

## California Department of Transportation

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT 10 PLANNING  
P.O. BOX 2048 | STOCKTON, CA 95201  
(209) 948-7325 | FAX (209) 948-7164 TTY 711  
[www.dot.ca.gov](http://www.dot.ca.gov)



May 6, 2024

Quincy Yaley  
Planning Director  
Tuolumne County  
Community Development Department  
2 South Green Street  
Sonora, CA 95370

**TUO- All- Countywide  
Tuolumne Broadband  
Infrastructure EIR - SCH  
2023050017**

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

**May 07 2024**

**STATE CLEARINGHOUSE**

Dear Ms. Yaley,

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) appreciates the opportunity to review and comment on the Tuolumne County Broadband Infrastructure Environmental Impact Report. Tuolumne County is proposing to expand access to broadband technology throughout the County, including the unincorporated areas of the County. The Countywide program would install fiber optic conduit either underground in buried conduits, overhead on existing or newly constructed utility pole lines, or in combination of both. The future location of broadband infrastructure would focus on areas of the County that are currently unserved or underserved. The project sites are at various locations throughout Tuolumne County, including the unincorporated areas of the County and the one incorporated City of Sonora.

### **Caltrans has the following comments:**

Caltrans suggests that the County of Tuolumne continue to coordinate with Caltrans in identifying and addressing potential pedestrian safety and cumulative transportation impacts from this project and other developments near this location. This will assist Caltrans in ensuring that pedestrian, traffic safety, and quality standards are maintained for the traveling public on existing and future state transportation facilities in Tuolumne County.

Tuolumne County may want to consider partnering with California Department of Technology (CDT) to install Broadband Middle Mile infrastructure to benefit the State, as there are segments with National Telecommunications and Information Administration (Federal) funding available to help alleviate the cost and reduce environmental impacts along State Route (SR) 120 and SR 108.

## **Environmental**

If there are any physical construction activities that encroach into Caltrans Right of Way (ROW), the project proponent must apply for an Encroachment Permit (EP) to the Caltrans District 10 Encroachment Permit Office. All California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) documentation, with supporting technical studies, must be submitted with the Encroachment Permit Application. These studies will include an analysis of potential impacts to any cultural sites, historic properties, biological resources, hazardous waste locations, scenic highways, and/or other environmental resources within Caltrans Right of Way, at the project site(s).

Evidence of consultation with local Native American tribes and interested parties will need to be presented within the technical documents for approval of encroachment in the Caltrans ROW.

There are mature trees within and/or near Caltrans ROW that could provide suitable nesting habitat. If work will occur between February 1 and September 30 of any year, a pre-construction bird survey must be conducted by a qualified biologist prior to the start of any construction related activities in Caltrans ROW. If an active nest is observed, a protective buffer must be established around the nest per CDFW guidelines. No work is allowed within the protective buffer limits until the young have fledged and until authorized by the Caltrans District 10 Environmental Office. Results of the pre-construction bird survey(s) must be provided to the Caltrans District 10 Environmental Office prior to the start of construction.

If there are impacts to protected water resources within Caltrans ROW, Caltrans will need to see the correspondence with the permitting authorities (California Department of Fish and Wildlife, United States Army Corps of Engineers, Regional Water Quality Control Board) and/or be provided copies of any required permits prior to the start of any construction in Caltrans ROW.

## **Encroachment Permits**

If any project activities encroach into Caltrans ROW, the project proponent must submit an application for an Encroachment Permit to the Caltrans District 10 Encroachment Permit Office. Appropriate environmental studies must be submitted with this application. For more information, please visit the Caltrans Website at: <https://dot.ca.gov/programs/traffic-operations/ep/applications>

Quincy Yaley  
May 6, 2024  
Page 3

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Shiferaw Jemberie (209) 986-9635 (email: Shiferaw.jemberie@dot.ca.gov) or me at (209) 483-7234 (email: Gregoria.Ponce@dot.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

*Gregoria Ponce'*

Gregoria Ponce', Deputy District Director (Acting)  
Planning, Local Assistance, and Environmental

c: State Clearinghouse (SCH)

Quincy Yaley  
May 6, 2024  
Page 4

bc: **Environmental** – Elizabeth Hummel  
**Encroachment Permits** – Francisco Rodriquez, Bob Gill  
**Hydraulics** – Brandon Yu  
**Traffic Operations** – Eric Ladio  
**Project Delivery and Management** – Dina El-Nakhal