

**Notice of Exemption****Appendix E**

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

County Clerk

County of: Kern

**From:** (Public Agency): Caltrans District 9  
500 S. Main Street  
Bishop, CA 93514

(Address)

Project Title: District 9 Middle-Mile Broadband Network Project 4

Project Applicant: Caltrans District 9

Project Location - Specific:

On SR 178 from postmile(PM) 57.076 to 91.911, SR 14 from PM 57.767 to PM 60.571

Project Location - City: N/A Project Location - County: Kern

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

This project would include the installation of approximately 37,364 miles of broadband infrastructure in Kern County. This project will support a middle-mile network as part of a statewide commitment to deliver 3,000 miles of broadband infrastructure within the State Highway System (SHS). Work will include the installation of subsurface Broadband conduit and fiber as well as the installation of underground vaults approximately every 2,400 feet. All work will take place within 30-feet of Caltrans rights-of-way. The areas of project impact in most areas will be limited to the existing paved surfaces, disturbed shoulders, and maintained Caltrans right-of-way.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Caltrans District 9

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Caltrans District 9

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 Exemptions. State code number: Public Resources Code section 21080.51

Reasons why project is exempt:

In July 2021, Governor Gavin Newsom signed into law Senate Bill 156 to create an open access middle-mile network to bring equitable high-speed broadband service to all Californians. This project qualifies as a Statutory Exemption as defined by Public Resources Code section 21080.51. The proposed scope of work as described is exempt from CEQA.

Lead Agency

Contact Person: Kristopher Bason Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 760-784-4056

**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: 12/19/2023 Title: Senior Environmental Scientist Specialist

▪ Signed by Lead Agency ▪ Signed by Applicant

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

Date Received for filing at OPR: \_\_\_\_\_