

39. Find that the Mountain Road 112 (M112) over Deer Creek Bridge Project is exempt from review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the State CEQA Guidelines as replacement or reconstruction of existing structures and facilities pursuant to Class 2, 14 CCR 15302(c), as minor trenching and backfilling where the surface is restored pursuant to Class 4, 14 CCR 15304(f), and as a project undertaken to repair damage caused by an emergency pursuant to PRC § 21080 (b) (3) & 14 CCR Section 15269. Authorize the Environmental Assessment Officer, or designee, to sign and file the Notice of Exemption with the Clerk-Recorder and the State Office of Planning and Research.



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: October 22, 2024 – 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: Adopt the Categorical Exemption for the Mountain Road 112 over Deer Creek Bridge Project

REQUEST(S):

That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Find that the Mountain Road 112 (M112) over Deer Creek Bridge Project is exempt from review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the State CEQA Guidelines as replacement or reconstruction of existing structures and facilities pursuant to Class 2, 14 CCR 15302(c), as minor trenching and backfilling where the surface is restored pursuant to Class 4, 14 CCR 15304(f), and as a project undertaken to repair damage caused by an emergency pursuant to PRC § 21080 (b)(3) & 14 CCR Section 15269.
2. Authorize the Environmental Assessment Officer, or designee, to sign and file the Notice of Exemption with the Clerk-Recorder and the State Office of Planning and Research.

SUMMARY:

The County of Tulare (County) experienced a series of severe rainstorms (atmospheric rivers) beginning in January of 2023, causing significant and widespread flooding and damage to critical transportation infrastructure. These floodwaters required the closure of the Mountain Road 112 over Deer Creek Bridge (Project), located approximately 10 miles southeast of the City of Porterville.

The existing structure was constructed in 1956 and reconstructed in 1958. Due to the historic flooding, the bridge was severely damaged making it unrepairable, resulting in the removal of the former structure and the installation of a temporary structure. The temporary single span bridge was built approximately 75 feet upstream from the former

SUBJECT: Adopt the Categorical Exemption for the Mountain Road 112 over Deer Creek Bridge Project

DATE: October 22, 2024

bridge to provide temporary access across Deer Creek until a permanent structure can be constructed. A new crossing would provide a safer and more dependable bridge for the residents in the area.

The proposed replacement bridge will be a permanent structure, approximately 420 feet long by 36 feet wide, consisting of multiple spans with a cast-in-place, post tensioned concrete slab design. The creek banks would be stabilized with riprap, and the new replacement bridge would be built in the same location as the original bridge. During construction, M112 will remain open since the temporary bridge is located upstream of the proposed replacement bridge.

This project is exempt from analysis under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the State CEQA Guidelines as replacement or reconstruction of existing structures and facilities pursuant to Class 2, 14 CCR 15302 (c), as minor trenching and backfilling where the surface is restored pursuant to Class 4, 14 CCR 15304 (f), and as a project undertaken to repair damage caused by an emergency pursuant to PRC § 21080 (b)(3) and 14 CCR 15269.

Class 2 consists of replacement or reconstruction of existing structures where the new structure will be located on the same site as the structure replaced and will have substantially the same purpose and capacity as the structure replaced with no expansion of capacity. Class 4 consists of minor public or private alterations in the condition of land, water, and/or vegetation which do not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees except for forestry or agricultural purposes. Specifically, this Project pertains to minor trenching and backfilling where the surface is restored. As this project is also undertaken to repair damage caused by the March 2023 storms, it is also exempt from CEQA analysis pursuant to PRC § 21080 (b)(3) and 14 CCR Section 15269.

This project is federally funded through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) will also have to be cleared. NEPA is anticipated to clear after construction is complete, a Categorical Exclusion (CE) is anticipated. FEMA will be the lead agency for NEPA clearance.

Construction is anticipated to begin in the spring of 2026 and should be completed in approximately 8 months.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING:

No net County cost to the General Fund.

This Project (RMA No. 00734171-002) was approved as part of the 2023/2024 County Transportation Improvement Program (CTIP). Staff anticipate a 93.75% reimbursement ratio through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Public Assistance Program (Disaster Relief) and the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (CalOES). The remaining 6.25% will be covered through local County Road funds. In the event the County does not receive federal and state reimbursement, the Project will be entirely funded through local County Roads funds.

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A summary of the estimated Project cost for the Mountain Road 112 over Deer Creek Bridge Project is as follows:

Preliminary Engineering:	\$973,000
Right-of-Way Support / Acquisition:	\$50,000
Construction Engineering:	\$458,000
Construction:	\$4,451,000
Total:	\$5,932,000

Funding sources for the M112 over Deerk Creek Bridge Project are as follows:

FEMA Funds (93.75%):	\$5,561,250
Local Match, Measure R (6.25%):	\$370,750
Total:	\$5,932,000

LINKAGE TO THE COUNTY OF TULARE STRATEGIC BUSINESS PLAN:

Safety and Security and Economic Well Being – This project will enhance the safety and security of the public by improving the transportation infrastructure for both the general population in the region and the motorists using this facility.

ADMINISTRATIVE SIGN-OFF:

/s/ Reed Schenke

Reed Schenke, P.E.
Director

Cc: County Administrative Office

Attachment A: Vicinity Map

Attachment B: Notice of Exemption

BEFORE THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COUNTY OF TULARE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE MATTER OF Adopt the)
Categorical Exemption for the Mountain) Resolution No. 2024-0978
Road 112 over Deer Creek Bridge Project)
)
)

UPON MOTION OF SUPERVISOR SHUKLIAN, SECONDED BY SUPERVISOR VANDER POEL, THE FOLLOWING WAS ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, AT AN OFFICIAL MEETING HELD OCTOBER 22, 2024, BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: SUPERVISORS MICARI, VANDER POEL, SHUKLIAN, VALERO AND TOWNSEND
NOES: NONE
ABSTAIN: NONE
ABSENT: NONE



ATTEST: JASON T. BRITT
COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER/
CLERK, BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

BY: _____

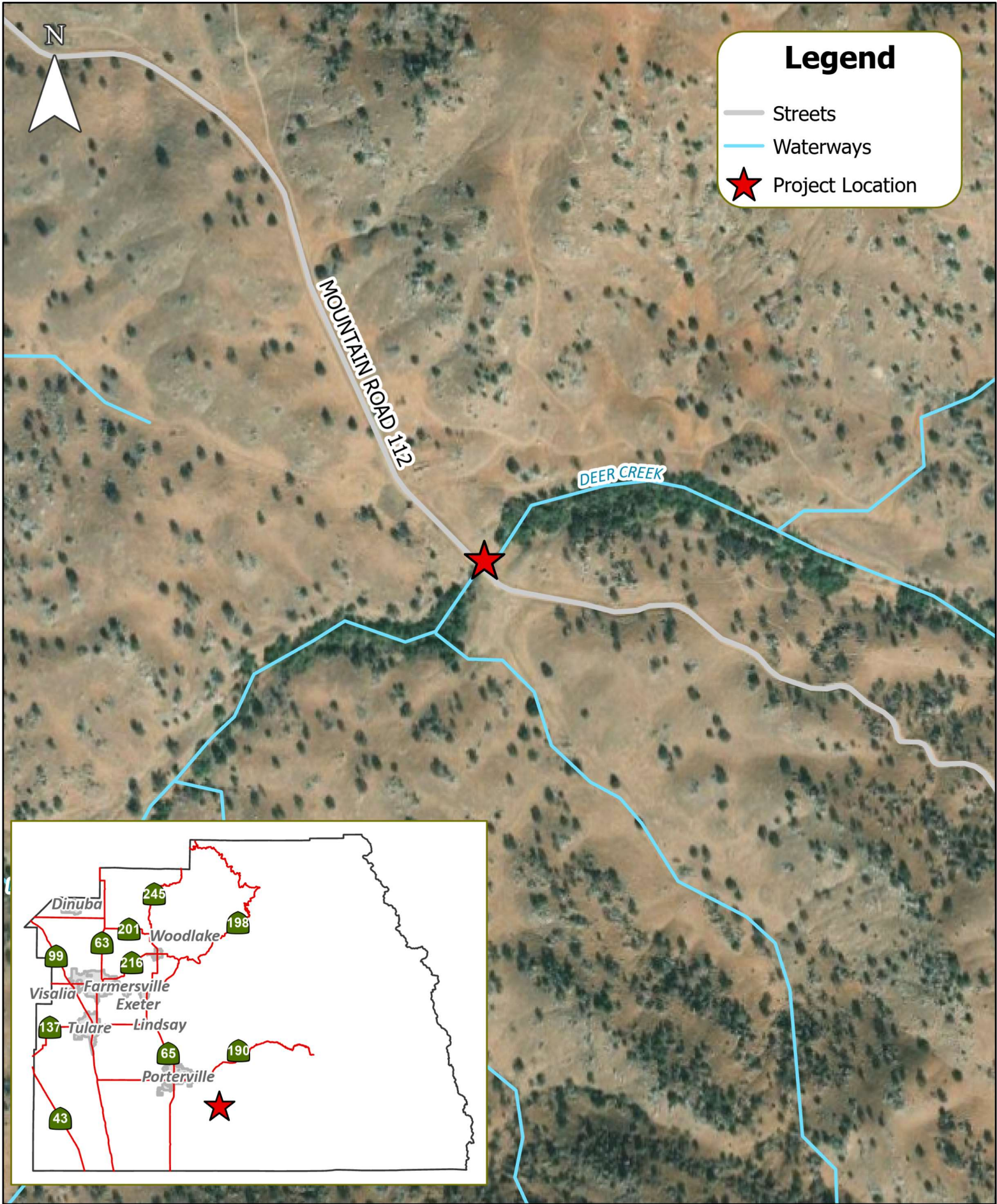

Deputy Clerk

* * * * *

1. Found that the Mountain Road 112 (M112) over Deer Creek Bridge Project is exempt from review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the State CEQA Guidelines as replacement or reconstruction of existing structures and facilities pursuant to Class 2, 14 CCR 15302(c), as minor trenching and backfilling where the surface is restored pursuant to Class 4, 14 CCR 15304(f), and as a project undertaken to repair damage caused by an emergency pursuant to PRC § 21080 (b)(3) & 14 CCR Section 15269.
2. Authorized the Environmental Assessment Officer, or designee, to sign and file the Notice of Exemption with the Clerk-Recorder and the State Office of Planning and Research.

Attachment A

Vicinity Map



0 500 1,000 Feet

Mountain Road 112 over
Deer Creek Bridge Project
Vicinity Map

Attachment B

Notice of 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: Tulare County c/o Resource Management Agency
5961 South Mooney Blvd.
Visalia, CA 93277 (559) 624-7000

Attn: gmills@tularecounty.ca.gov and jwillis@tularecounty.ca.gov

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING AT TULARE COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE

Applicant(s): Tulare County Public Works
5961 South Mooney Blvd.
Visalia, CA 93277 (559) 624-7000

Project Title: Mountain Road 112 (M112) over Deer Creek Bridge Replacement Project

Project Location - Specific: The project site is located approximately 10 miles southeast of the City of Porterville, 2.23 miles southeast of Mountain Road 120, within unincorporated Tulare County.

Project Location- Section, Township, Range: Section 30, Township 22S, Range 29E, MDBM

Project Location - City: Southeast of Porterville Project Location - County: Tulare

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project: The proposed Project aims to replace the 1956 bridge over Deer Creek that was damaged and failed due to catastrophic floodwater flows in March of 2023. In response, a temporary one-lane bridge was installed in 2023 on Mountain Road 112 (M112) over Deer Creek. The temporary single span bridge was built approximately 75 feet upstream from the former bridge to provide temporary access across Deer Creek until a permanent structure can be constructed. The Project qualifies to receive emergency funding from FEMA.

The proposed replacement bridge would be a permanent structure, approximately 420-foot long by 36-foot wide, multi-span cast-in-place post tensioned concrete slab bridge. The creek banks would be stabilized with riprap, and the new replacement bridge would be built in the same location as the original bridge. Construction is anticipated to start in the spring of 2026 and should be completed in approximately 8 months. During this time, the M112 would remain open since the temporary bridge is located upstream of the proposed replacement bridge. Thus, this Project would enhance public safety, provide emergency access and security, and improve transportation infrastructure for the general population in the region, accommodating both general traffic and large agricultural equipment, vital to the area.

Prior to construction, geotechnical investigations would be performed to determine existing conditions and to test the suitability of the ground to support replacement piers and abutments of the new replacement bridge structure. Geotechnical investigation would include six (6) borings, one boring at each proposed pier and abutment location. No permanent impacts from the geotechnical investigation are anticipated to occur. Borings would require less than four (4) square feet of soil disturbance from the six, 6-inch, diameter bore holes. Upon completion, borings would be backfilled with neat cement grout, and native soils, and in accordance with County requirements.

Exempt Status: (check one)

- ☐ Ministerial [PRC \ § 21080(b)(1); 14 CCR § 15268]
- ☐ Declared Emergency [PRC § 21060.3]
- ☐ Emergency Project [PRC §§ 21080(b)(4) & 15269(b)(c)]
- ☐ Common Sense Rule: [14 CCR § 15061(b)(3)]
- ☒ **Categorical Exemption: Class 2, 14 CCR § 15302 (c) Replacement or Reconstruction of Existing Structure; Class 4, 14 CCR § 15304 (f) Minor Alterations to Land**
- ☒ **Statutory Exemptions: Public Resource Code (PRC) Section 21080 (b)(3)**

Reasons why project is exempt: This project is exempt from analysis under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the State CEQA Guidelines as replacement or reconstruction of existing structures and facilities pursuant to Class 2, 14 CCR 15302 (c), as minor trenching and backfilling where the surface is restored pursuant to Class 4, 14 CCR 15304 (f), and as a project undertaken to repair damage caused by an emergency pursuant to PRC § 21080 (b)(3) and 14 CCR 15269.

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Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Tulare County Board of Supervisors

Project Planner/Representative: Carlos Gonzalez, Engineer II **Telephone:** 559-624-7159

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 OPR: _____