

See Exempt Per Government Code Section 6103

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

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 South Mooney Blvd
 Visalia, CA 93277 (559) 624-7000
 Attn: g mills@tularecounty.ca.gov and jwillis@tularecounty.ca.gov

FILED TULARE COUNTY
MAR 27 2025
ASSESSOR / CLERK-RECORDER BY: <i>EC</i>
DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING AT TULARE COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE

Applicant(s): Tulare County Public Works
 5961 South Mooney Blvd.
 Visalia, CA 93277(559) 624-7000

Project Title: **Souls and Lone Oak Tracts Wastewater Improvements Project**

Project Location - Specific: Both Souls Tract and Lone Oak Tract, comprising 79 residential lots in total, are within the City of Tulare's (City) sphere of influence and situated south of West Inyo Avenue (SR 137). Souls Tract is generally bounded by Haven Street to the east, West Souls Drive to the northwest, and Tulare Irrigation District's Lemos Ditch to the south, which serves as a physical barrier separating Souls Tract from the Lone Oak Tract. The Lone Oak Tract is generally bounded by Road 84 to the west and ditches to the north, east, and south. The two communities abut single-family development within the City to the east. Areas to the north, west, and south of the communities are largely devoted to agriculture.

Project Location- Section, Township, Range: Section 9, Township 20, Range 24

Project Location - County: Tulare

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project: The Souls and Lone Oak Tracts Wastewater Improvements Project (Project) is a sewer consolidation project involving the communities of Souls Tract and Lone Oak Tract consolidating with the City of Tulare via an extraterritorial services agreement. The proposed Project involves construction of wastewater pipelines within both communities that have been relying on aging septic systems. The wastewater pipelines for both tracts would then be consolidated with the City, which would provide treatment at the City's domestic WWTP. To consolidate Souls Tract and Lone Oak Tract with the City, the Project would include construction of approximately 5,070 feet of eight-inch polyvinyl chloride (PVC) sewer main, approximately 21 sewer manholes, and up to 79 four-inch sewer services and onsite connections to existing residences. The systems would connect to the City's existing 30-inch sewer main in Enterprise Street at Alpine Avenue for Lone Oak Tract and at Enterprise Street at Souls Drive for Souls Tract. Existing septic systems in Souls Tract and Lone Oak Tract would require proper abandonment once construction is complete. The Project would alleviate the two communities' need for a sustainable, long-term wastewater collection plan as well as prevent the existing septic systems from negatively affecting the groundwater quality in the area.

The expected benefits of the Project include the following:

- Eliminating the continuation of groundwater contamination due to septic system usage;
- Aid a severely disadvantaged community;
- End reliance on aging and failing individual septic systems;
- Eliminate individual exposure to major repair costs;
- Establish an affordable and stable wastewater disposal solution for the Communities; and,
- Reflect objectives of the State of California to consolidate and eliminate small sewer systems.

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 Exemption: CEQA guidelines 15061(b)(3)
- Categorical Exemption: **CEQA Guidelines Class 2 Section 15302(c), Replacement or Reconstruction**
- Statutory Exemptions:


Reasons why project is exempt: The proposed Project is constructing new wastewater pipelines to serve the Soultz and Lone Oak Tracts and to connect the new system to the City of Tulare. This system will replace the existing septic system that serve the communities of Soultz and Lone Oak. Therefore, it would be consistent with Class 2 Section 15302(c), replacement or reconstruction of existing utility systems and/or facilities involving negligible or no expansion of capacity.

Environmental Assessment Officer: Reed Schenke, P.E., Resource Management Agency Director, EA

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: County of Tulare

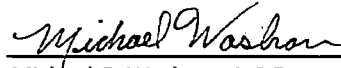
Project Planner/Representative: Amy Wilson, Senior Planner

Telephone: (559) 636-1166

Signature: 
Gary A. Mills

Date: 3/18/2025

Title: Chief Planner
Environmental Planning Division

Signature: 
Michael G. Washam, A.C.E.

Date: 3/25/2025

Title: Associate RMA Director, Designee

Signed by Lead Agency

Date submitted to the LCI/SCH: _____