
TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
3.15 Socioeconomics	3.15-1
3.15.1 Information Sources.....	3.15-1
3.15.2 Description of Socioeconomic Conditions.....	3.15-1
3.15.3 Tulare County Government.....	3.15-4
3.15.4 References	3.15-7

List of Tables

Table 3.15-1. Summary of Assessed Land in Tulare County by Generalized Land Use Categories (2008).

Table 3.15-2. Tulare County Population and Growth Rates, 2000-2014.

Table 3.15-3. Population and Population Growth Rates, Tulare County Cities, 2000-2014.

Table 3.15-4. Housing Units, Tulare County Cities and County Total, 2000-2014.

Table 3.15-5. Tulare County Employment by Industry, 2013.

Table 3.15-6. Tulare County Top Private Sector Employers, 2013.

Table 3.15-7. Tulare County General Government Revenue by Source.

Table 3.15-8. Tulare County General Government Expenditures by Function.

List of Acronyms

CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
Commission	Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
CSD	Community Service District
FERC	Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
FY	fiscal year
HHSA	Health and Human Services Agency
ID	irrigation district
Project	Kaweah Project
PUD	public utility district
SCE	Southern California Edison Company

3.15 SOCIOECONOMICS

This section provides a general description of the socioeconomic conditions in the vicinity of the Kaweah Project (Project). The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (FERC or Commission) content requirements for this section are specified in Title 18 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Chapter I §5.6(d)(3)(xi).

3.15.1 Information Sources

The information used for this section was obtained from several local, state, and federal sources. By level of government, major sources include the following:

- Tulare County Auditor-Controller's reports and data;
- Tulare County Planning Department reports and data;
- State of California Department of Finance reports on population and income; and
- U.S. Census Bureau data on population and housing.

3.15.2 Description of Socioeconomic Conditions

Tulare County is located in a geographically diverse region of central California that generally encompasses, from west to east, the valley, foothill, and high country areas between the City of Tulare and the Sierra Nevada crest. The county contains approximately 4,840 square miles (3,097,600 acres) of which approximately 4,826 square miles is land and 14 square miles is water. Tulare County is bounded to the north by Fresno County, to the south by Kern County, to the east by Inyo County, and to the west by Kings County. There are eight incorporated cities within the county, including Dinuba, Exeter, Farmersville, Lindsay, Porterville, Tulare, Woodlake, and Visalia, the county seat (Tulare County 2010b; US Census 2010).

Tulare County assessed land uses organized into generalized categories are summarized on Table 3.15-1. Classified lands total 3,930 square miles or approximately 81% of Tulare County. Unclassified land (16% of total) and incorporated cities (3% of total) comprise the rest of the county lands. Overall, open space, which includes wilderness, national forests, monuments and parks, and county parks, encompasses 25% of the county. Agricultural uses total over 2,150 square miles or about 44% of the county (Tulare County 2010b).

The Project is located in the northeastern portion of the county on the Kaweah River and East Fork Kaweah River near the unincorporated towns of Three Rivers, Hammond, and Oakgrove, on the western slope of the Sierra Nevada between Lake Kaweah and the Sequoia National Park. Local residents within the Project vicinity live in the community of Hammond, along State Highway 198, near the Kaweah No. 1 Powerhouse; at Oakgrove, along Mineral King Road, near the Kaweah No. 1 Diversion Dam; in dispersed locations in the Kaweah River valley particularly in the vicinity of Washburn Cove, near the Kaweah No. 2 Powerhouse; and in the community of Three Rivers, about 1 mile west

of the Three Rivers substation, the terminus of the Kaweah transmission line and the western end of the Project. Population density in the vicinity of the Project is low.

The Three Rivers Community Plan guides the development of the Three Rivers planning area. The community is primarily a rural, commercial-tourist area with a population of approximately 2,200 people. The planning area boundary encompasses approximately 20,085 acres, including all Project facilities with the exception of the Kaweah No. 1 Diversion and portions of the Kaweah No. 1 Flowline. The designation of most land in the Three Rivers Community Plan area is in Agricultural designation (10,334 acres), followed by Medium Density Residential (4,480 acres), and Low Density Residential (3,552 acres) (Tulare County 2010b).

3.15.2.1 Tulare County Demographics

Key demographic variables considered in this section are population, housing, income and poverty, key industries and employment, and Project employment. Each is discussed below.

Population Trends

The population of Tulare County increased from 368,805 to 442,179 between July 1, 2000 and July 1, 2010 (Table 3.15-2). The compound average rate of growth over the 10-year period was 1.83% per year. Between July 1, 2010 and July 1, 2014, the population of the county grew to 459,176, a compound average rate of growth of 0.95% per year. For the entire 14 year period, the population in the county grew by 90,371, a compound average rate of 1.58% per year (DOF 2011, 2014a).

Population growth has been concentrated in the cities of Porterville, Tulare, and Visalia. Between 2000 and 2010, Porterville grew at a compound annual rate of 3.23%, Tulare at 3.08% per year, and Visalia by 3.13% per year (Table 3.15-3). In general, growth rates in the county are trending downward. Over the 14-year period from 2000 to 2014, the compound annual growth rates for Porterville, Tulare, and Visalia all decreased to approximately 2.5% per year (DOF 2007, 2015).

The median age of Tulare County residents is lower than that for California overall. In 2010, the county median was 29.6 years, while that for the state was 32.5 years. The majority of Tulare County residents are white (60.1%) with other race (Hispanic/Latino) the second largest group at 29.0% (U.S. Census Bureau 2010).

Population in Tulare County is projected to grow to 578,858 by 2030 and 779,772 by 2060. Relative to 2010, Tulare County population is expected to grow at a compound annual rate of 1.36% through 2030 and a 1.14% annual rate through 2060. The corresponding figures for California are 0.83% and 0.65%, respectively (DOF 2014b).

Housing

The stock of housing units in Tulare County has grown along with population. Between 2000 and 2010, overall the total stock of housing in the county grew by 1.73% per year,

including 2.73% annually in the incorporated areas. The most rapid rate of increase among cities was in Visalia, followed by Tulare, at compound annual rates of 3.07% and 2.88%, respectively. Between 2010 and 2014, the most rapid growth in the number of housing units was in Dinuba, 2.10% annually, followed by Lindsay and Woodlake at compound annual rates of 1.44% and 1.05%, respectively (Table 3.15-4) (DOF 2007, 2015).

Home prices in Tulare County are considerably lower than those in the Los Angeles area. In May 2015, the median price for single family and condominium homes in the county was \$190,000. The comparable median price in the Los Angeles Area was \$485,000, or 155% higher than Tulare County. May 2015 median prices in the incorporated cities of Tulare County ranged from \$130,750 in Farmersville to \$210,000 in Visalia (CoreLogic 2015).

Income and Poverty

In 2013, Tulare County median family income was \$42,708 (in 2013 dollars), and 21.7% of families lived at or below the poverty level. The median family income for the state was \$69,661, 63% higher than Tulare County, and 12.0% of families lived at or below the poverty level. Per capita personal income in 2013 was \$17,894 in Tulare County while it was \$29,527 for the state overall, 65% higher than the county (U.S. Census Bureau 2013).

Key Industries and Employment

Economic base industries are the drivers of local and regional economies. In Tulare County, the economic base consists of agriculture and agricultural-related manufacturing. Tulare County is the second-leading agricultural-producing county in the U.S., with Fresno County the top producer. In addition to the economic base industries, there are also local support industries, such as retail, construction, government, and business services, the progress of which is a function of the economic base and demographic changes.

Tulare County employment has increased and unemployment rates have decreased since 2009; however, total employment remains below its 2008 peak. Although declining, the county's average unemployment rate (14.0% in 2013) continues to be higher than the state and the state's rate is one of the highest in the nation (8.9% in 2013).

Data from the U.S. Department of Labor shows that between 2003 and 2013, 12,243 jobs were created in the county. The fastest growing county industries during this period by overall annual percentage gain were:

- Leisure and Hospitality – 49% increase;
- Health and Education Services – 36.7% increase;
- Trade, Transportation, and Utilities – 26.7% increase; and
- Profession and Business Services – 19.3% increase

Table 3.15-5 represents the distribution of the 147,790 civilian jobs in the county as identified by the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics in various industries for 2013. Table 3.15-6 shows the major private sector employers in the county (Tulare County 2014a).

Project Employment

Southern California Edison Company (SCE) employs 11 full-time personnel associated with the operation and maintenance of the Kaweah Project. These employees generally work out of the Kaweah No. 1 Powerhouse Campus and live within 40 miles of the Project. These workers contribute to the local economy by consuming goods and services, and contributing to the local tax base.

3.15.3 Tulare County Government

3.15.3.1 Structure

Tulare County is governed by a Board of Supervisors, which is a five-member legislative body elected by local citizens every four years. Supervisors' terms are staggered (i.e., two supervisors are elected in one general election, and three in the next). There is one board member for each of the five supervisorial districts in the county. The Board meets every Tuesday at the County Administrative Building in Visalia. Other key government personnel include County Counsel, County Administrative Officer, Assessor, Auditor-Controller, Clerk-Recorder, District Attorney, Sheriff-Coroner, and Treasurer-Tax Collector.

3.15.3.2 Budget and Financial Resources

Fiscal conditions in Tulare County are directly related to the revenues it receives, mainly in the form of program revenues and tax collections, and expenditures made to fund essential public services and other programs. Tables 3.15-7 and 3.15-8 summarize Tulare County revenues and expenditures, respectively, over the past five (2009-2014) fiscal years (FY).

As shown on Table 3.15-7, Tulare County revenues in FY 2013-2014 totaled approximately \$673,118. Of this total, \$103,140 came from charges for services, \$424,721 came from operating grants and contributions, \$139,790 from tax revenues, and \$5,467 from other sources. Total county revenues have increased by over 4% compared to FY 2009-2010 (Tulare County 2010a, 2014b). SCE pays property taxes to Tulare County. The allocable property tax base of the Kaweah Project facilities is approximately \$16,300,000. In 2014, the Tulare County tax rate was 1.32% and therefore, SCE paid approximately \$215,000 in property taxes associated with the Project.

The fiscal revenues collected by Tulare County described above are expended in a variety of ways as shown in Table 3.15-8. Total government expenditures in FY 2013-2014 were \$658,582. The largest government expenditures were for public assistance,

which in FY 2013-2014 accounted for \$242,378 (37%) of all expenditures, and public protection, which in FY 2013-2014 accounted for \$202,075 (30%) of all expenditures (Tulare County 2010a, 2014b).

3.15.3.3 Public and Emergency Services

Tulare County provides government services to those residents that live in the unincorporated areas of the county. For county residents who live in incorporated cities or towns, the county also provides many services, including public safety and public health services, in addition to the services provided by the cities. Important public services provided by Tulare County are described below. Unless otherwise indicated, the Tulare County General Plan Background Report (Tulare County 2010b) was used to develop the information provided in this section.

Domestic Water. Demands for water resources within Tulare County are met from four major sources. These sources include groundwater, local streams and rivers, and imported surface water. Large and small water systems that provide domestic water service to unincorporated communities in the county are typically operated and managed by community service districts (CSD), irrigation districts (ID), public utility districts (PUD), and mutual water companies. These Districts are self-governing and are not subject to county control.

Fire Protection. The Tulare County Fire Department serves Tulare County. The Tulare County Fire Department conducts its operations from 35 stations throughout the county. Each station is located in one of eight battalions. In addition, the Project vicinity falls within a State Responsibility Area and is therefore within the official boundaries recognized by the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection where CAL FIRE has financial responsibility for fire suppression and prevention. Specifically, the Tulare Unit covers the Project vicinity.

Hospital and Ambulance Services. Tulare County receives emergency medical services from three hospitals. The first and largest, Kaweah Delta District Hospital, is located in the City of Visalia. This hospital serves an average of 60,000 patients per year with 504 licensed beds. Sierra View District Hospital, located in the City of Porterville, served about 8,000 patients in 2002 with total patient service of 157 beds. Finally, Tulare District Hospital, located in the City of Tulare, served over 5,600 patients in 2002.

Law Enforcement. As of 2014, the Tulare County Sheriff's Department had 523 sworn officers serving its population, which generates a level of service ratio of 2.9 officers per 1,000 residents. The ratio is above the accepted standard of 2.0 officers per 1,000 residents set by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The Sheriff's Department also has 192 non-sworn clerical and support staff (Tulare County 2014c). Law enforcement protection service for the unincorporated county is divided into 22 areas with four stations. The Tulare County Sheriff's Department also operates four detention/corrections facilities.

Libraries. The Tulare County Public Library System is comprised of interdependent branches, grouped by services, geography and usage patterns to provide efficient and economical services to county residents. There are 14 regional libraries and one main branch.

Sanitary Sewer. Most of the sanitary sewer systems within the unincorporated areas of Tulare County serve individual small communities, and in some cases communities effectively share wastewater treatment facilities. Sanitary sewer service within the county is generally operated and managed by special districts including CSDs, PUDs, sanitary districts, sewer maintenance districts, and County Service Areas. Some agencies provide sewer collection service only, and contract with surrounding agencies for wastewater treatment. Many of the Districts (except for County Service Areas) are self-governing and are not subject to county control.

Schools. Currently, a total of 45 school districts provide public education service throughout Tulare County. Of the 45 school districts, nine are unified districts providing educational services for kindergarten through 12th grade. The remaining 36 districts consist of 34 elementary school districts, one high school district, and one community college. Total enrollment in county public schools is over 100,000 (Tulare County 2015).

Social Services. The Tulare County Health and Human Services Agency (HHS) provides social services to residents in need of assistance and includes public health, mental health, emergency medical attention, and community and family services. These services are offered through programs designed to meet the needs of a diverse population. In addition, HHS has service and program relationships with county, school, state, local, and other organizations.

Solid Waste. Solid waste collection in Tulare County is divided into sections. Currently, there are eight sections that require a weekly pickup. The incorporated cities in Tulare County oversee solid waste collection within their city limits. Private companies offer solid waste collection services in other unincorporated areas of the county. Tulare County operates three active solid waste disposal facilities, or landfills: Visalia, Woodville, and Teapot Dome. These landfills serve all of Tulare County as well as parts of surrounding counties. Similarly, a small amount of solid waste from Tulare County is transported to surrounding county landfills. In addition, there are seven transfer stations located throughout the isolated rural areas of the county for the convenience of those residents who live outside of waste collection service areas.

Utilities. Southern California Edison Company provides electric service to the majority of Tulare County, including the majority of the San Joaquin Valley and the foothills. Natural gas service is primarily provided by The Gas Company (formerly Southern California Gas Company). Pacific Gas & Electric also serves northern Tulare County's electric needs on a limited basis. The electrical facilities network includes both overhead and underground lines. A total of five telephone companies provide services in Tulare County: AT&T, Ducor, SBC, Sprint, and Verizon. These companies provide long distance calling, wireless services, Internet access, and other business solutions to residential and commercial consumers.

3.15.4 References

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TABLES

Table 3.15-1. Summary of Assessed Land in Tulare County by Generalized Land Use Categories (2008).

Generalized Land Use Category	Square Miles	Percentage¹
Classified		
<i>Residential</i>	110	2%
<i>Commercial</i>	10	Less than 1%
<i>Industrial</i>	10	Less than 1%
<i>Agriculture</i>	2,150	44%
<i>Public (including airport, church, schools)</i>	420	9%
<i>Open Space (including national forests and parks, timber preserves)</i>	1,230	25%
Classified Subtotal	3,930	81%
Unclassified (includes streets and highways, rivers, canals, etc.)	780	16%
Incorporated Cities	130	3%
Total County	4,840	100%

¹ Percents reflect those estimated for the total land area of the county and may not equal 100 due to rounding.

Source: Tulare County. General Plan Background Report. February 2010. p. 3-53.

Table 3.15-2. Tulare County Population and Growth Rates, 2000-2014.

Year	Population (July 1)
2000	368,805
2001	374,152
2002	381,194
2003	390,370
2004	399,913
2005	408,403
2006	416,092
2007	423,608
2008	431,471
2009	438,408
2010	442,179
2011	447,591
2012	452,301
2013	455,376
2014	459,176
Compound Annual Growth Rates	
2000-2010	1.83%
2010-2014	0.95%
2000-2014	1.58%

Sources:

State of California, Department of Finance, *Revised County Population Estimates and Components of Change by County, July 1, 2000-2010*. Sacramento, California, December 2011.

State of California, Department of Finance, *Population Estimates and Components of Change by County, July 1, 2010-2014*. Sacramento, California, December 2014.

Table 3.15-3. Population and Population Growth Rates, Tulare County Cities, 2000-2014.

City	Population				Compound Annual Growth Rate		
	2000	2010	2013	2014	2000-2010	2010-2014	2000-2014
Dinuba	16,739	21,453	23,026	23,601	2.51%	2.41%	2.48%
Exeter	9,119	10,334	10,460	10,506	1.26%	0.41%	1.02%
Farmersville	8,686	10,588	10,860	10,901	2.00%	0.73%	1.64%
Lindsay	10,242	11,768	12,495	12,615	1.40%	1.75%	1.50%
Porterville	39,398	54,165	55,374	55,573	3.23%	0.64%	2.49%
Tulare	43,782	59,278	61,073	61,725	3.08%	1.02%	2.48%
Visalia	91,478	124,442	128,278	129,481	3.13%	1.00%	2.51%
Woodlake	6,598	7,279	7,646	7,687	0.99%	1.37%	1.10%

Sources:

State of California, Department of Finance, *E-5 Population and Housing Estimates for Cities, Counties and the State — January 1, 2011- 2015*. Sacramento, California, May 2015.

State of California, Department of Finance, *E-8 Historical Population and Housing Estimates for Cities, Counties, and the State, 1990-2000*. Sacramento, California, August 2007.

Table 3.15-4. Housing Units, Tulare County Cities and County Total, 2000-2014.

City	Total Housing Units				Compound Annual Growth Rate		
	2000	2010	2013	2014	2000-2010	2010-2014	2000-2014
Dinuba	4,649	5,868	6,231	6,377	2.36%	2.10%	2.28%
Exeter	3,154	3,600	3,604	3,614	1.33%	0.10%	0.98%
Farmersville	2,260	2,726	2,765	2,771	1.89%	0.41%	1.47%
Lindsay	2,858	3,193	3,354	3,381	1.11%	1.44%	1.21%
Porterville	12,636	16,734	16,950	16,992	2.85%	0.38%	2.14%
Tulare	14,206	18,863	19,212	19,380	2.88%	0.68%	2.24%
Visalia	32,661	44,205	45,008	45,316	3.07%	0.62%	2.37%
Woodlake	1,860	2,067	2,147	2,155	1.06%	1.05%	1.06%
Incorporated	74,284	97,256	99,271	99,986	2.73%	0.69%	2.15%
Unincorporated	45,044	44,440	44,720	44,884	-0.13%	0.25%	-0.03%
Total County	119,328	141,696	143,991	144,870	1.73%	0.56%	1.40%

Sources:

State of California, Department of Finance, *E-5 Population and Housing Estimates for Cities, Counties and the State — January 1, 2011- 2015*. Sacramento, California, May 2015.

State of California, Department of Finance, *E-8 Historical Population and Housing Estimates for Cities, Counties, and the State, 1990-2000*. Sacramento, California, August 2007.

Table 3.15-5. Tulare County Employment by Industry, 2013.

Industry	2013 Annual Average Employment by Industry
Government	
Federal Government	1,114
Local Government	27,187
State Government	2,051
Government Total	30,352
Private	
Goods-Producing	50,544
Service-Providing	66,894
<i>Construction</i>	<i>4,117</i>
<i>Education and Health Services</i>	<i>12,481</i>
<i>Financial Activities</i>	<i>3,806</i>
<i>Information</i>	<i>870</i>
<i>Leisure and Hospitality</i>	<i>9,880</i>
<i>Manufacturing</i>	<i>11,497</i>
<i>Natural Resources and Mining</i>	<i>34,931</i>
<i>Other Services</i>	<i>2,736</i>
<i>Professional and Business Services</i>	<i>10,336</i>
<i>Trade, Transportation, and Utilities</i>	<i>26,509</i>
<i>Unclassified</i>	<i>275</i>
Private Total	117,438
Overall Total	147,790

Source: Tulare County. Recommended Budget 2014-2015 for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2015. p. 34.

Table 3.15-6. Tulare County Top Private Sector Employers, 2013.

Employer	Number of Employees
Ruiz Food Products	1,800
Wal-Mart Distribution Center	1,692
Jostens	720
CIGNA Health Care	700
Monrovia Nursery	600
Land O'Lakes	600
Saputo Cheese	530
VF Outdoor Inc.	400
Blue Scope Steel/Butler Mfg	300
Nestle Ice Cream/Haagen Dazs	300
NDS Inc.	300
International Paper	300

Source: Tulare County. Recommended Budget 2014-2015 for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2015. p. 32.

Table 3.15-7. Tulare County General Government Revenue by Source.

Fiscal Year	Program Revenues			General Revenues			Total
	Charges for Services	Operating Grants and Contributions	Capital Grants and Contributions	Property Taxes	Sales and Other Taxes	Other	
2013-2014	\$103,140	\$424,721	\$0	\$109,266	\$30,524	\$5,467	\$673,118
2012-2013	\$98,798	\$421,514	\$6	\$107,101	\$31,951	\$7,438	\$666,808
2011-2012	\$110,192	\$419,570	\$0	\$105,604	\$23,472	\$8,445	\$667,283
2010-2011	\$111,600	\$406,398	\$0	\$101,519	\$31,937	\$3,750	\$655,204
2009-2010	\$104,171	\$418,780	\$0	\$99,991	\$17,783	\$4,784	\$645,509

Sources:

Tulare County. Comprehensive Annual Financial Report, For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2014.
Tulare County. Comprehensive Annual Financial Report, For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2013.
Tulare County. Comprehensive Annual Financial Report, For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2012.
Tulare County. Comprehensive Annual Financial Report, For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2011.
Tulare County. Comprehensive Annual Financial Report, For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2010.

Table 3.15-8. Tulare County General Government Expenditures by Function.

Fiscal Year	General Government	Public Protection	Public Ways and Facilities	Health and Sanitation	Public Assistance	Education	Culture and Recreation	Other¹	Total
2013-2014	\$39,432	\$202,075	\$37,155	\$129,190	\$242,378	\$5,470	\$431	\$2,451	\$658,582
2012-2013	\$42,343	\$190,904	\$33,767	\$124,681	\$228,148	\$5,112	\$329	\$2,510	\$627,794
2011-2012	\$42,590	\$190,402	\$38,295	\$122,305	\$224,139	\$5,020	\$371	\$2,779	\$625,901
2010-2011	\$39,515	\$182,316	\$25,485	\$117,572	\$235,547	\$5,412	\$310	\$3,657	\$609,814
2009-2010	\$26,587	\$192,533	\$29,120	\$120,796	\$236,861	\$5,027	\$2,095	\$6,759	\$619,778

¹Includes unallocated depreciation and interest expense.

Sources:

Tulare County. Comprehensive Annual Financial Report, For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2014.
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