

TULARE COUNTY RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AGENCY
NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION
Bridge Preventative Maintenance Program – Group 5 Project

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Tulare County intends to adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the Bridge Preventative Maintenance Program – Group 5 Project. The MND has been approved for public review by the Tulare County Environmental Assessment Officer. Copies are available for review and comment at the Resource Management Agency, Permit Center, 5961 South Mooney Blvd, Visalia, California 93277-9394. Comments and recommendations on the adequacy of the environmental document may be filed at the aforementioned address during the public review period established for the project.

1. **PROJECT:** Bridge Preventative Maintenance Program – Group 5 Project
2. **APPLICANT/AGENT:** Tulare County Resource Management Agency
5961 S. Mooney Blvd.
Visalia, CA 93277
3. **LOCATION:** The Project will perform bridge preventative maintenance activities at 17 bridge locations throughout Tulare County. Each bridge site is located along a public road; however, the Project area at each bridge encompasses a small portion of the Assessor Parcel Number's listed in the Project Description table below.
4. **PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** Tulare County (County), in cooperation with the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), proposes to perform maintenance on 17 bridges throughout various locations within the County. A summary of the 17 bridges, including bridge number and location, included in the Project is listed in the table below.

The County is responsible for the maintenance of 359 bridges within the boundaries of Tulare County. In 2015, the County developed a BPMP, that includes five category groups of maintenance activities, with the following objectives: maintain the existing bridge inventory in a structurally safe and serviceable condition; correct minor structural defects; repair deficiencies early in a bridge's life prior to encountering major, more costly rehabilitation, reconstruction, or replacement; and extend the service life of existing bridges. Group 5 includes scour countermeasures (streambed degradation or localized scour), which is often the highest priority, and the repair, restoration, and strengthening of structural elements.

The purpose of the Project is to extend the service life of 17 bridges within the County considered to be in generally good condition. Preventative maintenance activities are needed to provide improved safety and operations on each facility.

The proposed Project would implement preventive maintenance measures primarily consisting of scour protection repairs and other miscellaneous work including but not limited to deck treatment, spall repair, structural connection repairs, joint repairs, bridge bearing repairs, and overlay (asphalt concrete) removal. Erosion control will be placed where necessary and

disturbed areas will be revegetated. A summary of specific work items per bridge is included below:

Bridge Number	Facility Carried/Intersected	APN	Work Description
46C0036	Rd. 168/Tulare Irrigation District (TID) Canal	111-180-015 111-180-062 111-180-064	• Clear debris/rubble in TID Canal • Grout exposed piles and place grout bags in front of piers
46C0058	D60 / Cross Creek	045-100-009	• Partially grouted rock slope protection (RSP) along the whole creek width
46C0059	D60 / Cross Creek	045-100-009 045-100-021	• Clear debris/rubble in Cross Creek • South abutment rubble to be removed and replaced with properly sized RSP • Drop structure downstream of bridge • Grout exposed piles at abutments • Partially grouted riprap along full length of channel
46C0087	M120 / Deer Creek	305-060-013 305-060-014 305-190-021	• Grout exposed pier piles and place cut-off walls at piers • Partially grouted riprap at abutments and piers • Methacrylate deck treatment • Roadway approach work
46C0106	Road 144 / Deer Creek	318-130-005 318-290-002	• Grout exposed pier piles and place partially grouted riprap around piers • Methacrylate deck treatment • Roadway approach work
46C0108	Avenue 88 / Deer Creek	319-100-002 319-110-005	• Place partially grouted riprap around piers • Methacrylate deck treatment • Clear debris within Deer Creek
46C0202	M112 / Deer Creek	325-030-005	• Replace left rotated wingwall • Add cut-off walls to both abutment footings
46C0204	M112 / Tyler Creek	325-210-053 325-210-065	• Place downdrains around wingwalls • Repaint areas where the paint system is damaged or no longer effective
46C0205	SR56 (Hot Springs Rd.)/Deer Creek	344-190-004 344-190-007	• Cut-off wall at abutment 1
46C0226	Avenue 428 / Friant Kern Canal	035-250-003 035-250-008 035-260-002 035-260-013	• Methacrylate deck treatment • Reset bearings at abutment 4 • Remove AC from sliding steel plate joint to allow for joint movement • Place RSP or turf reinforcement mat at abutments
46C0269	Road 80 / Elk Bayou	228-010-019 228-010-021	• Remove asphalt concrete surfacing (and re-stripe deck) • Place RSP at piers and abutments • Replace bridge rail
46C0309	Avenue 220 / Lewis Creek	210-160-027 210-170-008	• Grout and place cut-off walls at abutments
46C0318	Road 136 / Deer Creek	318-120-014 316-180-008 316-180-012	• Place partially grouted riprap at piers • Clear debris within Deer Creek

Bridge Number	Facility Carried/Intersected	APN	Work Description
			Deck treatment – Polyester concrete overlay
46C0330	Road 180 / Cottonwood Creek	053-120-007 053-160-006	- Place RSP along channel and around wingwalls - Clear debris within Cottonwood Creek - Roadway approach work
46C0403	Avenue 304 / Crocker Cut	111-050-042 111-130-011	- Construct cut-off wall along downstream - Remove asphalt concrete (AC) at both approaches and along bridge
46C0408	Road 152 / Mill Creek	103-110-006 103-500-001	- Place partially grouted riprap at piers - Replace or add additional grout bags at upstream portions of abutments
46C0420	Road 108 / Saint Johns River	077-040-029 077-040-031	- Grout exposed piles - Place partially grouted riprap along full channel width - Methacrylate deck treatment - Place RSP within Saint Johns River

Temporary road closures and detours will take place at select bridge sites. The anticipated duration of the road closures will be approximately 4–6 hours depending upon access needs of residents and available detour options. Temporary construction easements (TCEs) and partial right-of-way (ROW) will likely be needed on a limited basis to accommodate the construction of the proposed preventative maintenance activities. Full ROW takes are not anticipated. Construction at all bridge locations is expected to be completed in approximately 12 months.

The Project is federally funded through the Highway Bridge Program, as such it requires compliance with both the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The lead agency for the CEQA compliance is the County, and the lead agency for the NEPA compliance is Caltrans.

5. **ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT:** The MND can be viewed at the Resource Management Agency office located at the address above or on the County website at [https://tc-web.widen.net/s/28lpxh7kch/2025_noi_mnd_notice_bpmp].
6. **REVIEW PERIOD:** September 24, 2025 – October 24, 2025, at 5:00 p.m.
7. **CONTACT FOR MORE INFORMATION:** Gary Mills, Chief Planner, Environmental Planning Division at (559) 624-7199 or Gmills@tularecounty.ca.gov (**para Español llame Brenda Alcantar (559) 624-7000**).

The MND has a review period of **30 days**, starting on **Wednesday, September 24, 2025**, and ending on **Friday, October 24, 2025**, which has been approved by the State of California, Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation. Any written comments on the MND should be sent to the Tulare County Resource Management Agency at the address noted above, to the attention of: Gary Mills, Chief Planner, Environmental Planning Division.

After the close of the public comment review period on the MND established by this notice, this matter will be set for public hearing before the Tulare County Planning Commission. Notice of the date, time and place for such public hearing will be published and/or mailed as provided by law.

Please take notice that - pursuant to Public Resource Code Section 21177, Government Code Section 65009, and other applicable law - if you challenge the proposed action described above in court, then you may be limited to raising only those issues or objections you or someone else raised during the public comment period or the public hearing, or in written correspondence delivered to the Tulare County Resource Management Agency within the review period, or to the Planning Commission during the public hearing.

GARY MILLS, CHIEF PLANNER, ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING DIVISION
REED SCHENKE, P.E., ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT OFFICER

