Reasons why project is exempt: The Project is categorically exempt pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15301, Class 1, Existing Facilities, including subsections (a) and (e)(2). Section 15301(a) applies to the operation and minor alteration of existing public or private structures and facilities involving negligible or no expansion of existing or former use, including interior or exterior alterations such as partitions, plumbing, and electrical conveyances. The Project would renovate and reuse the existing former assisted-living campus for residential behavioral health services. Section 15301(e)(2) allows additions to existing structures of not more than 10,000 square feet where all public services and facilities are available to allow for maximum development permissible under the General Plan and the area in which the Project is located is not environmentally sensitive.

The approximately 4,480-square-foot addition to Building 2 is below the 10,000-square-foot limit and would occur within the existing developed campus. The County has determined, based on the Project record, that the public-service/facility and environmental-sensitivity criteria of Section 15301(e)(2) are met and that none of the exceptions to the use of categorical exemptions set forth in CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2 apply. Any future new construction or material expansion beyond the scope described in this Notice would require separate CEQA review.

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

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: County of Tulare

Project Planner/Representative: Diane Higginbotham, Administrative Specialist II **Telephone:** (559) 624-7457

Signature: Gary A. Mills Date: Oct 6, 2026 Title: Chief Planner, Env. Planning Division
Gary A. Mills

Signature: Michael Washam Date: Oct 6, 2026 Title: Associate RMA Director, Designee
Michael G. Washam, A.C.E.

☒ Signed by Lead Agency

Date submitted to the LCI/SCH:_____

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

Fee Exempt per Government Code Section 6103

FILED
TULARE COUNTY

OCT 7 2026

ASSESSOR / CLERK-RECORDER
BY:

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING AT TULARE COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE

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): Behavioral Health Division
Health and Human Services Agency
County of Tulare
5957 South Mooney Blvd.
Visalia, CA 93277 (559) 624-8000

Project Title: Tulare County Behavioral Health Residential Campus Project

Project Location - Specific: 347 E. Walnut Ave., Visalia, CA 93277 (APN 123-063-034)

Project Location - Section, Township, Range: Section 5, Township 19S, Range 25E

Project Location - City: Visalia **Project Location - County:** Tulare

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project: The 2.72-acre site is the former Casa Grande Assisted Living Facility and contains two existing buildings, onsite parking, and an unimproved area. The County acquired the property in 2023 and proposes to renovate and repurpose the existing campus as the Tulare County Behavioral Health Residential Campus to provide inpatient/residential behavioral health and supportive services. In addition to renovation and reuse of the existing facilities, Building 2 would be expanded by approximately 4,480 square feet on the south end of the building. The preliminary plans identify Building 2 as approximately 24,360 square feet following the addition. The current action includes program funding, renovation/conversion, the Building 2 addition, and operation of the existing campus.

Exempt Status:

- ☐ 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 Exemption: **CEQA Guidelines Class 1 Section 15301(a) and (e)(2), Existing Facilities**
- ☐ Statutory Exemptions: