



**RESOURCE MANAGEMENT  
AGENCY  
COUNTY OF TULARE  
PLANNING COMMISSION  
SUMMARY**

**PLANNING COMMISSION**

CHAIRMAN: Wayne O. Millies  
 VICE-CHAIR: Carlos Aleman  
 COMMISSIONERS:  
     Gil Aguilar  
     Bill Whitlatch  
     Ed Dias  
     Vacant  
     Dennis Lehman  
     Terren Brown  
 AIRPORT LAND USE  
 COMMISSIONERS (ALUC)  
     Bill Whitlatch  
     Matthew Stoll

5961 S. Mooney Blvd  
 Visalia, CA 93277  
 624-7000 Phone  
 730-2653 Fax

<b>Project Number:</b> General Plan Amendment No. GPA 24-004 Administrative amendment to the Health and Safety Element to Incorporate by Reference the 2023 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan Update.	<b>Agenda Date:</b>	<b>6/26/2024</b>
<b>Applicant:</b> Tulare County Board of Supervisors	<b>Agenda Item Number:</b>	
<b>Agent:</b> N/A	<b>AGENDA ITEM TYPE</b>	
<b>Subject:</b> Planning Commission Public Hearing on the Proposed Administrative amendment to the Health and Safety Element to Incorporate by Reference the 2023 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (GPA 24-004).  <b>Environmental Review:</b> Proposed Categorical Exemption in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act and the State Guidelines.  Categorical Exemption: Title 14, Cal. Code Regulations (CCR), Section 14262 (Feasibility and Planning Studies) and Section 15061(b)(3) general rule exemption.	Presentation	
	Consent Calendar	
	Unfinished Business	
	New Business	
	Public Hearing	X
	Continued Public Hearing	
	Discussion	
	<b>ACTION REQUESTED</b>	
	Resolution – Board of Supervisors	
<b>Motion(s):</b> Two Motion(s)	Resolution – Planning Commission	X
<b>Contact Person:</b> Susan Simon	Decision - Director	

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

**That the Planning Commission:**

1. Hold a public hearing.
2. Recommend that the Board of Supervisors find that the proposed General Plan Amendment GPA 24-004 to the 2030 General Plan Health and Safety Element update is not subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Title 14 California Code of Regulations (CCR), Section 15262 (Feasibility and Planning Studies) and pursuant to Section 15061(b)(3) of the CEQA Guidelines “general rule.”
3. Recommend that the Board of Supervisors approve an administrative amendment General Plan Amendment No. GPA 24-004 to incorporate by Reference the 2023 Tulare County Multi-Jurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan into the 2030 Tulare County General Plan Health and Safety Element of the General Plan.

**PLANNING COMMISSION ALTERNATIVES:**

**Alternative No. 1:** Move to recommend approve, subject to modifications as discussed by the Planning Commission

**Alternative No. 2:** Move to recommend denial.

**Alternative No. 3:** Refer back to Staff for further study and report.

**PROJECT SUMMARY:**

A proposal to amend the Health and Safety Element of the Tulare County General Plan to incorporate a Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP). The LHMP was developed to ensure that Tulare County and participating cities, agencies, and communities are eligible for federal disaster assistance, including Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA), Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM), Hazard Mitigation Grant Programs (HMGP), and Flood Mitigation Assistance Program (FMAP). Pursuant to requirements from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and California Office of Emergency Services (CalOES), staff is recommending that the Planning Commission recommend to the Board of Supervisors that the LHMP be incorporated into the Health and Safety Element of the Tulare County General Plan. CEQA: The project may be found exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Title 14, Cal. Code Regulations (CCR) Section 15262 (Feasibility and Planning Studies) and pursuant to the "general rule" in CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3) that there is no possibility that the proposed amendment to the General Plan will have a significant effect on the environment. The project may also be found exempt from CEQA per sections 153017 and 15308 because the implementation of the HMP will include actions taken by regulatory agencies to maintain and protect natural resources and the environment.

The Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA), is federal legislation that establishes a pre-disaster hazard mitigation program and new requirements for the national post-disaster Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP). DMA 2000 encourages and rewards local and state pre-disaster planning, promotes sustainability, and seeks to integrate state and local planning with an overall goal of strengthening statewide hazard mitigation planning. This enhanced planning approach enables local, tribal, and state governments to articulate accurate and specific needs for hazard mitigation, which results in faster, more efficient allocation of funding and more effective risk reduction projects.

AB 2140 allows California local governments to adopt their current, FEMA-approved Local Hazard Mitigation Plans (LHMPs) into the Safety Element of their General Plans. The Safety Element works in tandem with the County's Multi-Jurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (MJLHMP) to evaluate the risk of hazards and demonstrate how the County will lower its risk and exposure to potential disasters. In conjunction with the Safety Element Update, staff began an update to the MJLHMP. In conjunction with the Safety Element Update, staff began an update to the Multi-Jurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan. The 2023 Tulare County Multi-Jurisdictional-Local Hazard Mitigation Plan was officially adopted by the Tulare County Board of Supervisors on March 14, 2023. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) reviewed and found the plan to be in conformance with the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 44, Part 201, Section 6 (44 C.F.R.201.6) on April 18, 2023. FEMA approved the plan on April 18, 2023, for a five-year period.

Local governments are required to update their LHMP every five years in order to remain eligible for future federal disaster mitigation funding. In accordance with DMA-2000, the LHMP must describe the type, location, and extent of all natural hazards that can affect the jurisdiction; describe the jurisdictions vulnerability to these hazards; include a mitigation strategy that provides the jurisdictions blueprint for reducing the potential losses; and contain a plan maintenance process.

**SUBJECT:** General Plan Amendment No. GPA 24-004

The 2023 Tulare County Multi-Jurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (MJLHMP) was adopted by the Board of Supervisors on March 14, 2023, by Resolution No. 2023-0212. The MJLHMP is a cooperative effort between the County, the incorporated cities of Dinuba, Exeter, Farmersville, Lindsay, Porterville, Tulare Visalia, and Woodlake, the Office of Education, and the Tulare Irrigation District. The MJLHMP represents the second update to the County’s inaugural 2011 Plan and continues the multi-jurisdictional approach to leverage technical and financial synergies amongst the participating jurisdictions, culminating in a plan that can be utilized both as a basis for emergency planning as well as a tool to guide mitigation efforts and obtain Federal funding. FEMA does require the County’s Health and Safety Element be amended to incorporate the 2023 MJLHMP to ensure continued eligibility for project grants under FEMA’s hazard mitigation assistance programs, including Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, Pre- Disaster Mitigation and Flood Mitigation Assistance grant programs.

The County’s current 2023 Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan can be accessed via the internet at:

<https://tularecounty.ca.gov/rma/rma-documents/planning-documents/tulare-county-2023-local-hazard-mitigation-plan-lhmp2/>

**GENERAL PLAN AMENDMENT:**

The Proposed Health and Safety Element 2023 Administrative Update is intended to update the existing Health and Safety Element, as amended by the Board of Supervisors March 14, 2023, by Resolution No. 2023-0212. This is referred to as an “administrative” amendment.

As the MJLHMP update was adopted in 2023, the State requires the County to not only adopt updates to the MJLHMP but to include reference to these updates within the Health and Safety Element of the General Plan through adoption of a resolution to that effect.

The proposed General Plan Amendment implements two minor administrative amendments into the Tulare County General Plan Health and Safety Element.

1. Health and Safety Element Introduction Page 10-3 is amended as follows:

The ~~2018~~ 2023 Multi-Jurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (MJLHMP) for the Tulare Operational Area (County and all cities and special districts) was developed in accordance with the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA 2000) and followed FEMA’s 2013 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan guidance. The MJLHMP incorporates a process where hazards are identified and profiled, the people and facilities at risk are analyzed, and mitigation actions are developed to reduce or eliminate hazard risk.

2. Health and Safety Element Page 10-59 is amended as follows:

**HS-7.8 Tulare County Multi-Jurisdiction Hazard Mitigation Plan**

The County incorporates the adopted 2024 Tulare County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan (BOS Resolution No. 2023-0212) into the Tulare County General Plan Health and Safety Element. The plan provides guidance and insight

into the hazards that exist in Tulare County and suggests possible mitigation projects. The plan should be consulted when addressing known hazards to ensure the general health and safety of Tulare County residents.

**HS-7.9 Climate Adaptation and Resiliency**

The County incorporates the Climate Adaptation and Resiliency strategies identified in California Government Code 65302(g)(4) as adopted in the 2023 Tulare County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan (BOS Resolution No. 2023-0212) and Tulare County Climate Action Plan into the Tulare County General Plan Health and Safety Element.

**ENVIRONMENTAL SUMMARY:**

The Environment Assessment Officer has approved the Categorical Exemption consistent with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Title 14, Cal. Code Regulations (CCR) Section 15262 (Feasibility and Planning Studies) and Section 15061(b)(3) General Rule Exemption of the CEQA Guidelines, which state:

*“A project is exempt from CEQA if the activity is covered by the commonsense exemption that CEQA replies only to projects which have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment. Where it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment, the activity is not subject to CEQA.”*

Because the proposed amendment only references and incorporates an adopted plan that has evaluated hazard impacts and identified implementation efforts to minimize potential impacts, there is no possibility that the project amendment to the General Plan may result in a significant effect on the environment.

Furthermore, because the implementation of the HMP will include actions taken by regulatory agencies to maintain and protect natural resources and the environment, the project may be found categorically exempt from CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines sections 15307 and 156308.

**PUBLIC NOTICE:**

Government Code §65009(b) requires the County to include in any public notice pursuant to Government Code, Title 7, Planning and Land Use, a notice substantially stating all of the following: “If you challenge the project in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the County of Tulare at, or prior to, the public hearing.”

**SUBJECT:** General Plan Amendment No. GPA 24-004

Susan Simon

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Susan Simon  
Planner IV  
Economic Development & Planning Branch



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Aaron R. Bock, MCRP, JD, LEED AP  
Assistant Director  
Economic Development & Planning Branch



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Gary A. Mills, Chief Planner  
Environmental Planning Division  
Economic Development & Planning Branch



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Michael Washam, ACE  
Associate Director  
Resource Management Agency

Attachment No. 1 – Planning Commission Resolution CEQA and General Plan Amendment  
GPA 24-004

Exhibit “A” – Categorical Exemption consistent with the California  
Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Title 14 (California Code of  
Regulations (CCR), Section 15262 (Feasibility and Planning Studies  
and Section 15061(b)(3) general rule exemption.

Exhibit “B” – General Plan Amendment (GPA 24-004)

Attachment No. 2 – Public Hearing Notice

**Attachment No. 1**

**Planning Commission Resolution Recommending the Board of Supervisors Adopt  
Categorical Exemption consistent with the CEQA.**

**BEFORE THE PLANNING COMMISSION**

COUNTY OF TULARE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE MATTER OF THE PROPOSED )  
CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION FOR THE )  
ADMINISTRATIVE AMENDMENT TO ) RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_  
THE HEALTH AND SAFETY ELEMENT )  
OF THE GENERAL PLAN FOR THE 2023 )  
UPDATE OF THE MULTI-JURIDICTIONAL )  
LOCAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN (GPA 24-004) )

Resolution of the Tulare County Planning Commission recommending adoption to the Board of Supervisors the Proposed Amendment to the Health and Safety Element of the General Plan and Certification and adoption of the Categorical Exemption, under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Title 14 California Code of Regulations (CCR), Section 15262 (Feasibility and Planning Studies) and Section 15061(b)(3) general rule exemption, for the Proposed Administrative amendment to the Health and Safety Element to Incorporate by Reference the 2023 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (GPA 24-004), is inclusive of the Proposed Administrative amendment to the Health and Safety Element to Incorporate by Reference the 2023 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (GPA 24-004).

WHEREAS, on March 14, 2023, the Tulare County Board of Supervisors approved an update to the Tulare County Plan Health and Safety Element (GPA 24-00).

WHEREAS, the Multi-Jurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan was developed in accordance with the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000; and

WHEREAS, the Multi-Jurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan followed the FEMA Local Hazard Mitigation Plan guidance; and

WHEREAS, to complete the process for compliance with Assembly Bill 2140, the 20112 General Plan Health and Safety Element was amended by General Plan Amendment (GPA 24-004);

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission has been given notice of the proposed amendment to the General Plan as provided in Section 65854 of the Government Code of the State of California,

WHEREAS, staff has performed necessary investigations of fact bearing upon the proposed amendments to assure action consistent with the procedures and purposes set forth in the California Government Code, the State General Plan Guidelines, and other elements of the Tulare County General Plan; and

WHEREAS, this resolution of the Tulare County Planning Commission of recommending adoption of this Categorical Exemption for the Proposed Administrative amendment to the Health

and Safety to Incorporate by Reference in 2023 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (GPA 24-004), as being in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (“CEQA) and the State CEQA Guidelines;

WHEREAS, on June 12, 2023, under CEQA Guideline Section 15073, the Notice of Availability for this Categorical Exemption was sent for publishing to the Sun Gazette posting of the Categorical Exemption at the State Clearinghouse and relevant State Agencies, and notification for public review;

WHEREAS, this Categorical Exemption are for the Proposed Administrative amendment to the Health and Safety Element to Incorporate by Reference the 2023 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (GPA 24-002) inclusive of, General Plan Amend Amendment No. GPA 24-004;

WHEREAS, the public hearing was conducted for this matter at the meeting of the Commission held on June 26, 2024;

WHEREAS, this resolution recommended approval and certification of Categorical Exemption for the Proposed Administrative Amendment to the Health and Safety Element to Incorporate by Reference the 2023 Local Hazard Mitigation (GPA 24-004) at the meeting on June 26, 2024;

WHEREAS, the Commission finds that the Staff of Tulare County Resource Management Agency (RMA) has conducted the necessary investigations (including environmental review of this matter); prepared a written Staff Report (made a part hereof), and provided additional information affecting this Categorical Exemption at the public hearings noticed, convened and conducted for this matter; and based on substantial evidence, submitted this Categorical Exemption for the consideration of, and action by, the Commission;

WHEREAS, through a good faith and substantial analysis of environmental impacts from this Project in the Initial Study, staff found, and the Commission agrees, that all impacts are less than significant, and therefore, the Categorical Exemption were the appropriate level of environmental review under CEQA for this Project.

WHEREAS, the proposed administrative amendment to the Health and Safety Element to Incorporate by Reference the 2023 Multi-Jurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (GPA 24-004) will become consistent with the General Plan 2030 Update, and this Planning Commission, after considering all the evidence presented, hereby determines the following findings to be relevant in evaluating the proposed general plan amendment.

1. The Planning Commission conducted a public hearing on June 26, 2024, on the proposed General Plan amendment and Categorical Exemption for the inclusion of updated language in the Introduction on Page 10-3 and updated language in Policies 7.8 and 7.9 on Page 10-59 of the Health and Safety Element of the Tulare County General Plan.

2. The Planning Commission finds that this amendment is exempt from environmental review as required by EQA through the use of the “General Plan,” Section 15061(b)(3) that is applied to proposals, which will have no potential adverse impact on the environment.
3. The County of Tulare has developed a Multi-Jurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan in accordance with the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000. The plan was adopted by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Tulare on March 14, 2023, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) approved the plan on April 18, 2023. The plan provides guidance and insight to the hazards that exist in Tulare County and suggests possible mitigation projects. This plan should be consulted when addressing known hazards to ensure the general health and safety of Tulare County residents.
4. The Planning Commission finds that the proposed General Plan Amendment is in the public interest.
5. The Planning Commission recommends to the Board of Supervisors that it adopts the Planning Commissions recommended finding that the amendment is in the public interest and approve the General Plan amendment to amend updated language in the Introduction on Page 10-3 and updated language in Policies 7.8 and 7.9 on Page 10-59 of the Health and Safety Element of the Tulare County General Plan.

WHEREAS, a Categorical Exemption for General Plan Amendment No. GPA 24-004, Proposed Administrative amendment to the Health and Safety Element to Incorporate by Reference the 2023 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (GPA 24-004) was prepared by Tulare County Staff and approved by the environmental document for GPA 24-004;

WHEREAS, in accordance with state and local ordinances, RMA staff has given due notice of the public hearing for the Categorical Exemption that would be held for the purpose of receiving comment on the environmental document for GPA 24-004;

WHEREAS, a public hearing was conducted on June 26, 2024, at the regular Planning Commission Meeting in the Board of Supervisors Chambers where public testimony was received on the project;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED as follows:

1. This Planning Commission hereby recommends certification based on their findings and substantial evidence in the record that the analysis presented in the Categorical Exemption for the Proposed Administrative amendment to the Health and Safety Element to Incorporate by Reference the 2023 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (GPA 24-004) has been completed in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act and the State Guidelines for the Implementation of the California Quality Act of 1970;

2. This Planning Commission finds that this amendment is exempt from environmental review as required by CEQA through the use of the “General Rule,” Section

15061(b)(3) that applied to proposals which will have no potential adverse impact on the environment.

3. The Commission is deemed the recommending body with respect to the Project Categorical Exemption, unless duly appealed to the Tulare County Board of Supervisors. In the context of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the County is the “Lead Agency.”

4. Therefore, the findings made in regard to this Categorical Exemption for the Project are recommended by the Planning Commission as the Lead Agency on June 26, 2024, by Resolution No. \_\_\_\_\_

5. Consistent with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Title 14 California Code of Regulations (CCR), Section 15262 (Feasibility and Planning Studies) and Section 15061(b)(3) general; rule exemption as the proposed administrative amendment to the Health and Safety Element to Incorporate by Reference the foreseeable indirect change in the environment, the Commission hereby makes various findings related to the less than significant effects identified in the Categorical Exemption. Based on substantial evidence in the Categorical Exemption and pursuant to the discussion in each section of the Categorical Exemption, and the Public Record of Proceedings, the Commission finds and declares that the mitigation measures included in Categorical Exemption are required and that the Project will not cause a significant impact to the environment.

AND, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED as follows:

A. This Planning Commission finds that the public will benefit from the Project as it will implement the General Plan and advance socially desirable community improvements that are environmentally and economically sound.

B. The Categorical Exemption is available at the Tulare County Resource Management Agency at 5961 South Mooney Boulevard, Visalia, California 93277, (559)624-7000. The custodian for these documents and other materials is Mr. Gary Mills, Chief Environmental Planner.

C. The Planning Commission hereby recommends that the Board of Supervisors certify and adopt the Categorical Exempt for GPA 24-004.

D. The Planning Commission hereby recommends that the Tulare County Board of Supervisors adopt General Plan Amendment No. GPA 24-004 the Proposed Administrative amendment to the Health and Safety Element to Incorporate by Reference of 2018 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan.

The foregoing resolution was adopted upon motion of Commissioner \_\_\_\_\_, seconded by Commissioner \_\_\_\_\_, at a regular meeting of the Planning Commission on June 26, 2024, by the following roll call vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

TULARE COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

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Aaron R. Bock, Secretary

**Exhibit “A” – Categorical Exemption**

# NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

## Fee Exempt per Government Code Section 6103

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: County of Tulare c/o Resource Management Agency  
5961 S. Mooney Blvd.  
Visalia, CA 93277 (559) 624-7000  
Attn: [gmills@tularecounty.ca.gov](mailto:gmills@tularecounty.ca.gov) and [jwillis@tularecounty.ca.gov](mailto:jwillis@tularecounty.ca.gov)

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING AT TULARE COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE

Applicant(s): Tulare County Resource Management Agency  
5961 S. Mooney Blvd.  
Visalia, CA 93277 (559) 624-7000

Project Title: Administrative amendment to the Health and Safety Element to Incorporate by Reference the 2023 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (GPA 22-007)

Project Location - Specific: County of Tulare (Unincorporated Area)

Project Location- Section, Township, Range: all within Tulare County

Project Location - City: County-wide      Project Location - County: Tulare

**Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:** The Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA-2000), along with certain provisions of the Government code and supporting State and Federal regulations, provide a framework for local jurisdictions to develop and adopt approved Local Hazard Mitigation Plans (LHMP) in order to access mitigation funds under Pre-Disaster Mitigation and Hazard Mitigation Grant Programs. California Government Code §8685.9 also makes jurisdictions with currently adopted plans, which are incorporated into the Health and Safety Element of the General Plan, eligible for supplemental California Disaster Assistance Act funding if authorized by the legislature for a specific disaster pursuant to AB 2140.

Local governments are required to update their LHMP every five (5) years in order to remain eligible for future federal disaster mitigation funding. In accordance with DMA-2000, the LHMP must describe the type, location, and extent of all natural hazards that can affect the jurisdiction; describe the jurisdictions vulnerability to these hazards; include a mitigation strategy that provides the jurisdictions blueprint for reducing the potential losses; and contain a plan maintenance process.

The 2023 Tulare County Multi-Jurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP or Plan) was adopted by the Board of Supervisors on March 14, 2023 (BOS Resolution No. 2023-0212). The LHMP is a cooperative effort between the County, the incorporated cities of Dinuba, Exeter, Farmersville, Lindsay, Porterville, Tulare, Visalia, and Woodlake, the Office of Education, Tulare Irrigation District (TID) Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) approved the Plan on April 18, 2023, for a 5-year period. This Plan represents the second update to the County's inaugural 2011 Plan and continues the multi-jurisdictional approach to leverage technical and financial synergies amongst the participating jurisdictions, culminating in a plan that can be utilized both as a basis for emergency planning as well as a tool to guide mitigation efforts and obtain Federal funding. FEMA does require the County's Health and Safety Element be amended to incorporate the 2023 LHMP to ensure continued eligibility for project grants under FEMA's hazard mitigation assistance programs, including Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, Pre-Disaster Mitigation Assistance grant programs.

### 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 Rule: **CEQA guidelines 15061(b)(3)**
- Categorical Exemption:
- Statutory Exemptions: **CEQA Guidelines Section 15262 Feasibility and Planning Studies**

**Reasons why project is exempt:** This action is consistent with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Title 14 California Code of Regulations (CCR), Section 15262 (Feasibility and Planning Studies) and Section 15601(b)(3) general rule exemption, as activities associated with the proposed Health and Safety Element administrative amendment will not result in a direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect change in the environment. Therefore, the application of CEQA Section 15262 and Section 15601(b)(3) is applicable and appropriate for this plan.

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

**Project Planner/Representative:** Gary Mills, Chief Environmental Planner      **Telephone:** (559) 624-7911

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: Chief Environmental Planner  
Gary A. Mills

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: Environmental Assessment Officer  
Reed Schenke, P.E.      RMA Director

Signed by Lead Agency      Date submitted to the OPR/SCH: \_\_\_\_\_

**Exhibit “B” – Administrative Amendment to the Health & Safety Element**

## 10. Health & Safety

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While still providing aviation services for public use airports in the County. Hazardous wastes are handled according to State and Federal law and the County's Hazardous Waste Management Plan.

Tulare County's noise producers include highways and roads, railroads, manufacturing plants, airports, and agricultural operations.

Land use, the built environment, and transportation options can also affect communities and contribute to the health, safety, and quality of life. One of the many means of preventing premature death is through crime prevention and promoting healthy lifestyles by means of community design.

Tulare County has a long history of flooding along its major rivers: the Kings, Kaweah, and Tule Rivers. In 1997, flooding occurred in Three Rivers, Springville, Lindsay, and Earlimart. In 2006, flooding occurred in Cutler-Orosi. Recent improvements to raise the elevation of the spillway at Terminus Dam and planned improvements to the Lake Success Dam will help to minimize future flood risk.

Tulare County has both urban and wildland fire hazards, creating the potential for injury, loss of life, and property damage. It is important to note that although some structures are located in fire hazard areas, active fire prevention measures are not only included in this Health and Safety Element, but are also addressed in the following plans and programs:

- 1) The ~~2018~~ **2023** Multi-Jurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) for the Tulare Operational Area (County and all cities and special districts) was developed in accordance with the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (OMA 2000) and followed FEMA's 2013 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan guidance. The LHMP incorporates a process where hazards are identified and profiled, the people and facilities at risk are analyzed, and mitigation actions are developed to reduce or eliminate hazard risk. The implementation of these mitigation actions, which include both short- and long-term strategies, involve planning, policy changes, programs, projects, and other activities.  
<http://tularecounty.ca.gov/oes/index.cfm/mitigation/>.
- 2) The Tulare County Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) establishes an emergency management organization and assigns functions and tasks consistent with California's Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS) and the National Incident Management System (NIMS). The plan provides for the integration and coordination of planning efforts of the County with those of the cities, special districts, and Tule River Tribe comprising the Operational Area, as well as neighboring jurisdictions and the State. The content of this plan is based on guidance provided by the State of California's Governor's Office of Emergency Services, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and the US Department of Homeland Security. The intent of the EOP is to facilitate coordinated emergency response and post emergency short- term recovery by providing a framework for response to all significant emergencies, regardless of the nature of the event. <http://tularecounty.ca.gov/oes/index.cfm/response/>.
- 3) The CAL FIRE Tulare Unit Strategic Fire Plan is a product of the implementation of the California State Fire Plan. The Plan is a local road map to create and maintain defensible

landscapes in order to protect vital assets. The Fire Plan seeks to reduce firefighting cost and property loss, increase public and firefighter safety, minimize wildfire risk to communities and contribute to ecosystem health. The Plan identifies pre-suppression projects including opportunities for reducing structural ignitability, and the identification of potential fuel reduction projects and techniques for minimizing those risks. The central goals that are critical to reducing and preventing the impacts of fire revolve around both suppression efforts and fire prevention efforts. [http://cdfdata.fire.ca.gov/fire\\_er/fpp\\_planning\\_plans\\_details?plan\\_id=241](http://cdfdata.fire.ca.gov/fire_er/fpp_planning_plans_details?plan_id=241)

Major components are:

- Improved availability and use of information on hazard and risk assessment effective provision of emergency services, such as mass care, heavy rescue, hazardous materials, or other specialized function.

**HS-7.3 Maintain Emergency Evacuation Plans**

The County shall continue to create, revise, and maintain emergency plan for the broad range of natural and human-made disasters and response activities that could foreseeably impact Tulare County. This shall include, but not be limited to, flooding, dam failure, extreme weather, evacuation/transportation, mass care and shelter, and animal evacuation and sheltering. Emergency Planning projects shall be in line with the County's Strategic Plan and Emergency Operations Plan, and incorporate current guidance and initiatives from State and Federal Emergency Management Agencies.

**HS-7.4 Upgrading for Streets and Highways**

The County shall evaluate and upgrade vital streets and highways to an acceptable level for emergency services.

**HS-7.5 Emergency Centers**

The County shall require emergency backup systems to enable uninterrupted continuous operations as required by the California Essential Facilities Act.

**HS-7.6 Search and Rescue**

The County should continue to provide search and rescue operation capabilities for the Tulare County Sheriff's Department in mountainous areas, including those areas on the eastern side of the Sierra Nevada that are not served by all-weather roads.

**HS-7.7 Joint Exercises**

The County shall encourage fire, law enforcement, emergency medical services, resource management, public health, and other governmental and non-governmental response partners to periodically conduct joint training exercises with the goal of developing the best possible coordinated action in the event of a natural or human-made disaster across all local jurisdictions.

**HS-7.8 Tulare County Multi-Jurisdiction Hazard Mitigation Plan**

The County incorporates the adopted [2023](#) Tulare County Multi-Jurisdiction Hazard

Mitigation Plan ([BOS Resolution # 2023-0212](#)) into the Tulare County General Plan Health and Safety Element. The plan provides guidance and insight into the hazards that exist in Tulare County and suggests possible mitigation projects. The plan should be consulted when addressing known hazards to ensure the general health and safety of Tulare County residents.

**HS-7.9 Climate Adaptation and Resiliency**

The County incorporates the Climate Adaptation and Resiliency strategies identified in California Government Code 65302 (g)(4) as adopted in the [2023 Tulare County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan \(BOS Resolution# 2023-0212\)](#) and Tulare County Climate Action Plan into the Tulare County General Plan Health and Safety Element.

**Attachment No. 2**  
**Public Hearing Notice**

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Tulare County Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, June 26, 2024, at 9:00 A.M., or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard, in the Chambers of the Board of Supervisors, Administration Building, County Civic Center, 2800 West Burrel, Visalia, California 93291.

The hearing will pertain to General Plan Amendment GPA 24-004 a proposed administrative amendment to the Health and Safety Element to Incorporate by Reference the 2023 Multi-Jurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan and proposed Categorical Exemption which has been approved for public review by the Tulare County Environment Assessment Officer Pursuant to the State of California Public Resources Code. Copies are available for review and comment at the Tulare County Resource Management Agency, Permit Center, 5961 South Mooney Blvd., Visalia, California 93277, (559) 624-7000, (Monday – Friday: 9:00 am to 4:30 pm).

**PROJECT:** General Plan Amendment No. GPA 24-004

**APPLICANT/AGENT:** Tulare County Board of Supervisors

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** Proposed Administrative amendment to the Health and Safety Element to Incorporate by Reference the 2023 Multi-Jurisdiction Local Hazard Mitigation Plan.

**ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT:** Categorical Exemption

**REVIEW PERIOD:** 10 days until June 24, 2024, at 5:00 p.m.

**PUBLIC HEARING:** Planning Commission on June 26, 2024, at 9:00 a.m.

All interested parties are invited to attend and be heard. For further information regarding this project, please contact **Aaron Bock, Assistant RMA Director - Economic Development & Planning** at (559) 624-7050 or email at [abock@tularecounty.ca.gov](mailto:abock@tularecounty.ca.gov). For environmental questions please call **Gary Mills, Chief Environmental Planner** at (559) 624-7199 or **(para-Espanola llama Brenda Alcantar** at (559) 624-7000).

If you challenge the decision on any of the foregoing matters in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the Tulare County Resource Management Agency, Economic Development and Planning Branch, within the review period described herein.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in meetings call (559) 624-7000 48-hours in advance of the meeting.

GARY MILLS, CHIEF ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNER  
REED SCHENKE, ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT OFFICER

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TO BE PUBLISHED ONCE ONLY ON: June 12, 2024

SEND BILL AND TEAR SHEET TO:  
TUL CO RESOURCE MGMT.  
5961 SOUTH MOONEY BLVD.  
VISALIA, CA 93277-9394

SEND TO: The Sun-Gazette