

**TULARE COUNTY RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AGENCY
NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT
A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION
Mountain Road 109 White River Bridge Replacement Project**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Tulare County intends to adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the Mountain Road 109 White River Bridge Replacement Project. The MND has been approved for public review by the Tulare County Environmental Assessment Officer. Copies are available for review and comment at the Resource Management Agency, Permit Center, 5961 South Mooney Blvd, Visalia, California 93277-9394. Comments and recommendations on the adequacy of the environmental document may be filed at the aforementioned address during the public review period established for the project.

1. **PROJECT:** Mountain Road 109 White River Bridge Replacement Project.
2. **APPLICANT/AGENT:** Tulare County, Resource Management Agency
5961 S. Mooney Boulevard
Visalia, California 93227-9374
3. **LOCATION:** The bridge is located approximately 500 feet north of Mountain Road 12; approximately 8 miles southeast of Fountain Springs in Tulare County, California. The site is located within the United States Geological Survey (USGS) White River 7.5 Minute Quadrangle. It lies within the Northly Portion of Section 28 South, Township 24 South; Range 29 East, MDB&M within APN 344-030-004.
4. **PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** The Build Alternative would replace the existing M109 bridge crossing over White River with a new two-lane bridge structure to match the required minimum width to carry two lanes of traffic. The approximate limits of the Project are approximately 500 feet northwest and 300 feet southeast of the existing M109 crossing of White River. The Project would conform to the existing roadway width and would provide an improved road alignment for safety. The bridge structure would consist of a concrete slab bridge. The proposed bridge would be approximately 100 feet long and would be no greater than 18 feet in height when measured from the creek bottom.

The White River channel would be graded to restore natural channel contours. Rock slope protection may be necessary around the bridge abutments for scour protection.

Temporary construction easements would be needed for bridge construction and construction staging areas. Permanent slope easements may be required to conform the finished grades of the maintenance roads along each side of the creek to the bridge profile grade. Right-of-way acquisition and utility relocations are anticipated.

M109 and driveway access would remain open during construction. Due to the length of a potential detour route, stage construction would be utilized in order to keep the roadway open to traffic during construction. Construction is anticipated to begin no later than 2024 and would take approximately 6-12 months to complete.

5. **ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT:** A copy of the MND will be available for review at the Tulare County Resource Management Agency, at the address above, (559) 624-7000, (Monday – Thursday: 9:00 am to 4:30 pm) and (Friday: 9:00 am to 11:00 am). Due to the coronavirus emergency, an appointment will be necessary to view the document at RMA.

The MND may also be reviewed at the County website link below:

Tulare County Web Site:

<https://tularecounty.ca.gov/rma/index.cfm/planning-building/environmental-planning/mitigated-negative-declarations/road-m109-of-white-river-bridge-replacement/>.

6. **REVIEW PERIOD:** May 12, 2021 – June 10, 2021, at 5:00 p.m.
7. **CONTACT FOR MORE INFORMATION:** Hector Guerra, Chief Environmental Planner at (559) 624-7121 or HGuerra@tularecounty.ca.gov (**para Español llame Jose Saenz (559) 624-7102**).

The MND has a minimum review period of **30 days**, starting on **Wednesday, May 12, 2021**, and ending on **Thursday, June 10, 2021**, which has been approved by the State of California, Office of Planning and Research. Any written comments on the MND should be sent to the Tulare County Resource Management Agency at the address noted above, to the attention of: Hector Guerra, Chief Environmental Planner.

After the close of the public comment review period on the MND established by this notice, this matter will be set for public hearing before the Tulare County Planning Commission. Notice of the date, time and place for such public hearing will be published and/or mailed as provided by law.

Please take notice that - pursuant to Public Resource Code Section 21177, Government Code Section 65009, and other applicable law - if you challenge the proposed action described above in court, then you may be limited to raising only those issues or objections you or someone else raised during the public comment period or the public hearing, or in written correspondence delivered to the Tulare County Resource Management Agency within the review period, or to the Planning Commission during the public hearing.

REED SCHENKE, P.E., ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT OFFICER