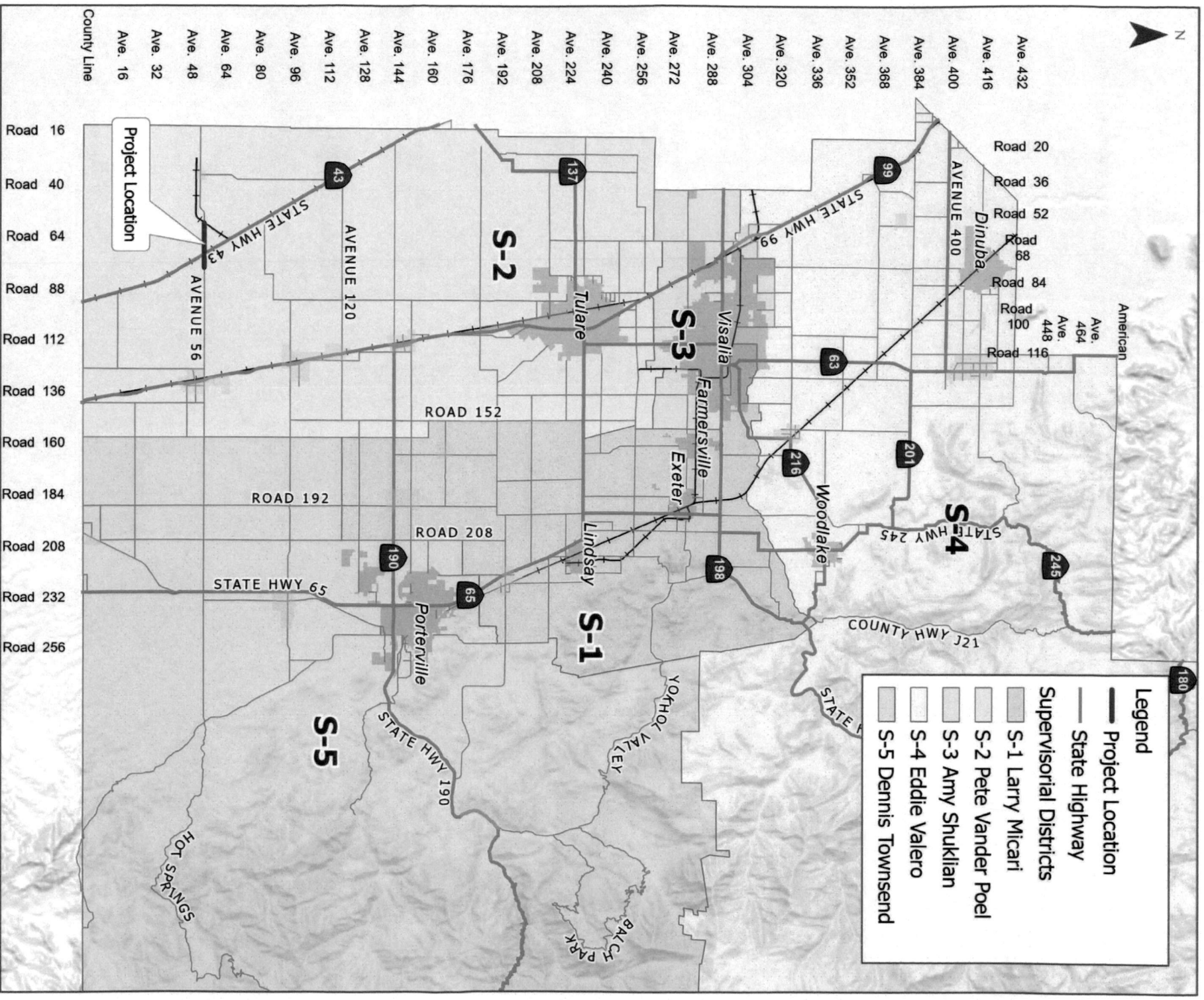




0 5 10 Miles

Avenue 56 Permanent Restoration Improvements Project Vicinity Map

- ☐ Common Sense Exemption: CEQA guidelines 15061(b)(3)
☒ Categorical Exemptions: **CEQA Guidelines Class 1 Section 15301 Existing Facilities (c) and (d)**
☐ Statutory Exemptions:

Reasons why project is exempt:

This Project is categorically exempt from CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines §15301, Class 1, Existing Facilities, subsections (c) and (d), because it consists of repair, restoration, rehabilitation, and minor alteration of an existing County roadway facility damaged by prior flood conditions, with negligible or no expansion of existing use. The Project would restore and maintain the existing roadway facility, improve roadway safety and stability, address drainage deficiencies, and meet current public health and safety standards. The Project would occur within the existing County right-of-way and would not add travel lanes, increase roadway capacity, or change the existing roadway use.

The County has further determined that none of the exceptions to the use of categorical exemptions set forth in CEQA Guidelines §15300.2 apply. The Project would not result in a significant cumulative impact, would not result in a significant effect due to unusual circumstances, would not damage scenic resources within an officially designated State Scenic Highway, is not located on a hazardous waste site listed pursuant to Government Code §65962.5, and would not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource.

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

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: County of Tulare

Project Planner/Representative: Omar Padilla, Engineer

Telephone: (559) 624-7179

Signature: 
Aaron Bock (Aug 4, 2026 13:16:12 PDT)
Aaron R. Bock

Date: 04/08/2026

Title: Assistant RMA Director
Economic Development & Planning

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

Date: 08/05/2026

Title: Associate RMA Director, Designee

☒ Signed by Lead Agency

Date submitted to the LCI/SCH: _____

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

Fee Exempt per Government Code Section 6103

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: gmills@tularecounty.ca.gov and jwillis@tularecounty.ca.gov

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

Project Title: Avenue 56 Permanent Restoration Improvements Project

Project Location - Specific: This Project consists of permanent repair and safety improvements to existing Avenue 56 roadway facilities along three segments: (1) from the Burlington Northern Santa Fe railroad tracks east to the property limits of the California High Speed Rail Authority property; (2) approximately 1,700 feet from the Authority property east to the State Route 43 right-of-way; and (3) approximately one mile east from the State Route 43 right-of-way line. Avenue 56 serves as a major collector roadway providing access between the community of Alpaugh and State Routes 43 and 99. In early 2023, Avenue 56 was submerged by floodwater that damaged the roadway and required emergency restoration. Additional right-of-way will be acquired along the Avenue 56 corridor to accommodate the existing cross-section of the elevated roadway.

This Project would provide permanent improvements to the emergency restoration, including roadway profile modifications, embankment fill, roadway stabilization, drainage improvements, a 28-foot-wide paved surface, 8-foot-wide gravel shoulders, and traversable side slopes where feasible. Work would also include extension, installation, modification, and/or replacement of existing drainage culverts and related headwall improvements. The Project would restore and maintain the existing roadway facility, improve roadway safety and stability, and support continued public access. The Project would not add travel lanes, increase roadway capacity, or change the existing roadway use.

Project Location- Section, Township, Range: Sections 25 and 36, Township 23S, Range 23E;
Sections 28-33, Township 23S, Range 24E

Project Location - City: 2.5 miles east of Alpaugh **Project Location - County:** Tulare

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project: Avenue 56 serves as a major collector road from the community of Alpaugh to State Routes 43 and 99. In early 2023, Avenue 56 was submerged by floodwater that damaged the roadway. An emergency restoration project was undertaken to elevate the roadway by five feet. The proposed project is needed to implement permanent improvements to address safety concerns.

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));

FILED TULARE COUNTY AUG 11 2026 ASSESSOR / CLERK-RECORDER BY: DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING AT TULARE COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE
