

Notice of Exemption

To: Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

County Clerk

County of: Tulare

221 S. Mooney Blvd.

Visalia, CA 93291

From: (Public Agency): Tulare County Resource Conservation District
3530 W. Orchard Ct.
Visalia, CA 93277

(Address)

Project Title: River Ridge Fuel Reduction

Project Applicant: Tulare County Resource Conservation District

Project Location - Specific:

Balch Park Rd., SR 190, and Tulare River Drainage, near Springville

Project Location - City: Springville

Project Location - County: Tulare

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Project would reduce fire fuels and improve clearances along Balch Park Rd., SR 190, and Tulare River Drainage, near Springville, California. Hand crews would walk the Project alignment, remove low hanging branches, masticate or chip brush, and spread the mulch. The Project would enhance protections from emergency wildfires for the community of Springville, and the School of Science and Conservation. See attached CEQA Exemption Applicability Review for more details.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Tulare County Resource Conservation District

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Tulare County Resource Conservation District

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. State type and section number: _____

Statutory Exemptions. State code number: 15269 Emergency Projects (C) Specific Actions Necessary to Prevent or Mitigate Emergency

Reasons why project is exempt:

The Project includes specific actions to prevent or mitigate an emergency. Wildfire is understood to be the type of sudden, unexpected occurrence, involving a clear and imminent danger, demanding immediate action to prevent or mitigate loss of, or damage to, life, health, property, or essential public services. (PRC 21060.3) Wildfire frequency and severity have increased throughout California in recent years, and fuel loads in the Project area are high and overdue for removal. According to the CPUC High Fire Threat District map, the Project area is designated High Fire Threat Tier 2. The Project would remove excess fuels (no tree removals, ground or structural disturbance) and create a critical fuel break to protect surrounding communities from emergency wildfires.

Lead Agency

Contact Person: Robert Puls, District Representative Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (559) 239-5414

If filed by applicant:

1. Attach certified document of exemption finding.

2. Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project? Yes No

Signature:  Date: 6/3/24 Title: District Representative

▪ Signed by Lead Agency Signed by Applicant

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.

Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____