



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

Project Information

Project Name (if applicable): Middle-Mile Broadband Network Hubs 13, 25, and 44

DIST-CO-RTE: 03-BUT/SUT-99/20 **PM/PM:** R31.5, 13.1, and R15.5

EA: 03-0N051 Federal-Aid Project Number:

Project Description

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), in coordination with the California Department of Technology, proposes to construct three broadband network hubs to provide transmission and amplification of broadband signals. Network hubs 13 and 25 are located on State Route (SR) 99 at post mile (PM) R31.5 and PM 13.1 in Butte County. Network hub 44 is located on SR 20 at PM R15.5 in Sutter County.

Caltrans CEQA Determination (Check one)

- 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.** (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>	10/1/2024
Print Name	Signature	Date

Project Manager

Alex Biaheza	<i>Aliaksandr Biaheza</i>	10/02/2024
Print Name	Signature	Date



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Caltrans NEPA Determination (Check one)

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
Dotrik Wilson
Signature
10/1/2024
Date

Project Manager/ DLA Engineer

Alex Biaheza
Print Name
Aliaksandr Biaheza
Signature
10/02/2024
Date

Date of Categorical Exclusion Checklist completion (if applicable): 8/12/24
Date of Environmental Commitment Record or equivalent: 11/15/23



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Continuation sheet:

Purpose

This Middle-Mile Broadband Network project would install the broadband infrastructure along the State Highway System (SHS) 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 includes the following:

- Removal of vegetation at all hub locations. Hub location 44 requires the removal of approximately three trees.
- Construction of one (1) approximately 13.75-foot-wide-by 21.5-foot-long concrete network hub foundation at each hub location.
- Construction of one (1) approximately 12-foot-wide by 20-foot-long network hub building at each hub location.
- Installation of two (2) approximately 30-inches-wide by 48-inches-long by 36-inches-deep pull vaults at each hub location.
- Installation of two (2) approximately 48-inches-wide by 48-inches-long by 48-inches-deep splice vaults at each hub location.
- Installation of two-inch diameter high-density polyethylene conduits at each hub location.
- Installation of conductor cables and fiber optic cables at each hub location.
- Installation of one (1) approximately 20-foot-wide by 100-foot-long maintenance vehicle pullout at hub location 13.
- Installation of one (1) approximately 6-foot-wide by 18-foot-long underground 1,000-gallon propane tank at each hub location.
- Construction of one (1) approximately 5-foot-wide by 11-foot-long concrete pad for generator and installation of one (1) 60-kilowatt generator at each hub location.
- Installation of one (1) approximately 8-foot-tall by 50-foot-wide by 50-foot-long chain link fence at each hub location.
- Installation of one (1) 8-foot-tall by 12-foot-wide chain link gate at each hub location.



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- Installation of one (1) service equipment enclosure for electrical service at each hub location.
- Installation of permanent security lighting to the hub shelter at each hub location.
- Trenching for new electrical service approximately 12-inches-wide by 40-inches-deep at each hub location.
 - Hub 13- approximately 290 linear feet for electrical trench and 650 linear feet for fiber optic trench.
 - Hub 25- approximately 315 linear feet for electrical trench and 520 linear feet for fiber optic trench.
 - Hub 44- approximately 245 linear feet for electrical trench and 345 linear feet for fiber optic trench.
- Construction of one (1) paved driveway at each hub location.
 - Hub 13- approximately 20 feet wide by 89 feet long.
 - Hub 25- approximately 20 feet wide by 101 feet long.
 - Hub 44- approximately 20 feet wide by 84 feet long.

Right of Way/Staging

All work and staging would occur within the Caltrans right of way at or adjacent to the proposed network hub locations.

Disposal/Borrow

No material borrow site is needed. Excavated material would be re-used onsite for hub construction.

Consultation/Coordination

Consultation was conducted with numerous Native American Tribes. No issues have been currently identified. Mechoopda Indian Tribe of Chico Rancheria would monitor Hub 13 and Mooretown Rancheria of Maidu Indians would monitor Hub 25 during construction.

Permits/Approvals

No environmental permits or approvals would be required.