

California Department of Transportation

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July 22, 2022

1-HUM-96, 101, 169
Klamath River Rural Broadband Initiative
SCH# 2022060515

Ms. Connie Chen
California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC)
Energy Division
505 Van Ness Avenue, 4th Floor
San Francisco, CA 94102

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

JUL 25 2022

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

Mr. Chad Broussard
Bureau of Indian Affairs
U.S. Department of the Interior
2800 Cottage Way
Sacramento, CA 95825

Dear Ms. Connie Chen and Mr. Chad Broussard:

Thank you for giving Caltrans the opportunity to review and comment on the Mitigated Negative Declaration for the proposed Klamath River Rural Broadband Initiative Project. The proposed project would involve installation of a middle-mile fiber optic network to provide high-speed broadband internet access to an area of approximately 80 square miles (the project area).

The project would extend approximately 104 miles through rural Humboldt County and would be distributed into five segments:

Segment 1: Orleans to Weitchpec (15.2 miles) - This segment alignment follows State Route (SR) 96 and would include a 0.5-mile spur to serve the offices of the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), and spur extensions to the existing Orleans broadband tower and the existing Frontier landline central office in Orleans.

Segment 2: Weitchpec to Wautec (24.2 miles) - This segment alignment is located entirely within the Yurok Indian Reservation. State highways located adjacent to the proposed Segment 2 route and its associated spur include SR 96 and SR 169.

Segment 3: Weitchpec to Elk Camp (21.9 miles) - This segment did not describe any additional work within State highway right of way.

Segment 4: Elk Camp to Orick (11.8 miles) - This segment alignment follows Bald Hills Road from Elk Camp to U.S. Highway 101 (U.S. 101) just north of Orick, then through the

town of Orick to the proposed location of a new wireless tower (the Orick Tower). No public roadways apart from Bald Hills Road and U.S. 101 are located adjacent to the proposed Segment 4 route.

Segment 5: Orick to McKinleyville (31 miles) - The alignment for this segment follows U.S. 101 from the proposed Orick Tower, through the town of Orick to the intersection with U.S. 101 and on to McKinleyville. Segment 5 would be located on land managed by Caltrans and Humboldt County.

Any work occurring within Caltrans Right of Way requires an encroachment permit.

For broadband/telecommunication encroachment requirements within ALL highway right-of-way, please review the Encroachment Permits Manual (EPM) Chapter 600 Table 6.6A at <<https://dot.ca.gov/programs/traffic-operations/ep/ep-manual>>.

For broadband/telecommunication encroachment requirements within controlled access highway right-of-way, please review EPM Chapter 600 Table 6.6B and the Design Memoranda "03/25/2022 Accommodation of Wired Broadband Facilities within Access-Controlled State Highway Right of Way" and Attachment A and B at <<https://dot.ca.gov/programs/design/design-memoranda>>.

Depending on the alignment and design of the proposed broadband facilities, a Design Standard Decision Document (DSDD) and/or Policy Exception may be required.

A DSDD is an engineering analysis of any proposed plan that deviates from Caltrans design standards in the Highway Design Manual (HDM). Your attention is directed to HDM Topic 309 – Clearances, 309.1 Horizontal Clearances for Highways: "When discretionary fixed objects are constructed on freeways, expressways or conventional highways, they should be located beyond the clear recovery zone at a minimum of 52 feet horizontally or 8 feet vertically up-slope from the planned ultimate edge of traveled way. However, if discretionary fixed objects are to be placed less than the 52 feet horizontally or less than the 8 feet vertically up-slope, they should be made breakaway or shielded behind existing guardrail, barrier or other safety device." "Discretionary fixed objects are features or facilities that are not necessary for the safety, maintenance or operation of the highway, but may enhance livability and sustainability." Discretionary fixed objects include utility facilities such as poles, anchors, cabinets, and utility fixed objects. For discretionary fixed objects that do not meet the HDM highway clearances, a DSDD is required. A DSDD must be prepared and signed by a California Registered Civil Engineer.

The DSDD will need to be approved prior to applying reapplying for this proposed work. For more information on DSDD's, please refer to Appendix BB of the Caltrans

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Project Development and Procedures Manual, which is available online:
<<https://dot.ca.gov/-/media/dot-media/programs/design/documents/pdpm-appendixbb-a11y.pdf>>.

A Policy Exception is an analysis document of any proposed plan that deviates from Caltrans policies in the Encroachment Permits Manual (EPM) and Project Development Procedures Manual (PDPM).

Electronic copies of the Caltrans DSDD and Policy Exception templates are enclosed.

For locations where the proposed broadband alignment will cross or be attached to Caltrans bridges/structures, please review Attachment B Guidance for Broadband Installation on Bridges at <<https://dot.ca.gov/programs/design/design-memoranda>>.

Underground placement in paved shoulder areas require reconstruction of the entire shoulder width or travel lane; the seam is to be placed under the right edge line stripe or lane line stripe.

Structures as-builts, roadway as-builts, right-of-way engineering maps, and traffic/collision data can be requested through the Caltrans Public Records Center (CPRA Request) at:
<[https://caltrans.mycusthelp.com/WEBAPP/_rs/\(\\$phebhhhi3ywvyyinaknvuf4s\)/support/home.aspx](https://caltrans.mycusthelp.com/WEBAPP/_rs/($phebhhhi3ywvyyinaknvuf4s)/support/home.aspx)>.

It is highly recommended the lead agency or consultant reach out to District 01 Permits as soon as possible to discuss alignments within State highway right-of-way and determine whether exception documents will be required. Please reach out to Justin Alipio before applying for a Caltrans encroachment permit to discuss requirements. Justin may be contacted by email at <justin.alipio@dot.ca.gov> or by phone: (707) 296-6926.

You are welcome to contact me with questions or for further assistance with the comments provided at: (707) 684-6879 or by email at: <jesse.robertson@dot.ca.gov>.

Sincerely,

Jesse G. Robertson

Jesse Robertson
Transportation Planning
Caltrans District 1

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Enclosures: DSDD Utility Pole Work Template.docx
District 01 Policy Exception Template.docx

e-copy: State Clearinghouse
Maria Hensel, Environmental Science Associates (ESA)
Heidi Quintrell, Chief, Caltrans District 1 Encroachment Permits