

Notice of Exemption

To: Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: Caltrans District 1
1656 Union Street
Eureka, CA 95501

Project Title: Hoopa Valley Broadband

Project Location - Specific: HUM 96 postmile 0/23

Project Location - County: Humboldt

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Project entails installation of conduits and fiber optic line within the State Route 96 right of-way utilizing directional boring, bridge attachment, and trenching methodologies. Utility boxes (pull vaults) and splice vaults will be buried to allow for pulling of the fiber optic line. Staging and laydown areas will use existing previously disturbed areas such as vacant lots or large pull-outs. This project will extend high-speed broadband service to the underserved Hoopa Valley region and address the critical need for improved internet infrastructure. In rural areas communication (internet) is important, providing communities with services that would normally be unavailable, such as college classes, medical services, libraries, and other critical programs.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Caltrans

Exempt Status (**check one**):

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
- Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
- Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: _____
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: PRC 21080.51

Reasons why project is exempt:

The Hoopa Valley Broadband project is a linear broadband deployment in the Caltrans right-of-way that meets all conditions of Section 21080.51, and the project is statutorily exempt from CEQA. Environmental specialist reviews have occurred, and this project would not cause a significant impact to the environment.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Cassie Nichols

Phone number: 707-798-7557

If filed by applicant:

1. Attach certified document of exemption finding.
2. Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project?
 Yes No

Signature: *Cassie Nichols* Date: 03/05/2025 Title: Sr Environmental Scientist

Signed by Lead Agency Signed by Applicant

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.

Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.