

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

To: Office of Planning and Research
1400 Tenth Street, Room 121
Sacramento, CA 95814

Tulare County Clerk
Room 105, Courthouse
221 South Mooney Blvd.
Visalia, CA 93291

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

<i>DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING AT TULARE COUNTY CLERK</i>
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Applicant(s): CalBioGas South Tulare LLC
324 S. Santa Fe St.
Visalia, CA 93292
559-667-9560

Project Title: So. Tulare Biogas Gathering Line

Project Location - Specific: Various Locations, see attached map (Phase 1)

Project Location- Section, Township, Range: Section Various, Township 21 and 20 S, Range 24 and 25 E of the Lake View School, Tipton, Tulare, and Cairn's Corner USGS 7 ½ minute quadrangles

Project Location - City: See Attached Memo

Project Location - County: Tulare

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project: CalBioGas South Tulare LLC proposes to construct 8.8 miles of a pressurized underground gas pipeline within portions of the County of Tulare rights-of-way of Roads 96, 128, 132 and 152; Avenues 184, 192 and 208; and Spacer Drive D134), south of the City of Tulare. The intent of the project is to transport dairy biogas from participating dairies to a Southern California Gas Company mainline tie-in facility. The scope of the project consists of the installation of HDPE PE4710 SDR 11 gas pipeline and concomitant safety equipment along the 8.8-mile alignment. On August 18, 2020, the Tulare County Board of Supervisors approved an indemnification agreement to allow some segments of the underground pipeline to utilize County rights-of-way within easements along or across public roadways. All of Tulare County will benefit as the Project would recover manure methane at dairies and using the methane as a renewable source of natural gas thereby reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

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 15061(b)(3)
- Categorical Exemption: Categorical Exemption: State CEQA Guidelines Section 15301 Existing Facilities (Class 1 Exemption); and Section 15303 New Construction or Conversation of Small Structures (Class 3 Exemption);
- Statutory Exemptions:

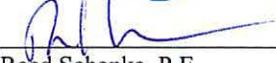
Reasons why project is exempt: The Project will not involve any new developments or changes to existing land uses, nor are any proposed, there will be no additional vehicular trips generated as a result of the proposed Activity/Project. The Activity/Project will result in no adverse impact to the environment including aesthetics, air quality, agriculture, biology, cultural, greenhouse gases, hazards/hazardous materials, land use/planning, noise, public services, traffic, or utilities/service systems. Furthermore, the proposed Project site will be required to comply with applicable San Joaquin Valley Unified Air District rules and regulations, including but not limited to, Rule 2010 (Permits Required), Rule 2201 (New and Modified Stationary Source Review), and Rule 9510 (indirect Source Review). The Activity/Project will result in reduction of methane-related GHG by using methane gas emissions from the dairies as an alternative/renewable fuel source, is consistent with draft Tulare County Dairy Climate Action Plan (which incorporates strategies to promote the use of renewable energy sources, including digesters for energy-production), and is also consistent with and implements the California Environmental Protection Agency Air Resources Board's Short-Lived Climate Pollutant Reduction Strategy March 2017; Methane Emissions Reductions from Dairy Manure. As the equipment modification will occur at an existing site and pipelines for this

Activity/Project will remain within County of Tulare Rights-of-Way, this action is consistent with 14 Cal. Code Regs. Section 15301(b) Existing facilities or both investor and public owned utilities used to provide electric power, natural gas, sewerage, or other public utility services and; 14 Cal. Code Regs. Section 15303(d) Water main, sewage, electrical gas, and other utility extensions, including street improvements, or reasonable length to serve such construction. Therefore, the use of CEQA Guidelines Sections 15301(b) and 15303(d), as noted above, are applicable and appropriate for this Activity/Project.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Tulare County, RMA – Economic Development and Planning Branch

Project Planner/Representative: _____ **Area Code/Telephone:** 559-624-7000

By:  Date: 8/18/20 Title: Chief Environmental Planner
Hector Guerra

By:  Date: 3/13/20 Title: Environmental Assessment Officer
Reed Schenke, P.E. RMA Director

Signed by Lead Agency

Date Received for filing at OPR: ____