

Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

To: Office of Planning and Research
1400 Tenth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814
County Clerk
County of: _____

From: (Public Agency) Caltrans, Dist. 06
2015 E. Shields Ave., Suite 100
Fresno CA 93726

Project Title: ROUTE 155 BROADBAND

Project Applicant: California Department of Transportation

Project Location - Specific:
State Route 155, Post mile 31.5/R 70.99

Project Location - City: Bakersfield Project Location - County: KER

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:
This project would include the installation of approximately 39.5 miles of broadband infrastructure in California within the State Highway System, including Interstate routes. This Middle-Mile Broadband Network project will install the broadband infrastructure along the State Highway System (SHS) necessary to connect to a third-party operated Last Mile Broadband Network which will bring internet connectivity to homes, businesses, and community institutions.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: California Department of Transportation

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: California Department of Transportation

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 Exemption. State code number: Gov. Code, Sec. 11549.54

Reason why project is exempt:

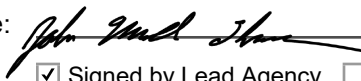
Senate Bill 156 (2021) as codified, requires the CPUC to work with stakeholders, especially Caltrans, to identify and prioritize locations on state highway rights-of-way where the open access middle-mile network infrastructure can be constructed. (Gov. Code, § 11549.54.) As part of the legislative package to support this initiative, a statutory CEQA exemption was adopted. (Pub. Res. Code, § 21080.51.)

Lead Agency: Caltrans

Contact Person: John Thomas Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (559) 408-4496

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: 6/20/2024 Title: Senior Environmental Planner

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 _____