

# 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](mailto:gmills@tularecounty.ca.gov) and [jwillis@tularecounty.ca.gov](mailto:jwillis@tularecounty.ca.gov)

**Applicant(s):** Terra Bella Sewer Maintenance District  
c/o Resource Management Agency  
5961 S. Mooney Blvd.  
Visalia, CA 93277 (559) 624-7000

**Project Title:** Tulare County Utility System Rehabilitation Projects – Terra Bella Sewer

**Project Location - Specific:** Terra Bella, CA 93270 (APN 302-190-034, 036, 037 & 039)

**Project Location- Section, Township, Range:** Section 34, Township 22S, Range 27E

**Project Location - City:** Terra Bella      **Project Location - County:** Tulare

### Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:

The rehabilitation Project for the Terra Bella sewer system Project focuses on essential upgrades and maintenance to enhance the wastewater treatment process and ensure system reliability. Note that this Project will not expand the existing permitted capacity of the facility. This Project is funded by the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and the beneficiaries of the Project will be the residents of Terra Bella and those residents who use the utility system.

Work at the Terra Bella Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) involves site clearing, grubbing, and tree removal, as well as disposal pond discing, treatment pond dewatering, and sludge removal. Four existing aerators will be replaced to improve treatment efficiency. Additionally, control cabinets will be cleaned and painted to extend their longevity.

Hydro jetting and vacuuming of both the sewer collection system and the lift station will be performed to clear blockages and enhance flow. Temporary handling of sewer flows will ensure continuous service during the upgrades. Existing lift pumps will be removed and replaced, along with the installation of a new pump station check valve for increased operational efficiency. A sewer line video inspection will be conducted to assess the condition of the system and identify any areas needing further attention.

The beneficiaries of the Project will be the users of the Terra Bella Sewer System.

### 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 1 Section 15301 Existing Facilities (b), Section 15302 Replacement or Reconstruction (c)
- Statutory Exemptions:


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OCT 23 2021	
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**Reasons why project is exempt:** The Project consists of modernization of existing equipment that will not increase functional capacity of the existing utilities. As such, this action is consistent with Section 15301 Class 1, Existing Facilities (b) and Section 15302 Class 2, Replacement or Reconstruction (c). Section 15301 relates to operation, repair maintenance, permitting, leasing, licensing, or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features. Section 15302 pertains to replacement or reconstruction of existing utility systems and/or facilities involving negligible or no expansion of capacity. In this instance, the Project includes maintenance and modernization of existing equipment. Therefore, the application of CEQA Sections 15301 and 15302 is applicable and appropriate for this Project.

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


**Project Planner/Representative:** Andres Perez, Engineer III

**Telephone:** (559) 624-7191

Signature:   
Gary A. Mills

Date: 10/22/2024

Title: Chief Environmental Planner

Signature:   
Reed Schenke, P.E.

Date: 10/22/24

Title: Environmental Assessment Officer  
RMA Director

Signed by Lead Agency

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