

Resource Management Agency COUNTY OF TULARE AGENDA ITEM

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

ALLEN ISHIDA District One

PETE VANDER POEL District Two

> PHILLIP A. COX District Three

J. STEVEN WORTHLEY District Four

> MIKE ENNIS District Five

AGENDA DATE: September 10, 201

SUBJECT:

Approval of Notice of Exemption for proposed Men's Correctional Facility and Day Reporting Center Project at Sequoia Field

REQUEST(S):

That the Board of Supervisors:

- 1. Approve the Notice of Exemption pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the State CEQA Guidelines for the proposed project encompassing the replacement, reconstruction, relocation, and operation, as the case may be, of the Men's Correctional Facility and the Day Reporting Center at Sequoia Field in Tulare County, California.
- Authorize the Environmental Assessment Officer of the Tulare County Resource Management Agency to file the Notice of Exemption and any other documents associated with the approval of this project with the Tulare County Clerk and any other affected public agency.

SUMMARY:

Tulare County will be seeking grant funding through the SB 1022 Jail Construction Program. The application deadline for this funding is October 22, 2013. However, to qualify for "preference points" during the grant application process, it is necessary that compliance be secured with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

The proposed project encompasses the replacement, reconstruction, relocation, and operation, as the case may be, of the Men's Correctional Facility and the Day Reporting Center at Sequoia Field. The proposed construction area includes the removal (relocation) and reconstruction (rebuilding with similar location, design and

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and Day Reporting Center Project at Sequoia Field

DATE: September 10, 2013

construction) of up to four existing buildings and the surrounding grounds at Sequoia Field. No significant impact will occur because of precise design standards required for the project.

The purpose of the proposed project is to improve correctional facility availability within the county and to improve public safety and security for the residents of the county.

After thorough analysis of the matter, it can be concluded that the proposed project is exempt from CEQA based on the following grounds:

- (1) Class 1 Categorical Exemption: Operation, repair, maintenance, or minor alteration of existing structures or facilities not expanding existing uses. (14 Cal. Code Regs. Section 15301.)
- (2) Class 2 Categorical Exemption: Replacement or reconstruction of existing structures or facilities on the same site having substantially the same purpose and capacity. (14 Cal. Code Regs. 15302.)
- (3) Class 3 Categorical Exemption: New construction of limited small new facilities; installation of small, new equipment and facilities in small structures; and conversion of the use of small existing structures (e.g., construction of three or fewer single-family homes in urban areas). (14 Cal. Code Regs. Section 15303.)
- (4) Class 4 Categorical Exemption: Minor alterations in the condition of the land, such as grading, gardening, and landscaping, which do not affect sensitive resources. (14 Cal. Code Regs. Section 15304.)
- (5) **General Rule Exemption:** Where it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment, the activity is not subject to CEQA. (14 Cal. Code Regs. 15061(b)(3).)

For reference, please see the Notice of Exemption (Attachment "A") and the Supporting CEQA Analysis (Attachment "B"). Based on this supporting analysis, the proposed project will not cause a significant environmental impact to the environment. The Site Plan for the proposed project is contained in Exhibit "A" attached to the Supporting CEQA Analysis.

Accordingly, based on detailed supporting analysis and substantial evidence, it is respectfully requested that the Board of Supervisors approve the Notice of Exemption pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the State CEQA Guidelines for the proposed project describes as the replacement, reconstruction, relocation, and operation, as the case may be, of the Men's

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Correctional Facility and the Day Reporting Center at Sequoia Field.

It is requested further that the Board authorize the Environmental Assessment Officer of the Tulare County Resource Management Agency to file the Notice of Exemption any other documents associated with the approval of this project with the Tulare County Clerk and any other affected public agency.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING:

There is no net county cost associated with the approval of this Notice of Exemption. No funding commitment is being made at this time.

LINKAGE TO THE COUNTY OF TULARE STRATEGIC BUSINESS PLAN:

Promoting the public safety and security, quality of life and organizational improvement are key strategic initiatives and goals of Tulare County's Strategic Business Plan. The proposed project will promote these initiatives and goals.

ADMINISTRATIVE SIGN-OFF:

Michael C. Spata

Assistant Director – Planning Branch

cc: Auditor-Controller

County Counsel

County Administrative Office (2)

Attachment(s)

Attachment "A" - Notice of Exemption

Attachment "B" – CEQA Analysis for Notice of Exemption

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

IN THE MATTER OF APPROVAL OF NOTICE OF EXEMPTION FOR PROP MEN'S CORRECTIONAL FACILITY A DAY REPORTING CENTER PROJEC SEQUOIA FIELD	ND) Agreement No.
UPON MOTION OF SUPERVIS	OR, SECONDED BY
SUPERVISOR	, THE FOLLOWING WAS ADOPTED BY THE
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, AT AN C	OFFICIAL MEETING HELD
, BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:	
AYES: NOES: ABSTAIN: ABSENT:	
ATTEST:	JEAN M. ROUSSEAU COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER/ CLERK, BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
BY:	Deputy Clerk
* * * * *	* * * * * * * * * * *

That the Board of Supervisors:

- 1. Approved the Notice of Exemption pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the State CEQA Guidelines for the proposed project encompassing the replacement, reconstruction, relocation, and operation, as the case may be, of the Men's Correctional Facility and the Day Reporting Center at Seguoia Field in Tulare County, California.
- Authorized the Environmental Assessment Officer of the Tulare County Resource Management Agency to file the Notice of Exemption and any other documents associated with the approval of this project with the Tulare County Clerk and any other affected public agency.

Attachment "A" Notice of Exemption

Notice of Examption

X Categorical Exemptions:

Nouce 01	Exemption
Fee Exempt p	per Government Code Section 6301
To: X	Office of Planning and Research 1400 Tenth Street, Room 121 Sacramento, CA 95814
х	Tulare County Clerk Room 105, Courthouse 221 South Mooney Boulevard Visalia, California 93291
Lead Agency:	Tulare County Board of Supervisors 2800 West Burrel Avenue Visalia, CA 93291
Applicant(s):	Tulare County Sheriff's Department (Headquarters) 2404 West Burrel Avenue Visalia, CA 93291-4580
Activity/Project	et Title: Men's Correctional Facility & Day Reporting System Reconstruction-Sequoia Field
Activity / Proje	ect Location - Specific: 36710 Rd 112, Visalia, CA 93291, Sequoia Field, Tulare County
	ect Location-Section, Township, Range: Tulare County, Monsen Quad, Township 17 4 East, Section 13 MDM
Activity / Proje	ect Location – City: N/A
Activity / Proje a part hereof.	ect Location - County: Tulare (unincorporated area); see Area Map (Attachment "1") made
application of f and operation, a County, Califo Specifically, th similar location Sequoia Field f the project. The	Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Activity / Project: This Activity involves the funds through the SB 1022 Construction Program for replacement, reconstruction, relocation as the case may be, of correctional and reporting facilities at Sequoia Field located in Tulare ornia, for a Men's Correctional Facility (MCF) and Day Reporting Center (DRC) he construction area includes the removal (relocation) and reconstruction (rebuilding with a design and construction) of up to four existing buildings and the surrounding grounds are which no significant impact will occur because of precise design standards required for a purpose of the Activity is to improve correctional facility availability within the county and lic safety and security for the residents of the county.
Exempt Status	
	terial (PRC Sections 21080(b)(1); 15268);
	red Emergency (PRC Sections 21080(b)(3);15269(a));
□ Emerg	gency Project (PRC Sections 21080(b)(4);15269(b)(c));

Class 1 (14 Cal. Code Regs. Section 15301) (Minor Alterations); Class 2 (14 Cal. Code Regs. Section 15302) (Replacement/Reconstruction); Class 3 (14 Cal. Code Regs. Section 15303) (Limited New Construction);

Class 4 (14 Cal. Code Regs. Section 15304) (Minor Alteration to Land); General Rule Exemption (14 Cal. Code Regs. Section 15061(b)(3)) (No Possibility of Significant Impact)

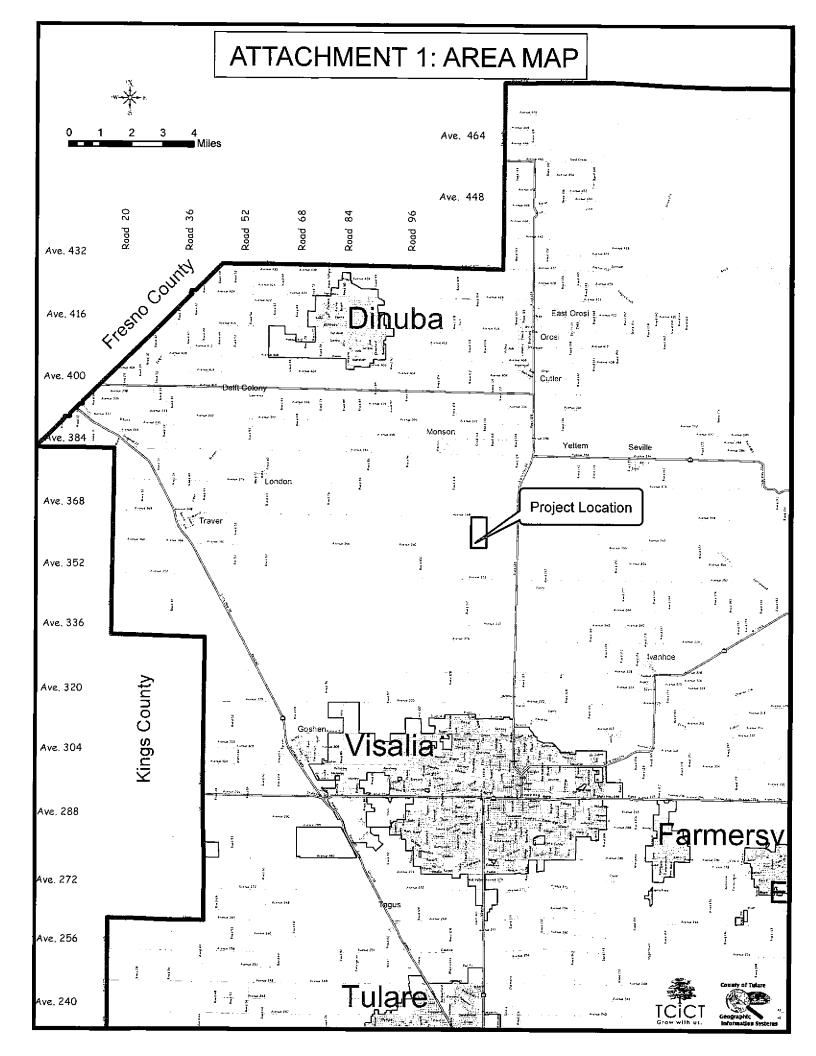
□ Statutory Exemptions: N/A

Reasons Why Activity / Project are Exempt from CEQA:

Supporting CEQA Analysis for this project demonstrates that the proposed project will not cause a significant effect on the environment. Detailed design measures are required for the project to insure that no significant environmental effects will occur from this replacement, reconstruction and relocation project.

Name of Public Agency Approving Activity / Project: County of Tulare by Board of Supervisors Activity / Project Representative: Captain Keith Douglas, Tulare County Sheriff's Department Area Code/Telephone: (559) 636-4625

Signature:		Date:	Title: Chief Environmental Planner
	Hector Guerra		
Signature:		Date:	Title: Assistant Director - Planning
	Michael C. Spata		Environmental Assessment Officer
Signature:	Pete Vander Poel	Date:	Title: Chairman, Tulare County Board of Supervisors
X Sign	ned by Lead Agency		Date received for filing at OPR:
☐ Signed by Applicant		ī	Date Sent to the Clerk of the Board:



Attachment "B" Supporting CEQA Analysis

TULARE COUNTY RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AGENCY



EXEMPTION FROM CEQA MEN'S CORRECTIONAL FACILITY AND DAY REPORTING CENTER REPLACEMENT AT SEQUIOA FIELD TULARE COUNTY, CAIFORNIA

SUPPORTING CEQA ANALYSIS

September 2013

GENERAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

Description of Activity: The proposed Activity / Project are described generally as the replacement and relocation (renovation) of the Men's Correctional Facility and the Day Reporting Center at Sequoia Field in Tulare County, California. The proposed Activity / Project are 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. The term "Activity" includes the term "Project" as used within the meaning of CEQA and the State CEQA Guidelines.

Assessor's Parcel Numbers (APNs): 048-040-009

Location / Address: 36710 Road 112, Visalia, California 93291, Sequoia Field Airport, Intersection of Avenue 368 and Road 112, Tulare County, California.

Activity Title: Men's Correctional Facility and Day Reporting System Renovation at Sequoia Field, Tulare County, California

Project Description: This Activity involves the application of funds through the SB 1022 Construction Program for replacement, reconstruction, relocation, and operation, as the case may be, of correctional and reporting facilities at Sequoia Field located in Tulare County, California, for a Men's Correctional Facility (MCF) and Day Reporting Center (DRC). (Exhibit A - Site Plan). Specifically, the construction area includes the removal (relocation) and reconstruction (rebuilding with similar location, design and construction) of up to four existing buildings and the surrounding grounds at Sequoia Field for which no significant impact will occur because of precise design standards required for the project. The purpose of the Activity is to improve correctional facility availability within the county and to improve public safety and security for the residents of the county.

Reasons Activity / Project are Exempt:

Exempt Sta	tus: Check one and describe in Section 1 below:
	Ministerial: (Section 21080(b)(1) Public Resources Code) N/A Categorical Exemption(s):
	Class 1 (14 Cal. Code Regs. Section 15301) (Minor Alterations); Class 2 (14 Cal. Code Regs. Section 15302) (Replacement/Reconstruction); Class 3 (14 Cal. Code Regs. Section 15303) (Limited New Construction);
	Class 4 (14 Cal. Code Regs. Section 15304) (Minor Alteration to Land)
	Emergency Project: N/A
	Statutory Exemption: N/A
\boxtimes	General Rule Exemption: (14 Cal. Code Regs. Section 15061(b)(3))

CEQA ANALYSIS

1. Introduction

According to the State CEQA Guidelines, once a lead agency has determined that an activity is a project subject to CEQA, a lead agency shall determine whether the project is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). (14 Cal. Code Regs. Section 15061(a).) As the lead agency in this case, Tulare County has determined that the proposed Activity / Project are exempt from CEQA based on the following:

- (1) Class 1 Categorical Exemption: Operation, repair, maintenance, or minor alteration of existing structures or facilities not expanding existing uses. (14 Cal. Code Regs. Section 15301.)
- (2) Class 2 Categorical Exemption: Replacement or reconstruction of existing structures or facilities on the same site having substantially the same purpose and capacity. (14 Cal. Code Regs. 15302.)
- (3) Class 3 Categorical Exemption: New construction of limited small new facilities; installation of small, new equipment and facilities in small structures; and conversion of the use of small existing structures (e.g., construction of three or fewer single-family homes in urban areas). (14 Cal. Code Regs. Section 15303.)
- (4) Class 4 Categorical Exemption: Minor alterations in the condition of the land, such as grading, gardening, and landscaping, which do not affect sensitive resources. (14 Cal. Code Regs. Section 15304.)
- (5) General Rule Exemption: Where it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment, the activity is not subject to CEQA. (14 Cal. Code Regs. 15061(b)(3).)

These exemptions are based on the following detailed analysis supported by substantial evidence. For reference, the term "Activity" includes the term "Project" as defined in CEQA and the State CEQA Guidelines. (See Public Resources Code Section 21065; 14 Cal. Code Regs. Section 15378.)

Essentially, the proposed Activity / Project – as described herein and as identified in the attached Site Plan (Exhibit A) – will not cause a significant effect on the environment. Current correctional capacity levels will not be exceeded. Parenthetically, all exhibits referred to in this CEQA Analysis are incorporated by reference herein.

Ultimately, this Notice of Exemption and supporting analysis applicable to this Activity / Project are intended to be duly filed and posted in due course at the direction of the Tulare County Board of Supervisors with the County Clerk by the Resource Management Agency on behalf of the County Administrative Officer and Sheriff's Department.

2. Reasons Supporting Exemptions

CEQA Analysis	Discussion of Reasons Supporting CEQA Exemptions
Aesthetics	No Significant Effect or Impact:
	The proposed Activity will not have a significant direct or cumulative impact on aesthetics, nor create an unusual circumstance that will cause the proposed project to have a significant effect on the aesthetics of the area.
	The aesthetics are generally rural and agricultural in nature. The proposed facilities will be similar to the existing detention units, the surrounding institutional jail and the airport. Consequently, the proposed project will not be out of character within the aesthetics of the existing area.
	Importantly, design changes to reconstruct the historical aspects of the project will be consistent with Department of the Interior's Standards for historical reconstruction, including recreating similar architectural features.
	The existing building architecture is intended to be simple barracks architecture with stucco walls, simple double hung windows, and wood framed wood doors. Some building features have been altered and replaced with metal doors and metal covered windows. These buildings also have had some modest remodeling done.
	Based on a search for County and Caltrans Scenic highways on August 21, 2013, the project is not located within a scenic corridor, and thus, the project would not impact scenic resources such as rock outcroppings, or other natural features, pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2(d). For example, neither Road 112 nor Avenue 360 is designated scenic corridors.
	However, while State Routes 63 and 201 are County Scenic Corridors, neither facility is visible from Sequoia Field, nor are there any views into the site from these routes. As such, there is no substantially adverse effect on aesthetic resources due to these Activities. (See Exhibit B – State and County Scenic Roadways.)
Agricultural	No Significant Effect or Impact:
Resources	The proposed project will not have a significant direct or cumulative impact on agricultural resources, nor create an unusual circumstance that will cause the proposed project to have a significant effect on the agricultural resources of the area.
	Specifically, based on a search of Department of Conservation, Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program (FMMP) maps as of August 21, 2013, the project site is not located on Prime Agricultural Land or on Farmland of Statewide Importance. In fact, Sequoia Field is shown on the maps, as a developed land use, and thus, has no significant agricultural value.
	In addition, the proposed project site is an existing airfield and currently serves as additional jail facilities for the County of Tulare as an institutional use. The inmates farm on the existing site and have established planted areas for gardening. This project will not have an adverse effect on the Agricultural Zoning, any Williamson Act contracted land, or any other agricultural land surrounding this property because the foot print of the proposed project is within the existing footprint of the developed portions of the airfield.
	Finally, since this is an airfield which is also being used as a jail facility, the demand to create similar facilities on surrounding agricultural land is reduced, thus lowering the

_	likelihood of converting surrounding agricultural land. As such, the proposed project can be construed as a benefit contributing to the preservation of agricultural land.	
Air Quality	No Significant Effect or Impact:	
	The proposed project is located within the San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District (Air District), which is in non-attainment for Ozone.	
	However, the proposed Activity will not produce emissions that will cause a significant direct or cumulative impact on air resources, nor create an unusual circumstance that will cause the proposed project to have a significant effect on the air quality resources of the area.	
	Specifically, after reviewing relevant construction activities (i.e., site preparation, grading and site construction) and proposed project operations (including all temporary construction and operational activities for ROG, NOx, PM10, PM 2.5 and CO), it can be concluded that there will not be emissions that will have a significant effect.	
	For example, the Air District's Small Project Analysis Level criteria identify 1707 trips per day as the threshold triggering the level of significance under CEQA. Interestingly, both Caltrans and the County set 100 average daily trips (ADTs), as the minimum candidate for a Transportation Impact Study.	
	In the present case, vehicular trip generation from the proposed Activity will be fewer than 50 vehicles. Similarly, the proposed Activity will generate less vehicular trips than it does currently because fewer beds for inmates will be housed in the replacement / reconstructed facilities.	
	Finally, the proposed Activity will be required to comply with applicable Air District rules and regulations and to obtain all required construction and/or operating permits.	
	Based on this discussion, it is concluded that the proposed Activity / Project will not significantly impact air quality.	
Biological	No Significant Effect or Impact:	
Resources	The proposed project will not have a significant direct or cumulative impact, nor create ar unusual circumstance that will cause the proposed project to have a significant effect on the biological resources of the affected area and environment.	
	Based on a search of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB) on August 21, 2013, the Monson quadrant indicates that there are vernal pool fairy shrimp, California tiger salamander, san Joaquin kit fox, and San Joaquin Valley Orcutt Grass within the quadrant. All are listed as threatened or endangered species within the 24 K Quadrants that includes the Activity Site.	
	A review of the County GIS map, which includes the CNNDB information from 2006 indicates that a California Tiger Salamander siting occurred within 2 miles, and there is an historical vernal pool on the airfield. However, there are no signs of its existence of a vernal pool on site.	
	A biological survey was previously conducted on the Stone Corral Preserve to the east of the project when the California Tiger Salamander finding occurred. However, the project site is surrounded by the airfield to the east, Road 112, and Avenue 360 to the north, with the remaining jail facility and old juvenile facility further to the north. The buildings on site have been constructed since 1941 and regularly used and occupied since then. In addition there has not been adequate rainfall to provide ponding on the site since 2010, and, there is	

	<u> </u>
	no such ponding on the site. Daily activity occurs on site and within area surrounding the subject property; and after current inspection of the subject site, no evidence of the Tiger Salamander or vernal pool was found.
	Therefore, it can be concluded reasonably that there is no potential for California Tiger Salamander to exist at this location, or equally important, that the proposed site would be potential habitat, primarily because no vernal pools or other wetland exist on or near the proposed reconstruction area.
Cultural	No Significant Effect or Impact:
Resources	
Resources	The proposed project will not have a significant direct or cumulative impact, nor create an unusual circumstance that will cause the proposed project to have a significant effect on the cultural resources of the area, even though the location is registered with the National Register of Historic Places.
;	The reason is that the proposed Activity's site utilization is not expected to actually impact the area. In addition, there will be total compliance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards with respect to hiring a professional historical / archeological consultant, and, most importantly, with respect to relocating the existing buildings.
	Since a cultural resources assessment has been conducted in 2000 at the time the site was placed on the National Historic Places Registration, none is required at this time. Assuming funding is approved for this project, a historical consultant will be hired to provide further research and analysis in developing a full data inventory and providing sufficient data for the reconstruction of the Activities under the Secretary of the Interior's Standards. For additional detailed analysis of historical resources, see parts 3 and 4 below.
Coology/	Finally, after reviewing the California Historical Resource Information System (CHRIS), the subject site does not contain any known archeological resources. Moreover, given the replacement and reconstruction nature of the proposed project, it is not reasonably foreseeable that archeological resources will be impacted significantly, or affected at all. Importantly, the proposed Project will be required to comply with CEQA and the State CEQA Guidelines in connection with addressing any archeological resources that may be identified on site during the constriction process; in which case, no archeological resources, as a matter of project control, will be impacted significantly. No Significant Effect or Impact:
Geology/	No Significant Effect of Timpact.
Soils	The proposed project will not have a significant direct or cumulative impact, nor create an unusual circumstance that will cause the proposed project to have a significant effect on the geology / soils of the area.
	Based on a search of the Tulare County Seismic Safety Element in the General Plan Update on August 21, 2013, the proposed Project is located within Zone V1, which, by definition, has a low potential for earthquakes.
	Additionally, based on a review of the California Geologic Survey (CGS) Seismic Hazard Zoning Program (SHZP), the subject area is not listed, thereby indicating that there are no seismic hazards at the project site.
	The requirements of the Uniform Building Code Zone II are adequate for customary facilities on these soils and these requirements are included in the by the Tulare County Building Code and made applicable to this proposed Project.
Green House	No Significant Effect or Impact:
Gas	The proposed project will not have a significant direct or cumulative impact, nor create an unusual circumstance that will introduce or increase green house gas (GHG) emissions.

After review, the proposed project complies with the AB32, the California Air Resources Board's Scoping Plan, Tulare County Association of Governments' Blueprint, and Tulare County's General Plan Update 2030 and Climate Action Plan.

Consequently, since CEQA does not apply to this project, it is not required to reduce its Climate Action Plan Consistency Reduction Target of 6% pursuant to Tulare County's Climate Action Plan. Any construction emissions are considered temporary emissions that would not occur until after the CARB Scoping Plan 2020 target year.

Therefore, project construction emissions would not result in any significant impact on climate change or introduce significant amounts of GHG.

Hazards/ Hazardous Materials

No Significant Effect or Impact:

The proposed project will not have a significant direct or cumulative impact, nor create an unusual circumstance that will introduce hazards or hazardous material to the area.

For example, an online *Cortese Act / Envirostor* search conducted on August 21, 2013 indicated that there are no known hazardous or toxic sites on or in the vicinity of the project.

In reviewing the Cortese List, *Environstor*, (California Environmental Protection Agency (CAL EPA) website information), it was noted that a Leaking Underground Storage Tank was indicated. (See http://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/)

After reviewing the Geotracker Web Site maintained by the State Water Resources Control Board, it was noted that the site had potential diesel contamination; however, the site was remediated fully and the case was closed as of September 12, 1997. (See http://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/profile report.asp?global jd=T0610700213>.)

Finally, after reviewing the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Information System (CERCLIS) (US EPA website), the subject property was not found to be on a listed polluted site.

Hydrology/ Water Quality

No Significant Effect or Impact:

The proposed project will not have a significant direct or cumulative impact, nor create an unusual circumstance that will cause the proposed project to have a significant effect on the hydrology /water quality of the area.

The project will not impact the quality or quantity of water or waterways above any known threshold for water quality or affect water rights, including impacting water ways of the United States under Sections 404 and 401 of the Clean Water Act.

Based on a search on August 21, 2013, the site is within a water service district and the proposed project will maintain an existing use that will not cause a significant impact to existing water supply or demand.

Based on a search of the United States Geographic Survey (USGS) quadrant maps on August 21, 2013 for the Monson quadrant, there are no areas marked as blue -- signifying wetlands -- that will be impacted by this project.

Additionally, the project is located in Zone X within the 500 year flood plain, and as such, the project would not normally have to build out of the flood plain.

The buildings are surrounded by a 10-foot wide by 5-foot deep drainage swale that collects water and moves it from the southern portion of the site around the western

	property boundary to the northern portion where it crosses Rd 112. Any peak flow is collected in a large basin to the north west of the buildings.
	Given the history of the site, the Activities will include raising the final floor elevation of the buildings above any localized staged flood in order to avoid any localized flooding of these buildings.
Land Use/	No Significant Effect or Impact:
Planning	The proposed project will not have a significant direct or cumulative impact, nor create an unusual circumstance that will cause the proposed project to have a significant effect on the land uses, zoning or other planning of the area.
	The General Plan designation is "Major Public and Semi-Public Facilities" and the zoning is "AE-40" (Exclusive Agriculture – 40 Acre Minimum). In addition, according to the recently adopted the Tulare County Comprehensive Airport Land Use Plan, the subject site is within Safety Zone 6. As such, Tulare County's Airport Land Use Compatibility Matrix (Table 3-1) indicates that "Correctional Facilities" are deemed to be a compatible use within Safety Zone 6.
	Accordingly, based on a review of Tulare County's General Plan, Zoning Ordinance and Airport Land Use Plan, the project is within the Sequoia Field Airport Plan showing existing development at this site; and after due consideration, the proposed project complies with and is consistent with all applicable plans, policies and regulations for the plan area, including compliance with the Historic District. For further analysis, see parts 3 and 4 below.
Mineral	No Significant Effect or Impact:
Resources	The proposed project will not have a significant direct or cumulative impact, nor create an unusual circumstance that will cause the proposed project to have a significant effect on the mineral resources of the area.
1 2 3 3	Based on a search of the CGS Mineral Zone website and Tulare County's General Plan, neither the site nor the affected area is delineated as a resource zone. However, to the northeast of the airfield, there is a vacant sand and gravel mine, as well as the Chrisman Pit, a county operated sand and gravel mine.
	In light of these facts, plus the fact that the site is currently developed, it is unlikely that there are important mineral reserves on the site or within in the immediate vicinity.
Noise	No Significant Effect or Impact:
	The proposed project will not have a significant direct or cumulative impact, nor create an unusual circumstance that will cause the proposed project to have a significant effect on the noises of the area. Although short-term noise during construction is inevitable, such noise is temporary in duration. Construction activities would be restricted to daytime hours and be short-term in nature. Airport noise is minimal and will be considered in the design of the buildings. The Project does not exceed operational noise standards identified in the General Plan or any other applicable authority.
Population/	No Significant Effect or Impact:
Housing	The proposed project will not have a significant direct or cumulative impact, nor create an unusual circumstance that will cause the proposed project to have a significant effect on the population, or housing of the area. The project will not displace an existing population nor induce population growth.
Public Services	No Significant Effect or Impact:

	The proposed project will not have a significant direct or cumulative impact, nor create an unusual circumstance that will cause the proposed project to have a significant effect on the public services of the area.
	Based on a review of the projects demands, the project will not significantly impact the capacity of such services as police, fire, schools, parks, and other public facilities.
	Importantly, the subject property has functioned as a jail previously, and, as such, will not significantly impact the level of service provided by any of the above facilities or services provided in the area because service levels are not proposed to be increased by the project.
Recreation	No Significant Effect or Impact: The proposed project will not have a direct or cumulative impact, nor create an unusual circumstance that will cause the proposed project to have a significant effect on the recreational facilities in the area. Moreover, this project will not affect the amount of new housing to generate the need for new recreational facilities. This project does not affect existing parks or proposed new parks. Thus, the project will not significantly affect recreational services.
Transportation /Traffic	No Significant Effect or Impact: The proposed project will not have a significant direct or cumulative impact, nor create an unusual circumstance that will cause the proposed project to have a significant effect on the Countywide, or Statewide roadway facilities in the area.
	Based on the existing 50 trips generated by the project, the proposed project will result in fewer vehicular trips generated from the site. Thus, trips will be reduced. In addition, a traffic study is not required for the project since it will generate less than 100 trips, the General Plan threshold necessitating preparation of a traffic study.
	The project will not generate any traffic that would significantly impact a county roadway or statewide highway.
Utilities/	No Significant Effect or Impact:
Service	The proposed project will not have a direct or cumulative impact, or create an unusual
Systems	circumstance that will cause the proposed project to have a significant effect on the infrastructure / facilities in the area.
	Specifically, the 400 beds will not generate significant demand on project facilities or infrastructure because there will be fewer inmates, and thus, less demand on water and sewer service.
	Notably, the proposed project will include upgrades to the entire infrastructure on site, including upgrading drainage and wastewater collection systems to current standards. As such, the proposed project will not have an impact on the existing facilities relating to water (quality or quantity), wastewater, storm drainage, or solid waste. Instead, there will be a benefit resulting from such project upgrades.
	Therefore, the proposed project will not significantly impact the level of service provided by any utility agencies or franchises operating in the area.
Mandatory	The proposed Activity / Project will not have a significant direct or cumulative impact,
Findings of Significance	nor create an unusual circumstance that will cause the proposed project to have a significant effect on the environment, wildlife or cultural resources, directly or incrementally. In addition, this Activity / Project will not adversely impact the public
	health and safety resulting in a consequence to the proposed Activity / Project.

3. Historical Resource Analysis

Foundationally, Section 15064.5 of the State CEQA Guidelines addresses the determination of the potential "Significance of Impact to Historical Resources" as follows:

- (a) For purposes of this section, the term "historical resources" shall include the following: ...
- (2) A resource included in a local register of historical resources, as defined in section 5020.1(k) of the Public Resources Code or identified as significant in an historical resource survey meeting the requirements of section 5024.1(g) of the Public Resources Code, shall be presumed to be historically or culturally significant. Public agencies must treat any such resource as significant unless the preponderance of evidence demonstrates that it is not historically or culturally significant.
- (3) Generally, a project that follows the U.S. Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties with Guidelines for Preserving, Rehabilitating, Restoring, and Reconstructing Historic Buildings or the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation and Guidelines for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings (1995), Weeks and Grimmer, shall be considered as mitigated to a level of less than a significant impact on the historical resource

Ordinarily, a project that has been determined to conform to the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties can generally be considered to be a project that will not cause a significant impact on historic resources. (See 14 Cal. Code Regs. Section 15126.4(b)(1).) In fact, in most cases, if a project meets the Secretary of Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties, it can be considered categorically exempt from CEQA. (See 14 Cal Code Regs. Section 15331).

Specifically, the Secretary of the Interior's Standards include preservation, rehabilitation, restoration, and reconstruction. Since preservation, rehabilitation, and reconstruction of the affected structures have been found to be infeasible based on the deteriorated condition of the buildings, it has been determined that reconstruction (including relocation) are the activities most feasible as design solutions to preserve the historical character of the old barracks.

Also, the Guidelines for Reconstruction, as stated on the NPS website, address: (1) Researching and Documenting Historical Significance; (2) Investigating Archeological Resources; (3) Identifying, Protecting and Preserving Extant Historic Features; and (4) Reconstructing Non-surviving Buildings and Site Protection.

Applied here, the 27-acre Sequoia Field / Visalia-Dinuba School of Aeronautics that is currently used by the Tulare County Sherriff's Department is part of a historic district that has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) and certified by the California Office of Historic Preservation and the U.S. Department of the Interior,

National Park Service (NPS), in June of 2000 pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. (See Exhibits "C" through "E".)

The Sequoia Field / Visalia-Dinuba School of Aeronautics is a collection of approximately 27 buildings, the oldest dating back to 1940, but with the majority constructed in 1941 when the facility was first opened.

The proposed reconstruction area includes the removal (relocation) and reconstruction (rebuilding with similar location, design and construction) of up to 4 existing historical buildings and the surrounding grounds, at Sequoia Field. It will replace the existing empty, historically significant, and deteriorated buildings with similar building designed and built based on the Department of the Interior Standards for Reconstruction. (See Secretary of Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties and companion CEQA Exemption in 14 Cal. Code Regs. Section 15331.)

For reference purposes, "integrity" embraces the historic, character-defining physical features that convey a building, object, site or structure's significance as part of the District. "Contributing buildings" add to the "associations, qualities, or values for which the historic district is significant," while "non-contributing" means "the property no longer possesses historic integrity reflecting its character at the time due to alterations, disturbance, additions or other changes." (NRHP National Register Registration Bulletin). These determinations were made as of the registration of the District in June 2000 as a training facility for Army Air Cadets during World War II.

Since 1941, the Tulare County Sheriff's Department has renovated at least some aspect of all the buildings within the District. Historical resources remain in some of the existing buildings on site. A great deal of the existing MCF / DRC facility contains buildings that were used as a return-to-custody facility for the State Prison System from 1987 onward. Resulting from such reconstruction, new construction, and reassignment of various buildings since the 1980s, some of the buildings within the District have lost their historical "integrity", and thus, are considered "non-contributing."

In addition, the District's buildings have extensive water damage. Historically, the area was a swamp that was filled in for the airport. The swamp-like conditions contributed to the water damage since the underlying soils failed to drain water quickly enough to avoid flooding of the site. Since the original builders failed to protect the buildings from flooding some of the buildings suffer water damage during flood events. The proposed building design and reconstruction will prevent such flooding from occurring.

The buildings are deteriorating and some have been left empty owing to their deteriorated state (Exhibit "A" – Site Plan, Buildings 8, 14 - 17.) The existing infrastructure is aged past its useful life and has begun to fail in some instances. However, with infrastructure improvements through the reconstruction process, these buildings will be modernized and brought up to code.

As an example, the L barracks (District Building #8) has had the windows and doorway boarded up and the building abandoned because of a gas leak and the discovery of severe

mold damage by the gas leak repair crews. Furthermore, Buildings 14-17 on the site plan have extensive termite damage. Therefore, based on a financial analysis of the facilities, the County concluded that it was more costly to renovate the building versus relocating and rebuilding new historically accurate buildings.

This Activity directly involves Buildings 14-18. (Exhibit "A" – Site Plan.) Buildings 14-18 (have been certified historical by the California Office of Historic Preservation (OHP) and categorized as contributing to the Historical Significance of the Army Air Cadet Training during World War II. However, they have not been formally listed as a resource under the California Register.

These Buildings were originally Barracks B (21), C (6), F (5), S (9) and G (10) respectively. Located in the southern portion of the District, these buildings are adjacent to Avenue 360 and surround a landscape area in between the old barracks F and C that served for parading and other ceremonial purposes. According to the NPS, all of the buildings and grounds have been altered, and thus, have lost their original integrity. Unremarkably, the barracks building facades are simple, undistinguishable and of limited architectural / aesthetic value.

Buildings 19-21 (on the Site Plan) located on the northern portion of the Activity area are included in the RK Meyers Youth Facility which was originally built in the 1980s. (Exhibit A – Site Plan.) These buildings would only be indirectly involved in the proposed Activity in that these buildings would not be affected by any Activities owing to required compliance with the Department of the Interior Standards.

Building 19 did not exist at the time of the 1941 Air Base, and, as such, is not listed in the historical registration because it is a portable classroom. Additionally, Buildings 11, 13, 20 and 21 served as barracks and are currently used by the Sheriff's Department. Building 20 is a contributing building, while Building 21 is not contributing because of major renovations. Both of these buildings are empty.

Overall, the integrity of the historical context of the District has been altered substantially on the grounds that (1) there have been changes to building features; (2) reduced landscaping by the addition of Buildings 5 and 19 on the Site Plan; (3) deterioration of the buildings; and (4) reconstruction of the remaining features.

The focus of the Activities involving both renovations to the MCF and DRC facilities will be educational programming to change mental and behavioral patterns of offenders to lessen recidivism. The replacement activities are described as follows:

(1) Men's Correctional Facility (MCF). The existing facility serves as housing for 420 inmates, some of these inmates work at the kitchen at Bob Wiley Correctional Center immediately to the North. The construction activities proposed will replace sufficient building space for 360 to 400 beds (180 to 200 bunk beds) in separate dormitories. This activity requires 60 beds less than the existing facility. Each dormitory will contain multiple classrooms. The MCF will also include use by the Residential Substance Abuse Treatment Program, and transitional housing with programming and counseling.

(2) Day Reporting Center (DRC). The existing DRC buildings contain the Sheriff's crime lab, property and evidence building. Additional abandoned buildings exist on this site. The existing DRC will be replaced with a new administration center for various alternatives to incarceration for the Sherriff's Department. This building will hold minor criminal offenders and educational programs from MCF.

The existing, remaining MCF facility will continue to function with no additional activities proposed at this time. If SB 1022 funding is secured, construction is expected to occur shortly thereafter, and completed by 2020. The construction of the facilities will be further exempted under Section 15133 of the State CEQA Guidelines and Classes 1 through 4.

The funding is intended for the public's benefit under AB 900 and will be used for the purposes specified under SB 1022. Specifically, SB 1022 amended the Public Safety and Offender Rehabilitation Act of 2007 authorized revenue bond funding to acquire land, design, and construct (or renovate) reentry facilities. This funding would go towards reconstructing these reentry facilities, as specified in this Act and carry out the purposes of the State of California in expanding reentry facilities to alleviate the overcrowded State Prisons.

Given this prospect, the Activity includes hiring a historical expert to further study the setting, the site, the buildings, and the building interiors under the required protocols. These findings will be used, developed and required through site design.

Once the design and the approach for reconstruction of the project area are completed, these documents will be submitted to OHP for review and approval in keeping with OHP guidelines; and as such, these guidelines shall be followed as required standards during project design and construction.

The design standards required for this Activity are delineated as follows:

(1) Required Design Standards for Protecting the Environmental Setting

- o Inventorying the setting to determine the existence of aboveground remains and subsurface archeological materials, using this evidence as corroborating documentation for the reconstruction of missing features of the setting. Such features could include roads and streets; furnishings such as lights or benches; vegetation, gardens and yards; adjacent open space such as fields, parks, commons or woodlands; and important views or visual relationships.
- o Re-establishing the historic spatial relationship between buildings and landscape features of the setting.

- o Not reconstructing features of the setting without first conducting a detailed investigation to physically substantiate the documentary evidence.
- o Not giving the building's setting a false appearance by basing the reconstruction on conjectural designs or the availability of features from other nearby districts or neighborhoods.
- Not reducing the historic spatial relationship between buildings and landscape features within the setting by reconstructing some missing elements, but not others.

(2) Required Design Standards for Building Exterior Guidelines

- o Reconstructing a non-surviving building to depict the documented historic appearance. Although traditional building materials such as masonry, wood, and architectural metals are preferable, substitute materials may be used as long as they re-create the historical appearance.
- o Re-creating the documented design of exterior features such as the roof shape and coverings; architectural detailing; windows; entrances and porches; steps and doors; and their historic spatial relationships and proportions.
- o Not reproducing the appearance of historic paint colors and finishes based on physical and documentary evidence.
- Not using signs to identify the building as a contemporary re-creation.
 Reconstructing features that cannot be documented historically or for which inadequate documentation exists.
- O Not using substitute materials that do not convey the appearance of the historic building.
- o Not omitting a documented exterior feature; or re-building a feature, but altering its historic design.
- O Not using inappropriate designs or materials that do not convey the historic appearance, such as aluminum storm and screen window combinations.
- Not using paint colors that cannot be documented through research and investigation to be appropriate to the building or using other undocumented finishes.
- o Not failing to explain that the building is a reconstruction, thus confusing the public understanding.

(3) Required Design Standards for Site Development

o Inventorying the building site to determine the existence of aboveground remains and subsurface archeological materials, and then using this evidence as corroborating documentation for the reconstruction of related site features. These may include walks, paths, roads, and parking; trees, shrubs, fields or herbaceous

- plant material; terracing, berms, or grading; lights, fences, or benches; sculpture, statuary, or monuments; fountains, streams, pools, or lakes.
- o Re-establishing the historic relationship between the building or buildings and historic site features, whenever possible.
- o Not reconstructing building site features without first conducting a detailed investigation to physically substantiate the documentary evidence.
- o Not giving the building's site a false appearance by basing the reconstruction or conjectural designs or the availability of features from other nearby sites.
- o Not changing the historic spatial relationship between the building and historic site features, or reconstructing some site features, but not others, thus creating a false appearance

RMA has concluded that Buildings 14-18 on the Site Plan are historically significant buildings because the OPH has certified they do contribute to the historical significance of the property. Moreover, the buildings appear to be contributing buildings within the Historically Significant District.

However, the Activity is required to be designed in compliance with the U.S. Department of Interior's Reconstruction Standards; and as such, the Activity will not have a significant effect on the surrounding District. Therefore, since the Activity will be carried out in compliance with the Reconstruction Standards, it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the Activity in question may have a significant effect on the historical nature of the property, thereby making the Activity exempt from CEQA.

In addition, there is no is local ordinance that protects the District as defined in Section 5020.1(k) of the Public Resources Code and the District is not identified as significant in an historical resource survey meeting the requirements of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1(g).

RMA has concluded that, based on substantial evidence, the buildings themselves have so substantially changed and become so deteriorated that they have limited significance under the Criteria listed for listing on the California Register. (Public Resources Code Section 5024.1; 14 Cal. Code Regs. Section 4850.)

Moreover, pursuant to 14 Cal. Code Regs. Section15060, RMA analyzed the proposed funding, planning and construction activity to ascertain whether CEQA applied to this Activity. Based on detailed review, CEQA is not applicable because the Activity will not have a significant effect on the environment on the grounds that (1) the Activity will be located on existing, developed and deteriorated property, and (2) the purpose of the Activity is to reconstruct facilities for the immediate local and statewide needs for jail facilities. In other words, the Activity will redevelop this facility on land currently used for the exact same purposes with 60 fewer inmates. Therefore, it can be concluded that CEQA is inapplicable under 14 Cal. Code Regs. Section 15061(b)(3).

It should be noted that 14 Cal. Code Regs. Section 15300.2(c) states that a categorical exemption shall not be used for an activity where "there is a reasonable possibility that the activity will have a significant effect on the environment due to unusual circumstances."

Applied here, a potential unusual circumstance is the historical nature of the buildings and the overall District. Moreover, Public Resources Code Section 5024(g) states that a resource included in a local register shall be presumed to be historical or culturally significant (see also CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5).

However, RMA concluded that the Activity does not pose a substantially adverse effect to a historical resource under Public Resources Code Section 21084.1 because the buildings will comply with all the Secretary of the Interior's Standards.

Additionally, RMA concluded that (1) the buildings are uninhabitable and have deteriorated owing to the presence of mold and loss of structural integrity from extensive water and termite damage, and (2) the buildings have been substantively altered resulting from major renovations made in the 1980s. Therefore, to relocate and reconstruct these buildings would have no adverse effect on environment.

Since the District is a historical district, the removal of the buildings may affect the integrity of the overall District. To avoid having a significant effect on the District, the Activity will require the creation of a data recovery plan, which shall be prepared for scientifically consequential information and the Activity will be designed for compliance with the Department of the Interior's Standards. The Activity also will require photographing and logging (or other appropriate documentation) of the buildings that will be renovated or relocated.

Therefore, based on substantial evidence in the record, it is concluded that the general insignificance of the buildings that are being treated in conformance with the Secretary of the Interior's Reconstruction Standards, the Activity / Project is exempt from CEQA.

4. No Exceptions to CEQA Exemptions

As explained below, there are no exceptions to the exemptions pursuant to 14 Cal. Code Regs. Section 15300.2.

(a) Location. Classes 3, 4, 5, 6, and 11 are qualified by consideration of the Activity's location. A project that is ordinarily insignificant in its impact on the environment may, in a particularly sensitive environment, be significant. If the Activity is determined to be in one of these Classes, the scrutiny is increased in exempting the project under CEQA.

This Activity invokes the Class 3 and 4 exemptions. Class 3 is for new construction of limited small new facilities; installation of small, new equipment and facilities in small structures, and conversion of the use of small existing structures.

Any changes to or historical reconstruction of these facilities are being designed in such a way as to not impact the historically sensitive nature of the District because these new structures will be built to the Secretary's Standards, and, therefore, the effect will not be significant. Class 4 applies to minor alterations to the condition of the land such as grading, gardening, and landscaping. These activities will not impact the historical nature of the site because they too will follow the Reconstruction Standards.

(b) Cumulative Impact. All exemptions for these Classes are inapplicable when the cumulative impact of successive projects of the same type, in the same place, or over time, is significant.

After reviewing this matter, there are other county projects occurring in the area such as the Flood Control Project on Cottonwood Creek, Resurfacing of Sequoia Airfield, and SMARA Project Expansion on Chrisman Mine to the North of Road 201.

However, the impact of the proposed Activity to these other projects in the area will not be cumulatively significant because this Activity would not be started until 2016 and completed by 2020. Thus, the other projects will be completed in shorter time frames (2014-2016), and the SMARA project is an extension of an existing project resulting in no change to of its current operations.

Additionally, none of these projects will impact traffic or air quality because of the limited scope and nature of the project. Also, air quality emissions from short-term, temporary construction-related activities will remain at a less than significant level as a result of compliance with the rules/regulation of the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District.

On the basis of the above analysis, the proposed Activity will not cause a cumulative impact.

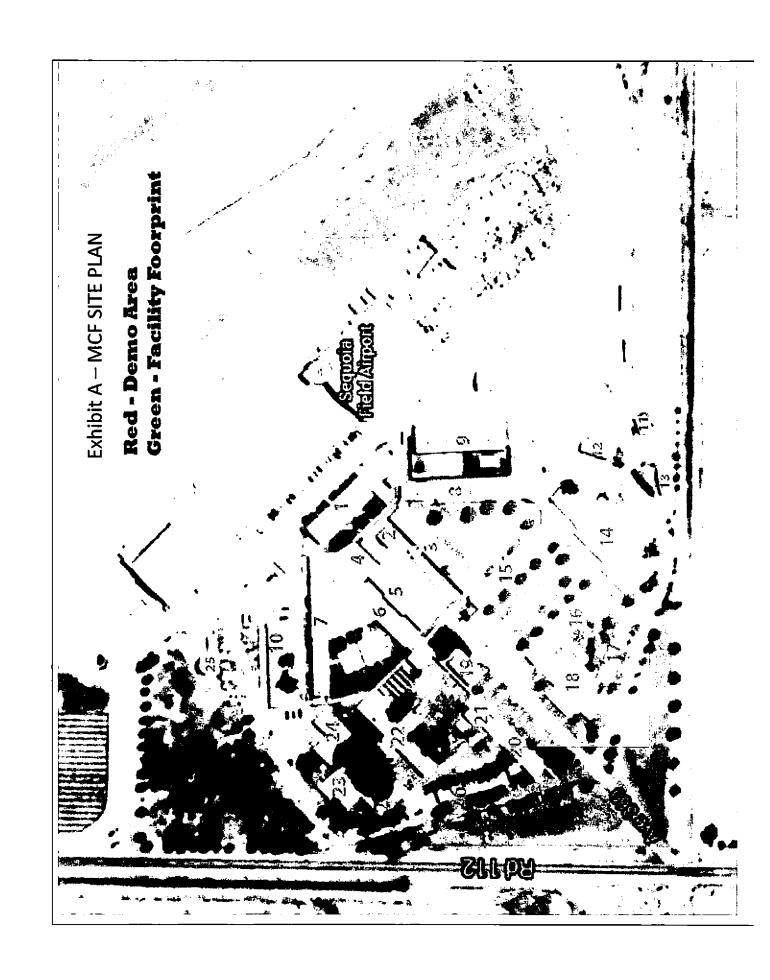
- (c) Significant Effect. A categorical exemption shall not be used for an activity where there is a reasonable possibility that the activity will have a significant effect on the environment due to unusual circumstances. This was previously discussed in this analysis and a finding was made that the Activity will not have any significant effect on any resources, including historical resources. For analysis, see parts 2 and 3 above.
- (d) Scenic Highways. A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project which may result in damage to scenic resources, including but not limited to, trees, historic buildings, rock outcroppings, or similar resources, within a highway officially designated as a state scenic highway. This exception does not apply here because a scenic highway is not affected by the proposed Activity and adequate design standards will prevent any significant effect from occurring.
- (e) Hazardous Waste Sites. See list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code.

For example, an online *Cortese Act / Envirostor* search conducted on August 21, 2013 indicated that there are no known hazardous or toxic sites on or in the vicinity of the project.

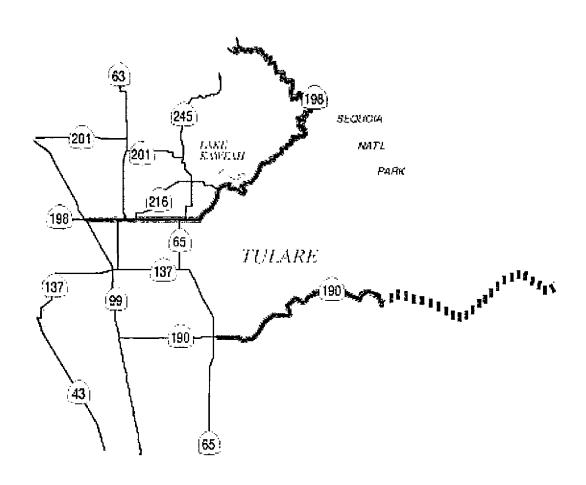
In reviewing the Cortese List, *Environstor*, (California Environmental Protection Agency (CAL EPA) website information), it was noted that a Leaking Underground Storage Tank was indicated. (See ">http://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/

After reviewing the Geotracker Web Site maintained by the State Water Resources Control Board, it was noted that the site had potential diesel contamination; however, the site was remediated fully and the case was closed as of September 12, 1997. (See http://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/profile report.asp?global id=T0610700213>.)

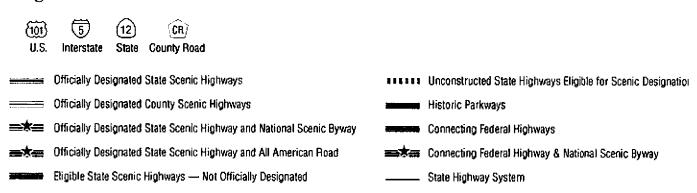
Finally, after reviewing the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Information System (CERCLIS) (US EPA website), the subject property was not found to be on a listed polluted site.



Caltrans Scenic Highways Map



Legend



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: RESUBMISSION
PROPERTY Sequoia Field Visalia-Dinuba School of Aeronautics
MULTIPLE NAME:
STATE & COUNTY: CALIFORNIA, Tulare
DATE RECEIVED: 4/26/00 DATE OF PENDING LIST: DATE OF WEEKLY LIST: DATE OF 45TH DAY: 6/10/00
REFERENCE NUMBER: 99001591
DETAILED EVALUATION:
ACCEPTRETURNREJECT DATE
ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:
The Sequoia Field/Visalia-Dinuba School of Aeronautics is eligible under National Register Criterion A (Military History). Constructed in 1941 to serve as a military/civilian flight training school, the complex of barracks, administrative buildings, hangars, and flight line facilities represents the important early efforts of the U. S. to develop a capable and well trained military air force in anticipation of World War II. Founded and operated by civilians Lloyd and Gladys O'Donnell, the training facility was an essential component of the intensive pilot training program developed for the U. S. military during the 1940s. [The concerns raised in the original NR return have been answered. Additional clarification provided by the nomination preparer and the county verified the one-time existence of the northeastern paved runway, but also noted its subsequent removal. Consequently, the nomination was revised to take into account this information and to confine the boundaries to the area which retains physical integrity (78 acres).]
RECOM./CRITERIA
RECOM./CRITERIAAccest (Riverion A) REVIEWER AU R. LUSIGNAM DISCIPLINE HISTORIAN TELEPHONE
TELEPHONE DATE (/g/2 200
DATE 6/9/2000
DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

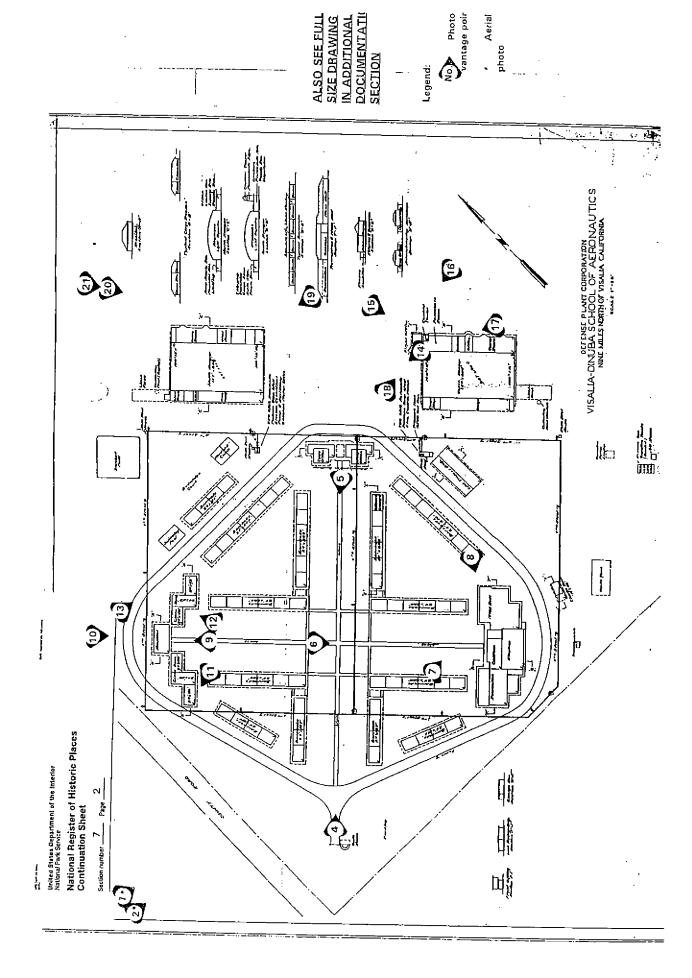


EXHIBIT "D"