



**CEQA EXEMPTION / NEPA CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION
DETERMINATION FORM (rev. 06/2022)**

Project Information

Project Name (if applicable): Shasta 5 Middle Mile Broadband Network

DIST-CO-RTE: 02-SHA-5

PM/PM: R17.32/R25.0

EA: 02-4J051

Project Description

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) proposes to install broadband infrastructure on Interstate 5 (I-5) between post mile (PM) R17.32 to PM R25.0 in Shasta County.

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Caltrans CEQA Determination

- Not Applicable** – Caltrans is not the CEQA Lead Agency
- Not Applicable** – Caltrans has prepared an IS or EIR under CEQA

Based on an examination of this proposal and supporting information, the project is:

- Exempt by Statute.** (PRC 21080.51.)
- Categorically Exempt. Class.** (PRC 21084; 14 CCR 15300 et seq.)
 - No exceptions apply that would bar the use of a categorical exemption (PRC 21084 and 14 CCR 15300.2). See the [SER Chapter 34](#) for exceptions.
- Covered by the Common Sense Exemption.** This project does not fall within an exempt class, but it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity may have a significant effect on the environment (14 CCR 15061[b][3].)

Senior Environmental Planner or Environmental Branch Chief

Erin Dwyer

7/25/23

Print Name

Signature

Date

Project Manager

Austin Buist

07/25/23

Print Name

Signature

Date



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Caltrans NEPA Determination

Not Applicable

Caltrans has determined that this project has no significant impacts on the environment as defined by NEPA, and that there are no unusual circumstances as described in 23 CFR 771.117(b). See SER Chapter 30 for unusual circumstances. As such, the project is categorically excluded from the requirements to prepare an EA or EIS under NEPA and is included under the following:

23 USC 326: Caltrans has been assigned, and hereby certifies that it has carried out the responsibility to make this determination pursuant to 23 USC 326 and the Memorandum of Understanding dated April 18, 2022, executed between FHWA and Caltrans. Caltrans has determined that the project is a Categorical Exclusion under:

- 23 CFR 771.117(c): activity (c)(Enter activity number)
23 CFR 771.117(d): activity (d)(Enter activity number)
Activity 6 listed in Appendix A of the MOU between FHWA and Caltrans

23 USC 327: Based on an examination of this proposal and supporting information, Caltrans has determined that the project is a Categorical Exclusion under 23 USC 327. The environmental review, consultation, and any other actions required by applicable Federal environmental laws for this project are being, or have been, carried out by Caltrans pursuant to 23 USC 327 and the Memorandum of Understanding dated May 27, 2022, and executed by FHWA and Caltrans.

Senior Environmental Planner or Environmental Branch Chief

Erin Dwyer Signature Date 7/25/23

Project Manager/ DLA Engineer

Austin Buist Signature Date 07/25/23

Date of Categorical Exclusion Checklist completion (if applicable): 6/27/23
Date of Environmental Commitment Record or equivalent: 7/20/23



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Continuation sheet:

Project Description (cont.)

Purpose:

This Middle-Mile Broadband Network project will install the broadband infrastructure along the State Highway System and Interstate System necessary to connect to a third-party operated Last Mile Broadband Network which will bring internet connectivity to homes, businesses, and community institutions.

Need:

In July 2021, California Governor Gavin Newsom signed into law Senate Bill (SB) 156 to create an open-access middle-mile network to bring equitable high-speed broadband service to all Californians.

The lack of available middle-mile broadband infrastructure has been a major issue in connecting California's unserved and underserved communities. The statewide open-access middle-mile network included in SB 156 is a foundational investment to ensure every Californian has access to broadband internet service that meets the connectivity needs of today, and well into the future. This project intends to support these communities in providing critical statewide broadband infrastructure to enhance access to and increase the affordability of high-speed internet for all Californians.

Scope of Work

Work would include the following:

- Installation of three two-inch conduits with one fiber optic cable along specific portions on the northbound or southbound side of I-5. Conduit would be installed typically by trenching five feet away from the edge of pavement unless installed on bridges.
 - Installation of conduits by trenching five feet away from the edge of pavement.
 - Installation of conduits by horizontal directional drilling when boring under on-ramps and off-ramps.
- Installation of a total of 24 pull vaults and splice vaults.
- Installation of marker posts at every vault.

Right of Way/Staging

All work and staging would occur within the Caltrans right of way. Approximate locations for the potential staging areas are as follows:

- PM R17.46 to PM R17.53
- PM R22.34 to PM R22.42
- PM R23.98 to PM R24.06
- PM R26.06 to PM R26.13

Disposal/Borrow

All excess material would be relinquished to the contractor for disposal at an approved location. No borrow is expected.



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Consultation/Coordination

Native American consultation was conducted with the following Native American Tribes: Redding Rancheria, Winnemem Wintu Tribe, Wintu Tribe of Northern California, and Pit River Tribe of California. Coordination also occurred with the Shasta County Historical Society.

Permits/Approvals

No environmental permits or approvals are required.