

# 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):** Tulare County – Resource Management Agency  
5961 S. Mooney Blvd.  
Visalia, CA 93277 (559) 624-7000

**Project Title:** Tulare County Utility System Rehabilitation Projects – Zone of Benefits

**Project Location - City:** Varies **Project Location - County:** Tulare

**Project Location – Specific:** See below

Community, Hamlet or Legacy	APN	Section, Township, Range
El Rancho	202-100-022 (Lift Station)	Sec. 5, T.20S., R.27E.
Delft Colony	029-220-012 (WWTF) 029-191-016 (Well Site 1) 029-181-023 (Well Site 2)	Sec. 26, T.16S., R.23E.
Seville	050-063-002 (Lift Station)	Sec. 2, T.17S., R.25E.
Tonyville	142-130-054 (Lift Station)	Sec. 30, T.19S., R.27E.
Tooleville	136-150-027 (WWTF)	Sec. 12, T.19S., R.26E.
Traver	045-010-026 (WWTF)	Sec. 15, T.17S., R.23E.
Yettem	035-150-046 (Lift Station)	Sec. 33, T.16S., R.25E.
Wells Tract	061-070-029 (Lift Station)	Sec. 31, T.17S., R.27E.

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

This Project involves essential upgrades and maintenance for wastewater treatment facilities (WWTF), lift stations, and the Delft Colony drinking water system. The work is focused on modernizing infrastructure, improving operational efficiency, and ensuring long-term service reliability for the affected communities. Note that this Project will not expand the existing permitted capacity of these facilities. This Project is funded by the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and the beneficiaries of the Project will be the listed communities and those residents who use the utility systems.

### Wastewater Treatment Facilities (WWTF)

At the wastewater treatment facilities for Delft Colony, Tooleville, and Traver, the Project will include site clearing, treatment pond dewatering, and sludge removal. Old aerators will be replaced, and the WWTF supply water systems will be rehabilitated. Hydro jetting and vacuuming of the sewer collection systems and lift stations will be conducted, along with the installation of new lift pumps and TolHawk Lift Station Monitors. Sewer line video inspections will also be carried out to assess system conditions.

### Lift Stations

For the lift stations at El Rancho, Seville, Yettem, and Wells Tract, the Project involves force main cleaning, hydro jetting, and vacuuming of sewer collection systems and lift stations. Lift pumps and check valves will be replaced, and sewer line video inspections will be performed. TolHawk Lift Station Monitors will be installed for enhanced monitoring, and control cabinets will be cleaned and painted. Odor control systems, such as the Bioxide feed system, will be installed or upgraded where required.

FILED TULARE COUNTY
OCT 23 2024
ASSESSOR / CLERK-RECORDER BY:
DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING AT TULARE COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE

**Delft Colony Drinking Water System**

Work to be done at the Delft Colony drinking water system include well site clearing, valve exercising, and fire hydrant flushing. New well pumps, chlorine feed systems, and hydro tank air controllers will be installed. The water storage tank at Well Site 2 will undergo inspection, cleaning, and repaired where needed. ToltHawk Tank Level Monitors will be added, and booster pumps will be replaced to ensure reliable water distribution throughout the system.

The beneficiaries of the Project will be the users of wastewater systems in the El Rancho, Delft Colony, Seville, Tonyville, Tooleville, Traver, Yettem and Well Tract areas of unincorporated Tulare County.

**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 Section 15301 Class 1 Existing Facilities (b), Section 15302 Class 2 Replacement or Reconstruction (c)**
- Statutory Exemptions:

**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: \_\_\_\_\_