Sheriff's Office
COUNTY OF TULARE
AGENDA ITEM

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

KUYLER CROCKER
District One

PETE VANDER POEL
District Two

AMY SHUKLIAN
District Three

EDDIE VALERO
District Four

DENNIS TOWNSEND
District Five

AGENDA DATE: March 17, 2020

Public Hearing Required	Yes ☐	N/A ☒
Scheduled Public Hearing w/Clerk	Yes ☐	N/A ☒
Published Notice Required	Yes ☐	N/A ☒
Advertised Published Notice	Yes ☐	N/A ☒
Meet & Confer Required	Yes ☐	N/A ☒
Electronic file(s) has been sent	Yes ☒	N/A ☐
Budget Transfer (Aud 308) attached	Yes ☐	N/A ☒
Personnel Resolution attached	Yes ☐	N/A ☒
Agreements are attached and signature line for Chairman is marked with tab(s)/flag(s)	Yes ☐	N/A ☒

CONTACT PERSON: Ed Lardner, Grant Specialist PHONE: (559) 802-9462

SUBJECT: Statutory Exemption for Sheriff's Training Site

REQUEST(S):

That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Adopt the Statutory Exemption prepared pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the State CEQA Guidelines per Section 15303 and Section 15601(b)(3) for a Sheriff's Office Training Site; and

2. Authorize the Environmental Assessment Officer, or designee, to sign and file the Notice of Exemption with the County Clerk.

SUMMARY:

In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), Tulare County Resource Management Agency (RMA) is providing CEQA compliance review for this activity; and as such, RMA staff has determined that this activity is eligible for a categorical exemption (CE) under the CEQA guidelines. RMA has prepared a Notice of Exemption, consistent with CEQA Guidelines, Statutory Exemption Section15303 Class 3 Categorical Exemption and Section 15061(b)(3) Common Sense Exemption.

The Tulare County Sheriff's Office (TCSO) is proposing to establish a Sheriff's training site on a 40-acre parcel owned by the County and located on Avenue 368, east of the Bob Wiley Detention Facility. Four acres on the southwest corner of the parcel is being utilized as a rainwater retention basin for the Sequoia Field Airport and will not be utilized for the proposed training site. The remaining 36 acres have been utilized as burrow pit and storage area for excess soil and other fill material

from the County's Roads Division. The site is not flat; in the past, fill material has been removed from the site to an average depth of 6-8 feet below natural grade.

There is no significant impact on noise in the area as most firearms training will take place during daytime hours. The training site is located in a remote area with scattered rural residences, with the nearest residence approximately 1,500 feet west of the southernmost part of the site. Intermittent noise during firearms training will be sufficiently muffled by the sites below grade layout effectively acting as a noise barrier. The training site is not located on prime agricultural land and has no significant agricultural value. The training site is within the Sequoia Field Airport Plan, but will not have any impact on the 2012 Tulare County Comprehensive Airport Land Use Plan and will not interfere with airport operations.

The training site will consist of several types of tactical shooting ranges to be utilized by Sheriff's staff for training and qualifying. Sheriff's staff carrying firearms are required to qualify with their assigned firearm a minimum of four times per year. Occasionally, in addition to qualifying requirements, additional shooting classes will be provided to personnel. This would include classes such as long-range rifle training, handgun training, and core academy training. The training site would consist of four 50-yard pistol qualifying ranges, a 400-yard rifle range, physical agility training area, and a K9 training field.

The proposed improvements at the training site consist of grading earthen berms to act as backstops for the ranges using soil already onsite. The proposed access ways would be decomposed granite or similar material. The ranges would be configured to provide scenario base type training. Portable restrooms would be utilized as needed. The site would be developed over several years and will be managed by the Sheriff's Office utilizing the U.S. EPA's "Best Management Practices for Lead at Outdoor Shooting Ranges" (EPA-902-B-1-001).

The Sheriff's training site is determined to be exempt from further environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the State CEQA Guidelines, and the Tulare County Guidelines for the Implementation of CEQA.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING:

The training site grading cost will be absorbed in the Sheriff's FY 2019/2020 and 2020/2021 operating budget. No additional net County cost to the General Fund.

LINKAGE TO THE COUNTY OF TULARE STRATEGIC BUSINESS PLAN:

The Safety and Security Initiative is one of the initiatives in the Tulare County Strategic Business Plan. The purpose of the initiative is to provide for safety and security of the public. The Sheriff's Office training site will provide one central location for all new and recurring training required by State law or policy. The site will allow Sheriff's staff to simulate, in a controlled environment, the many scenarios they may encounter when responding to real world calls for service.

SUBJECT: Statutory Exemption for Sheriff's Training Site
DATE: March 17, 2020

ADMINISTRATIVE SIGN-OFF:

Mike Boudreaux
Sheriff-Coroner

cc: County Administrative Office

Attachment(s) Notice of Exemption

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

IN THE MATTER OF STATUTORY EXEMPTION FOR SHERIFF'S TRAINING SITE	))))	**Resolution No. _____** **Agreement No. _____**

UPON MOTION OF SUPERVISOR _____, SECONDED BY SUPERVISOR _____, THE FOLLOWING WAS ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, AT AN OFFICIAL MEETING HELD _____ _____, BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES:
NOES:
ABSTAIN:
ABSENT:

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

BY: _____
Deputy Clerk

* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *

1. Adopted the Statutory Exemption prepared pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the State CEQA Guidelines per Section 15303 and Section 15601(b)(3) for a Sheriff's Office Training Site; and

2. Authorized the Environmental Assessment Officer, or designee, to sign and file the Notice of Exemption with the County Clerk.

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

Fee Exempt per Government Code Section 6103

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING AT TULARE COUNTY CLERK

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 Resource Management Agency
5961 South Mooney Blvd.
Visalia, CA 93277
(559) 624-7000
Attn: hguerra@co.tulare.ca.us

Applicant(s): Tulare County Sheriff's Office
833 South Akers St.
Visalia, CA 93277
(559) 802-9400

Activity/Project Title: Tulare County Sheriff's Training Site

Activity/Project Location - Specific: 36710 Road 112, Visalia, California 93291, east of the Intersection of Avenue 368 and Road 112, Tulare County, California (APN 048-018-003)

Activity/Project Location- Section, Township, Range: N½ Section 13, Township 17S, Range 24E, MDBM

Activity/Project Location - City: N/A **Project Location - County:** Tulare

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Activity/Project: The Tulare County Sheriff's Office is proposing to establish a training site on a 40-acre parcel located on Avenue 368, east of the Bob Wiley Detention Site. The proposed training site will consist of several types of tactical shooting ranges to be utilized by the Sheriff's Office for training and qualifying (who must qualify 4 times per-year). Occasionally, in addition to qualifying requirements, additional shooting classes will be provided to sworn personnel. This would include classes such as long range rifle training, handgun training, and core academy training. Furthermore, the training site would consist of up to 4/50-yard pistol qualifying ranges, an up to 400-yard rifle range, physical agility training area, and a K9 training field. The proposed improvements consist of grading earthen berms to act as backstops for the ranges using on site materials. The proposed access ways would be decomposed granite or similar material. The ranges would be configured to provide scenario base type training. Portable restrooms would be utilized as needed. The site would be developed over several years and will be managed by the Sheriff's Office utilizing the U.S. EPA's *"Best Management Practices for Lead at Outdoor Shooting Ranges"* (EPA-902-B-1-001). Thus, this activity/project will provide a public benefit by providing a training site for law enforcement personnel to attain/retain certain qualifications and training necessary to ensure the safety and security of the public.

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: **14 Cal. Code Regs. Section 15061(b)(3)**
- ☒ Categorical Exemption: **Class 3 (14 Cal. Code Regs. Section 15303) (New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures)**
- ☐ Statutory Exemptions:

Reasons why project is exempt: This action is consistent with Class 3 Section 15303 (Construction or Conversion of Small Structures) as activities associated with the project will, as noted earlier, provide a training site for law enforcement personnel to

attain/retain certain qualifications and training necessary to ensure the safety and security of the public. Also, consistent with Section 15061(b)(3), the activity is not subject to CEQA as it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment. Finally, the site would be developed over several years and will be managed by the Sheriff's Office utilizing the U.S. EPA's *"Best Management Practices for Lead at Outdoor Shooting Ranges"* (EPA-902-B-1-001). As such, the use of Sections 153032 and 15061(b)(3) are applicable and appropriate for this project.

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

Project Planner/Representative: Tom Sigley, Undersheriff **Area Code/Telephone:** 559-802-9435

By: _____ Date: _____ Title: Chief Environmental Planner
Hector Guerra

By: _____ Date: _____ Title: Environmental Assessment Officer
Reed Schenke RMA Director

☒ Signed by Lead Agency Date received for filing at OPR: N/A