NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

To: ☒ Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation
1400 Tenth Street, Room 121
Sacramento, CA 95814

☒ Tulare County Clerk
5951 S. Mooney Blvd.
Visalia, CA 93277

FILED
TULARE COUNTY
NOV 20 2026
ASSESSOR / CLERK-RECORDER
BY:
DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING AT TULARE COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE

Lead Agency: County of Tulare c/o Resource Management Agency
5961 S. Mooney Blvd.
Visalia, CA 93277 (559) 624-7000
Attn: CEQA@tularecounty.ca.gov

Applicant(s): Big River Drilling
P.O. Box 837
Riverdale, CA 93656 (559) 867-3806

Project Title: Domestic Well for the Cisneros Property (CEQ 26-025)

Project Location - Specific: The project is located at 25681 Hypericum Street approximately 375 feet north of Avenue 256, and approximately 3 miles southeast of the City of Visalia. (APN 152-060-044)

Project Location- Section, Township, Range: Section 24, Township 19S, Range 25E

Project Location - City: N/A, southeast of Visalia **Project Location - County:** Tulare

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project: The project consists of constructing and operating one domestic well and associated improvements to supply water for domestic use on the Cisneros property. The proposed well requires an administrative variance from the minimum setback for septic tank under Tulare County Ordinance Code Section 4-13-1035. The proposed separation is 80 feet, compared with the required 100 feet. The proposed well design includes a 100-foot annular seal, which provides enhanced protection of groundwater quality despite septic tank setbacks. The site is southeast of Visalia, outside an Urban Development Boundary, and zoned R-A-43 (Rural Residential). The property owner would benefit from the water supply.

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 Exemption: **CEQA Guidelines Section 15303, Class 3, New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures**
- ☐ Statutory Exemptions:

Reasons why project is exempt: The project qualifies for the Class 3 categorical exemption under CEQA Guidelines Section 15303 because it consists of the construction and operation of a single domestic well and associated improvements serving an existing rural residential property. The project includes an administrative variance approved pursuant to Tulare County Ordinance Code Section 4-13-1035 to allow an 80-foot separation between the proposed well and an existing septic tank. The well design includes a 100-foot annular seal, exceeding the minimum 50-foot seal depth required by County ordinance. Based on the approved project design and Environmental Health review of the variance request, the County has determined that the project qualifies for the Class 3 exemption.

The County has further determined that none of the exceptions to the use of categorical exemptions set forth in CEQA Guidelines Section 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:** 559-624-7000

Lead Agency Representative:

Signature: _____ Date: 11-19-26 Title: Chief Planner, Environmental Planning Division
Gary Mills

Signature: _____ Date: 11/19/26 Title: Associate RMA Director, Designee
Michael G. Washam, A.C.E.

☒ Signed by Lead Agency Date submitted to LCI: _____