

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): _____
California Department of Transportation: D6
2015 E. Shields Avenue, Suite 200 Fresno, CA 93276

(Address)

Project Title: State Route 168 Middle-Mile Broadband Network Project

Project Applicant: California Department of Technology

Project Location - Specific:

State Route 168 in Fresno County, Post Mile 18.55 to T32.50

Project Location - City: Prather Project Location - County: Fresno

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

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 in providing critical statewide broadband infrastructure to enhance access to and increase the affordability of high-speed internet for all Californians.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: California Department of Technology

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: California Department of Transportation: District 6

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: PRC 21080{b}; 14 CCR 15260 et seq.

Reasons why project is exempt:


The proposed scope of work as described is exempt from CEQA. Senate Bill 156 added Sec. 21080.51 to the California Public Resources Code which statutorily exempts linear broadband deployment within 30 feet of existing rights-of-way. Work would include the installation of subsurface broadband conduit and fiber, the installation of network repeater hubs at approximately 50-mile intervals, as well as the installation of vaults (Pull, Splice, and Buried) at various locations.

Lead Agency

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: 11/15/2024 Title: Sr. 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: _____