

**NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT  
AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS**

**July 11, 2024**

**County of Tuolumne**  
3 S. Green Street  
Sonora, CA 95370  
(209)533-5515

These notices shall satisfy two separate but related procedural notification requirements for activities to be undertaken by the County of Tuolumne.

**REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS**

On or about July 30 2024, the County of Tuolumne will submit a request to the California Department of Housing and Community Development (hereinafter "HCD") for the release of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds under Title 1 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended to undertake a project known as the "Groveland Community Services District Water Distribution System Improvements" in the Groveland Community Services District, County of Tuolumne, California.

The project description is comprised of: various improvements needed to address the District's failing water distribution system. It should be noted that only a portion of the Project is being presented for funding at this time (see further information below). The larger District-wide Project involves installing or replacing approximately 10,203 linear feet of 8-inch diameter water main as well as new gate valves, pressure reducing valves, and fire hydrants in the downtown Groveland water distribution system; approximately 10,306 linear feet of 8-inch diameter water main as well as new gate valves, pressure reducing valves, and fire hydrants in the Big Oak Flat water distribution system; approximately 7,212 linear feet of 8-inch water main and fire hydrants in the connection between the communities of Groveland and Big Oak Flat; and approximately 1,956 linear feet of 8-inch water main and a fire hydrant in the water distribution system that feeds White Gulch.

The proposed improvements are shown in the table below and in the maps provided in the Environmental Assessment document under Attachment A.

Description	Quantity	Unit
Line 1	2,504	LF
Line 2	1,607	LF
Line 3	2,323	LF
Line 4	963	LF
Line 5	3,109	LF
Line 8	7,431	LF
Line 9	2,392	LF
Line 14	611	LF
6" Hydrant with Bury	70	EA
3/4" Residential Water Service	200	EA

Both conventional trenching methods and pipe bursting were considered for water mains to be replaced. Conventional construction uses heavy equipment to dig the trenches and requires surface restoration of the excavated trench. Conventional construction is the selected method for the replacement of the water mains in Groveland and Big Oak Flat. Highway and creek crossings will be constructed using the bore and jack construction method.

For a full description of the project, as well as the environmental evaluation, please refer to Environmental Assessment documents Attachment A which includes the following:

- Project location maps
- Project CEQA Documentation
  - Mitigated Negative Declaration (SCH#2018102031) adopted 11/13/18
  - Project Biological Study
  - Project Cultural Resources Study
  - Mitigation and Monitoring Program
  - Notice of Determination (Tuolumne County Clerk stamped)
- State Water Board Environmental Package

The total cost of the project construction is estimated to be \$3,300,000 inclusive of Activity and Activity Delivery costs would be funded by the CDBG program.

### **FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

The County of Tuolumne has determined that the project will have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 is not required. Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record (ERR), which is available at the following address: Web accessibility: <https://www.gcsd.org/project-bid-notice-ceqa-nepa-rfp-s-rfq-s>; Locations: Tuolumne County Public Library located at 480 Greenley Road, Sonora, CA 95370 during the hours of Monday-Friday 9 am – 6 pm and Saturday 10 am – 6 pm; County Administration Building located at 2 S. Green Street, Sonora, CA 95370 during the hours 8 am – 5 pm Monday - Friday; and Groveland Community Service District office located at 18966 Ferretti Rd. Groveland, CA 95321 during the hours of 9 am to 4:30 pm Monday – Friday.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the ERR to Maureen Frank, General Services Agency Director, County of Tuolumne ([Mfrank@co.tuolumne.ca.us](mailto:Mfrank@co.tuolumne.ca.us)), 2 South Green Street, Sonora, CA 95370. All comments received by June 29, 2024, will be considered by the County prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds. Commenters should specify which Notice they are addressing (either the Finding of No Significant Impact or the Request for Release of Funds)

### **ENVIRONMENTAL CERTIFICATION**

The County of Tuolumne certifies to HUD/HCD that Tracie Riggs in her capacity as County Administrative Officer and NEPA Certifying Officer consents to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. HCD's approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and related laws and authorities and allows the County of Tuolumne to use program funds.

## **OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS**

HCD will accept objections to its release of funds and the County of Tuolumne certification for a period of fifteen days following the anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) which is anticipated on or about (August 14, 2024) only if they are on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer of the County of Tuolumne; (b) the County of Tuolumne has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58; (c) the grant recipient or other participants in the development process have committed funds, incurred costs or undertaken activities not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by HCD; or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58, Sec. 58.76) and shall be emailed to the HCD grant administration office at [nepacomment@hcd.ca.gov](mailto:nepacomment@hcd.ca.gov). Potential objectors should contact HCD via email at [nepacomment@hcd.ca.gov](mailto:nepacomment@hcd.ca.gov) to verify the last actual day of the objection period.

Tracie Riggs  
County of Tuolumne Administrative Officer and NEPA Certifying Officer