

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 General Services Agency
2637 W. Burrel Ave., Suite 200
Visalia, CA 93291 (559) 205-1100

Project Title: East Orosi Well Project

Project Location - Specific: 0.30-acre portion of Assessor's Parcel No. 025-150-045, located on Avenue 408 east of Road 128 in Cutler, CA.

Project Location- Section, Township, Range: Section 17, Township 16S, Range 25E

Project Location - City: Cutler, CA Project Location - County: Tulare

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project: The community of East Orosi has faced ongoing challenges in accessing potable water due to operational and maintenance deficiencies within the East Orosi Community Services District (EOCSD) water delivery system. Historically, EOCSD has struggled to maintain a full quorum of directors, hindering its ability to make decisions and execute contracts essential for maintaining the water system. On October 21, 2022, the State Water Resources Control Board issued Compliance Order No. 24-E1-22R-001, appointing Tulare County Resource Management Agency (Administrator) as the full-scope administrator for the East Orosi Public Water System, effective November 1, 2022. Tulare County, as the Administrator and as the Lead Agency under CEQA, certified and adopted a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the East Orosi Community Services District Water Supply and Infrastructure Project (SCH No. 2023100252) and pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15075 filed a Notice of Determination (NOD) on February 7, 2024. The Water Supply and Infrastructure Project included five major components: (1) installation of a new well located southwest of the Orosi Public Utility District (OPUD); (2) installation of a new 300,000-gallon storage tank located in the EOCSD; (3) replacement of the old (existing) asbestos-containing concrete-covered distribution pipeline system located in the EOCSD; (4) connection of a new pipeline from the new well to existing pipelines in Orosi and then connecting a new pipeline to the new: storage tank in East Orosi; and (5) consolidate the EOCSD drinking water customers and the Family Education Center into OPUD. This project consists of the purchase of a 0.30-acre portion of Assessor's Parcel No. 025-150-045 located on Avenue 408 east of Road 128 in Cutler, CA necessary to facilitate the development of the Water Supply and Infrastructure Project. Specifically, the purchase of the property will allow Tulare County to develop a well site, including a physical connection to and for the EOCSD water system. The EOCSD water system will later be consolidated with the Orosi Public Utility District pursuant to State Water Resource Control Board Compliance Order No. 03_24_20R_002 and No. 24_E1_22R_004.

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 3 Section 15303(d) New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures**
- Statutory Exemptions:


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

Reasons why project is exempt: The proposed project is solely for the purchase of an undeveloped property by the County of Tulare. The project will facilitate the development of the East Orosi Community Services District Water Supply and Infrastructure Project as evaluated in the MND (SCH No. 2023100252) previously certified by Tulare County. Therefore, the purchase of the subject property is exempt from CEQA pursuant to the common sense exemption on the grounds that it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity may have a significant effect on the environment (14 Cal. Code Regs., §15061, subd. (b)(3)). Furthermore, the well site will be less than 13,262 square feet in ground area. Therefore, it can be concluded that the proposed project is exempt from California Environmental Quality Act per Sections 15061, subd. (b)(3) and 15303, subd. (d).

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


Project Planner/Representative: Jacalynn A. Wells/Property Manager, General Services

Telephone: (559) 205-1135

Signature: 
Gary A. Mills

Date: 10/22/2024

Title: Chief Environmental Planner

Signature: 
Reed Schenke, P.E.

Date: 10/23/24

Title: Environmental Assessment Officer
RMA Director

Signed by Lead Agency

Date submitted to the OPR/SCH: _____