

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 and jwillis@tularecounty.ca.gov

Applicant(s): Jacob Sertich
27769 A Road 176
Exeter, CA 93221 (559) 624-7000

Project Title: Domestic Well for the Sertich Cabin (CEQ 26-021)

Project Location - Specific: The project is located at 57739 B Eshom Valley Road, in the community of Hartland. The Project site is approximately 3.3 miles northeast of the community of Badger. (APN 009-030-036)

Project Location- Section, Township, Range: Section 5, Township 15S, Range 28E, MDBM

Project Location - City: Unincorporated community of Hartland

Project Location - County: Tulare

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project: The proposed Project site is located in the mountain community of Hartland, is not within an Urban Development Boundary, and the property is zoned A-1 (Agricultural Zone). The property owner is requesting an administrative variance for construction of a new (replacement) well to supply the property with water for the domestic uses consistent with the existing zoning. The location of the new well is unable to comply with the minimum setback requirements from the leach lines. The contractor will install a 100-foot annular seal. to eliminate the risk of contamination on the new well site. The beneficiary of the Project is the property owner.

Exempt Status:

☒ Categorical Exemption: **CEQA Guidelines Class 3 Section 15303 New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures**
Categorical Exemption: **CEQA Guidelines Class 2 Section 15302 Replacement or Reconstruction**

Reasons why project is exempt: The Project is categorically exempt from CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines §15303(d), Class 3, New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures, because it consists of installation of a domestic water well and related water utility improvements of reasonable length necessary to serve an existing cabin/residential use on property zoned A-1. The Project would provide domestic water service to the existing use and would not authorize a new residence, expansion of residential use, or other intensification of use.

The Project is also categorically exempt pursuant to CEQA Guidelines §15302(c), Class 2, Replacement or Reconstruction, because the proposed well would replace an existing domestic water source/utility facility and would serve substantially the same purpose and capacity with negligible or no expansion of capacity.

The well would be constructed in compliance with Tulare County Ordinance Code requirements governing well construction and applicable Environmental Health requirements. Because the proposed well location cannot meet the minimum setback from existing

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leach lines, the Project includes installation of a 100-foot annular seal to address potential water-quality protection requirements, subject to County review and approval.

The County has further determined that none of the exceptions to the use of categorical exemptions set forth in CEQA Guidelines §15300.2 apply.

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

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: County of Tulare

Project Representative: Danielle Folk, Planner III Telephone: 559-624-7029

Lead Agency Representative:

Signature:  Date: 08/13/2026 Title: Chief Planner,
Gary Mills Environmental Planning Division

Signature:  Date: 08/13/2026 Title: Associate RMA Director, Designee
Michael G. Washam, A.C.E.

☒ Signed by Lead Agency

Date submitted to LCI: _____