



City of Hermosa Beach

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF A DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NUMBER: 2019080175

Notice is hereby given that the City of Hermosa Beach, Community Development Department (City) is the Lead Agency and has prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the installation, operation, and decommissioning of the Transpacific Fiber-Optic Cables Project (Project) proposed by RTI Infrastructure, Inc. (RTI-I). The Draft EIR has been prepared in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) to analyze and disclose the potential environmental effects of the proposed Project. The Lead Agency is requesting input on the Draft EIR from public agencies, residents, and other interested project stakeholders. The contents of this Notice of Availability have been prepared in accordance with Section 15087 of the CEQA Guidelines.

PROJECT TITLE: RTI-I Transpacific Fiber-Optic Cables Project

PROPOSED PROJECT: RTI-I, formerly known as MC Global BP4, Inc. and currently doing business as HMB IX (Applicant), proposes to install and operate up to two transpacific subsea cable systems with United States landings in Hermosa Beach, California. The two cable systems would connect the United States to the western Pacific Rim at locations such as Guam, Southeast Asia, China, Australia, or Japan. Each cable system would entail installation of a marine fiber-optic cable system on the sea floor across the Pacific Ocean, landing in Hermosa Beach at either 6th Street (Option A) or 10th Street (Option B), and then connecting to the Applicant's existing power feed equipment (PFE) facility located in the Hermosa Pavilion at 1601 Pacific Coast Highway, Hermosa Beach (see more details on the Project components below).

PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT PERIOD: A 45-day comment period will begin on **Monday, September 11, 2023** and end on **Wednesday, October 25, 2023**. All comments regarding the Draft EIR must be received by the Lead Agency before the end of the 45-day period to be considered in the Final EIR. In your response, include your name, the name of your agency or organization (if applicable), and contact information.

Please send comments by mail to: Daniel Hortert, Senior Planner, Community Development Department, 1315 Valley Drive, Hermosa Beach, CA 90254

Or by e-mail to: fiberopticDEIR@hermosabeach.gov

The Draft EIR is available for review at: <https://www.hermosabeach.gov/our-community/quick-links/city-projects/development-projects>

Hard copies are also available at the following facilities, which are open during the hours below but closed on legal holidays:

City of Hermosa Beach, Community Development Department, 1315 Valley Drive, Hermosa Beach, CA 90254, Hours: Monday to Thursday, 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Hermosa Beach Library, 550 Pier Avenue, Hermosa Beach, CA 90254, Hours: Tuesday and Wednesday, 12 p.m. to 8 p.m.; Thursday to Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

PROJECT COMPONENTS: The marine components of the Project include the subsea cables, which would be installed by a cable-laying ship pulling a plow across the sea floor to bury the cables in areas of soft sediment. The terrestrial components of the proposed Project include the cable landing sites, ocean ground beds, landing pipes that extend from the cable landing sites out past the surf zone, and the terrestrial cables and conduit systems that extend from the landing manholes to the PFE facility location. A landing manhole would be installed at either 6th Street (Option A) or 10th Street (Option B) and would provide access to the landing pipe and buried conduit system. The buried terrestrial conduit system would be installed using trenchless construction (i.e., boring) within public streets and the Hermosa Valley Greenbelt (Veterans Parkway) to connect landing facilities to the existing PFE facility.

The Option A terrestrial cable route would begin at the 6th Street landing manhole and proceed easterly along 6th Street to the Greenbelt, then follow the Greenbelt to the north, then exit the Greenbelt and proceed easterly along 16th Street to the PFE facility. The Option B terrestrial cable route would begin at the 10th Street landing manhole and proceed easterly along 10th Street to Loma Drive, then follow Loma Drive north to 11th Street, then turn easterly to the Greenbelt and follow the Greenbelt to the north, and then exit the Greenbelt at 16th Street to connect to the PFE facility.

New telecommunications equipment and a backup power generator would be installed at the PFE facility. The marine and terrestrial cables would be connected by installing two steel landing pipes under the beach and ocean floor from the landing site (either the Option A or Option B location) using directional boring. The directional bores would emerge on the sea floor at approximately 3,000 feet from shore. Cables would be pulled through the bore pipes to connect the marine and terrestrial cable systems.

Maintenance would consist of inspection and testing of the telecommunications and power feed equipment at the PFE facility. No maintenance would be required for the subsea or terrestrial cables, although repairs would be needed if a cable fault occurred, such as a break in the cable. At the end of the Project's operational lifetime, the system and its facilities would either be removed and/or abandoned in place, as determined by the California Coastal Commission.

SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS: The analysis contained in the Draft EIR determined that the proposed Project would result in significant and unavoidable impacts related to air quality emissions during construction, construction noise, and marine navigation during construction. All other potentially significant impacts would be reduced to less than significant with the implementation of mitigation measures.

SECTION 65962.5 OF THE GOVERNMENT CODE: The Project area is not located on any of the lists of sites enumerated under Section 65962.5 of the Government Code.

NEXT STEPS IN THE EIR PROCESS: Responses to substantive comments received on the Draft EIR will be prepared by the Lead Agency and published in the Final EIR. The Final EIR may also present additional information in response to comments made on the Draft EIR and may include minor corrections to the Draft EIR. The Final EIR will be posted online at <https://www.hermosabeach.gov/our-community/quick-links/city-projects/development-projects>. All responses to comments submitted on the Draft EIR by public agencies will be provided to those agencies at least 10 days prior to final action on the proposed Project. At the end of the EIR process, in accordance with CEQA requirements, the City, as Lead Agency, will review the Final EIR and certify the adequacy of the document prior to taking any action to approve the Project.