

Notice of Exemption

To:
Office of Planning and Research
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From:
Department of Fish and Wildlife
Region 1 – Northern
601 Locust Street
Redding, California 96001



Project Title: Lassen Fiber Optic Restoration (Notification of Lake or Streambed Alteration, No. EPIMS-TEH-54658-R1)

Project Location: The Project is located at various unnamed tributaries to Gurnsey Creek, Mill Creek and at Marian Creek, Lost Creek, and Gurnsey Creek in Plumas and Tehama Counties.

Project Description: The California Department of Fish and Wildlife has executed a Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement EPIMS Notification No. EPIMS-TEH-54658-R1, pursuant to Section 1602 of the Fish and Game Code to Frontier Communications, as represented by Sammy Rodriguez.

The project is limited to the horizontal directional drilling (HDD) of a bore path at 19 locations located on Marian Creek, Lost Creek Gurnsey Creek, and unnamed tributaries to Gurnsey Creek and Mill Creek through which underground fiber optic cables will be routed.

Public Agency Approving Project: CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

Person or Public Agency Carrying Out Project: Frontier Communications

Exempt Status:

- Statutory Exemption.
- Categorical Exemption. Type – Class 2, 4; California Code of Regulations, title 14:

Section 15302 - consists of replacement or reconstruction of existing structures and facilities where the new structure will be located on the same site as the structure replaced and will have substantially the same purpose and capacity as the structure replaced.

Section 15304 - consists of minor public or private alterations in the condition of land, water, and/or vegetation which do not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees except for forestry or agricultural purposes.

Reasons why project is exempt: This project will repair and replace existing telecommunications facilities damaged during the 2021 Dixie Fire by undergrounding these facilities using HDD. HDD is an environmentally-preferable option as this installation method limits surface disturbance to areas of bore entry and exit pits and can allow for boring under rather than trenching through wetlands, streams, trees, and other environmentally sensitive areas. The project would alter a minimal area of land outside of any existing riparian area and avoid other sensitive habitat types.

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Signature: *Adam McKannay* Date: 2/19/2025
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Date received for filing at OPR: _____