

24. Find that the Poplar Pedestrian Connectivity Project is exempt from review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the State CEQA Guidelines as repair, alteration and maintenance of public streets or highways pursuant to Class 1, 14 CCR 15301(c), and is included in the County's list of activities specially exempted from CEQA review pursuant to 14 CCR 15300.4. Authorize the Environmental Assessment Officer, or designee, to sign and file the Notice of Exemption with the Clerk-Recorder and appropriate state agency.



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 4, 2025

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 Poplar Pedestrian Connectivity Project

REQUEST(S):

That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Find that the Poplar Pedestrian Connectivity Project is exempt from review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the State CEQA Guidelines as repair, alteration and maintenance of public streets or highways pursuant to Class 1, 14 CCR 15301(c), and is included in the County's list of activities specially exempted 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 appropriate state agency.

SUMMARY:

The Active Transportation Program (ATP) was created to encourage increased use of active modes of transportation, such as bicycling and walking. Funds for ATP projects were made available through Senate Bill 1 (SB1) under the 2019 SB1 ATP Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Component. SB1 provided an additional \$100 million annually to the State ATP beginning in Fiscal Year 2017/2018. On June 28-29, 2023, the California Transportation Commission (CTC) awarded funds through the highly competitive ATP Cycle 6 for the Preliminary Engineering (PE), Right of Way (ROW) and Construction phases of the Poplar Pedestrian Connectivity Project (Project) in the amount of \$2,539,000. The County has committed funding for the Project Approval and Environmental Document (PA&ED) phase in the amount of \$80,000 and \$135,000 for the ROW phase.

This Project will improve sidewalk facilities within the community of Poplar along Avenue

SUBJECT: Adopt the Categorical Exemption for the Poplar Pedestrian Connectivity Project

DATE: March 4, 2025

145 (East of Pleasant View Elementary) between Road 190 and Road 193. The proposed improvements include the installation of curbs, gutters, sidewalks, driveway approaches, asphalt pave outs, American with Disability Act (ADA) ramps, and drainage improvements. These enhancements aim to improve the safety of pedestrians and encourage active modes of transportation throughout the community.

The County of Tulare, acting as the lead agency for the Project, must adopt the Categorical Exemption (CE) prior to starting the right of way phase of the Project

In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the County has determined that two categorical exemptions are applicable to the proposed action. 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 Exclusion under 23 CFR 771.117(C): activity (C) (3) as the Project consists of the construction of pedestrian lanes, paths, and facilities. NEPA clearance approval was received on January 10, 2025.

Once this CE is adopted and the Notice of Exemption filed, environmental clearance for this project will be satisfied. County staff will then proceed with the required permits, notifications, and design and right-of-way phases.

This Project will be presented to the Board at later dates for approval and authorization to bid and the awarding of construction.

Construction for this Project is anticipated to begin in the summer of 2027.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING:

No net County cost to the General Fund.

This Project (RMA No. 18300039-002) was programmed in the 2024/2025 County Transportation Improvements Program (24/25 CTIP). Funding for the Poplar Pedestrian Connectivity Project includes Federal and State ATP, Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STBGP) and local County Road funds. A summary of the total project cost and funding source is as follows:

Estimated Project Costs:

Engineering Design:	\$280,000
Right-of-Way:	\$420,000
Construction (including contingency):	\$2,282,000
Construction Engineering:	\$200,000
Total:	\$3,182,000

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Funding Sources:

STBGP State Funds:	428,000
ATP State Funds:	\$1,968,000
ATP Federal Funds:	\$571,000
County Road Funds:	\$215,000
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Total:	\$3,182,000

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

ADMINISTRATIVE SIGN-OFF:

/s/ Reed Schenke

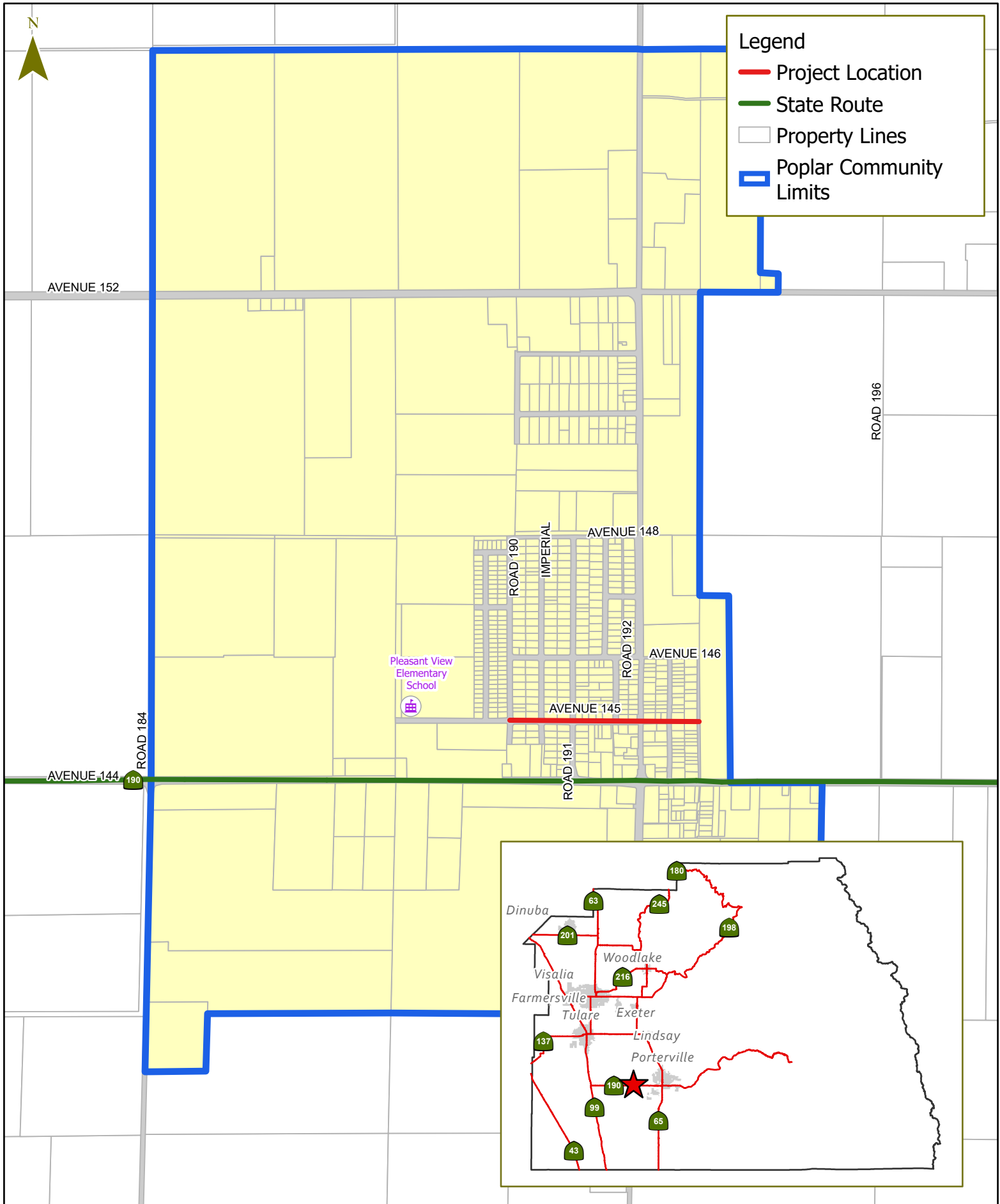
Reed Schenke, P.E.
Director

Cc: County Administrative Office

Attachment A – Vicinity Map
Attachment B – Notice of Exemption

Attachment A

Vicinity Map



0 1,000 2,000 Feet

Poplar Pedestrian Connectivity Project
Vicinity Map

Attachment B

Notice of Exemption

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

Fee Exempt per Government Code Section 6103

To: ☒ Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation
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 and jwillis@tularecounty.ca.gov

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

Project Title: Poplar Pedestrian Connectivity Project

Project Location - Specific: Poplar, CA – Avenue 145 between Road 190 and Road 193

Project Location- Section, Township, Range: Section 34, Township 21S, Range 26E, MDBM

Project Location - City: West of Porterville

Project Location - County: Tulare

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project: The Project consists of the installation of pedestrian facilities and drainage infrastructure along Avenue 145 from Road 190 to Road 193. The proposed improvements include installation of curb and gutter, sidewalks, curb ramps, driveways, storm drain drainage inlets, manholes, and underground storm drainpipes. The purpose of the project is to improve safety and mobility of non-motorized users within the Community of Poplar. Construction is anticipated to begin in the summer of 2027.

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 Exemption: CEQA Guidelines 15061(b)(3)
- ☒ Categorical Exemption: **CEQA Guidelines Class 1 Section 15301 Existing Structures (c) and Section 15300.4**
- ☐ Statutory Exemptions:

Reasons why project is exempt: This action is consistent with Class 1 Section 15301, Existing Structures (c), as activities associated with the project will include alteration of existing facilities with negligible or no expansion of capacity. Also, consistent with Section 15300.4, Application by Public Agencies, the County of Tulare Board of Supervisors adopted an exemption for the construction of the aforementioned facilities per the Tulare County Guidelines for the Implementation of California Environmental Quality Act of 1970, Number 300 Section 111. CATEGORICAL EXEMPTIONS Class 1: Existing Facilities (c). As such, Sections 15301 and 15300.4 are applicable and appropriate for this project.

Environmental Assessment Officer: Reed Schenke, P.E., RMA Director/ EAO

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

Project Planner/Representative: Michael Winton, P.E.

Telephone: (559) 624-7107

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Title: Chief Planner

Gary A. Mills

Environmental Planning Division

Signature: _____
Michael G. Washam, A.C.E.

Date: _____

Title: Associate RMA Director, Designee

☒ Signed by Lead Agency

Date submitted to LCI/SCH: _____

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

IN THE MATTER OF Adopt the
Categorical Exemption for the Poplar
Pedestrian Connectivity Project

)
) Resolution No. 2025-0169
)
)
)

UPON MOTION OF SUPERVISOR VALERO SECONDED BY SUPERVISOR
TOWNSEND, THE FOLLOWING WAS ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF
SUPERVISORS, AT AN OFFICIAL MEETING HELD MARCH 4, 2025, 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: 
Chief Clerk

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