

To: Office of Planning and Research P.O. Box 3044, Room 113 Sacramento, CA 95812-3044	From: (Public Agency): Golden State Connect Authority <hr/> 1215 K Street, Suite 1650 <hr/> Sacramento, CA 95814 <hr/>
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Project Title: GSCA Nevada County Broadband Network

Project Applicant: Golden State Connect Authority ("GSCA")

Project Location - Specific: See Attached Map

Project Location - City: N/A

Project Location – County: Nevada

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

GSCA will construct and operate open-access, public benefit municipal broadband infrastructure in the project area to provide broadband access to unserved and underserved communities. GSCA will install approximately 382.96 miles of fiber optic lines within the project area. Fiber optic lines will be primarily installed underground in existing conduit on established roadways, avoiding roadway or new surface disturbance wherever feasible. The beneficiaries of the proposed future broadband projects will be the residents and businesses within the project area.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Golden State Connect Authority

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Golden State Connect Authority

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: Class 1 (14 CCR § 15301); Class 3 (14 CCR § 15303; Class 4 (14 CCR § 15304)
- ☐ **Statutory Exemptions.** State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt: The Lead Agency has determined that the project meets the criteria of the CEQA categorical exemptions found in CEQA Guidelines, 14 C.C.R. § 15301 (Existing Facilities), 14 C.C.R. § 15303 (New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures), and 14 C.C.R. § 15304 (Minor Alterations to Land), because: the fiber lines will primarily be installed on existing facilities; the project constitutes a utility extension to serve individual customers; and, construction will require only minor trenching and backfilling within existing right of way and any disturbed surface will be restored. Thus, the entirety of the GSCA Nevada County Broadband Network is categorically exempt from CEQA.

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: 12/6/23 Title: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Signed by _____ Lead Agency

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.