

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

Fee Exempt per Government Code Section 6103

To: Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation
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 and jwillis@tularecounty.ca.gov

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING AT TULARE COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE

Applicant(s): Tulare County Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer
4437 South Laspina Street, Ste. A
Tulare, CA 93274 (559) 684-3350

Project Title: CDFA Area Wide Glassy Winged Sharpshooter Control Program FY 24/25

Project Location - Specific: Tulare County

Project Location- Section, Township, Range: Countywide

Project Location - City: Tulare County, CA

Project Location - County: Tulare

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project: On November 5, 2024, the Tulare County Board of Supervisors entered into an Agreement with the State of California Department of Food & Agriculture (CDFA) to provide funding for the County of Tulare Agricultural Commissioner's Office to offset costs of providing and continuing the area wide pest management program to mitigate the presence of Glassy-winged Sharpshooter (GWSS). The continuation of this program is important to substantially reduce populations of GWSS in order to decrease the potential for the spread of Pierce's Disease. The detection and treatment of this invasive Pest is critically important to the agricultural industry within Tulare County and State of California. Implementing the programs as provided by CDFA (i.e., providing grower reimbursements for those who participate in this program for pre-approved treatment costs) would mitigate the spread of the invasive GWSS Pest that threaten the Agricultural Industry. As such, the funds will result in a public benefit by supporting the actions necessary to mitigate the invasive GWSS Pest and protect the Agricultural Industry as noted above.

Exempt Status: *(check one)*

Categorical Exemption: CEQA Guidelines Class 8 Section 15308 Actions by Regulatory Agencies for Protection of the Environment

Reasons why project is exempt: The CDFA certified a Final Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) Project No. 11001 for the Statewide Plant Pest Prevention and Management Program as an ongoing effort by CDFA to protect California's agriculture from damage caused by invasive plant species. This program provides reimbursement to Tulare County growers that are using licensed Pest Control Advisors (PCA's) and licensed applicators to apply pre-approved chemicals targeted to control the invasive Glassy-winged Sharpshooter pest in their orchards. This consists of actions taken by regulatory agencies, as authorized by state law or local ordinance, to protect the environment and is consistent with CEQA Guidelines Class 8, Section 15308 of the California Code of Regulations; as such, the use of Section 15308 Actions by Regulatory Agencies for Protection of the Environment is appropriate and applicable.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: County of Tulare

Project Planner/Representative: Christopher P. Greer, Assistant Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer

Telephone: (559) 624-3350

Signature: _____
Gary A. Mills

Date: _____

Title: Chief Environmental Planner

Signature: _____
Reed Schenke, P.E.

Date: _____

Title: Environmental Assessment Officer
RMA Director

Signed by Lead Agency

Date submitted to the OPR/SCH: _____