



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

**Project Information**

**Project Name (if applicable):** Mendocino 1, 20, and 128 Middle-Mile Broadband Network Project

**DIST-CO-RTE:** 01-MEN-VAR

**PM/PM:** VAR/VAR

**EA:** 01-0L857

**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 in Mendocino County at the following locations.

- State Route (SR) 1 between post mile (PM) 11.65 to PM 15.76 and PM 17.65 to PM 65.39.
- SR 20 between PM R0.00 to PM 1.46.
- SR 128 between PM 0.00 to PM 3.03.

(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

*Dotrik Wilson*

12/3/2024

Print Name

Signature

Date

**Project Manager**

Brian Finck

*Brian Finck*

December 4, 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

Dotrik Wilson
Print Name
Signature: Dotrik Wilson
Date: 12/3/2024

Project Manager/ DLA Engineer

Brian Finck
Print Name
Signature: Brian Finck
Date: December 4, 2024

Date of Categorical Exclusion Checklist completion (if applicable): 10/24/24
Date of Environmental Commitment Record or equivalent: 10/15/24



## CEQA EXEMPTION / NEPA CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION FORM

### Continuation sheet:

#### Project Description (cont.)

##### Purpose:

This Middle-Mile Broadband Network 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 one two-inch diameter conduit with one fiber optic cable.
- Installation of two additional two-inch diameter conduits between PM 59.3 to PM 63.3 for the City of Fort Bragg.
- Installation of 30-inch-wide by 48-inch-long by 36-inch-deep pull vaults spaced approximately every 2,400 feet along the fiber optic conduit path and at each side of structures.
- Installation of 48-inch-wide by 48-inch-long by 48-inch-deep splice vaults spaced approximately every 12,000 feet along the fiber optic conduit path.
- Installation of object markers at splice vault locations.
- Installation of metallic disk markers at:
  - 500 feet intervals along conduit path where vaults are greater than 500 feet apart.
  - Horizontal curves in the beginning, middle, 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.

To facilitate conduit installation two different installation methods including trench in pavement, and horizontal directional drilling (HDD) would be used. Conduit and fiber optic cable would be placed in the middle of the lane while trenching in pavement and on the edge of pavement when installing conduit using HDD. Trenching in pavement is



## CEQA EXEMPTION / NEPA CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION FORM

proposed along tight curves and where other installation methods are not feasible. In addition, broadband conduit would cross 26 bridge structures by attaching to bridge overhang/slab and/or the existing concrete structure.

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

All work and staging would occur within the existing Caltrans right of way. Potential staging areas would be on SR 1 in Mendocino County at the following locations.

- PM 0.1 - Approximately 45-feet-wide by 235-feet-long flat area.
- PM 0.6 - Approximately 30-feet-wide by 250-feet-long flat area.
- PM 2.5 - Approximately 20-feet-wide by 470-feet-long flat area.
- PM 3.5 - Approximately 18-feet-wide by 160-feet-long flat area.
- PM 5.1 - Approximately 35-feet-wide by 155-feet-long flat area.
- PM 9.0 - Approximately 20-feet-wide by 395-feet-long flat area.
- PM 12.3 - Approximately 26-feet-wide by 145-feet-long flat area.
- PM 23.4 - Approximately 30-feet-wide by 450-feet-long flat area.
- PM 30.8 - Approximately 15-feet-wide by 120-feet-long flat area.
- PM 32.6 - Approximately 10-feet-wide by 80-feet-long flat area.
- PM 33.7 - Approximately 15-feet-wide by 75-feet-long flat area.
- PM 36.2 - Approximately 20-feet-wide by 70-feet-long flat area.
- PM 36.5 - Approximately 35-feet-wide by 180-feet-long flat area.
- PM 41.1 - Approximately 25-feet-wide by 65-feet-long flat area.
- PM 42.5 - Approximately 35-feet-wide by 210-feet-long flat area.
- PM 44.7 - Approximately 35-feet-wide by 210-feet-long flat area.
- PM 47.8 - Approximately 20-feet-wide by 110-feet-long flat area.
- PM R49.0 - Approximately 25-feet-wide by 95-feet-long flat area.
- PM R49.2 - Approximately 35-feet-wide by 165-feet-long flat area.
- PM R54.7 - Approximately 35-feet-wide by 95-feet-long flat area.
- PM R54.9 - Approximately 20-feet-wide by 110-feet-long flat area.
- PM 57.3 - Approximately 15-feet-wide by 350-feet-long flat area.
- PM 57.5 - Approximately 35-feet-wide by 165-feet-long flat area.
- PM 62.2 - Approximately 50-feet-wide by 315-feet-long flat area.
- PM 63.7 - Approximately 35-feet-wide by 250-feet-long flat area.
- PM 65.0 - Approximately 25-feet-wide by 220-feet-long flat 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**

Native American consultation was conducted with the following Native American Tribes and Groups. Sherwood Valley Band of Pomo Indians, Kashia Band of Pomo Indians of the Stewarts Point Rancheria, Manchester Band of Pomo Indians, Round Valley Indian Tribes of the Round Valley Reservation, Coyote Valley Band of Pomo Indians, Bear River Band of the Rohnerville Rancheria, Hopland Band of Pomo Indians, Guidiville Indian Rancheria, Pinoleville Pomo Nation, Cahto Tribe, Potter Valley Rancheria,



## CEQA EXEMPTION / NEPA CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION FORM

Redwood Valley of Little River Band of Pomo Indians, Robinson Rancheria of Pomo Indians, Noyo River Indian Community, and Yokayo Tribe. No issues have currently been identified.

### **Permits/Approvals**

The following permits and approvals are required for the project.

- United States Fish and Wildlife Service Programmatic Biological and Conference Opinion and Programmatic Letter of Concurrence for the California Statewide Middle-Mile Broadband Network (No. 2022-0076259-S7-002-R001).
- California Coastal Commission Coastal Development Permit (No. 1-24-0047).