



# Resource Management Agency

## COUNTY OF TULARE AGENDA ITEM

### BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

LARRY MICARI  
District One

PETE VANDER POEL  
District Two

AMY SHUKLIAN  
District Three

EDDIE VALERO  
District Four

DENNIS TOWNSEND  
District Five

**AGENDA DATE:** March 18, 2025 - REVISED

Public Hearing Required	N/A
Scheduled Public Hearing w/Clerk	N/A
Published Notice Required	N/A
Advertised Published Notice	N/A
Meet & Confer Required	N/A
Budget Transfer (Aud 308) attached	N/A
Personnel Resolution attached	N/A
Agreement(s) attached	N/A

CONTACT PERSON: Celeste Perez PHONE: (559) 624-7010

**SUBJECT:** Lone Oak and Soult's Tracts Wastewater Improvement Project  
Funding Application

**REQUEST(S):**

That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Authorize and direct the Chair of the Board ("Authorized Representative") or designee to sign and file, for and on behalf of the County, a Financial Assistance Application for a financing agreement from the State Water Resources Control Board for the planning, design, and construction of the Lone Oak and Soult's Tracts Wastewater Improvement Project (the "Project").
2. Designate the Authorized Representative, or designee, to provide the assurances, certifications, and commitments required for the financial assistance application, including executing a financial assistance agreement from the State Water Resources Control Board and any amendments or changes thereto; provided, however, that such assurances, certifications and commitments remain subject to review and approval by County Counsel.
3. Designate the Authorized Representative and the Resource Management Agency Director, and their respective designees, to represent the County in carrying out the County's responsibilities under the financing agreement, including certifying disbursement requests on behalf of the County and compliance with applicable state and federal laws.
4. Agree that if the application for funding is approved, the County will comply with all applicable state and federal statutory and regulatory requirements related to any financing or financial assistance received and will use the funds for eligible activities in the manner presented in the application as approved by the State Water Resources Control Board.

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5. Find that the Lone Oak and Souls Tracts Project is exempt from review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the State CEQA Guidelines pursuant to the Class 2 Section 15302 (c) Exemption.
6. Authorize the Environmental Assessment Officer, or designee, to file the Notice of Exemption with the Clerk-Recorder and the appropriate state agency.
7. Receive the January 2025 Project Engineering Report for the Lone Oak and Souls Tracts Wastewater System Feasibility Report.
8. Adopt the attached Resolution designating and directing an authorized representative to apply for, make certain representations regarding, and accept financial assistance from the State Water Resources Control Board for the Lone Oak and Souls Tracts Wastewater Project.
9. Direct the Resource Management Agency to return to the Board of Supervisors to accept all signed agreements and amendments that have been signed by the Chair for the State Water Resources Control Board for the planning, design, and construction of the Lone Oak and Souls Tracts Wastewater Improvement Project.

**SUMMARY:**

The unincorporated communities of Lone Oak Tract and Souls Tract are at public health risk due to failing septic wastewater systems that can allow bacteria, viruses, and other water-borne diseases to develop in wet areas. These conditions can be unhealthy for humans, pets, and the environment. Leach fields can contribute to high levels of nitrates or coliform bacteria contamination in groundwater aquifers. High levels of nitrates in drinking water can be detrimental for pregnant women and children.

Souls Tract is located along the western boundary of the City of Tulare. The community consists of 36 rural residential properties with a population of approximately 126 people. Souls Tract relies on septic tanks and leach field systems for wastewater treatment and disposal. The community is currently working towards a drinking water consolidation with the City of Tulare.

Lone Oak Tract is located just south of Souls Tract and consists of approximately 50 residential homes and approximately 180 people. This community also relies on septic tanks for their wastewater disposal. The City of Tulare is already providing drinking water to Lone Oak Tract.

The City of Tulare is an active partner in this project. The City participates in regular status meetings and has provided technical support in the development of the feasibility study and this grant application. The proposed application to the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) would request funding to complete planning, design, and construction of the Lone Oak and Souls Tracts Wastewater Improvement Projects. The Plans, Specifications and Estimates (PS&E) are anticipated to take 18 to 24 months and construction will be completed 36 to 48 months after the design is complete.

**Background**

In 2018, Self-Help Enterprises (SHE) received a technical assistance grant from the SWRCB for evaluating potential solutions to resolve the wastewater disposal concerns for the communities of Lone Oak Tract and Souls Tract. SHE contracted with Provost &

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Pritchard who evaluated potential solutions culminating in a Project Feasibility Report outlining and analyzing alternatives. The selected alternative is a gravity collection system and consolidation with the City of Tulare.

**Environmental Review**

It is respectfully requested that your Board determine that the proposed Project would result in No Substantial Impact on the environment and is therefore categorically exempt

**Application Submittal**

The application for construction funding consists of four separate application packages (General, Environmental, Financial and Technical) as well as numerous attachments and exhibits thereto. Only the General Application requires the Chair's signature.

**FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING:**

The design and construction of the Lone Oak and Soult's Tracts Wastewater Improvement Project will be funded by this grant in an approximate amount of \$6,218,504. The final amount of funding will be determined after the project has gone out to bid and has been awarded to the most responsive and responsible bidder.

There is no anticipated net County cost to the General Fund at this time.

**LINKAGE TO THE COUNTY OF TULARE STRATEGIC BUSINESS PLAN:**

The County's five-year strategic plan includes the Quality-of-Life initiative to promote public health and welfare and the Economic Well-Being initiative to promote effective growth management and quality standard of living. This proposed grant application will fund a new wastewater system for Lone Oak and Soult's Tracts residents, which will improve public health and welfare and further the continued improvement of a suitable living environment and promote a quality standard of living.

**ADMINISTRATIVE SIGN-OFF:**

**/s/ Michael Washam**

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Michael Washam, ACE  
Associate Director

**/s/ Reed Schenke**

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Reed Schenke, P.E.  
Director

Cc: County Administrative Office

Attachments:

- A – General Application Package
- B – Financial Application Package
- C – Technical Application Package

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D – Environmental Application Package

E – Resolution