

# 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](mailto:gmills@tularecounty.ca.gov) and [jwillis@tularecounty.ca.gov](mailto:jwillis@tularecounty.ca.gov)

<b>FILED TULARE COUNTY</b>
DEC 4 2024
ASSESSOR / CLERK-RECORDER BY:
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 Phytophthora ramorum (Sudden Oak Death) Inspection 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 December 3, 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 Phytophthora ramorum inspection program which is responsible for enforcement of California state interior quarantines regarding Sudden Oak Death (SOD). *P. ramorum* is a plant pathogen that is known to cause SOD. SOD kills oak and other species of trees and has had devastating effects on the oak populations in California and Oregon. Inspectors conduct agricultural inspections at residences, landscaping stock yards, and nurseries. The Phytophthora ramorum program helps protect Tulare County agriculture from the introduction of SOD. If Phytophthora ramorum is detected, the County must respond, including trace forward and trace back investigations, eradication activities at positive nurseries as required by the *P. ramorum* program and using the most current USDA protocols. Eradication activities include issuing hold notices, destruction, delimitation/follow-up inspection and sampling, and sanitation procedures.

**Exempt Status: (check one)**


- Categorical Exemption: Class 7 Actions by Regulatory Agencies for Protection of Natural Resources
- Categorical Exemption: Class 8 Actions by Regulatory Agencies for Protection of the Environment

**Reasons why project is exempt:** Under this program, the Tulare County Agricultural Commissioner's Office serves as the local regulatory authority for the *Phytophthora ramorum* program. This program includes activities required in response to the detection of *P. ramorum* include trace forward and trace back investigations, eradication activities at positive nurseries as required by the *Phytophthora ramorum* program and using the most current USDA protocols. These are standard activities in accordance with state and federal regulations for this program. As this is a program to prevent the spread of a disease deadly to trees, these are regulatory actions to protect natural resources and the environment. As such, the program qualifies as exempt under Class 7 Actions by Regulatory Agencies for Protection of Natural Resources and Class 8 Actions by Regulatory Agencies for Protection of the Environment. The County will ensure all activities follow the CDFA and USDA protocols.

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: 12/3/2024

Title: Chief Environmental Planner

Signature:   
Reed Schenke, P.E.

Date: 12/3/24

Title: Environmental Assessment Officer  
RMA Director

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ANN ARBOR, MICH.

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