population in the region and vehicles, including large agricultural equipment, using these facilities.

### Exempt Status: (check one)

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
- Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a) and (c));
- Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b) and (c));
- Common Sense Rule: CEQA guidelines 15061(b)(3)
- Categorical Exemption: CEQA Guidelines Class 2 Section 15302 Replacement or Reconstruction (c)
- Statutory Exemptions:

FILED  
TULARE COUNTY

MAY 7 2024

ASSESSOR / CLERK-RECORDER  
BY:

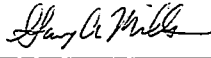
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**Reasons why project is exempt:** This action is consistent with Class 2 Section 15302, Replacement or Reconstruction (c), as activities associated with the project will include replacement of existing facilities with negligible or no expansion of capacity. Also, consistent with Section 15300.4, Application by Public Agencies, the County of Tulare Board of Supervisors adopted an exemption for the construction of the aforementioned facilities per the Tulare County Guidelines for the Implementation of California Environmental Quality Act of 1970, Number 300 Section 111. CATEGORICAL EXEMPTIONS Class 2: Replacement or Reconstruction (c). As such, Sections 15302 and 15300.4 are applicable and appropriate for this project.

**Name of Public Agency Approving Project:** Tulare County Board of Supervisors


**Project Planner/Representative:** Jennifer Cervantes

**Telephone:** (559) 624-7169

Signature:   
Gary A. Mills

Date: 5/7/2024

Title: Chief Environmental Planner

Signature:   
Reed Schenke, P.E.

Date: 5/7/24

Title: Environmental Assessment Officer  
RMA Director

Signed by Lead Agency

Date submitted to the OPR/SCH: \_\_\_\_\_