

## 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 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)

**Applicant(s):** Darren Vanden Berge  
5961 S Mooney Blvd 559-624-7000  
Visalia, CA 93277

**Project Title:** Special Use Permit No. PSP 25-090

**Project Location - Specific:** 6111 Avenue 252, Tulare, CA 93274 (APN 148-010-055)

**Project Location- Section, Township, Range:** Section 25, Township 19S, Range 23E

**Project Location - City:** Tulare, CA **Project Location - County:** Tulare

**Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:** The Applicant, Darren Vanden Berge, is requesting to allow for an Agricultural Service Establishment for the storage of packaged agricultural chemicals, with no intention of manufacturing, repacking, or distributing bulk products on a 20-acre property located in the AE-40 (Exclusive Agricultural – 40-acre minimum) Zone. The beneficiary of the project would be for the Applicant.

**Exempt Status:** (check one)

- ☐ Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
- ☐ Common Sense Exemption: CEQA Guidelines 15061(b)(3)
- ☒ Categorical Exemption: CEQA Guidelines Class 1 Section 15301 Existing Facilities

**Reasons why the project is exempt:** Section 15301, Class 1, Existing Facilities, consisting of the operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, leasing, licensing, or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of existing or former uses; in this instance, the existing shop that will be utilized as part of the proposed Agricultural Service Establishment as noted earlier. Therefore, the application of CEQA Section 15301 is applicable and appropriate for this project.

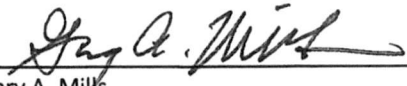
is applicable and appropriate as the project will utilize the existing shop for the storage of packaged agricultural chemicals, with no intention of manufacturing, repacking, or distributing bulk products.

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

**Name of Public Agency Approving Project:** County of Tulare

**Project Planner/Representative:** Project Planner Jose Saenz, Planner IV

**Telephone:** (559) 624-7000

Signature:   
Gary A. Mills

Date: 1-15-26

Title: Chief Planner,  
Environmental Planning Division

FILED  
TULARE COUNTY

JAN 15 2026

ASSESSOR / CLERK-RECORDER  
BY:

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING AT TULARE COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE

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

Date: 1/15/26

Title: Associate RMA Director, Designee

☒ Signed by Lead Agency

Date submitted to the LCI/SCH: \_\_\_\_\_