



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

Project Information

Project Name (if applicable): El Dorado/Placer 50 & 89 Middle-Mile Broadband Network Project

DIST-CO-RTE: 03-ED/PLA-VAR **PM/PM:** VAR/VAR

EA: 03-3J400 **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, consisting of conduit, fiber optic cable, vaults, and markers on State Route (SR) 50 from post mile (PM) 70.62 to PM 75.45 and on SR 89 from PM 0.00 to PM 27.40 in El Dorado County, and on SR 89 from PM 0.00 to PM T8.57 in Placer County. Caltrans is coordinating with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service where the project crosses into Forest Service land.

(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

Dotrik Wilson	<i>Dotrik Wilson</i>	10/2/2024
Print Name	Signature	Date

Project Manager

Aliaksandr Biaheza	<i>Aliaksandr Biaheza</i>	10/02/2024
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

N/A

Print Name

Signature

Date

Project Manager/ DLA Engineer

N/A

Print Name

Signature

Date

Date of Categorical Exclusion Checklist completion (if applicable):
Date of Environmental Commitment Record or equivalent: 9/6/2024



CEQA EXEMPTION / NEPA CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION FORM

Continuation sheet:

Purpose

This Middle-Mile Broadband Network (MMBN) 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:

- Placement of temporary traffic control devices and signage.
- Removal of minor vegetation and trees.
- 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.
- Installation of marker posts at every vault and splice vault.
- Installation of flexible post delineators every 500 feet and at horizontal curves in the beginning of the curve, middle of the curve, and end of the curve.
- Placement of slurry backfill, cold planing of asphalt, and application of hot mix asphalt overlay.
- Application of temporary and permanent erosion control.

The following methods would be used to facilitate conduit installation: open trenching (off-pavement), trenching in pavement and horizontal directional drilling (HDD).

Broadband conduit would cross structures by attaching to the bridge overhang, utilizing existing utility openings on bridges, attaching to the edge of the slab of bridges and/or HDD at least 5 feet from the structure.

Right of Way/Staging

All work and staging would occur within the existing Caltrans right of way or easements.



CEQA EXEMPTION / NEPA CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION FORM

Potential staging locations on SR 50 in El Dorado County are as follows: PM 71.60 to 71.62, PM 71.66 to 71.68, PM 71.86 to 71.88, PM 72.14 to 72.17, and PM 72.33 to 72.35.

Potential staging locations on SR 89 in El Dorado County are as follows: PM 0.03 to 0.05, PM 0.13 to 0.19, PM 0.23 to 0.27, PM 0.38 to 0.41, PM 0.58 to 0.61, PM 0.65 to 0.72, PM 0.88 to 0.91, PM 1.36 to 1.43, PM 1.71 to 1.75, PM 1.85 to 1.88, PM 2.13 to 2.15, PM 2.39 to 2.42, PM 2.89 to 2.91, PM 2.94 to 2.97, PM 3.73 to 3.75, PM 4.32 to 4.36, PM 5.57 to 5.62, PM 5.84 to 5.89, PM 6.11 to 6.12, PM 6.21 to 6.25, PM 7.27 to 7.30, PM 8.01 to 8.04, PM 9.85 to 9.88, PM 9.91 to 9.94, PM 10.59 to 10.61, PM 10.62 to 10.65, PM 10.83 to 10.86, PM 11.18 to 11.23, PM 11.42 to 11.44, PM 12.83 to 12.86, PM 16.87 to 16.90, PM 18.99 to 19.02, PM 19.92 to 19.94, PM 20.06 to 20.09, PM 21.09 to 21.13, PM 22.32 to 22.35, PM 23.88 to 23.90, and PM 24.65 to 24.71.

Disposal/Borrow

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

Consultation/Coordination

Native American consultation was conducted with the following Native American Tribes and Groups: Wilton Rancheria, Chicken Ranch Rancheria of Me-Wuk Indians, Colfax-Todd's Valley Consolidated Tribe, Lone Band of Miwok Indians, Nashville Enterprise, Miwok-Maidu-Nishinam Tribe, Nevada City Rancheria Nisenan Tribe, T'si Akim Maidu, Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians, United Auburn Indian Community and Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California. No issues have currently been identified. Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians and Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California would monitor during construction.

Permits/Approvals

The United States Fish and Wildlife Service issued a Programmatic Biological and Conference Opinion (PBO) and Programmatic Letter of Concurrence (PLOC) and Informal Conference for the California Statewide MMBN in November 2023. This proposed project would use the project appropriate general and species specific avoidance and minimization measures listed within the PBO.

The USDA Forest Service would issue their own NEPA decision for project approval as well as a special use permit for broadband installation on Forest Service land.