



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

**Project Information**

**Project Name (if applicable):** Siskiyou 97 Middle-Mile Broadband Network Project

**DIST-CO-RTE:** 02-SIS-97

**PM/PM:** L0.0/36.2

**EA:** 02-4J510

**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) 97 from post mile (PM) L0.0 to PM 36.2 in Siskiyou County. Caltrans is coordinating with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service where the project crosses into Forest Service land.

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**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*

10/14/2024

Print Name

Signature

Date

**Project Manager**

Steve Rogers

*Steve Rogers*

10/29/2024

Print Name

Signature

Date



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Caltrans NEPA Determination

[X] 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: 10/4/2024



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### **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 30-inch-wide by 48-inch-long by 36-inch-deep pull vaults spaced approximately every 2,500 feet.
- Installation of 48-inch-wide by 48-inch-long by 48-inch-deep splice vaults spaced approximately every 12,500 feet.
- Installation of marker posts at every pull vault and splice vault.
- Installation of flexible post delineators at:
  - 500 feet intervals for trenches without slurry backfill.
  - 250 feet intervals for trenches with slurry backfill.
  - 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.

The following methods could be used to facilitate conduit installation: trenching, trench in pavement, and horizontal directional drilling. Broadband conduit would cross four structures by attaching to the bridge superstructure and/or railing.

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

All work and staging would occur within existing Caltrans right of way or easements. Potential staging locations are as follows:



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- PM 6.1 - Approximately 35-feet-wide by 700-feet-long flat area.
- PM 10.4 - Approximately 70-feet-wide by 280-feet-long flat area.
- PM R12.2 - Approximately 44-feet-wide by 432-feet-long flat area.
- PM 27.7 - Approximately 73-feet-wide by 95-feet-long flat area.
- PM 30.1 - Approximately 15-feet-wide by 140-feet-long flat area.
- PM 31.1 - Approximately 11-feet-wide by 130-feet-long flat area.
- PM 31.2 - Approximately 28-feet-wide by 136-feet-long flat area.
- PM 32.6 - Approximately 65-feet-wide by 210-feet-long flat area.
- PM 32.9 - Approximately 64-feet-wide by 162-feet-long flat area.
- PM 35.0 - Approximately 240-feet-wide by 167-feet-long flat area.

### **Disposal/Borrow**

No material borrow site is needed. Disposal of excavated material would occur within the project limits at the following approximate locations:

- PM 1.6 - Approximately 26-feet-wide by 263-feet-long flat area.
- PM 4.5 - Approximately 52-feet-wide by 520-feet-long flat area.
- PM 4.9 - Approximately 67-feet-wide by 305-feet-long flat area.
- PM 5.4 - Approximately 54-feet-wide by 175-feet-long flat area.
- PM 8.7 - Approximately 54-feet-wide by 112-feet-long flat area.
- PM 8.7 - Approximately 56-feet-wide by 99-feet-long flat area.
- PM R11.7 - Approximately 53-feet-wide by 716-feet-long flat area.
- PM R16.1 - Approximately 136-feet-wide by 635-feet-long flat area.
- PM R16.4 - Approximately 53-feet-wide by 302-feet-long flat area.
- PM 26.9 - Approximately 15-feet-wide by 303-feet-long flat area.
- PM 26.9 - Approximately 55-feet-wide by 343-feet-long flat area.
- PM 28.6 - Approximately 36-feet-wide by 174-feet-long flat area.
- PM 28.8 - Approximately 42-feet-wide by 122-feet-long flat area.
- PM 33.9 - Approximately 62-feet-wide by 57-feet-long flat area.
- PM 34.5 - Approximately 83-feet-wide by 550-feet-long flat area.

### **Consultation/Coordination**

Native American consultation was conducted with the following Native American Tribes and Groups: Modoc Nation, Shasta Nation, Quartz Valley, Klamath Tribe, and Shasta Indian Nation. No issues have currently been identified.

### **Permits/Approvals**

No environmental permits are required. 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.