

# 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: 4/30/2024    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):** COL 5 Middle-Mile Broadband Network

**DIST-CO-RTE:** 03-COL-5

**PM/PM:** 6.83/R18.73

**EA:** 03-0N610

**Federal-Aid Project Number:** N/A

**Project Description**

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), in coordination with the California Department of Technology (CDT), proposes to install broadband infrastructure, including conduit, fiber optic cable, vaults, maintenance vehicle pullouts (MVPs), and markers on Interstate 5 (I-5) between post mile PM 6.83 to PM R18.73 in Colusa 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**

Erin Dwyer

04/29/2024

Print Name

Signature

Date

**Project Manager**

Richard Ly-Lee

04/29/24

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

Erin Dwyer Signature 04/29/2024
Print Name Signature Date

Project Manager/ DLA Engineer

Richard Ly-Lee Signature 4/29/24
Print Name Signature Date

Date of Categorical Exclusion Checklist completion (if applicable): 04/29/24
Date of Environmental Commitment Record or equivalent: 04/29/24



## CEQA EXEMPTION / NEPA CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION FORM

### 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 underground two-inch diameter conduit.
- Installation of underground fiber optic cable.
- Installation of approximately 30-inch-wide by 48-inch-long by 36-inch-deep pull vaults spaced every 2,400 feet.
- Installation of approximately 48-inch-wide by 48-inch-long by 48-inch-deep splice vaults spaced every 12,000 feet.
- Install marker posts at the vault locations and flexible post delineators/metallic disk markers at set intervals between the vaults.
- Installation of new MVPs at the following locations:
  - COL-5-7.0
  - COL-5-R9.34
  - COL-5-R11.59
  - COL-5-13.75
  - COL-5-R16.3
  - COL-5-R17.95
  - COL-5-R18.72
- Placement of slurry backfill, cold planning approximately 0.25-inches-deep, and placement of an approximately 48-inches-wide hot mix asphalt overlay.
- Placement of temporary control devices and signage.
- Application of temporary and permanent erosion control.
- Removal of minor vegetation and trees.



## CEQA EXEMPTION / NEPA CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION FORM

The following methods could be used to facilitate conduit installation: open-trenching (off-pavement), trenching-in-pavement, horizontal directional drilling, jack and drilling, and/or the plowing method. Broadband conduit would cross structures by attaching to the bridge superstructure and/or railing.

### **Right of Way/Staging**

All work and staging would occur within the existing Caltrans right of way. Potential staging locations are as follows:

- COL-5-R7.66 - Approximately 45-feet-wide by 215-feet-long existing gravel-sand area
- COL-5-R14.25 - Approximately 75-feet-wide by 295-feet-long existing gravel-sand area
- COL-5-R10.32 - Approximately 510-feet-wide by 820-feet-long existing gravel-sand area
- COL-5-R18.72 - Approximately 51-feet-wide by 400-feet-long existing gravel-sand area

### **Disposal/Borrow**

Surplus excavated material would be hauled to a landfill and none would be disposed on site. No material borrow site is needed.

### **Consultation/Coordination**

The following Native American Tribes and Groups were contacted: Cachil Dehe Band of Wintun Indians of the Colusa Indian Community of the Colusa Rancheria, Kletsel Dehe Band of Wintun Indians, Eastom Yumeka Maidu Tribe of the Enterprise Rancheria, Grindstone Indian Rancheria of Wintuin-Wailaki Indians of California, Paskenta Band of Nomlaki Indians, and Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation of California.

### **Permits/Approvals**

No environmental permits or approvals are required.