



**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: June 17, 2014

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

CONTACT PERSON: Celeste Perez PHONE: (559) 624-7010

SUBJECT: Adopt The Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Road 224 Deer Creek Bridge Project

REQUEST(S):

That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Certify the Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Road 224 Bridge Project (State Clearinghouse #2014031088) as complete and in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the State CEQA Guidelines;
2. Find that the project is accurately described in the Mitigated Negative Declaration;
3. Find that significant impacts could result from the project, but are mitigated to a level that is less than significant by project features or deliberate mitigation measures;
4. Approve and adopt the Mitigated Negative Declaration;
5. Approve and adopt the Mitigation Monitoring Plan included in the Mitigated Negative Declaration; and
6. Authorize the Environmental Assessment Officer, or designee, to sign and file the Notice of Determination with the County Clerk.

SUMMARY:

As required by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the County of Tulare acting as the lead agency for the Road 224 Deer Creek Bridge Project must

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DATE: June 17, 2014

certify and adopt the Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) prior to proceeding with the project.

The County, in cooperation with Caltrans, proposes to replace the washed out two-lane low-water crossing on Road 224 over Deer Creek with a two-lane bridge structure that will provide year-round access, improve safety, and improve operations compared to the previous facility. The bridge is located approximately 7 miles southwest of the City of Porterville and 1 mile west of State Route 65. The existing low water crossing which was destroyed during the 2010 winter storms will be replaced with an approximately 450-foot long by 35-foot wide two lane bridge on the existing alignment.

As part of the preliminary engineering stage of the bridge replacement project, an Initial Study was conducted in conformance with California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines. The Initial Study determined that the proposed project may have a potential effect on the environment. Therefore, mitigating factors have been developed to reduce the impacts of the project on the environment to levels of insignificance consistent with CEQA Guidelines. A MND has been prepared to summarize the potential impacts of the project and the mitigating factors that will be incorporated into the project. The MND states that none of the environmental factors contained in the CEQA Guidelines would be impacted to a level that is considered potentially significant.

The Draft and Final MND was prepared by Tulare County RMA's Planning Division. Your Board is being asked to authorize the Environmental Assessment Officer to certify that this document complies and is in conformance with the requirements of CEQA and to adopt the MND including an accompanying Mitigation Monitoring Plan.

The MND was circulated to interested parties and agencies for their comments for a 30-day public review period beginning on April 1, 2014 and closing on April 30, 2014.

The project description and impacts are described in the MND. The findings in the MND conclude that potential project impacts on the environment would be mitigated to a level of insignificance through the inclusion and implementation of adequate mitigations as described and contained in the MND and accompanying Mitigation Monitoring Plan.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING:

There is no net cost to the County General Fund.

An environmental filing fee of \$2,181.25 must be paid to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife at the time the Notice of Determination is filed with the County Clerk. The design and environmental portion of this project is funded by the federal Highway Bridge Program. The costs associated with the preparation, review and

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certification of the Environmental Document will be borne by the design and environmental phases of the Road 224 Deer Creek Bridge Project.

LINKAGE TO THE COUNTY OF TULARE STRATEGIC BUSINESS PLAN:

The 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:

MR Bond 6-2-14
Michael R. Bond, P.E. Date
Interim Assistant Director - Public Works
County Surveyor

Michael C. Spata 6.2.14
Michael C. Spata Date
Associate Director

MB:br

Cc: Auditor-Controller
County Counsel
County Administrative Office (2)

Attachment(s): Attachment A - Vicinity Map
Attachment B - Mitigated Negative Declaration (On File w/ BOS Clerk)
Attachment C - Notice of Determination

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

IN THE MATTER OF ADOPTING THE)
MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION) Resolution No. _____
FOR THE ROAD 224 DEER CREEK)
BRIDGE PROJECT)

UPON MOTION OF SUPERVISOR _____, SECONDED BY
SUPERVISOR _____, THE FOLLOWING WAS ADOPTED BY THE BOARD
OF SUPERVISORS, AT AN OFFICIAL MEETING HELD JUNE 17, 2014, BY THE
FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES:
NOES:
ABSTAIN:
ABSENT:

ATTEST: JEAN M. ROUSSEAU
COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER/
CLERK, BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

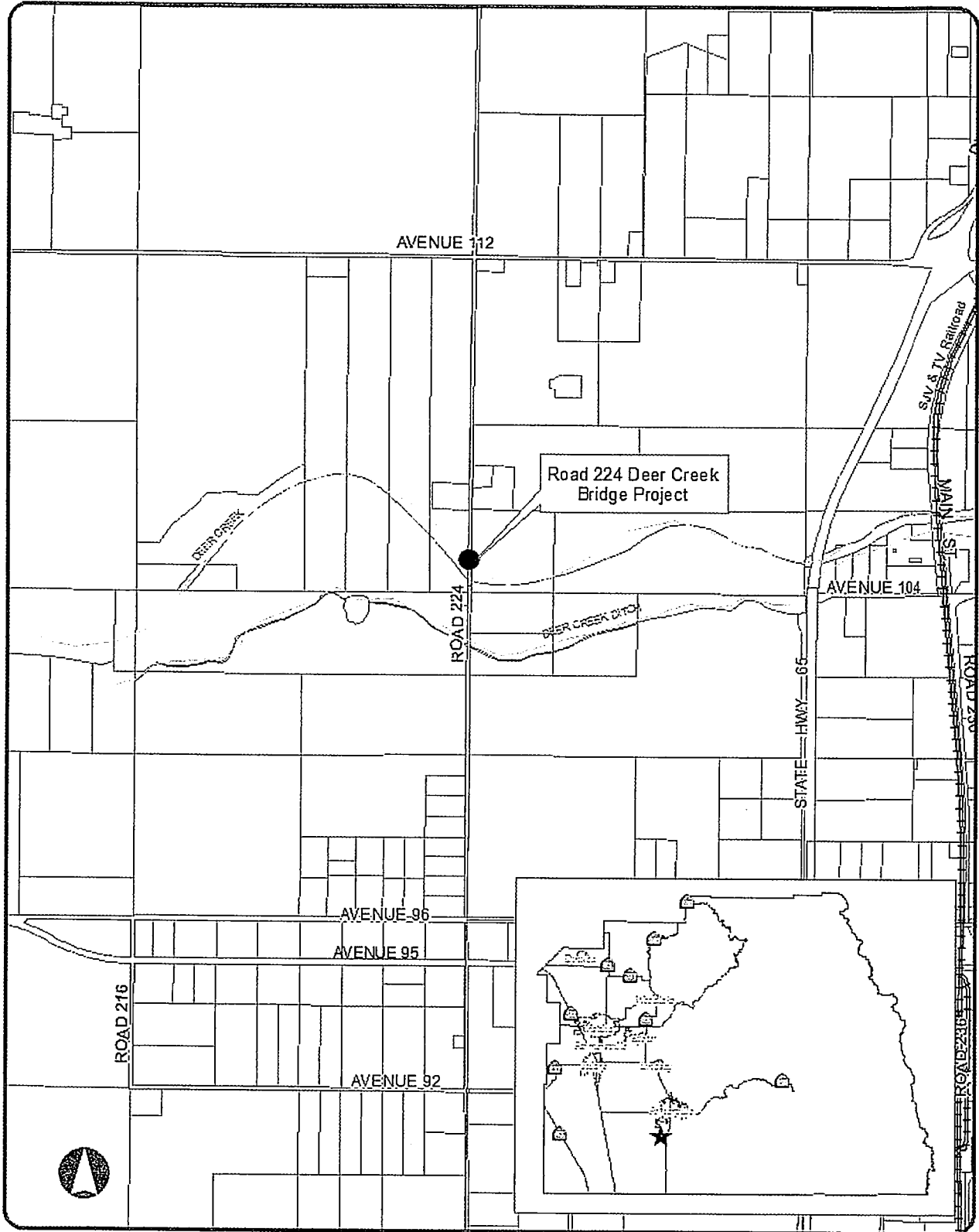
BY: _____
Deputy Clerk

* * * * *

1. Certified the Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Road 224 Deer Creek Bridge Project (State Clearinghouse #2014031088) as completed and in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the State CEQA Guidelines;
2. Found that the project is accurately described in the Mitigated Negative Declaration;
3. Found that significant impacts could result from the project, but are mitigated to a level that is less than significant by project features or deliberate mitigation measures;
4. Approved and adopted the Mitigated Negative Declaration;
5. Approved and adopted the Mitigation Monitoring Plan included in the Mitigated Negative Declaration; and
6. Authorized the Environmental Assessment Officer, or designee, to sign and file the Notice of Determination with the County Clerk.

Attachment A

Vicinity Map



Attachment B

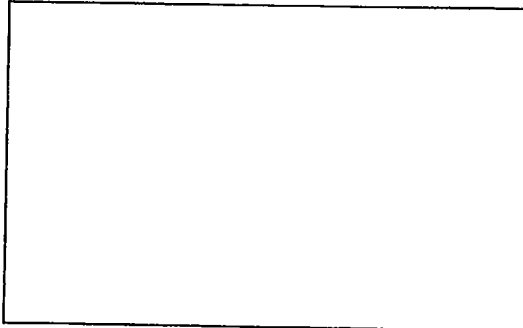
**Mitigated Negative Declaration
(On File with the Board of Supervisors Clerk)**

Attachment C

Notice of Determination

NOTICE OF DETERMINATION

Fee Exempt Per Government Code Section 6103



To: Tulare County Clerk
Room 105, Courthouse
221 South Mooney Blvd.

Lead Agency: Tulare County Resource Management Agency
5961 South Mooney Boulevard
Visalia, CA 93277

Applicant(s): Tulare County Resource Management Agency.

Subject: Filing of Notice of Determination in Compliance with Section 21108 or 21152 of the Public Resources Code.

Project Title: Road 224 Deer Creek Low Water Crossing Project [Bridge Number 46C-0404, BRLO-5946(110)].

State Clearinghouse Number: 2014031088

Contact Person: Hector Guerra

Telephone Number: 559-624-7121

Project Location: Road 224 over Deer Creek, Sections 28, 29, 32, and 33, Township 22 S, Range 27 E, MDB&M.

Project Description/Case File No: See attachment "A".

This is to advise that the TULARE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS approved the above-described project on June 3, 2014, and has made the following determinations regarding the above-described project:

- 1. The project () will (X) will not have a significant adverse impact on the environment.
- 2. () A Final Environmental Impact Report was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.
(X) A Mitigated Negative Declaration was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.

The environmental document and record of project approval may be examined at: 5961 S Mooney Blvd., Visalia CA 93277

- 3. Mitigation Measures (X) were () were not made a condition of approval of the project.
- 4. A Statement of Overriding Considerations () was (X) was not adopted for the project.

By: Hector Guerra 5/21/14
Hector Guerra
Chief Environmental Planner

By: Michael C. Spata 5.21.14
Michael C. Spata
Environmental Assessment Officer
Associate Director - Planning

- (X) Dept. of Fish & Game Fees Required
- () E.I.R.
- (X) MND
- () N.D.

Filed with the Tulare County Clerk on _____, 2014.

cc: California. Dept. of Fish & Game, 1416 Ninth St., 12th Floor, Sacramento, CA 95814

Note: Authority cited: Section 21083, Public Resource Code; Reference: Sections 21108, 21152 and 21167, Public Resource Code.

Attachment A

The proposed Project will replace the washed out Road 224 low-water crossing across Deer Creek with a new bridge structure. The approximate limits of the Project are 870 total feet in length. The bridge will span approximately 450 feet from the south-to-north banks of Deer Creek while the roadway approaches will be 170 feet south of Deer Creek and 250 feet north of Deer Creek. The bridge and new roadway will be 36 feet wide which will include two 12-foot lanes, two three-foot shoulders, and metal beam guardrails. The roadway will narrow to taper to the existing roadway width. The bridge will be a low profile reinforced concrete cast-in-place flat slab bridge or a cast-in-place pre-stressed voided slab bridge. The proposed bridge will be approximately 450 feet long and will be no greater than 10 feet in height when measured from the creek bottom. Construction of the bridge could require pile driving. Due to the raised profile of the bridge, the existing driveways accessing/egressing Road 224 will be adjusted or relocated to conform to the new road height.