

## Notice of Exemption

Fee Exempt per Government Code Section 6103

To:    X    State of California  
          Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation  
          1400 Tenth Street, Room 121  
          Sacramento, CA 95814

          X    Tulare County Clerk  
          Room 105, Courthouse  
          221 South Mooney Boulevard  
          Visalia, California 93291

**Lead Agency:** Tulare County c/o Resource Management Agency  
5961 South Mooney Blvd.  
Visalia, Ca 93277 Ph: (559) 624-7000  
Attn:gmills@tularecounty.ca.gov and jwillis@tularecounty.ca.gov

**Applicant(s):** Tulare County General Services Agency  
2637 W. Burrell Avenue, Suite 200  
Visalia, CA 93291           Ph: (559) 205-1100

FILED TULARE COUNTY
APR 14 2025
ASSESSOR / CLERK-RECORDER BY:
<i>Date filed at Tulare County Clerk</i>

**Project Title:** Goshen Fire Station #7

**Project Location – Specific:** 31041 Robinson Rd. Goshen, CA 93291 (APN 075-440-003 & -004)

**Project Location- Section, Township, Range:** Section 19, Township 18S, Range 24E, MDBM

**Project Location - City:** unincorporated community of Goshen, CA           **Project Location - County:** Tulare

**Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Activity/Project:** Tulare County General Services will be constructing a new fire station for the Tulare County Fire Department in Goshen, CA.

Tulare County Fire Station #7 provides critical emergency services for the Goshen, CA area. The new Fire Station #7 facility will replace the existing Fire Station #7. The existing Fire Station #7 is undersized and no longer has sufficient access to main thoroughfares, which delays emergency service response time. The new Fire Station #7 will be constructed at the corner of Robinson Road and Betty Drive. Betty Drive is a main thoroughfare within the community of Goshen and will provide quicker access for responding to emergency service calls. The Project is to be constructed on property owned by the County of Tulare. The parcels the Project will be constructed on are 10.94 acres. The greater portion of the parcels serves as a ponding basin/park. Adjacent to the ponding basin/park there is vacant space that will allow for the Fire Station Project. The portion of the parcel to be developed for the fire station will be 313,632 square feet.

As a part of the Goshen Fire Station #7 Project, additional parking including ADA parking will be provided for community access to the park/ponding basin. The Fire Station Building will be 7,396 square feet with three fire engine garage bays that will be larger than the garage at the existing fire station. The new larger garage bays are needed to support the modern fire engine apparatus equipment. There are existing utility services in the area which will support the Project. The Goshen Community Service District has provided a will-serve letter for sewer service. Water Service will be provided by Cal Water; SoCalGas will provide natural gas service; and Southern California Edison will provide the electric service. Storm Drainage will be to the existing County owned ponding basin that also serves as a community park. The Fire Station #7 Project will be a benefit to the community in that it will enable the Tulare County Fire Department to provide enhanced emergency services to the surrounding community.

**Exempt Status:** (check one)

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
- General Rule: CEQA guidelines 15061 (b)(3)
- Categorical Exemption: CEQA Guidelines Class 3 Section 15303 (c) New Construction or Conversion of Small

Structures

- Statutory Exemptions:

Reasons why project is exempt: The reason this Project is exempt under CEQA Guidelines Section 15268 Ministerial Projects [subsection (b)(1) Issuance of building permits] is because the property is in the R-2-MU (Two-Family Residential with a Mixed-Use Overlay Combining Zone). Section II.B of the Tulare County Zoning Ordinance (TCZO) allows Fire Stations in the R-2 (Two-Family Zone) with the approval of a Special Use Permit. However, Section 18.9.C of the TCZO says that all conditional uses allowed in the R-2 zoning district shall be allowed by right in the Mixed-Use Overlay Combining Zone, with the exception of the combination of uses:

- Auto Wrecking and Residential
Battery Manufacture and Residential or Commercial
Biomass Fuel Production and Residential
Flammable Liquids over 10,000 gallons
Hazardous Waste Facility
Planning Mills and Residential or Commercial

So, only the combination of uses in the bulleted list above would require the approval of a Special Use Permit in the R-2-MU Zone. As a result, constructing a Fire Station is a use that is allowed by right in the R-2-MU Zone and does not require the approval of a Special Use Permit. It would be able to go straight to building permits, which are listed as Ministerial Projects under Section 112 (a) of the Tulare County Guidelines for the Implementation of the California Quality Act of 1970 and are exempt from the requirements of CEQA.

Therefore, use of Section 15268 (b)(3) is appropriate and justified for this Project.

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

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: County of Tulare

Project Planner/Representative: Mark Van Fossen, Capital Projects Coordinator III Area Code/Telephone: 559-205-1140

Signature: Gary A. Mills Date: 4/10/2025 Title: Chief Planner
Environmental Planning Division

Signature: Michael G. Washam Date: 4/10/2025 Title: Associate RMA Director, Designee

X Signed by Lead Agency

Date received for filing at LCI: