

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

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: County of Tulare

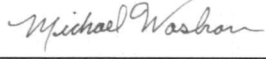
Project Planner/Representative: Project Lead Kevin Riggi, Division Chief - Operations

Telephone: (559) 802-9803

Signature: 
Gary A. Mills

Date: Oct 6, 2026

Title: Chief Planner,
Environmental Planning Division

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

Date: Oct 6, 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 S. Mooney Blvd.
Visalia, CA 93277 (559) 624-7000
Attn: gmills@tularecounty.ca.gov and jwillis@tularecounty.ca.gov

Applicant(s): Tulare County Fire Department
835 S. Akers Street
Visalia, CA 93277 (559) 802-9808

Project Title: Upper Posey Roadside Fuels Reduction Project

Project Location - Specific: Approximately 3.9 miles along Mountain Road 3 (Old Stage Road) and Guhl Avenue between Capinero Drive and Carlin Drive, Upper Posey, Tulare County

Project Location- Section, Township, Range: Various; see attached project location map

Project Location - City: Unincorporated Upper Posey/Pose area

Project Location - County: Tulare

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project: The Project will reduce hazardous roadside vegetation along approximately 3.9 miles of Mountain Road 3 (Old Stage Road) and Guhl Avenue. Tulare County Fire Department Type IIA crews will thin, prune/limb, chip, and remove hazardous fuels along existing roadway corridors. Hazard trees may be removed; within fuel-reduction areas, trees less than 12 inches DBH may be removed, remaining trees may be limbed to approximately 6 feet, and approximately 70 percent of standing brush may be removed, with a target stem spacing of approximately 16 feet. All work will be within the County Right-of-way and will extend no further than 80 feet from centerline of roadway, creating a 160-foot wide (including the road) reduction of fuel. The Project will improve emergency access and evacuation, reduce wildfire intensity and spread, and help protect approximately 317 homes and 982 residents in a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone.

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));
- ☐ Common Sense Exemption: CEQA Guidelines 15061(b)(3)
- ☒ Categorical Exemptions: **CEQA Guidelines Class 1 Section 15301(c) Existing Facilities and Class 4 Section 15304 Minor Alterations to Land**
- ☐ Statutory Exemptions: CEQA Guidelines Section 15262 Feasibility and Planning Studies

Reasons why project is exempt: The Project is categorically exempt pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15301(c), Class 1, Existing Facilities, and Section 15304, Class 4, Minor Alterations to Land. Class 1 applies to maintenance and minor alteration of existing highways and streets involving negligible or no expansion of use. The Project is roadside vegetation maintenance along existing road corridors and would not expand roadway capacity. Class 4 applies to minor alterations to land and vegetation that do not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees. Treatment is limited to thinning and pruning vegetation, removing standing dead hazard trees and selected trees less than 12 inches DBH, and chipping/removing brush to reduce wildfire fuels and maintain safe ingress and egress. The County has determined that none of the exceptions in CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2 apply..

FILED TULARE COUNTY
OCT 7 2026
ASSESSOR / CLERK-RECORDER BY:
DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING AT TULARE COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE