



NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

To:

County Clerk of Fresno
2220 Tulare St.
Fresno, CA 93721

From:

Ron Ivie, President
Telcon Services, LLC
3401 S Old Wick Ave
Eagle, ID 83616

Lead Agency:

City of Coalinga

Project Title:

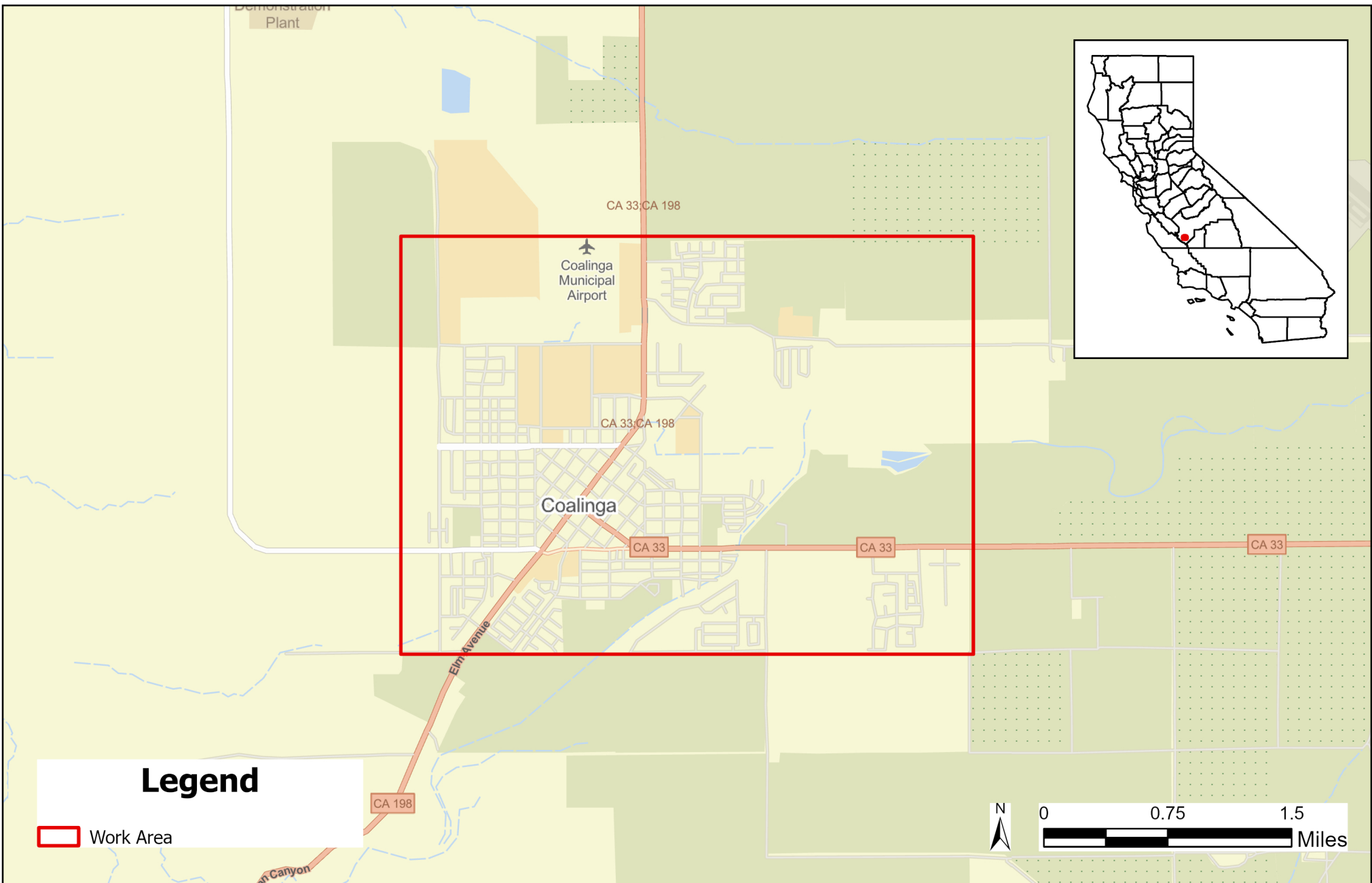
Telcon Services City of Coalinga Fiber Optic Network Project

Project Applicant:

Ron Ivie, Telcon Services, LLC, City of Coalinga Fiber Network Project

Project Location:

The proposed Project involves the installation of new fiber optic alignments located in the City of Coalinga in Fresno County on the western side of the Central Valley in the eastern foothills of the Coast Ranges, approximately 9.2 miles east of Interstate 5 and bisected by Highway 33 and Highway 198 (**Figure 1**). The City of Coalinga occurs on the *Coalinga* U.S.G.S. 7.5-minute quadrangle in Township 21 South, Range 15 East, sections 4, 5, 31, 32, 33. The elevation range in Coalinga is approximately 650 to 700 feet above mean sea level and the topography has relatively gradual east facing slopes. Coalinga is surrounded on the north, east and south sides by active agricultural lands. West of Coalinga is cattle ranch lands and a shooting range. Warthan Creek, an intermittent drainage, flows near Coalinga from the western side paralleling Hwy 198. Los Gatos Creek, a second intermittent drainage, borders the northern edge of the town near Hwy 33. The fiber optic cable will be attached to the highway bridges crossing each of these jurisdictional drainages in order to avoid potential impacts to natural resources. The installation of the fiber network would occur throughout an easement for existing utilities within the rights-of-way (ROW) along the streets and sidewalks within the city limits of Coalinga which has a population of approximately 17,650 as well as the nearby community of Ora and an extension east of the City on Jayne Ave. (**Figure 2**).

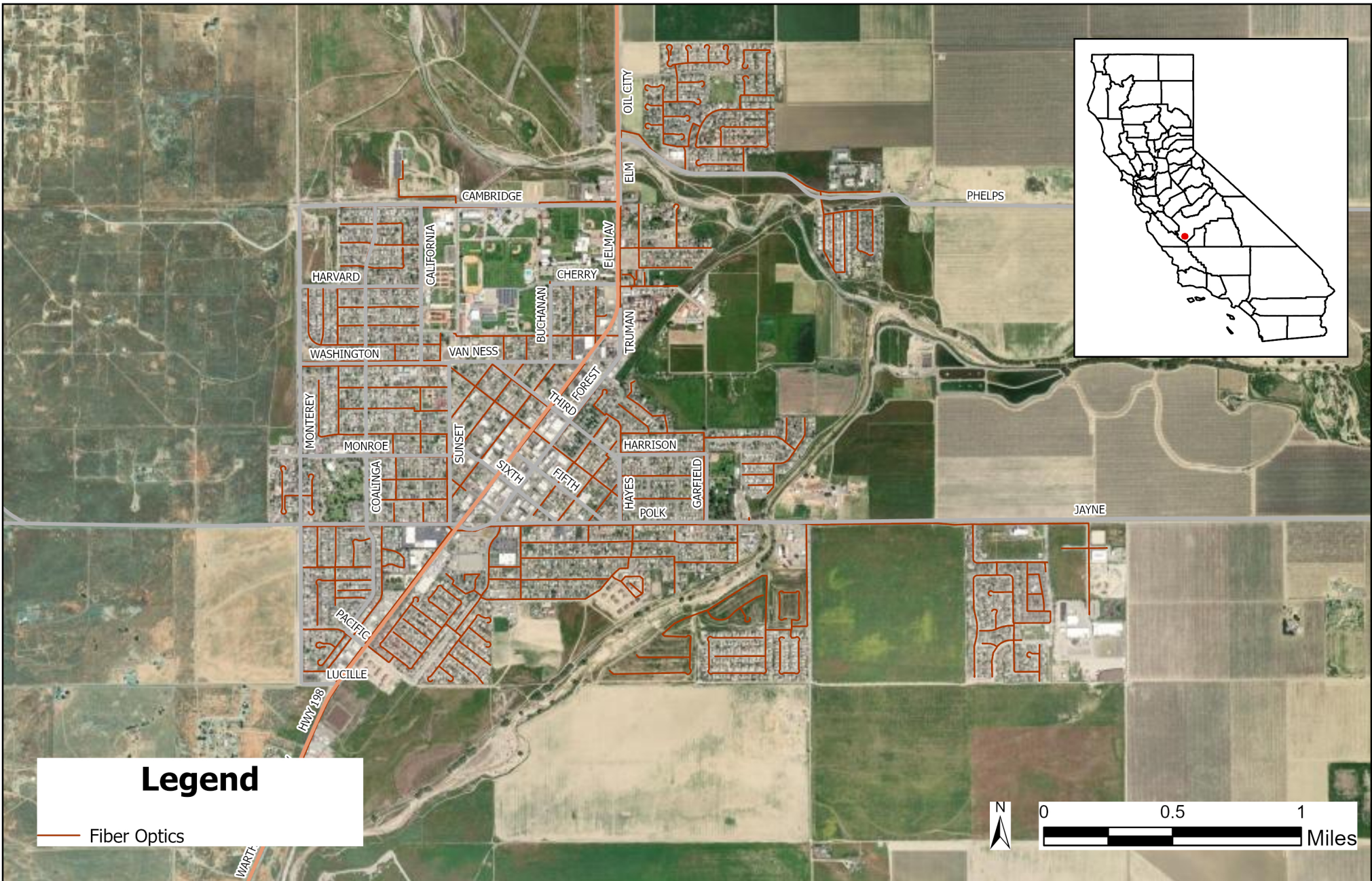



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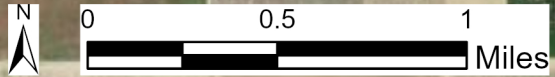
<u>Title</u> Location Map
<u>Client</u> Telecon Services


<u>Facility Address</u> City of Coalinga

Figure # 1 Project Location
Revision Date 01/11/2024



Legend
 — Fiber Optics



 <p>1322 East Shaw Avenue, Suite 400 Fresno, CA 93710 www.soarhere.com 559.547.8884</p>	<p>Title Site Map</p>	<p>Facility Address City of Coalinga</p>	<p>Figure # 2 Project Layout</p>
	<p>Client Telecon Services</p>		<p>Revision Date 01/11/2024</p>



The zoning in the proposed Project area is generally urban or commercial and is surrounded by agricultural lands. The Project installations are located within commercial and urban residential areas. Warthan Creek and Los Gatos Creek are intermittent or seasonal natural drainage features that will be crossed at the edge of Coalinga adjacent to Hwy 198 and Hwy 33. The project will cross these features with the fiber optic cable line attached to the Caltrans highway bridge. Landscaped and horticultural trees, shrubs and plantings occur along the ROW throughout the City limits.

Project Description:

The Telcon Services City of Coalinga Fiber Optic Network Project involves all streets, sidewalks and ROW in the City of Coalinga. The northern edge of the city is demarcated by Cambridge Avenue and Cabrillo Drive. The southern edge of town is marked by Lucille Avenue. Alicia Lane represents the eastern edge of the city. South Monterey Avenue and Hill View Lane are on the western edge of the city. An installation will occur in a neighborhood just east of Coalinga on Jayne Ave. as well as in the small community of Ora, north of Los Gatos Creek.

The Project will place 1.25" HDPE conduit, fiber optics, hand holes, and flowerpots via trenching or boring. All areas of placement will be within the City of Coalinga existing right of way and will be placed in a linear route next to existing gas, water, power, or communication lines. In any areas of crossing any utility lines, a "pothole or daylight" will be used to access and gather depth measurement of the lines so that they will be avoided.

Placement via bore will consist of a 3" bore hole and bore path that runs between existing property lines and pavement commonly known as right of way. The bore will be typically 36" in depth but could be deeper depending on existing utilities. In cases where a 1.25" conduit needs to be encased in bigger conduit (4" conduit will hold (3) 1.25"), the bore hole will be a 5" hole and 4" PVC or roll pipe will be placed. The 1.25" conduit will then be pulled in through the 4" conduit. These locations are anticipated to be at the railroad crossing and any state road crossing. *Boring will be used to avoid any waterways, trees, wetlands, or extensive landscaping.*

Placement via trench will consist of a 12-18" trench opened to the depth of 36" and conduit will be placed on the bottom of the trench which will then be backfilled and compacted back to original condition. Trenching will be utilized in areas that consist of exposed dirt in alleyways and along roads where curbs and sidewalks are not in the right of way. The slot will then have slurry and asphalt placed over the cut.

Fiber optic conduit installation activities would likely take 4 months and are expected to begin in February 2024. The City of Coalinga is the Lead Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for the proposed Unwired fiber network installation project.



The design gives multi-path diversity and redundancy to ensure the reliability of the proposed network. The Project fiber design includes fiber cable installation, and no new sites will be constructed. The Project would connect the new service area to existing infrastructure by connecting with the installation of the fiber optic cable.

The proposed Project will be located within the public right-of-way along previously disturbed roads, sidewalks and landscaped roadsides and utility corridors in urban neighborhoods. Installation of the cables would require ground disturbance that includes a directional bore, a backhoe to trench in the fiber optic cable then fill and compact the soil, as well as a cable blowing machine, hydraulic power pack, and an air compressor to blow the fiber optic cable through the existing conduit.

The types of activities will be as follows:

- Directional Bore - Place bore machine in ditch and bore the channel. Then pull the conduit into the bored space while pulling the bit back out.
- Trench - Trench in the fiber optic cable. Fill in and compact the trench. Back fill, compact the soil.
- Blowing fiber - Open the existing hand holes, pedestals, or cabinets. Use a cable blowing machine, hydraulic power pack, and an air compressor to blow the new fiber optic cable through the existing, already buried, conduit. Close the existing hand holes, pedestals, or cabinets.
- Erosion and Sediment Controls - the following will be employed:
 - Backhoe - to place hand hole, the backhoe will use an 18" to 24" bucket allowing for minimum soil disturbance. The area will then be backfilled, packed, and seeded as required by governing agencies.
 - Directional Boring - Soil disturbance will be minimal when boring in the conduit for the fiber optic cable. Area will be backfilled, packed, and seeded as required by governing agencies.

Within the City, trenching and directional boring techniques will be used to install the cable along the streets and roadways. A typical trench bucket, which is generally 12 to 18 inches wide, causes minimal temporary disruption to the landscape. Directional boring will also be used to minimize impacts to the landscape. The depth of cable under the surface will be at a minimum of 24 inches. Concrete may need to be removed when it cannot be avoided by means of boring. Access handholes will be placed along the route as well. Any concrete that has been removed will be replaced to previous standards.



During construction Erosion and Sediment Control Inspection and Maintenance Practices and Spill Prevention and Material Management Practices will be followed. The proposed Project will follow all state and local entity guidelines for permitting and construction practices to ensure a minor impact on the landscape.

Name of Public Agency Approving the Project:

City of Coalinga, Planning Division

Name of Person or Entity Carrying Out the Project:

Ron Ivie, Telcon Services LLC

General Plan and Land Use Zoning:

The proposed Project will take place in public right-of-way along previously disturbed roadways and utility corridors and does not have a General Plan land use designation and Zoning designation within the city. The proposed Project will connect existing residential, commercial, and other components of the city to fiber optic cables.

Why Project is Exempt:

Under CEQA Guidelines § 15062, a lead agency must identify the rationale for making the determination that a Project is exempt under CEQA. Soar Environmental has determined that the Telcon Services Fiber Network Project is exempt under CEQA Guidelines §15303 (Class 3) and §15304 (Class 4). CEQA Guidelines §15303 consists of New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures, while CEQA Guidelines §15304 consists of Minor Alterations to Land.

Findings Under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA):

The proposed Project is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) under a Class 3 and/or Class 4 categorical exemption.

Class 3 consists of construction and location of limited numbers of new, small facilities or structures; installation of small new equipment and facilities in small structures; and the conversion of existing small structures from one use to another where only minor modifications are made in the exterior of the structure. The numbers of structures described in this section are the maximum allowable on any legal parcel. Examples of this exemption include, but are not limited to:

- Water main, sewage, electrical, gas, and other utility extensions, including street improvements, of reasonable length to serve such construction.



Justification for why Project is Exempt under the Class 3 Exemption:

- The proposed Project would consist of the installation of small new equipment, fiber optic cable, which would expand upon existing utility infrastructure. The cable will connect users within the service area to the service.
- Minor and temporary modifications would be made to the landscape in order to install the fiber optic cables.
- The proposed Project would not construct any new sites and as such would not make changes to the maximum allowable number of structures on any parcel.

Therefore, the proposed Project would be exempt from CEQA under a Class 3 categorical exemption.

Class 4 consists of minor alterations in the condition of public or private land, water, and/or vegetation which do not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees except for forestry or agricultural purposes. Examples include, but are not limited to:

- Grading on land with a slope of less than 10 percent, except that grading shall not be exempt in a waterway, in any wetland, in an officially designated (by federal, state, or local government action) scenic area, or in officially mapped areas of severe geologic hazard such as an Alquist Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone or within an official Seismic Hazard Zone, as delineated by the State Geologist.
- Filling of earth into previously excavated land with material compatible with the natural features of the site.
- Minor trenching and backfilling where the surface is restored.

Justification for why Project is Exempt under the Class 4 Exemption:

- The proposed Project would not cross any known active or potentially active earthquake faults in the Coalinga vicinity.
- The proposed Project would not affect any waterway, in any wetland, in an officially designated (by federal, state, or local government action) scenic areas.
- The Project would consist of minor trenching and the use of an underground boring machine to create minor channels to create space for the fiber optic cables along previously disturbed roadways. After the fiber optic cables are in place, disturbed areas would be backfilled and packed using the previously excavated material.
- The proposed Project would implement erosion and sediment controls. This will minimize soil disturbance.



- Minimal vegetation would be disturbed, and no trees would be removed.

Considerations of Exceptions to the Use of Exemptions:

The CEQA Guidelines, Section 15300.2, list several exceptions that preclude the use of an exemption.

The proposed Project does not include any of the following:

- Location: Classes 3, 4, 5, 6, and 11 are qualified by consideration of where the Project is to be located - a Project that is ordinarily insignificant in its impact on the environment may in a particularly sensitive environment be significant. Therefore, these classes are considered to apply all instances, except where the Project may impact on an environmental resource of hazardous or critical concern where designated, precisely mapped, and officially adopted pursuant to law by federal, state, or local agencies.
 - The proposed Project is not located in an area that is particularly sensitive or contains environmental resources that are of hazardous or critical concern.
- Cumulative Impact: All exemptions for these classes are inapplicable when the cumulative impact of successive Projects of the same type in the same place, over time is significant.
 - The proposed Project would not result in any cumulative impacts from successive Projects over time.
- Significant Effect: A categorical exemption shall not be used for an activity where there is a reasonable possibility that the activity will have a significant effect on the environment due to unusual circumstances.
 - The proposed Project would not include any activities that would result in significant effects on the environment due to unusual circumstances.
- Scenic Highways: A categorical exemption shall not be used for a Project which may result in damage to scenic resources, including but not limited to, trees, historic buildings, rock outcroppings, or similar resources, within a highway officially designated as a state scenic highway. This does not apply to improvements which are required as mitigation by an adopted negative declaration or certified EIR.
 - Fiber optic cables installed alongside previously disturbed roadways and utility corridors would be installed under a potential scenic highway and would not damage any scenic resources.
- Hazardous Waste Sites. A categorical exemption shall not be used for a Project located on a site which is included on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code.
 - Information on hazardous waste in the city and surrounding area was obtained through the review of available environmental records. None of the activities associated with the proposed Project would take place on a hazardous waste site.



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- Historical Resources. A categorical exemption shall not be used for a Project which may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource.
 - Installation of fiber optic cable will not adversely affect any historic property and no adverse changes will be made to any historic resource.

