

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@tularecountv.ca.gov and jwillis@tularecountv.ca.gov

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

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

Project Title: Administrative Amendment to the Health and Safety Element to Incorporate by Reference the 2023 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (GPA 24-004)

Project Location - Specific: County of Tulare (Unincorporated Area)

Project Location- Section, Township, Range: all within Tulare County

Project Location - City: County-wide Project Location - County: Tulare

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project: The Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA-2000), along with certain provisions of the Government code and supporting State and Federal regulations, provide a framework for local jurisdictions to develop and adopt approved Local Hazard Mitigation Plans (LHMP) in order to access mitigation funds under Pre-Disaster Mitigation and Hazard Mitigation Grant Programs. California Government Code §8685.9 also makes jurisdictions with currently adopted plans, which are incorporated into the Health and Safety Element of the General Plan, eligible for supplemental California Disaster Assistance Act funding if authorized by the legislature for a specific disaster pursuant to AB 2140.

Local governments are required to update their LHMP every five (5) years in order to remain eligible for future federal disaster mitigation funding. In accordance with DMA-2000, the LHMP must describe the type, location, and extent of all natural hazards that can affect the jurisdiction; describe the jurisdictions vulnerability to these hazards; include a mitigation strategy that provides the jurisdictions blueprint for reducing the potential losses; and contain a plan maintenance process.

The 2023 Tulare County Multi-Jurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP or Plan) was adopted by the Board of Supervisors on March 14, 2023 (BOS Resolution No. 2023-0212). The LHMP is a cooperative effort between the County, the incorporated cities of Dinuba, Exeter, Farmersville, Lindsay, Porterville, Tulare, Visalia, and Woodlake, the Office of Education, Tulare Irrigation District (TID) Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) approved the Plan on April 18, 2023, for a 5-year period. This Plan represents the second update to the County's inaugural 2011 Plan and continues the multi-jurisdictional approach to leverage technical and financial synergies amongst the participating jurisdictions, culminating in a plan that can be utilized both as a basis for emergency planning as well as a tool to guide mitigation efforts and obtain Federal funding. FEMA does require the County's Health and Safety Element be amended to incorporate the 2023 LHMP to ensure continued eligibility for project grants under FEMA's hazard mitigation assistance programs, including Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, Pre-Disaster Mitigation Assistance grant programs.


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;
- Statutory Exemptions: CEQA Guidelines Section 15262 Feasibility and Planning Studies

Reasons why project is exempt: This action is consistent with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Title 14 California Code of Regulations (CCR), Section 15262 (Feasibility and Planning Studies), as activities associated with the proposed Health and Safety Element administrative amendment will not result in a direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect change in the environment. Therefore, the application of CEQA Section 15262 is applicable and appropriate for this plan.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Tulare County Resource Management Agency

Project Planner/Representative: Gary Mills, Chief Environmental Planner **Telephone:** (559) 624-7911

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 the OPR/SCH: _____