

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 c/o 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: Mountain Road 112 (M112) over Deer Creek Bridge Replacement Project

Project Location - Specific: The project site is located approximately 10 miles southeast of the City of Porterville, 2.23 miles southeast of Mountain Road 120, within unincorporated Tulare County.

Project Location- Section, Township, Range: Section 30, Township 22S, Range 29E, MDBM

Project Location - City: Southeast of Porterville Project Location - County: Tulare

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project: The proposed Project aims to replace the 1956 bridge over Deer Creek that was damaged and failed due to catastrophic floodwater flows in March of 2023. In response, a temporary one-lane bridge was installed in 2023 on Mountain Road 112 (M112) over Deer Creek. The temporary single span bridge was built approximately 75 feet upstream from the former bridge to provide temporary access across Deer Creek until a permanent structure can be constructed. The Project qualifies to receive emergency funding from FEMA.

The proposed replacement bridge would be a permanent structure, approximately 420-foot long by 36-foot wide, multi-span cast-in-place post tensioned concrete slab bridge. The creek banks would be stabilized with riprap, and the new replacement bridge would be built in the same location as the original bridge. Construction is anticipated to start in the spring of 2026 and should be completed in approximately 8 months. During this time, the M112 would remain open since the temporary bridge is located upstream of the proposed replacement bridge. Thus, this Project would enhance public safety, provide emergency access and security, and improve transportation infrastructure for the general population in the region, accommodating both general traffic and large agricultural equipment, vital to the area.

Prior to construction, geotechnical investigations would be performed to determine existing conditions and to test the suitability of the ground to support replacement piers and abutments of the new replacement bridge structure. Geotechnical investigation would include six (6) borings, one boring at each proposed pier and abutment location. No permanent impacts from the geotechnical investigation are anticipated to occur. Borings would require less than four (4) square feet of soil disturbance from the six, 6-inch, diameter bore holes. Upon completion, borings would be backfilled with neat cement grout, and native soils, and in accordance with County requirements.

Exempt Status: (check one)

- Ministerial [PRC \ § 21080(b)(1); 14 CCR § 15268]
- Declared Emergency [PRC § 21060.3]
- Emergency Project [PRC §§ 21080(b)(4) & 15269(b)(c)]
- Common Sense Rule: [14 CCR § 15061(b)(3)]
- Categorical Exemption: **Class 2, 14 CCR § 15302 (c) Replacement or Reconstruction of Existing Structure; Class 4, 14 CCR § 15304 (f) Minor Alterations to Land**
- Statutory Exemptions: **Public Resource Code (PRC) Section 21080 (b)(3)**


FILED TULARE COUNTY
0 T 23
ASSESSOR / CLERK-RECORDER BY:
DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING AT TULARE COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE


Reasons why project is exempt: This project is exempt from analysis under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the State CEQA Guidelines as replacement or reconstruction of existing structures and facilities pursuant to Class 2, 14 CCR 15302 (c), as minor trenching and backfilling where the surface is restored pursuant to Class 4, 14 CCR 15304 (f), and as a project undertaken to repair damage caused by an emergency pursuant to PRC § 21080 (b)(3) and 14 CCR 15269.

Class 2 consists of replacement or reconstruction of existing structures where the new structure will be located on the same site as the structure replaced and will have substantially the same purpose and capacity as the structure replaced with no expansion of capacity. Class 4 consists of minor public or private alterations in the condition of land, water, and/or vegetation which do not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees except for forestry or agricultural purposes. Specifically, this Project pertains to minor trenching and backfilling where the surface is restored. As this project is also undertaken to repair damage caused by the March 2023 storms, it is also exempt from CEQA analysis pursuant to PRC § 21080 (b)(3) and 14 CCR Section 15269.

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

Project Planner/Representative: Carlos Gonzalez, Engineer II Telephone: 559-624-7159

Signature:  Date: 10/22/2024 Title: Chief Environmental Planner
Gary A. Mills

Signature:  Date: 10/22/24 Title: Environmental Assessment Officer
Reed Schenke, P.E. RMA Director

Signed by Lead Agency

Date submitted to OPR: _____