

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: Tulare County 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: Avenue 280 Road Widening Project – Segment 2 Storm Drain System and Ponding Basins

Project Location - Specific: Avenue 280 from Road 140 (Lovers Lane) to S. Virginia Avenue and APN's 130-040-002 & 127-020-010.

Project Location- Section, Township, Range: Section 3, Township 19S, Range 25E, MDBM

Project Location - City: Visalia/Farmersville

Project Location - County: Tulare

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project: The Project consists of installing a storm drain collection system and ponding basins to accommodate surface runoff resulting from increased impervious surface area associated with the Avenue 280 Widening Project – Segment 2 (Project). The Project will keep the corridor clear of roadside and localized flooding. Storm runoff within the County right of way will be collected in an underground storm drain piping system, and conveyed to ponding basins for storage where the water will percolate to the groundwater aquifer or evaporate. The storm drain system will be designed to accommodate the runoff within the limits of the County right way, and possibly adjacent tributary areas as deemed feasible. The storm drain system is split into two separate sub-systems, the primary system which will drain the area west of the Tulare Irrigation District Canal, and the secondary system which will drain the area east of the Tulare Irrigation District Canal.

The primary system would handle about 90% of the runoff while the secondary system would handle about 10% of the runoff. The primary system includes inlets, manholes, laterals and mains ranging in size from 18-inch to 42-inch, and a ponding basin on APN 127-020-010 (Alice Elliot/Trust). The ponding basin is designed, and will be constructed, to accommodate a 10-year 10-day storm event by providing a capacity of approximately 12.5 acre-feet. To accommodate the required design capacity, the footprint of the proposed basin will be approximately 2.2 acres with a depth of approximately ten (10) feet. The inside slope of the pond will be 3H:1V. There will be ten (10) foot wide embankments and fences along the entire perimeter around the pond.

The secondary system includes inlets, manholes, laterals and mains ranging in size from 18-inch to 24-inch, and a ponding basin on APN 130-040-002 (Harold D. Clements, Trustee). The ponding basin is designed, and will be constructed, to accommodate a 10-year 10-day storm event by providing a capacity of approximately 1.67 acre-feet. To accommodate the required design capacity, the footprint of the proposed basin will be approximately 1.28 acres with a depth of approximately ten (10) feet. The inside slope of the pond will be 3H:1V. There will be ten (10) foot wide embankments and fences along the entire perimeter around the pond.

This Project would provide a public benefit by improving safety and security of the public by improving the transportation infrastructure (in the form of flood control efforts through construction of a storm drain system and ponding basins) for the general population in the region and users of Avenue 280 (Caldwell Avenue).

Exempt

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080 (b)(1); 15268);
- Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
- Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));

FILED TULARE COUNTY
SEP 18 2024
ASSESSOR / CLERK-RECORDER BY:
DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING AT TULARE COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE


- Common Sense Rule: CEQA guidelines 15061(b)(3)
- Categorical Exemption: Class 1, 14 CCR 15301 (c) – public safety improvement to an existing roadway
- Statutory Exemptions: 14 CCR § 15300.4 – roadway improvements included in County’s list of activities specifically exempted from CEQA review

Reasons why project is exempt: The installation of a storm drain system and ponding basin will bolster public health, safety, and general welfare of the public by controlling storm runoff, reducing roadside flooding, and eliminating nuisance water from the public right of way. The addition of a storm drain system and ponding basins to the Avenue 280 Widening Project Segment 2 is exempt from review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the State CEQA Guidelines because they are included in the County’s list of activities specifically exempted from CEQA review pursuant to 14 CCR § 15300.4 as roadway improvements, and are also exempt from CEQA review as a public safety improvement to an existing roadway pursuant to Class 1, 14 CCR 15301 (c).

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


Project Planner/ Representative: Michael Winton, P.E., Engineer IV

Telephone: 559-624-7107

Signature: 
 Gary A. Mills

Date: 9/17/2024

Title: Chief Environmental Planner

Signature: 
 Reed Schenke, P.E.

Date: 9/18/24

Title: Environmental Assessment Officer
RMA Director

Signed by Lead Agency

Date submitted to OPR: _____