

Notice of Exemption

To:
Office of Planning and Research
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From:
Department of Fish and Wildlife
Inland Deserts Region
3602 Inland Empire Blvd., Suite C-220
Ontario, CA 91764
Contact: Cindy Castaneda
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Project Title: Broadband Middle-Mile Network (Project) (Master Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement No. 1600-2022-0005-R6)

Project Location: The Project will occur at various locations within 30 feet of the existing right of way along the California State Highway System in Mono, Inyo, San Bernardino, Riverside, and Imperial Counties.

Project Description: The California Department of Fish and Wildlife has executed Master Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement No. 1600-2022-0005-R6, pursuant to Section 1602 of the Fish and Game Code, to the Project Applicant, the California Department of Technology.

This Project is limited to installation of Broadband Middle-Mile Network infrastructure throughout CDFW's Inland Desert Region and includes 1) Trimming and crushing of vegetation; 2) Geotechnical investigations; 3) Conduit installation; 4) Trenching and backfilling excavation and/or subsurface boring pits (includes Plowing, Trenching, Horizontal Directional Drilling, Jack and Drill, In-Pavement Trenching, and Conduit Installation); and 5) Vault Installation, including pulling and splicing fiber optic cables.

Public Agency Approving Project: California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Person or Public Agency Carrying Out Project: California Department of Technology

Exempt Status:

- Statutory Exemption
- Categorical Exemption

Reasons why project is exempt: The Project is statutorily exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA, Pub. Resources Code, § 21000 et seq.) because CDFW is relying on Senate Bill 156 adopted on July 20, 2021. The Project is subject to the conditions within Public Resources Code, Section 21080.51, subdivision (a).

CDFW Contact Person: Cindy Castaneda (Senior Environmental Scientist, Supervisor), (909) 544-1177, cindy.castaneda@wildlife.ca.gov

DocuSigned by:

Signature: _____ Date: 8/20/2024
Heidi Calvert, Regional Manager

Date received for filing at OPR: _____