

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: _____

From: (Public Agency): _____

(Address)

Project Title: _____

Project Applicant: _____

Project Location - Specific:

Project Location - City: _____ Project Location - County: _____

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: _____

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: _____

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: _____

Reasons why project is exempt:

Lead Agency
Contact Person: _____ Area Code/Telephone/Extension: _____

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: 04/30/2024 Title: _____

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: _____



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

Project Information

Project Name (if applicable): SIS and SHA 5 Middle-Mile Broadband Network

DIST-CO-RTE: 02-SIS/SHA-5

PM/PM: VAR/VAR

EA: 02-4J041

Federal-Aid Project Number: N/A

Project Description

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), in coordination with the California Department of Technology, proposes to install broadband infrastructure, including conduit, fiber optic cable, vaults, maintenance vehicle pullouts (MVPs) and markers on Interstate 5 (I-5) from postmile (PM) 0.0 to PM 2.7 and PM R15.9 to PM R19.1 in Siskiyou County and from PM 66.9 to PM 67.0 in Shasta County.
(Continued on page 3)

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** Enter 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

Kristina Crawford acting for
Erin Dwyer

1-24-2024

Print Name

Signature

Date

Project Manager

Austin Buist

01/25/24

Print Name

Signature

Date



CEQA EXEMPTION / NEPA CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION FORM

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

Kristina Crawford acting for Erin Dwyer

Handwritten signature of Kristina Crawford

1-24-2024

Print Name

Signature

Date

Project Manager/ DLA Engineer

Austin Buist

Handwritten signature of Austin Buist

01/25/24

Print Name

Signature

Date

Date of Categorical Exclusion Checklist completion (if applicable): 1/16/24

Date of Environmental Commitment Record or equivalent: 1/23/24



CEQA EXEMPTION / NEPA CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION FORM

Continuation sheet:

Project Description (cont.)

Purpose:

This Middle-Mile Broadband Network project would 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 would 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 one (1) two-inch diameter conduit with one (1) fiber optic cable. Conduit would be installed using the following methods:
 - trenching five feet away from the edge of pavement
 - trenching in pavement four feet away from the edge of travel way
 - horizontal directional drilling when boring under on-ramps, off-ramps, and crossing freeway/local roads
 - attaching to bridge railing and/or superstructure
- Installation of 30-inch-wide by 48-inch-long by 36-inch-deep pull vaults spaced every 2,400 feet
- Installation of 48-inch-wide by 48-inch-long by 48-inch-deep splice vaults spaced every 12,000 feet
- Installation of marker posts at every vault
- Installation of flexible post delineators placed every 500 feet of conduit and at horizontal curves in the beginning of the curve, middle of the curve, and end of the curve
- Installation of two (2) new MVPs on I-5 in Shasta County at PM 1.40 and PM 15.88

Right of Way/Staging

All work and staging would occur within the existing Caltrans right of way. Staging could potentially occur at a 17,000 square foot existing flat area on I-5 in Siskiyou County at PM 16.9.



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Disposal/Borrow

No material borrow site is needed. Disposal of excavated material would occur along embankments within the project limits.

Consultation/Coordination

Consultation was conducted with numerous Native American Tribes. The following Native American Tribes and Groups were contacted: Shasta Indian Nation, Quartz Valley Tribe, Shasta Nation, Karuk, Cher-Ae Heights Indian Community of the Trinidad Rancheria, and Tsnungwe Council. No issues have currently been identified. Winnemem Wintu and Shasta Indian Nation would monitor during construction.

Permits/Approvals

No environmental permits or approvals are required.