



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: December 17, 2024

| | |
|------------------------------------|-----|
| 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: Adopt the Categorical Exemption for the Terra Bella Avenue Farm 2 Market Project

REQUEST(S):

That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Find that the Terra Bella Avenue Farm 2 Market Project is exempt from review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the State CEQA guidelines as repair and maintenance of public street or highways pursuant to Class 1, 14 CCR 15301 (c), and is included in the County's list of activities specifically exempt from CEQA review pursuant to 14 CCR 15300.4.
2. Authorize the Environmental Assessment Officer, or designee, to sign and file the Notice of Exemption with the Clerk-Recorder and the appropriate state agency.

SUMMARY:

The County of Tulare (County) is the lead agency for the Terra Bella Avenue Farm 2 Market Project (Project) for design and oversight of the construction of the safety improvements along Terra Bella Avenue (Avenue 95/96) between Park Drive and Road 192 and between Road 208 and State Route 65, between the community of Terra Bella and Pixley. The purpose of this Project is to rehabilitate the roadway by ensuring safety countermeasures are addressed and provide efficient transportation of agricultural goods throughout the County.

The Scope of Work includes rehabilitating the roadway by a combination of isolated pavement repairs followed by an asphalt overlay. A portion of Avenue 96 from Park Drive to School St. will require partial milling of existing asphalt materials followed by the application of new asphalt material surfacing. Resurfaced roadways will receive new traffic stripes and pavement markings along with corrective work to be performed on the

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shoulders of the roadway. These improvements 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.

In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the County has determined that the Project qualifies for Class 1 CEQA exemption pursuant to 14 CCR 15301(c) as it consists of repairs or maintenance of an existing street or highway. The Project is also included in the County's list of activities specifically exempted from CEQA review pursuant to 14 CCR 15300.4.

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) clearance for this Project is required. In accordance with NEPA, Caltrans has determined that the Project is a Categorical Exclusions under 23 CFR 711.117(c): activity (c)(22) as it consists of the Projects that will take place entirely within the existing operational right-of-way. NEPA clearance), approval was received on November 18, 2024.

Once the Categorical Exemption is adopted and the Notice of Exemption filed, County staff will then proceed with securing all required permits, notifications, and right of way clearance for the project.

Construction for this Project is anticipated to begin in the fall of 2025.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING:

No Net County Cost to the General Fund.

This project (RMA No. 19300141-002) was approved by the Board as part of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2022/2023 County Transportation Improvements Program (CTIP). This project will be funded by local County Road Funds and the 2022 Appropriations Earmarks through the Community Project Funding/Congressional Directed Spending (CPFCDs) Program.

A summary of the total estimated project cost for the Project is as follows:

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|---------------------------------------|------------------|
| Engineering Design: | \$140,000 |
| Construction (including contingency): | \$7,450,000 |
| <u>Construction Engineering:</u> | <u>\$250,000</u> |
| Total: | \$7,840,000 |

Funding Breakdown

| | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|
| 2022 Earmark Funds: | \$3,000,000 |
| <u>Local County Road Funds:</u> | <u>\$4,840,000</u> |
| Total: | \$7,840,000 |

LINKAGE TO THE COUNTY OF TULARE STRATEGIC BUSINESS PLAN:

Safety and Security – The County's Strategic Business Plan includes the Safety and Security Initiative to provide for the safety and security of the public. This project will enhance the safety and security of the public by improving the transportation

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infrastructure for both the general population in the region and the motorists using these facilities.

ADMINISTRATIVE SIGN-OFF:

/s/ Reed Schenke

Reed Schenke, P.E.
Director

Cc: County Administrative Office

Attachment A: Vicinity Map

Attachment B: Notice of Exemption