

**Notice of Exemption**

**Appendix E**

**To:** Office of Planning and Research  
1400 Tenth Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
County Clerk  
County of: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**From:** (Public Agency) Caltrans, Dist. 06  
2015 E. Shields Ave., Suite 100  
Fresno CA 93726

Project Title: ROUTE 178 BROADBAND AND HUB SHELTER Project

Applicant: California Department of Transportation

Project Location - Specific:  
State Route 178/184, Post mile T9.45/57.080

Project Location - City: Bakersfield Project Location - County: KER

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:  
This project would include the installation of approximately 47 miles of broadband infrastructure in California within the State Highway System, including Interstate routes. This Middle-Mile Broadband Network project will install the broadband infrastructure along the State Highway System (SHS) necessary to connect to a third-party operated Last Mile Broadband Network which will bring internet connectivity to homes, businesses, and community institutions.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: California Department of Transportation


Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: California Department of Transportation

Exempt Status (check one):  
 Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);  
 Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));  
 Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));  
 Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Statutory Exemption. State code number: Gov. Code, Sec. 11549.54

Reason why project is exempt:  
Senate Bill 156 (2021) as codified, requires the CPUC to work with stakeholders, especially Caltrans, to identify and prioritize locations on state highway rights-of-way where the open access middle-mile network infrastructure can be constructed. (Gov. Code, § 11549.54.) As part of the legislative package to support this initiative, a statutory CEQA exemption was adopted. (Pub. Res. Code, § 21080.51.)

Lead Agency: Caltrans  
Contact Person: John Thomas Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (559) 408-4496

**If filed by applicant:**  
1. Attach certified document of exemption finding.  
2. Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project?  YES  NO

Signature:  Date: 7/12/2023 Title: Senior Environmental Planner

Signed by Lead Agency  Signed by Applicant

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code. Date Received for filing at OPR \_\_\_\_\_  
Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.