



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

**Project Information**

**Project Name (if applicable):** Middle-Mile Broadband Network Hub Shelter No. 21

**DIST-CO-RTE:** 01-LAK-29

**PM/PM:** R9.89

**EA:** 01-0L873

**Federal-Aid Project Number:**

**Project Description**

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), in coordination with the California Department of Technology, proposes to construct one middle-mile broadband network hub shelter to provide transmission and amplification of broadband signals. Network hub shelter no. 21 is located on State Route (SR) 29 at post mile (PM) R9.89 in Lake 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

*Dotrik Wilson*

2/18/2025

Print Name

Signature

Date

**Project Manager**

Brian Finck

*Brian Finck*

February 18, 2025

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
Signature: Dotrik Wilson
Date: 2/18/2025

Project Manager/ DLA Engineer

Brian Finck
Print Name
Signature: Brian Finck
Date: February 18, 2025

Date of Categorical Exclusion Checklist completion (if applicable): 2/18/25
Date of Environmental Commitment Record or equivalent: 12/11/24



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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:

- Placement of temporary traffic control devices and signage.
- Removal of minor vegetation and trees.
- Construction of one (1) approximately 13.75-foot-wide-by 21.5-foot-long concrete network hub shelter foundation.
- Construction of one (1) approximately 12-foot-wide by 20-foot-long network hub shelter building.
- Installation of 30-inch-wide by 48-inch-long by 36-inch-deep pull vaults.
- Installation of 48-inch-wide by 48-inch-long by 48-inch-deep splice vaults.
- Installation of two-inch diameter high-density polyethylene conduits.
- Installation of conductor cables and fiber optic cables.
- Installation of one (1) approximately 20-foot-wide by 100-foot-long maintenance vehicle pullout.
- Installation of one (1) approximately 6-foot-wide by 18-foot-long underground 1,000-gallon propane.
- Construction of one (1) approximately 5-foot-wide by 11-foot-long concrete pad for generator and installation of one (1) 60-kilowatt generator.
- Installation of one (1) approximately 8-foot-tall by 30-foot-wide by 60-foot-long chain link fence.
- Installation of one (1) 8-foot-tall by 12-foot-wide chain link gate.
- Installation of one (1) service equipment enclosure for electrical service.
- Relocation of roadside signs.
- Installation of permanent security lighting to the hub shelter.



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- Placement of gravel mulch or concrete for vegetation control.
- Trenching for new electrical service approximately 12-inch-wide by 40-inch-deep.
- Application of temporary and permanent erosion control.

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

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

### **Disposal/Borrow**

No material borrow site is needed. Excess excavated material would be reused for hub shelter construction.

### **Consultation/Coordination**

Consultation was conducted with numerous Native American Tribes. No issues have been currently identified. Middletown Rancheria respond that they would be consulting on the project and would be monitoring during construction. Consultation is on-going.

### **Permits/Approvals**

No environmental permits or approvals would be required.