

Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

To: Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

County Clerk

County of: Tulare

Tulare County Civic Center

221 S. Mooney Blvd, Visalia, CA 93291

From: (Public Agency): City of Visalia
315 E. Acequia Avenue
Visalia, CA 93291

(Address)

Project Title: Visalia Water Reclamation Facility Digester No. 9 Project

Project Applicant: City of Visalia

Project Location - Specific:

7579 Ave 288, Visalia, CA 93277

Project Location - City: Visalia

Project Location - County: Tulare

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The project would include improvements to the City's existing Water Reclamation Facility (WRF), including construction of a new fixed cover anaerobic digester (Digester No. 9) to provide necessary redundancy to the digestion system if the existing Digester No. 8 needs to come offline for routine maintenance. The structure would be 116 feet in diameter (approximately 10,568 square feet [sf]) with a tank volume of approximately 297,700 cubic feet (cf). The tank would include 73,980 cf of sludge storage volume and 184,950 cf of sludge digestion volume. The design of the associated structures to support Digester No. 9 would match the design of Digester No. 8 and would include pumps, valves, heat exchangers, and a 384-sf electrical building.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: City of Visalia, 315 E. Acequia Ave., Visalia, CA 93291. brandon.smith@visalia.gov

Carrying Out Project Agency

ect: City of Visalia, 315 E. Acequia Ave., Visalia, CA 93291. brandon.smith@visalia.gov

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));
- Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: Sec. 15301(e), Sec. 15303(d), Sec. 15304(a)
- _____

Reasons why project is exempt:

The project would include minor alterations to an existing public facility, new construction of small structures, sewage and electrical utility extensions of reasonable length, and minor alterations to land (grading on land with less than 10 percent slope). At current sludge flows, the digestion system is below capacity with the largest digester (Digester No. 8). The purpose of the project is to provide necessary redundancy to the digestion system if Digester No. 8 needs to come offline for routine maintenance. The project is categorically exempt from environmental review under CEQA as noted in Title 14 – California Code of Regulations, Chapter 3 – Guidelines for Implementation of CEQA, Article 19 – Categorical Exemptions, Sections 15301(e), 15303(d), and 15304(a). See the Categorical Exemption Report for more information.

Lead Agency

Contact Person: Rehana Cale, Senior Project Manager Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 559-713-4176

If filed by applicant:

1. Attach certified document of exemption finding.
2. Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project? Yes No

Signature: Brandon Smith Date: 3/31/2026 Title: Principal Planner

Signed by Lead Agency Signed by Applicant

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____

Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.