

Notice of Exemption

Fee Exempt per Government Code Section 6103

- To: Office of Planning and Research
1400 Tenth Street, Room 121
Sacramento, CA 95814
- X Tulare County Clerk
Room 105, Courthouse
221 S. Mooney Blvd.
Visalia, California 93291



Lead Agency: Tulare County Resource Management Agency
5961 S. Mooney Blvd.
Visalia, CA 93277
Ph: (559) 624-7000
Contact: hguerra@co.tulare.ca.us

Applicant(s): Tulare County Resource Management Agency – Public Works Branch
5961 S. Mooney Blvd.
Visalia, CA 93277
Ph: (559) 624-7220

Project Title: Avenue 364 Cottonwood Creek Bridge Replacement

Project Location - Specific: The project site is located approximately 2.5 miles northwest of the City of Woodlake of the City of Woodlake, within unincorporated Tulare County.

Project Location- Section, Township, Range: S½ NW¼ of Section 14, Township 17S, Range 26E

Project Location - City: N/A, the project is located within unincorporated Tulare County

Project Location - County: Tulare

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project: The Project consists of replacing and widening the existing 1-lane bridge (#46C0208) on Avenue 364 over Cottonwood Creek (creek) with a 2-lane bridge (Project). The Project is located approximately 2.5 miles northwest of the City of Woodlake in the county of Tulare, California. The purpose of the Project is to improve bridge and roadway safety, and to improve operations along the roadway corridor, by replacing and widening the existing bridge.

The existing bridge, built in 1961, is a 103-foot-long, 3-span bridge comprised of steel girders with a continuous reinforced concrete deck. The existing bridge is too narrow to carry more than one lane of traffic; therefore, it has been flagged by Caltrans as Functionally Obsolete. Additionally, the bridge has been flagged as Structurally Deficient due to pattern cracking that has developed throughout the reinforced concrete deck. The deck has substantial cracking throughout its depth, and continued deterioration is anticipated. The Sufficiency Rating for the bridge is 55.5, according to the Caltrans Structure Maintenance and Investigations Local Agency Bridge List.

The Project would include replacement and widening of the existing bridge structure. The existing 103-foot-long bridge would be replaced with a 3-span structure having a total length of approximately 110 feet. The new, widened bridge would be approximately 32 feet wide and would accommodate two 12-foot travel lanes, two 2-foot shoulders, and concrete bridge railing (concrete barrier type 80). The roadway approaches would match the curb-to-curb width of the bridge, and taper to match the existing roadway width approximately 230 feet beyond the bridge approaches. The number of through lanes on Avenue 364 (one lane in each direction) would remain the same; therefore, the Project is not considered capacity increasing.

Construction is anticipated to begin in the Year 2020 and will take approximately six months; Avenue 364 would be closed in each direction for the duration of construction. The new bridge would be constructed during one dry season.

Caltrans has determined that the bridge should be replaced as it is functionally obsolete and structurally deficient. Thus, this Project will provide a public benefit by improving safety and security of the public by improving the transportation infrastructure for the general population in the region and motorists using these facilities.

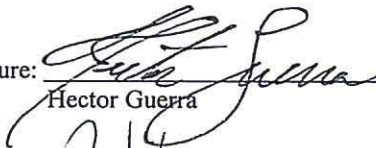
Exempt Status: (check one)

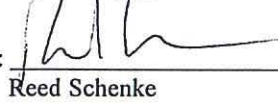
- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
- Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
- Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- General Rule: CEQA Guidelines Section 15061 (b)(3)
- Categorical Exemption: **CEQA Guidelines Section 15302 Class 2 Replacement or Reconstruction (c)**
- Statutory Exemptions:

Reasons why project is exempt: This action is consistent with Class 2 Section 15302, Replacement or Reconstruction (c), as activities associated with the Project will include replacement of existing facilities with negligible or no expansion of capacity. Also, consistent with Section 15300.4, Application by Public Agencies, the County of Tulare Board of Supervisors adopted an exemption for the construction of the aforementioned facilities per the Tulare County Guidelines for the Implementation of California Environmental Quality Act of 1970, Number 300 Section 111. CATEGORICAL EXEMPTIONS Class 2: Replacement or Reconstruction (e). As such, Sections 15302 and 15300.4 are applicable and appropriate for this Project.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: County of Tulare, Resource Management Agency

Project Planner/Representative: Jason K. Vivian, Engineer IV Area Code/Telephone: 559-624-7135

Signature:  _____ Date: 6/18/19 Title: Chief Environmental Planner
Hector Guerra

Signature:  _____ Date: 6/18/19 Title: Environmental Assessment Officer
Reed Schenke RMA Director

X Signed by Lead Agency

Date filed at State Clearinghouse: N/A