

**TO:** Office of Planning and Research  
 State Clearinghouse  
 P.O. Box 3044, Room 113  
 Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

**FROM:** Central Valley Flood Protection Board  
 3310 El Camino Avenue, Suite 170  
 Sacramento, CA 95821

**State Clearinghouse No. 2023070258**

**Project Title:** Permit No. 19795- Middle-Mile Broadband Initiative Project – State Route 178 Crossing at Kern River Bridge 50-0278 in the City of Lake Isabella, Kern County

**Project Applicant (if any):** California Department of Technology

**Project Location/Address/City/County:** The project is located on State Route 178 at 35.549655°N, 118.615601°W, crossing Bridge #50-0278 at Kern River, in the city of Lake Isabella in Kern County

**Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:** To install one (1) 2-inch diameter Fiber Optic Conduit (FOC) with fiber optic cables crossing Kern River (Bridge #50-0278, authorized under Board Permit No. 7106). The FOC will be installed by trenching 2 feet to 6 feet deep (4.2 feet typical depth) on each end of the bridge and will be attached to the bridge deck overhang.

**Public Agency Approving Project:** Central Valley Flood Protection Board (Board)

**Public Agency/Person Carrying Out Project:** California Department of Transportation

**Exempt Status:**

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
- Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
- Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- Common Sense Exemption (CEQA Sec 15061(b)(3))
- Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: § 15303 and § 15304
- Statutory Exemption. State code number: 201080.51.

**Reasons Why Project is Exempt:**

The project is statutorily exempt under the provisions of CEQA. The Board’s approval involves issuing an encroachment permit for the installation of a Broadband Network Infrastructure on State Route 178 along the Kern River Bridge 50-278, which is exempt under the statutory exemption of the CEQA Public Resources Code Section 21080.51. In addition, the Board has determined that the project is exempt from CEQA under the Class 3, New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures categorical exemption (CEQA CCR, Title 14, Section 15303), because the activity consists of the installation of utility extensions. The project is also exempt under the Class 4, Minor Alterations to Land categorical exemption (CEQA CCR, Title 14, Section 15304), because the project involves minor public alterations in the condition of the land which does not involve the removal of healthy, mature, or scenic trees. Further, none of the exceptions to the exemption in CEQA CCR, Title 14, Section 15300.2 apply.

**Board Contact Person:** Angela Nguyen-Tan; (916) 837-3717; Angela.Nguyen-Tan@cvflood.ca.gov

<i>ORIGINAL SIGNED BY:</i>	April 9, 2024
Signature	Date
Chris Lief, Executive Officer	

- Signed by Lead Agency       Signed by Responsible Agency

**Date Received for filing at OPR:**

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.  
 Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.