

Notice of Determination

To:
Office of Planning and Research
For U.S. Mail:

P.O. Box 3044
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

Street Address:
1400 Tenth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

From:
Department of Fish and Wildlife
Region 1- Northern
601 Locust Street
Redding, CA 96001
Contact: Matthew Mitchell
Phone: (530) 782-2942



Lead Agency
California Public Utilities Commission
505 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102
Contact: Michael Rosauer
Phone: (415) 601-5008

SUBJECT: Filing of Notice of Determination pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21108

State Clearinghouse Number: 2022010017

Project Title: Digital 299 Broadband Project (Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement No. 1600-2021-0083-R1)

Project Location (include county): Various locations for approximately 300 miles generally following State Route 299 in Humboldt, Shasta, and Trinity Counties.

Project Description: The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) has executed Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement number 1600-2021-0083-R1, pursuant to section 1602 of the Fish and Game Code to the project Applicant, Vero Fiber Networks, as represented by Operations Director Karen Collins.

The Project includes installing approximately 300 miles of fiber optic cable along existing roads which includes 525 water crossings and up to six prefabricated buildings to support signal regeneration, distribution, and interconnection (In-line amplifier buildings). The Project will occur in two phases: first phase includes construction of the middle-mile fiber optic facilities and vaults, which will be buried, and the second phase consists of connecting the last-mile connections to existing utility poles. Three construction methods are proposed to account for variations in geology and terrain or environmental sensitivities: horizontal directional drilling (HDD), plowing, and trenching with either a trencher, backhoe, or rock saw.

This is to advise that CDFW, acting as a Responsible Agency, approved the above-described project on December 19, 2022, and has made the following determinations regarding the project pursuant to California Code of Regulations section 15096, subdivision (i):

1. The project will / will not have a significant effect on the environment. This determination is limited to effects within CDFW's permitting jurisdiction as a Responsible Agency.
2. CDFW considered the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration report prepared by the Lead Agency for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.
3. Mitigation measures were / were not made a condition of CDFW's approval of the project.
4. A mitigation reporting or monitoring plan was / was not adopted by CDFW for this project.
5. A statement of overriding considerations was / was not adopted by CDFW for this project.
6. Findings were / were not made by CDFW pursuant to California Code of Regulations section 15091.

The Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration prepared for the project is available to the general public at the office location listed above for the Lead Agency. CDFW's record of project approval as Responsible Agency is available at CDFW's regional office.

DocuSigned by:
Curt Babcock
Signature

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Date: 12/19/2022

Curt Babcock, Habitat Conservation Program Manager

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____