

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

Fee Exempt per Government Code Section 6103

To: Office of Land Use & 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: 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 Public Works
5961 South Mooney Blvd.
Visalia, CA 93277 (559) 624-7000

Project Title: Mineral King Road & Wishon Drive (M208) Permanent Repair Project

Project Location - Specific: The project site has multiple locations on Mineral King Road and Wishon Drive (M208), Mineral King Road is located approximately 8.6 miles northeast of the community of Three Rivers within unincorporated Tulare County. Wishon Drive (M208) is located approximately 8.2 miles northeast of the community of Springville, beginning at the intersection of State Route 190 and Wishon Drive.

Project Location- Section, Township, Range: Section 15, Township 17S, Range 29E; non-sectionalized , Township 20S, Range 30E

Project Location - Community: Northeast of Three Rivers and Northeast of Springville **Project Location - County:** Tulare

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project: The proposed Project aims to replace the temporary repairs with permanent repairs on Mineral King Road and Wishon Drive (M208) for the damage and failure of the roadway/shoulder, slope embankments due to catastrophic storms in March of 2023. The temporary repairs consist of installation of cold mix asphalt and asphalt concrete dike/berm along damaged roadway/shoulder areas, timber bridges and gabion (rock) baskets spanning and/or reinforcing the slope failures. The temporary repair's main purpose was to restore access and provide a minimum safe travel passage, now the County is seeking to transition to a permanent solution. The project consists of eighteen (18) locations, the following are the locations:

Location 1 - Mineral King Road Milepost 4.5 (L132) located northeast of the community of Three Rivers, CA

Location 2 - Mineral King Road Milepost 5.63 (L242) located northeast of the community of Three Rivers, CA

Location 3 - Wishon Drive Milepost 0.93 (L192-18) located approximately 8.2 miles northeast of the unincorporated community of Springville, CA

Location 4 - Wishon Drive Milepost 3 (L192-45) located approximately 8.2 miles northeast of the unincorporated community of Springville, CA

Locations 5 to 18 – Wishon Drive Milepost 0.70 to 3.7 (L192-10, L192-11, L192-13, L192-14, L192-16, L192-17, L192-20, L192-22, L192-23, L192-24, L192-27, L192-28, L192-30, L192-61) located approximately 8.2 miles northeast of the unincorporated community of Springville, CA

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The proposed permanent repairs for Location 1 and 4 will consist of removing the temporary timber bridge structures and constructing retaining structures and filling in the failed slope with resistant material. Location 2 and 3 will consist of constructing a reinforced retaining structure and filling in the failed slope with resistant material. Locations 5 to 18 will consist of permanent repairs associated with the placement of hot mix asphalt concrete, asphalt concrete dike, slope protection measures, and restoring minor voids with import borrow material.

This project will provide a public benefit by improving safety and security of the public by improving the transportation infrastructure for the general population in the region and motorists using these facilities.

Exempt Status: *(check one)*

- Ministerial [PRC \ § 21080(b)(1); 14 CCR § 15268]
- Declared Emergency [PRC § 21060.3]
- Emergency Project [PRC §§ 21080(b)(4) & 15269(b)(c)]
- Common Sense Rule: [14 CCR § 15061(b)(3)]
- Categorical Exemption: **Class 2, 14 CCR § 15302 (c) Replacement or Reconstruction of Existing Structure**
- Statutory Exemptions: **Public Resource Code (PRC) Section 21080 (b)(3)**

Reasons why project is exempt: This project is exempt from analysis under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the State CEQA Guidelines as replacement or reconstruction of existing structures and facilities pursuant to Class 2, 14 CCR 15302 (c) and as a project undertaken to repair damage caused by an emergency pursuant to PRC § 21080 (b)(3).

Class 2 consists of replacement or reconstruction of existing structures where the new structure will be located on the same site as the structure replaced and will have substantially the same purpose and capacity as the structure replaced with no expansion of capacity. As this project is also undertaken to repair damage caused by the March 2023 storms, it is also exempt from CEQA analysis pursuant to PRC § 21080 (b)(3).

Environmental Assessment Officer: Reed Schenke, P.E., RMA Director/EAO

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Tulare County Board of Supervisors

Project Planner/Representative: Carlos Gonzalez, Engineer II **Telephone:** 559-624-7159

Signature: _____ Date: _____ Title: Chief Planner
Gary A. Mills Environmental Planning Division

Signature: _____ Date: _____ Title: Associate RMA Director, Designee
Michael Washam, ACE

Signed by Lead Agency Date submitted to LCI/SCH: _____

