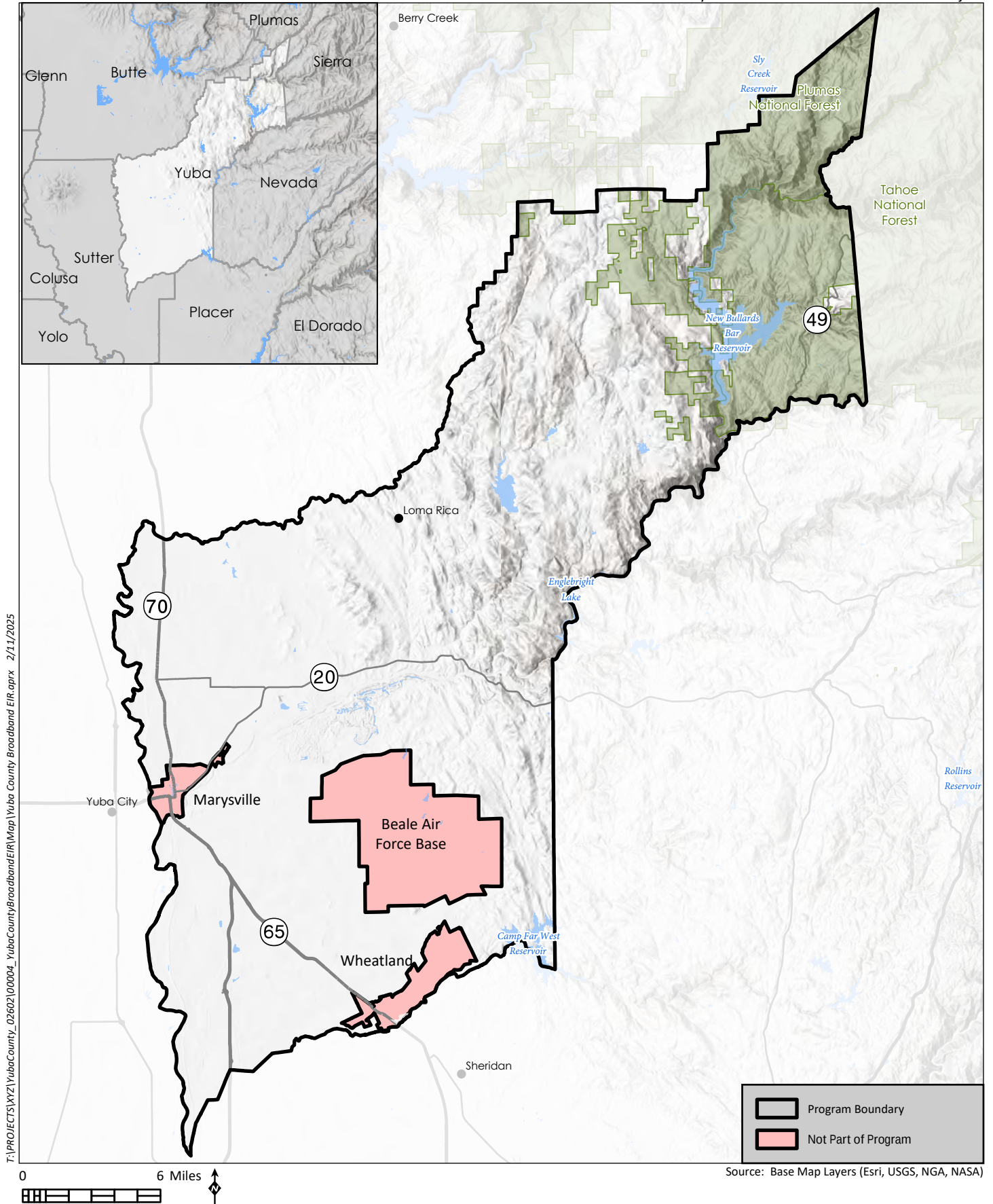
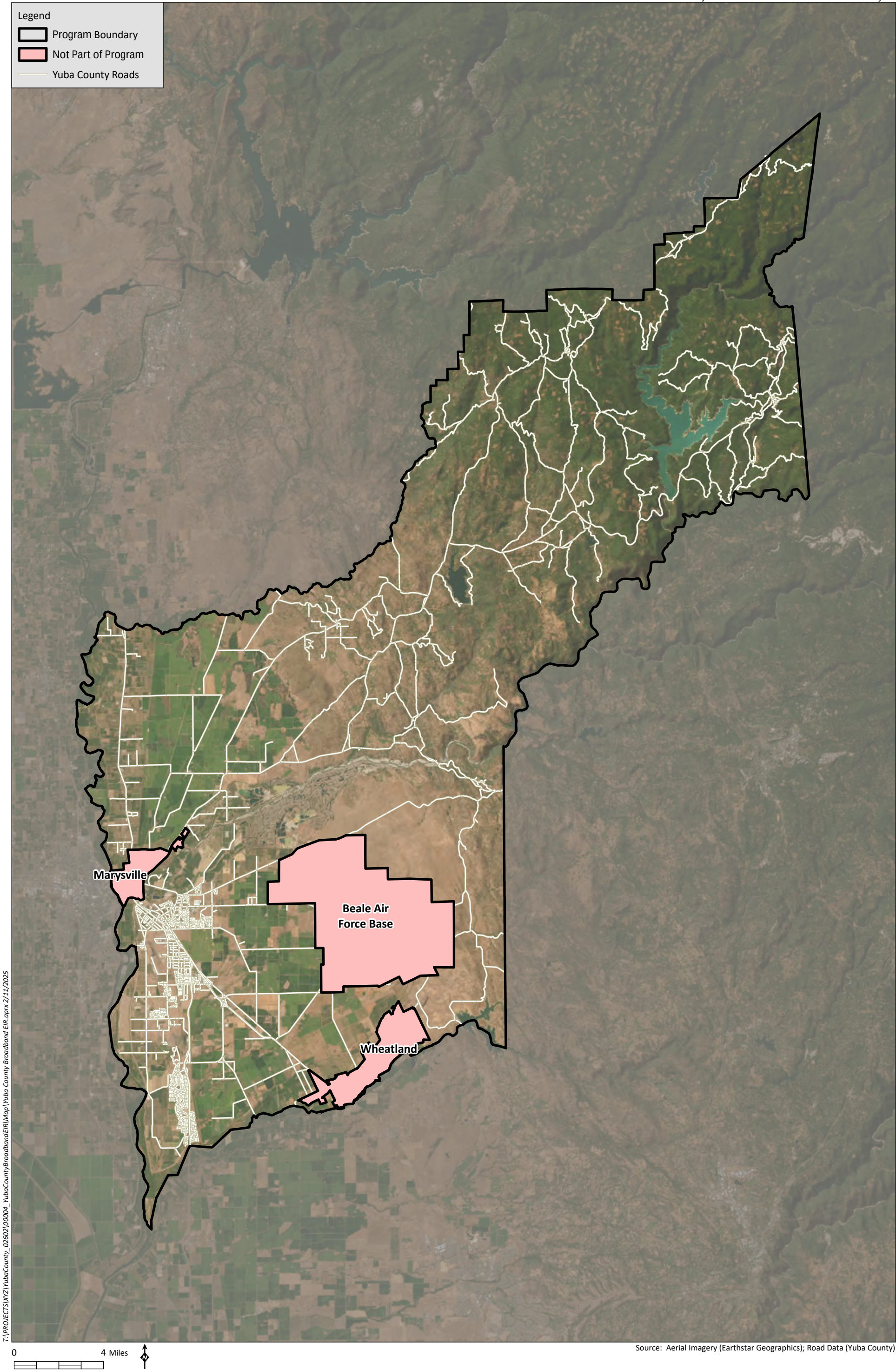
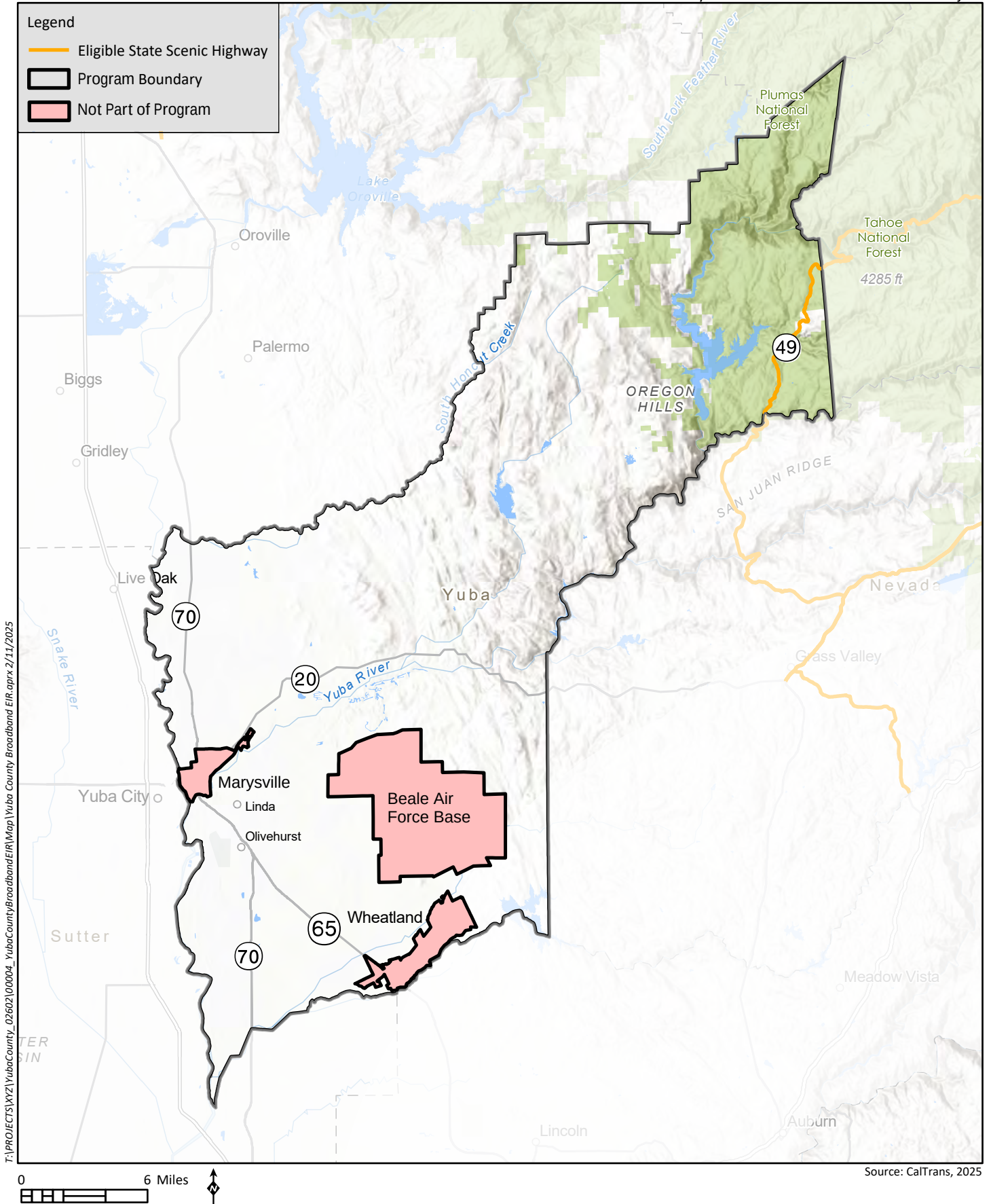


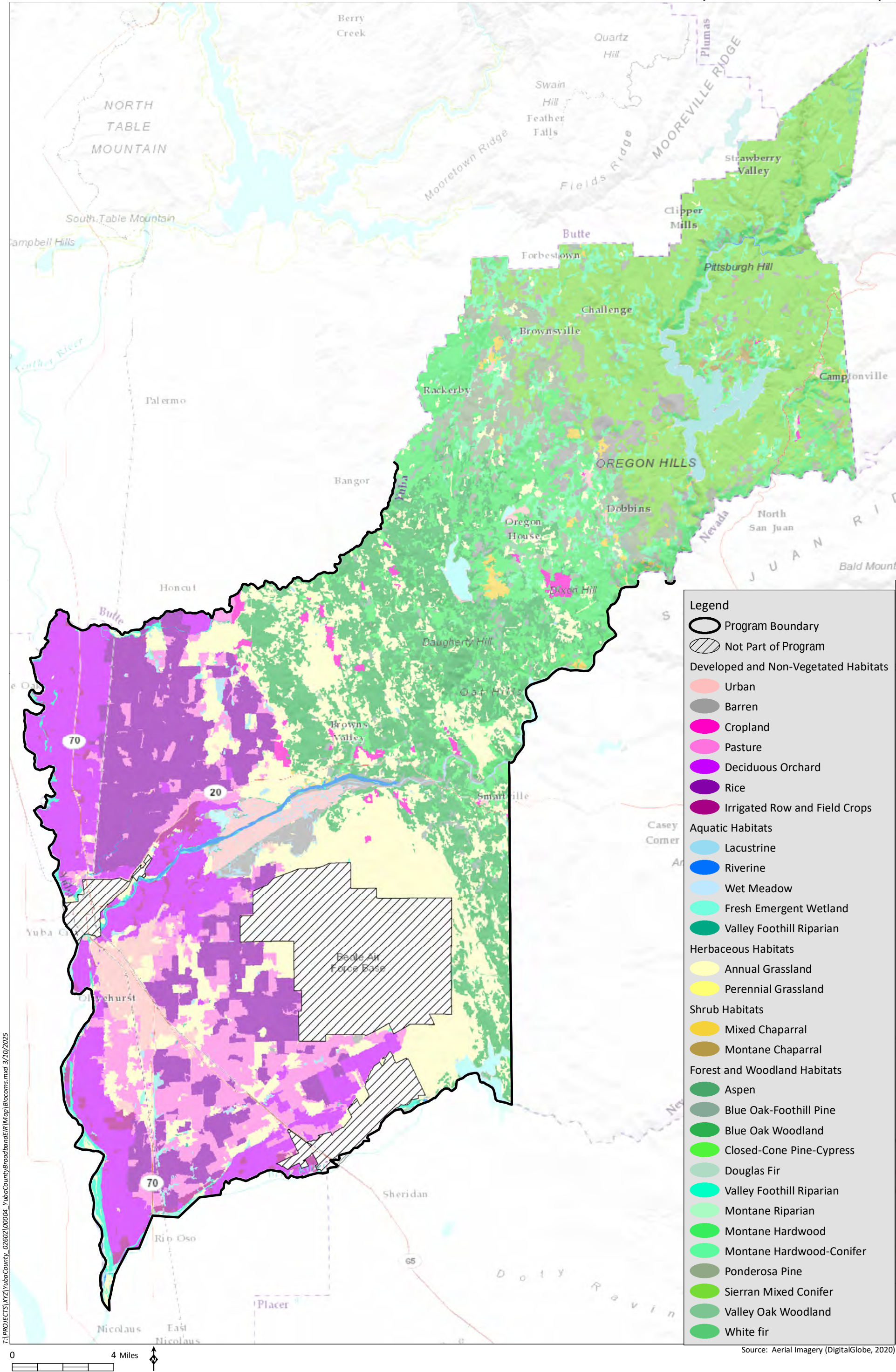
Appendix A

Figures



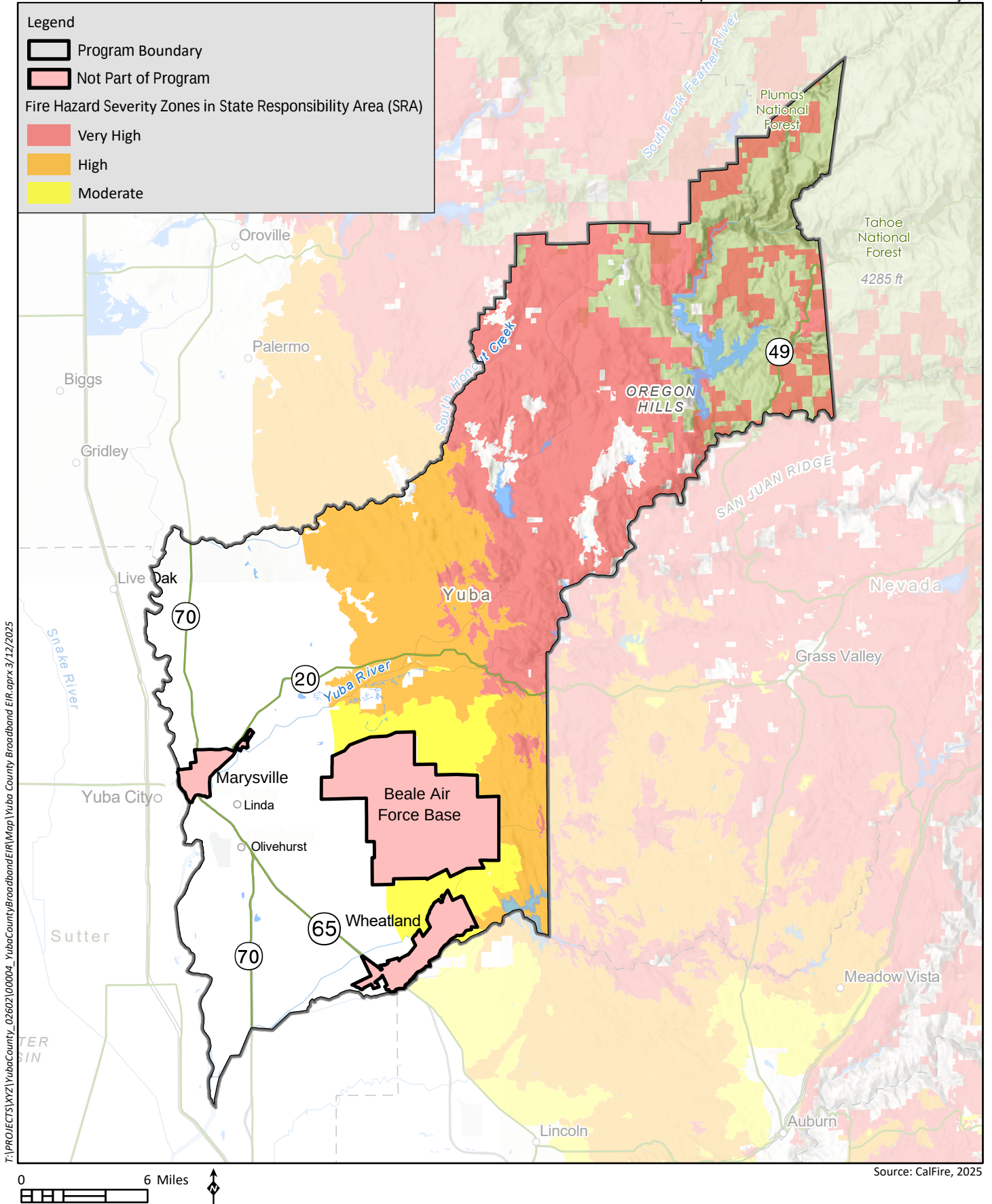






Biological Communities

Figure 4.3-1



Appendix B

Project-Specific Consistency Checklist

[Project Name]

Project-Specific Consistency Checklist for the
County of Yuba Broadband Infrastructure
Project Program Environmental Impact Report

Prepared for:

Yuba County Community Development and Services Agency

915 8th Street

Marysville, CA 95901

Prepared by:

[Name]

[address]

[address]

[date]

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

Include all acronyms and abbreviations.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 DOCUMENT OVERVIEW AND PURPOSE

The Yuba County (County) Board of Supervisors (BOS) certified the program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) for the County of Yuba Broadband Infrastructure Project (State Clearinghouse No. 2025010569). The PEIR evaluated the installation of fiber optic conduit either underground in buried conduits, overhead on existing or newly constructed utility pole lines, or in a combination of both throughout the unincorporated areas of the County. The PEIR was prepared to meet the requirements as defined in the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Section 15168(c) for streamlining later activities. In accordance with Section 15168 of the CEQA Guidelines, a PEIR may be prepared on a series of actions that can be characterized as one large project and are related to, among other things, the issuance of general criteria to govern the conduct of a continuing program or individual activities carried out under the same authorizing statutory or regulatory authority and having generally similar environmental effects that can be mitigated in similar ways.

This project specific addendum (PSA) checklist process was designed during the PEIR preparation for use by internet service providers (ISP) to streamline the environmental review process for individual broadband projects within the County. This PSA checklist is a modified Appendix G Environmental Checklist Form, pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15162, and is used to determine whether an individual broadband project site and activities qualify as a later activity within the scope of the analysis in the PEIR (CEQA Guidelines Section 15168[c]).

If a subsequent broadband project would have effects that were not examined in the PEIR, an Initial Study may be prepared to determine the appropriate level of environmental review. If another environmental document is needed, whether it is a notice of exemption (NOE), negative declaration (ND), mitigated negative declaration (MND), or environmental impact report (EIR), the PEIR can be used to simplify the task of preparing the subsequent environmental document, as indicated in CEQA Guidelines Section 15168(d).

2.0 PROJECT SPECIFIC ADDENDUM CHECKLIST

2.1 INFORMATION SHEET

- | | | |
|----|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. | Project title: | Project Title |
| 2. | Lead agency name and address: | Lead Agency, Address |
| 3. | Contact person and phone number: | Contact
Phone |
| 4. | Project location: | Location |
| 5. | Project sponsor's name and address: | If other than #2 |
| 6. | General plan designation: | General plan designation |
| 7. | Zoning: | Zoning |

8. Description of project:

Project description.

9. Surrounding land uses and setting:

Description of surrounding land uses.

10. Required Actions

Agency approvals and/or permits.

11. Have California Native American tribes traditionally and culturally affiliated with the project area requested consultation pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21080.3.1? If so, is there a plan for consultation that includes, for example, the determination of significance of impacts to tribal cultural resources, procedures regarding confidentiality, etc.?

Description of consultation process.

3.0 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Include a description of the project location and setting, proposed infrastructure, construction methods and schedule, etc.

4.0 DETERMINATION

On the basis of this project specific addendum checklist and the substantial evidence supporting it:

- ☐ I find that all of the effects of the proposed project (a) have been covered in the County of Yuba Broadband Infrastructure Project PEIR, and (b) all applicable mitigation measures identified in the County of Yuba Broadband Infrastructure Project PEIR will be implemented. The proposed project is, therefore, **WITHIN THE SCOPE** of the County of Yuba Broadband Infrastructure Project PEIR. **NO ADDITIONAL CEQA DOCUMENTATION** is required.
- ☐ I find that the proposed project will have effects that were not covered in the County of Yuba Broadband Infrastructure Project PEIR. These effects are less than significant without any mitigation beyond what is already required pursuant to the County of Yuba Broadband Infrastructure Project PEIR. A **NEGATIVE DECLARATION** will be prepared.
- ☐ I find that the proposed project will have effects that were not covered in the County of Yuba Broadband Infrastructure Project PEIR or will have effects that are substantially more severe than those covered in the County of Yuba Broadband Infrastructure Project PEIR. Although these effects may be significant in the absence of additional mitigation beyond the County of Yuba Broadband Infrastructure Project PEIR's measures, revisions to the proposed project or additional mitigation measures have been agreed to by the project proponent that would avoid or reduce the effects so that clearly no significant effects would occur. A **MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION** will be prepared.
- ☐ I find that the proposed project will have significant environmental effects that are (a) new and were not covered in the County of Yuba Broadband Infrastructure Project PEIR and/or (b) substantially more severe than those covered in the County of Yuba Broadband Infrastructure Project PEIR. Because one or more effects may be significant and cannot be clearly mitigated to less than significant, an **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT** will be prepared.

Signature

Date

Printed Name

Title

Agency

5.0 EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

1. Refer to the applicable resource analysis section in the County of Yuba Broadband Infrastructure Project PEIR for relevant information on each environmental topic.
2. A brief explanation is required for each impact question, including impacts that have been identified in the PEIR as well as any “new impacts”, if applicable.
3. The discussion of each impact question identified in the PEIR that is also applicable to the proposed treatment project should generally include the following information:
 - Briefly describe the impact of the proposed project.
 - Summarize the impact as it was presented in the PEIR, including a statement that the impact is covered in the PEIR.
 - Provide evidence that (explain why) the project impact is covered in PEIR, considering whether the proposed project is consistent with the activities addressed in the PEIR.
 - Identify Mitigation Measures (MM) from the PEIR that are applicable to the project.
 - (If applicable) Explain why the impact significance in the PSA checklist is different than that found in the PEIR; substantiate the different (new) significance conclusion.
 - (If applicable) Explain why MM identified for this impact in PEIR do not apply to this project. This circumstance may exist where a potentially significant impact was identified in the PEIR, but the impact severity would be less for the project, or the MM does not otherwise apply.
4. If the project proponent has determined that a new impact would occur, then the PSA checklist must indicate whether the new impact is potentially significant, less than significant with mitigation, or less than significant without the need for mitigation.
5. “Potentially Significant” is appropriate if there is substantial evidence that a new impact may be significant. If there are one or more “Potentially Significant” new impacts identified, or if any impact would constitute a substantially more severe significant impact than was covered in the PEIR, an EIR is required unless one or more mitigation measures incorporated into the project would mitigate the effects to a point where clearly no significant effect on the environment would occur, in which case an MND would be appropriate. An ND could be prepared, if the new impact would be less than significant, or MND, if the new impact could be clearly mitigated to less than significant. The analysis of any new impact to support adoption of an ND or MND, along with the analysis of impacts that are within the scope, would be documented in the PSA checklist. If a later EIR is prepared, it could be limited in its scope to the new significant impact(s) or substantially more severe significant impact(s), with the remainder of the impacts that are within the scope of the PEIR being documented in the PSA checklist and attached to the EIR as an appendix. When preparing any environmental document, the environmental analysis should incorporate by reference pertinent portions of the analysis from the County of Yuba Broadband Infrastructure Project PEIR and focus the environmental analysis solely on issues that were not addressed in the County of Yuba Broadband Infrastructure Project PEIR.
6. Project proponents should incorporate references to information sources for potential impacts.

I. AESTHETICS

Impact in the PEIR						
Environmental Impact Covered In the PEIR	Identify Impact Significance in the PEIR ¹	Identify Location of Impact Analysis in the PEIR	Is this Impact Within the Scope of the PEIR?	List MMs Applicable to the Project ²	Identify Impact Significance for Project	Would this be a Substantially More Severe Significant Impact than Identified in the PEIR?
Would the project:						
Impact AES-1: Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	LTSM	Impact AES-1, pp. 4.1-7 – 4.1-8				
Impact AES-2: Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a State scenic highway?	LTSM	Impact AES-2, pp. 4.1-8 – 4.1-9				
Impact AES-3: In non-urbanized areas, substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings?	LTS	Impact AES-3, pp. 4.1-10 – 4.1-11				
Impact AES-4: Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	LTS	Impact AES-4, pp. 4.1-11				

¹LTSM = Less than significant impact with mitigation. LTS = Less than significant impact.

²N/A = not applicable; there are no MMs identified in the PEIR for this impact. None = there are MMs identified in the PEIR for this impact, but none are applicable to the project.

New Aesthetic Impacts: Would the project result in other impacts to aesthetics that are not evaluated in the County of Yuba Broadband Infrastructure Project PEIR?	☐ Yes	☐ No	If yes, complete row(s) below and discussion
	Potentially Significant	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant
[identify new impact here, if applicable; add rows as needed]	☐	☐	☐

Discussion:

Impact AES-1

Impact AES-2

Impact AES-3

Impact AES-4

New Aesthetic Impacts:

II. AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY RESOURCES

Impact in the PEIR						
Environmental Impact Covered In the PEIR	Identify Impact Significance in the PEIR ¹	Identify Location of Impact Analysis in the PEIR	Is this Impact Within the Scope of the PEIR?	List MMs Applicable to the Project ²	Identify Impact Significance for Project	Would this be a Substantially More Severe Significant Impact than Identified in the PEIR?
Would the project:						
Impact AG-1: Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?	N/A	N/A				
Impact AG-2: Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?	N/A	N/A				
Impact AG-3: Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code Section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code Section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code Section 51104(g))?	N/A	N/A				
Impact AG-4: Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	N/A	N/A				
Impact AG-5: Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	N/A	N/A				

¹N/A = Determined to have no impact and therefore not analyzed in the PEIR.

²N/A = not applicable; there are no MMs identified in the PEIR for this impact. None = there are MMs identified in the PEIR for this impact, but none are applicable to the project.

New Agriculture and Forestry Resources Impacts: Would the project result in other impacts to agriculture and forestry that are not evaluated in the County of Yuba Broadband Infrastructure Project PEIR?	☐ Yes	☐ No	If yes, complete row(s) below and discussion
	Potentially Significant	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant
[identify new impact here, if applicable; add rows as needed]	☐	☐	☐

Discussion:

Impact AG-1

Impact AG-2

Impact AG-3

Impact AG-4

Impact AG-5

New Agriculture and Forestry Resource Impacts:

III. AIR QUALITY

Impact in the PEIR			Is this Impact Within the Scope of the PEIR?	List MMs Applicable to the Project ²	Identify Impact Significance for Project	Would this be a Substantially More Severe Significant Impact than Identified in the PEIR?
Environmental Impact Covered In the PEIR	Identify Impact Significance in the PEIR ¹	Identify Location of Impact Analysis in the PEIR				
Would the project:						
Impact AQ-1: Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	LTS	Impact AQ-1, pp. 4.2-14 – 4.2-15				
Impact AQ-2: Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or State ambient air quality standard?	LTSM	Impact AQ-2, pp. 4.2-15 – 4.2-17				
Impact AQ-3: Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	LTSM	Impact AQ-3, pp. 4.2-17 – 4.2-19				
Impact AQ-4: Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?	LTS	Impact AQ-4, pp. 4.2-19				

¹LTS = Less than significant impact. LTS = Less than significant impact with mitigation.

²N/A = not applicable; there are no MMs identified in the PEIR for this impact. None = there are MMs identified in the PEIR for this impact, but none are applicable to the project.

New Air Quality Impacts: Would the project result in other impacts to air quality that are not evaluated in the County of Yuba Broadband Infrastructure Project PEIR?	☐ Yes	☐ No	If yes, complete row(s) below and discussion
	Potentially Significant	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant
[identify new impact here, if applicable; add rows as needed]	☐	☐	☐

Discussion:

Impact AQ-1

Impact AQ-2

Impact AQ-3

Impact AQ-4

New Air Quality Impacts:

IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Impact in the PEIR			Is this Impact Within the Scope of the PEIR?	List MMs Applicable to the Project ²	Identify Impact Significance for Project	Would this be a Substantially More Severe Significant Impact than Identified in the PEIR?
Environmental Impact Covered In the PEIR	Identify Impact Significance in the PEIR ¹	Identify Location of Impact Analysis in the PEIR				
Would the project:						
Impact BIO-1: Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special-status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by CDFW or USFWS?	LTSM	Impact BIO-1, pp. 4.3-15 – 4.3-22				
Impact BIO-2: Have a substantial adverse effect of any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations, or by CDFW or USFWS?	LTSM	Impact BIO-2, pp. 4.3-22 – 4.3-23				
Impact BIO-3: Have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?	LTSM	Impact BIO-3, pp. 4.3-23 – 4.3-24				
Impact BIO-4: Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?	LTSM	Impact BIO-4, pp. 4.3-24				
Impact BIO-5: Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	LTSM	Impact BIO-5, pp. 4.3-25				
Impact BIO-6: Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or State habitat conservation plan?	NI	Impact BIO-6, pp. 4.3-25				

¹LTSM = Less than significant impact with mitigation. NI = No impact.

²N/A: not applicable; there are no MMs identified in the PEIR for this impact. None: there are MMs identified in the PEIR for this impact, but none are applicable to the project.

New Biological Resources Impacts: Would the project result in other impacts to biological resources that are not evaluated in the County of Yuba Broadband Infrastructure Project PEIR?	☐ Yes	☐ No	If yes, complete row(s) below and discussion
	Potentially Significant	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant
[identify new impact here, if applicable; add rows as needed]	☐	☐	☐

Discussion:**Impact BIO-1****Impact BIO-2****Impact BIO-3****Impact BIO-4****Impact BIO-5****Impact BIO-6****New Biological Resource Impacts:**

V. CULTURAL RESOURCES

Impact in the PEIR						
Environmental Impact Covered In the PEIR	Identify Impact Significance in the PEIR ¹	Identify Location of Impact Analysis in the PEIR	Is this Impact Within the Scope of the PEIR?	List MMs Applicable to the Project ²	Identify Impact Significance for Project	Would this be a Substantially More Severe Significant Impact than Identified in the PEIR?
Would the project:						
Impact CUL-1: Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to Section 15064.5?	LTS	Impact CUL-1, pp. 4.4-15				
Impact CUL-2: Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to Section 15064.5?	LTSM	Impact CUL-2, pp. 4.4-15 – 4.4-17				
Impact CUL-3: Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of archaeological cultural resources that are accidentally discovered during project construction?	LTSM	Impact CUL-3, pp. 4.4-17 – 4.4-18				
Impact CUL-4: Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?	LTS	Impact CUL-4, pp. 4.4-18				

¹LTS = Less than significant impact. LTSM = Less than significant impact with mitigation.

²N/A = not applicable; there are no MMs identified in the PEIR for this impact. None = there are MMs identified in the PEIR for this impact, but none are applicable to the project.

New Cultural Resource Impacts: Would the project result in other impacts to cultural resources that are not evaluated in the County of Yuba Broadband Infrastructure Project PEIR?	☐ Yes	☐ No	If yes, complete row(s) below and discussion
	Potentially Significant	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant
[identify new impact here, if applicable; add rows as needed]	☐	☐	☐

Discussion:

Impact CUL-1

Impact CUL-2

Impact CUL-3

Impact CUL-4

New Cultural Resource Impacts:

VI. ENERGY

Impact in the PEIR			Is this Impact Within the Scope of the PEIR?	List MMs Applicable to the Project ²	Identify Impact Significance for Project	Would this be a Substantially More Severe Significant Impact than Identified in the PEIR?
Environmental Impact Covered In the PEIR	Identify Impact Significance in the PEIR ¹	Identify Location of Impact Analysis in the PEIR				
Would the project:						
Impact EN-1: Result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation?	N/A	N/A				
Impact EN-2: Conflict with or obstruct a State or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?	N/A	N/A				

¹N/A = Determined to have no impact and therefore not analyzed in the PEIR.

²N/A = not applicable; there are no MMs identified in the PEIR for this impact. None = there are MMs identified in the PEIR for this impact, but none are applicable to the project.

New Energy Impacts: Would the project result in other impacts to energy that are not evaluated in the County of Yuba Broadband Infrastructure Project PEIR?	☐ Yes	☐ No	If yes, complete row(s) below and discussion
	Potentially Significant	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant
[identify new impact here, if applicable; add rows as needed]	☐	☐	☐

Discussion :

Impact EN-1

Impact EN-2

New Energy Impacts:

VII. GEOLOGY AND SOILS

Impact in the PEIR			Is this Impact Within the Scope of the PEIR?	List MMs Applicable to the Project ²	Identify Impact Significance for Project	Would this be a Substantially More Severe Significant Impact than Identified in the PEIR?
Environmental Impact Covered In the PEIR	Identify Impact Significance in the PEIR ¹	Identify Location of Impact Analysis in the PEIR				
Would the project:						
Impact GEO-1: Directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving: (i) rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault; (ii) strong seismic ground shaking; (iii) seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction; or (iv) landslides?	LTS	Impact GEO-1, pp. 4.5-9				
Impact GEO-2: Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	LTS	Impact GEO-2, pp. 4.5-9 – 4.5-10				
Impact GEO-3: Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in the on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction, or collapse?	LTS	Impact GEO-3, pp. 4.5-10				
Impact GEO-4: Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property?	LTS	Impact GEO-4, pp. 4.5-10 – 4.5-11				
Impact GEO-5: Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?	NI	Impact GEO-5, pp. 4.5-11				
Impact GEO-6: Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	LTS	Impact GEO-6, pp. 4.5-11				

¹LTS = Less than significant impact. NI = No impact.

²N/A = not applicable; there are no MMs identified in the PEIR for this impact. None = there are MMs identified in the PEIR for this impact, but none are applicable to the project.

New Geology and Soils Impacts: Would the project result in other impacts to geology and soils that are not evaluated in the County of Yuba Broadband Infrastructure Project PEIR?	☐ Yes	☐ No	If yes, complete row(s) below and discussion
	Potentially Significant	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant
[identify new impact here, if applicable; add rows as needed]	☐	☐	☐

Discussion:**Impact GEO-1****Impact GEO-2****Impact GEO-3****Impact GEO-4****Impact GEO-5****Impact GEO-6****New Geology and Soils Impacts:**

VIII. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

Impact in the PEIR						
Environmental Impact Covered In the PEIR	Identify Impact Significance in the PEIR	Identify Location of Impact Analysis in the PEIR	Is this Impact Within the Scope of the PEIR?	List MMs Applicable to the Project ¹	Identify Impact Significance for Project	Would this be a Substantially More Severe Significant Impact than Identified in the PEIR?
Would the project:						
Impact GHG-1: Generate GHG emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?	LTS	Impact GHG-1, pp. 4.6-8 – 4.6-9				
Impact GHG-2: Conflict with any applicable plan, policy, or regulation of an agency adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of GHGs?	LTS	Impact GHG-2, pp. 4.6-9 – 4.6-10				

¹LTS = Less than significant impact

²N/A = not applicable; there are no MMs identified in the PEIR for this impact. None = there are MMs identified in the PEIR for this impact, but none are applicable to the project.

New GHG Emissions Impacts: Would the project result in other impacts to GHG emissions that are not evaluated in the County of Yuba Broadband Infrastructure Project PEIR?	☐ Yes	☐ No	If yes, complete row(s) below and discussion
	Potentially Significant	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant
[identify new impact here, if applicable; add rows as needed]	☐	☐	☐

Discussion:

Impact GHG-1

Impact GHG-2

New Impacts Related to GHG Emissions:

IX. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

Impact in the PEIR			Is this Impact Within the Scope of the PEIR?	List MMs Applicable to the Project ²	Identify Impact Significance for Project	Would this be a Substantially More Severe Significant Impact than Identified in the PEIR?
Environmental Impact Covered In the PEIR	Identify Impact Significance in the PEIR ¹	Identify Location of Impact Analysis in the PEIR				
Would the project:						
Impact HAZ-1: Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	LTS	Impact HAZ-1, pp. 4.7-19 – 4.7-20				
Impact HAZ-2: Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?	LTSM	Impact HAZ-2, pp. 4.7-20 – 4.7-21				
Impact HAZ-3: Emit hazardous emissions or require handling of hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	LTS	Impact HAZ-3, pp. 4.7-21 – 4.7-22				
Impact HAZ-4: Be located on a site that is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the California Government Code and, as a result, would create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?	LTS	Impact HAZ-4, pp. 4.7-22				
Impact HAZ-5: For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard or excessive noise for people residing or working in the project area?	LTS	Impact HAZ-5, pp. 4.7-22 – 4.7-23				
Impact HAZ-6: Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	LTSM	Impact HAZ-6, pp. 4.7-23 – 4.7-25				
Impact HAZ-7: Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires?	LTS	Impact HAZ-7, pp. 4.7-25 – 4.7-26				

¹LTS = Less than significant impact. LTSM = Less than significant impact with mitigation.

²N/A = not applicable; there are no MMs identified in the PEIR for this impact. None = there are MMs identified in the PEIR for this impact, but none are applicable to the project.

New Hazards and Hazardous Materials Impacts: Would the project result in other impacts related to hazards and hazardous materials that are not evaluated in the County of Yuba Broadband Infrastructure Project PEIR?	☐ Yes	☐ No	If yes, complete row(s) below and discussion
	Potentially Significant	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant
[identify new impact here, if applicable; add rows as needed]	☐	☐	☐

Discussion:**Impact HAZ-1****Impact HAZ-2****Impact HAZ-3****Impact HAZ-4****Impact HAZ-5****Impact HAZ-6****Impact HAZ-7****New Hazards and Hazardous Materials Impacts:**

X. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

Impact in the PEIR						
Environmental Impact Covered In the PEIR	Identify Impact Significance in the PEIR ¹	Identify Location of Impact Analysis in the PEIR	Is this Impact Within the Scope of the PEIR?	List MMs Applicable to the Project ²	Identify Impact Significance for Project	Would this be a Substantially More Severe Significant Impact than Identified in the PEIR?
Would the project:						
Impact HYD-1: Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or groundwater quality?	LTS	Impact HYD-1, pp. 4.8-17 – 4.8-18				
Impact HYD-2: Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?	LTS	Impact HYD-2, pp. 4.8-18				
Impact HYD-3: Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would: (i) result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site; (ii) substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or offsite; (iii) create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff; or (iv) impede or redirect flood flows?	LTS	Impact HYD-3, pp. 4.8-18 – 4.8-20				
Impact HYD-4: In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?	LTS	Impact HYD-4, pp. 4.8-20				
Impact HYD-5: Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?	LTS	Impact HYD-5, pp. 4.8-20				

¹LTS = Less than significant impact.

²N/A = not applicable; there are no MMs identified in the PEIR for this impact. None = there are MMs identified in the PEIR for this impact, but none are applicable to the project.

New Hydrology and Water Quality Impacts: Would the project result in other impacts to hydrology and water quality that are not evaluated in the County of Yuba Broadband Infrastructure Project PEIR?	☐ Yes	☐ No	If yes, complete row(s) below and discussion
--	------------------------------	-----------------------------	--

	Potentially Significant	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant
[identify new impact here, if applicable; add rows as needed]	☐	☐	☐

Discussion:**Impact HYD-1****Impact HYD-2****Impact HYD-3****Impact HYD-4****Impact HYD-5****New Hydrology and Water Quality Impacts:**

XI. LAND USE AND PLANNING

Impact in the PEIR						
Environmental Impact Covered In the PEIR	Identify Impact Significance in the PEIR ¹	Identify Location of Impact Analysis in the PEIR	Is this Impact Within the Scope of the PEIR?	List MMs Applicable to the Project ²	Identify Impact Significance for Project	Would this be a Substantially More Severe Significant Impact than Identified in the PEIR?
Would the project:						
Impact LUP-1: Physically divide an established community?	N/A	N/A				
Impact LUP-2: Cause significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?	N/A	N/A				

¹N/A = Determined to have no impact and therefore not analyzed in the PEIR.

²N/A = not applicable; there are no MMs identified in the PEIR for this impact. None = there are MMs identified in the PEIR for this impact, but none are applicable to the project.

New Land Use and Planning Impacts: Would the project result in other impacts to land use and planning that are not evaluated in the County of Yuba Broadband Infrastructure Project PEIR?	☐ Yes	☐ No	If yes, complete row(s) below and discussion
	Potentially Significant	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant
[identify new impact here, if applicable; add rows as needed]	☐	☐	☐

Discussion:

Impact LUP-1

Impact LUP-2

New Land Use and Planning Impacts:

XII. MINERAL RESOURCES

Impact in the PEIR						
Environmental Impact Covered In the PEIR	Identify Impact Significance in the PEIR ¹	Identify Location of Impact Analysis in the PEIR	Is this Impact Within the Scope of the PEIR?	List MMs Applicable to the Project ²	Identify Impact Significance for Project	Would this be a Substantially More Severe Significant Impact than Identified in the PEIR?
Would the project:						
Impact MIN-1: Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the State?	N/A	N/A				
Impact MIN-2: Result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan?	N/A	N/A				

¹N/A = Determined to have no impact and therefore not analyzed in the PEIR.

²N/A = not applicable; there are no MMs identified in the PEIR for this impact. None: there are MMs identified in the PEIR for this impact, but none are applicable to the project.

New Mineral Resources Impacts: Would the project result in other impacts to mineral resources that are not evaluated in the County of Yuba Broadband Infrastructure Project PEIR?	☐ Yes	☐ No	If yes, complete row(s) below and discussion
	Potentially Significant	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant
[identify new impact here, if applicable; add rows as needed]	☐	☐	☐

Discussion:

Impact MIN-1

Impact MIN -2

New Mineral Resources Impacts:

XIII. NOISE

Impact in the PEIR						
Environmental Impact Covered In the PEIR	Identify Impact Significance in the PEIR ¹	Identify Location of Impact Analysis in the PEIR	Is this Impact Within the Scope of the PEIR?	List MMs Applicable to the Project ²	Identify Impact Significance for Project	Would this be a Substantially More Severe Significant Impact than Identified in the PEIR?
Would the project:						
Impact NOI-1: Result in generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?	LTSM	Impact NOI-1, pp. 4.9-10 – 4.9-13				
Impact NOI-2: Result in generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?	LTSM	Impact NOI-2, pp. 4.9-13 – 4.9-14				
Impact NOI-3: For a project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	LTS	Impact NOI-3, pp. 4.9-14				

¹LTSM = Less than significant impact with mitigation. LTS = Less than significant impact.

²N/A = not applicable; there are no MMs identified in the PEIR for this impact. None = there are MMs identified in the PEIR for this impact, but none are applicable to the project.

New Noise Impacts: Would the project result in other noise-related impacts that are not evaluated in the County of Yuba Broadband Infrastructure Project PEIR?	☐ Yes	☐ No	If yes, complete row(s) below and discussion
	Potentially Significant	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant
[identify new impact here, if applicable; add rows as needed]	☐	☐	☐

Discussion :

Impact NOI-1

Impact NOI-2

Impact NOI-3

New Noise Impacts:

XIV. POPULATION AND HOUSING

Impact in the PEIR						
Environmental Impact Covered In the PEIR	Identify Impact Significance in the PEIR ¹	Identify Location of Impact Analysis in the PEIR	Is this Impact Within the Scope of the PEIR?	List MMs Applicable to the Project ²	Identify Impact Significance for Project	Would this be a Substantially More Severe Significant Impact than Identified in the PEIR?
Would the project:						
Impact POP-1: Induce substantial unplanned population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?	N/A	N/A				
Impact POP-2: Displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	N/A	N/A				

¹N/A = Determined to have no impact and therefore not analyzed in the PEIR.

²N/A = not applicable; there are no MMs identified in the PEIR for this impact. None = there are MMs identified in the PEIR for this impact, but none are applicable to the project.

New Population and Housing Impacts: Would the project result in other impacts to population and housing that are not evaluated in the County of Yuba Broadband Infrastructure Project PEIR?	☐ Yes	☐ No	If yes, complete row(s) below and discussion
	Potentially Significant	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant
[identify new impact here, if applicable; add rows as needed]	☐	☐	☐

Discussion:

Impact POP-1

Impact POP-2

New Population and Housing Impacts:

XV. PUBLIC SERVICES

Impact in the PEIR						
Environmental Impact Covered In the PEIR	Identify Impact Significance in the PEIR ¹	Identify Location of Impact Analysis in the PEIR	Is this Impact Within the Scope of the PEIR?	List MMs Applicable to the Project ²	Identify Impact Significance for Project	Would this be a Substantially More Severe Significant Impact than Identified in the PEIR?
Would the project:						
Impact PS-1: Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services: fire protection, police protection, schools, parks, or other public facilities?	LTS	Impact PS-1, pp. 4.10-9 – 4.10-10				

¹LTS = Less than significant impact.

²N/A = not applicable; there are no MMs identified in the PEIR for this impact. None = there are MMs identified in the PEIR for this impact, but none are applicable to the project.

New Public Service Impacts: Would the project result in other impacts to public services that are not evaluated in the County of Yuba Broadband Infrastructure Project PEIR?	☐ Yes	☐ No	If yes, complete row(s) below and discussion
	Potentially Significant	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant
[identify new impact here, if applicable; add rows as needed]	☐	☐	☐

Discussion:

Impact PS-1

New Public Services Impacts:

XVI. RECREATION

Impact in the PEIR						
Environmental Impact Covered In the PEIR	Identify Impact Significance in the PEIR ¹	Identify Location of Impact Analysis in the PEIR	Is this Impact Within the Scope of the PEIR?	List MMs Applicable to the Project ²	Identify Impact Significance for Project	Would this be a Substantially More Severe Significant Impact than Identified in the PEIR?
Would the project:						
Impact REC-1: Increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?	N/A	N/A				
Impact REC-2: Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?	N/A	N/A				

¹N/A = Determined to have no impact and therefore not analyzed in the PEIR.

²N/A = not applicable; there are no MMs identified in the PEIR for this impact. None = there are MMs identified in the PEIR for this impact, but none are applicable to the project.

New Recreation Impacts: Would the project result in other impacts to recreation that are not evaluated in the County of Yuba Broadband Infrastructure Project PEIR?	☐ Yes	☐ No	If yes, complete row(s) below and discussion
	Potentially Significant	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant
[identify new impact here, if applicable; add rows as needed]	☐	☐	☐

Discussion:

Impact REC-1

Impact REC-2

New Recreation Impacts:

XVII. TRANSPORTATION

Impact in the PEIR						
Environmental Impact Covered In the PEIR	Identify Impact Significance in the PEIR ¹	Identify Location of Impact Analysis in the PEIR	Is this Impact Within the Scope of the PEIR?	List MMs Applicable to the Project ²	Identify Impact Significance for Project	Would this be a Substantially More Severe Significant Impact than Identified in the PEIR?
Would the project:						
TRA-1: Conflict with a program, plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities?	LTSM	Impact TRA-1, pp. 4.11-8 – 4.11-10				
TRA-2: Conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.3, subdivision (b)?	LTS	Impact TRA-2, pp. 4.11-10				
TRA-3: Substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	LTSM	Impact TRA-3, pp. 4.11-11				
TRA-4: Result in inadequate emergency access?	LTSM	Impact TRA-4, pp. 4.11-11 – 4.11-12				

¹LTS = Less than significant impact. LTSM = Less than significant impact with mitigation.

²N/A = not applicable; there are no MMs identified in the PEIR for this impact. None = there are MMs identified in the PEIR for this impact, but none are applicable to the project.

New Transportation Impacts: Would the project result in other impacts to transportation that are not evaluated in the County of Yuba Broadband Infrastructure Project PEIR?	☐ Yes	☐ No	If yes, complete row(s) below and discussion
	Potentially Significant	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant
[identify new impact here, if applicable; add rows as needed]	☐	☐	☐

Discussion:

Impact TRA-1

Impact TRA-2

Impact TRA-3

Impact TRA-4

New Transportation Impacts:

XVIII. TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES

Impact in the PEIR			Is this Impact Within the Scope of the PEIR?	List MMs Applicable to the Project ²	Identify Impact Significance for Project	Would this be a Substantially More Severe Significant Impact than Identified in the PEIR?
Environmental Impact Covered In the PEIR	Identify Impact Significance in the PEIR ¹	Identify Location of Impact Analysis in the PEIR				
Would the project:						
Impact TCR-1: Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in the local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code Section 5020.1(k)?	LTSM	Impact TCR-1, pp. 4.12-10 – 4.12-11				
TCR-2: Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is a resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American Tribe	LTSM	Impact TCR-2, pp. 4.12-11 – 4.12-12				
Impact TCR-3: Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource inadvertently discovered during construction?	LTSM	Impact TCR-3, pp. 4.12-12				

¹LTSM = Less than significant impact with mitigation.

²NA = not applicable; there are no MMs identified in the PEIR for this impact. None = there are MMs identified in the PEIR for this impact, but none are applicable to the project.

New Tribal Cultural Resource Impacts: Would the project result in other impacts to tribal cultural resources that are not evaluated in the County of Yuba Broadband Infrastructure Project PEIR?	☐ Yes	☐ No	If yes, complete row(s) below and discussion
	Potentially Significant	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant
[identify new impact here, if applicable; add rows as needed]	☐	☐	☐

Discussion:

Impact TCR-1

Impact TCR-2

Impact TCR-3

New Tribal Cultural Resource Impacts:

XIX. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS

Impact in the PEIR			Is this Impact Within the Scope of the PEIR?	List MMs Applicable to the Project ²	Identify Impact Significance for Project	Would this be a Substantially More Severe Significant Impact than Identified in the PEIR?
Environmental Impact Covered In the PEIR	Identify Impact Significance in the PEIR ¹	Identify Location of Impact Analysis in the PEIR				
Would the project:						
Impact UTL-1: Require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects?	LTS	Impact UTL-1, pp. 4.13-10 – 4.13-11				
Impact UTL-2: Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years?	LTS	Impact UTL-2, pp. 4.13-11				
UTL-3: Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project’s projected demand in addition to the provider’s existing commitments?	LTS	Impact UTL-3, pp. 4.13-12				
UTL-4: Generate solid waste in excess of State or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals?	LTS	Impact UTL-4, pp. 4.13-12				
UTL-5: Comply with federal, State, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	LTS	Impact UTL-5, pp. 4.13-12				

¹LTS = Less than significant impact.

²N/A = not applicable; there are no MMs identified in the PEIR for this impact. None = there are MMs identified in the PEIR for this impact, but none are applicable to the project.

New Utilities and Service System Impacts: Would the project result in other impacts to utilities and service systems that are not evaluated in the County of Yuba Broadband Infrastructure Project PEIR?	☐ Yes	☐ No	If yes, complete row(s) below and discussion
	Potentially Significant	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant
[identify new impact here, if applicable; add rows as needed]	☐	☐	☐

Discussion:**Impact UTL-1****Impact UTL-2****Impact UTL-3****Impact UTL-4****New Impacts to Utilities and Service Systems:**

XX. WILDFIRE

Impact in the PEIR						
Environmental Impact Covered In the PEIR	Identify Impact Significance in the PEIR ¹	Identify Location of Impact Analysis in the PEIR	Is this Impact Within the Scope of the PEIR?	List MMs Applicable to the Project ²	Identify Impact Significance for Project	Would this be a Substantially More Severe Significant Impact than Identified in the PEIR?
Would the project:						
FIRE-1: Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	LTSM	Impact FIRE-1, pp. 4.14-9 – 4.14-11				
FIRE-2: Due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, the project would not exacerbate wildfire risks, and thereby expose project occupants to pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire?	LTS	Impact FIRE-2, pp. 4.14-11				
FIRE-3: Require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment?	LTS	Impact FIRE-3, pp. 4.14-12				
FIRE-4: Expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslopes or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes?	LTS	Impact FIRE-4, pp. 4.14-12 – 4.14-13				

¹LTS = Less than significant impact. LTSM = Less than significant impact with mitigation.

²N/A = not applicable; there are no MMs identified in the PEIR for this impact. None = there are MMs identified in the PEIR for this impact, but none are applicable to the project.

New Wildfire Impacts: Would the project result in other impacts related to wildfire that are not evaluated in the County of Yuba Broadband Infrastructure Project PEIR?	☐ Yes	☐ No	If yes, complete row(s) below and discussion
	Potentially Significant	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant
[identify new impact here, if applicable; add rows as needed]	☐	☐	☐

Discussion:**Impact FIRE-1****Impact FIRE-2**

Impact FIRE-3

Impact FIRE-4

New Impacts to Wildfire:

6.0 PREPARERS

List of Preparers

7.0 REFERENCES

References follow the “name-year” sequence of the Council of Science Editors (CSE) style:

http://writing.wisc.edu/Handbook/DocCSE_NameYear.html#examples.

Appendix C

NEPA Environmental Assessment



Department of
Commerce

National
Telecommunications
and
Communications
Service

August 2025

Environmental Assessment

County of Yuba Broadband Infrastructure Project

Yuba County, California

For Information Contact:

County of Yuba
Community Development and Services Agency
915 8th Street, Marysville CA 95901

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1.0 Executive Summary

The County of Yuba (County) is proposing to expand access to broadband technology in the unincorporated areas of the County under the proposed County of Yuba Broadband Infrastructure Project, herein referred to as the Proposed Action. The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) under the Department of Commerce is the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Lead Agency for the Proposed Action.

Broadband internet access allows users to access the internet and internet-related services at significantly higher speeds than those available through "dial-up" services. Broadband provides high-speed internet access via multiple types of technologies, including fiber optics, wireless, cable modem, digital subscriber line (DSL), broadband over powerlines (BPL), and satellite. The Proposed Action would utilize fiber optic technology that converts light electrical signals and sends the light through transparent glass fibers about the diameter of a human hair (FCC 2025). Fiber optic technology transmits data at speeds far exceeding current DSL or cable modem speeds. While some areas of Yuba County have sufficient internet speeds for daily work and home life, there are service gaps or "digital divides" in portions of the County. Insufficient internet speeds and service coverage has become prohibitive for residents of Yuba County to perform essential, daily tasks. Many rural communities in the County have limited access to affordable, reliable internet service provider (ISP) options; this digital divide typically increases as distance from major city centers increases.

Under the Proposed Action, broadband technology would be constructed in underground conduits and/or overhead pole lines throughout the unincorporated areas of the County, primarily within County-maintained right-of-way (ROW), public utility easements, and/or overhead public utility easements. There are approximately 650 miles of County-maintained roads, and in some circumstances, fiber optic conduit could be installed under roadways where space is limited alongside the roadways. Where topography or underground substrate would impede construction of subsurface fiber optic cables, individual broadband projects could install fiber optic cables along existing or newly constructed utility poles. The future location of broadband infrastructure would focus on areas of the County that are currently unserved or underserved. The exact alignment of future broadband infrastructure is unknown at this time and would be based on such considerations as construction feasibility, local preference, and locations of sensitive environmental resources.

In addition to the Proposed Action, four other alternatives were considered during the EA process, including the No Action Alternative, Aerial Installation Only Alternative, Underground Installation Only Alternative, and Use of Existing Infrastructure, as summarized below:

- *No Action Alternative*: No actions would be taken to expand broadband availability in the unincorporated areas of the County, and the service area would remain unchanged from existing conditions.
- *Aerial Installation Only Alternative*: This alternative would include only individual broadband projects that install aboveground fiber optic line that would utilize new or existing utility poles. No underground fiber optic line or new conduit would be installed under this alternative.
- *Underground Installation Only Alternative*: This alternative would include individual broadband projects that would only install underground fiber optic lines and would utilize new or existing underground conduit. No aboveground fiber optic line or new utility poles would be installed under this alternative.
- *Use of Existing Infrastructure Alternative*: This alternative would include individual broadband

projects that install fiber optic line in existing fiber-specific conduit or along existing utility poles. Under this alternative, no new utility poles or underground conduit would be installed.

While all four alternatives were considered, the Proposed Action was selected because it would involve fewer infrastructure constraints, expand broadband opportunities to a greater area of the County, and fulfill the requirements of the grant.

Because the proposed project utilizes federal funds, NTIA must fulfill obligations under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and other applicable local, state, and federal regulations. In compliance with these regulations, the following Environmental Assessment (EA) has been prepared. The implementation of NEPA requires a systematic, interdisciplinary approach to project planning and implementation, and emphasizes that the environmental impacts of federally funded projects be given serious consideration in the decision-making process. The EA addresses the following resource areas:

- Noise
- Air Quality
- Geology and Soils
- Water Resources
- Biological Resources
- Historical and Cultural Resources
- Aesthetic and Visual Resources
- Land Use
- Infrastructure
- Human Health and Safety

The results of the EA indicate that, with appropriate mitigation measures identified throughout this document, the Proposed Action would not result in significant adverse effects to the natural, cultural, or human environment. The findings of the EA are summarized below:

Table 1: Environmental Analysis Summary

Resource Area	Proposed Action Alternative	No Action Alternative
Noise	Short-term impacts during construction would be temporary. Mitigation Measure NOI-1 would limit noise-generating construction activities to the hours of 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. seven days per week if located within 500 feet of a noise-sensitive land use (NSLU). Mitigation Measure NOI-2 would require noise control features for backup generators if located within 35 feet of a NSLU. Mitigation Measure NOI-3 would restrict vibratory roller use to avoid vibratory impacts to structures. No significant impact would occur.	No construction would occur; therefore, no temporary construction-related noise or vibration impacts would occur.
Air Quality	Short-term impacts during construction would be temporary, including fugitive dust emissions from construction vehicle movement. Mitigation Measure AQ-1 would require preparation of a Fugitive Dust Control Plan to minimize fugitive dust emissions. No significant impact would occur.	No construction would occur; therefore, no temporary construction-related fugitive dust emissions or other air quality impacts would occur.

Resource Area	Proposed Action Alternative	No Action Alternative
Geology and Soils	Short-term impacts during construction would be temporary and would result from ground-disturbing construction methods. If individual broadband projects disturb more than one acre, the project would be subject to the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit requirements to prevent soil erosion and sedimentation. No significant impact would occur.	No construction would occur; therefore, no ground disturbance resulting in geologic or soil impacts would occur.
Water Resources	Short-term impacts during construction would be temporary and would result from ground-disturbing construction methods or potential release of pollutants into receiving waters. If individual broadband projects disturb more than one acre, the project would be subject to the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit requirements to prevent impacts to water resources and water quality. No significant impact would occur.	No construction would occur; therefore, no ground disturbance resulting in sedimentation would occur. Additionally, no release of potential pollutants resulting from construction would occur. No impact would occur.
Biological Resources	Each individual broadband infrastructure project would prepare a site-specific biological resources assessment (Mitigation Measure BIO-1) to identify and assess potential impacts on biological resources, and conduct worker awareness trainings (Mitigation Measure BIO-2) to avoid sensitive biological resources. Individual broadband projects would implement species-specific minimization and avoidance measures (Mitigation Measures BIO-3 through BIO-7), as applicable. Mitigation Measure BIO-8 would require regulatory permitting if the individual broadband project cannot avoid impacts to jurisdictional waters or other sensitive natural communities, and Mitigation Measure BIO-9 would require an oak resources inventory to identify if mitigation/replacement is required for oak tree impacts. No significant impact would occur.	No construction would occur; therefore, no impacts to biological resources would occur.
Historic and Cultural Resources	Each individual broadband infrastructure project would conduct archaeological cultural resources investigations (Mitigation Measure CUL-1) to avoid and minimize impacts to historic and cultural resources. Mitigation Measure CUL-2 would be required to address the inadvertent discovery of archaeological cultural resources during construction activities. Mitigation Measure TCR-1 would require individual broadband projects to conduct tribal consultation once the County deems the application complete. Additionally, in the event that potential tribal cultural resources are exposed during construction, Mitigation Measure TCR-2 would be implemented and would require work to stop and additional tribal consultation would occur. No significant impact would occur.	No construction would occur; therefore, no impacts to historic and cultural resources would occur.

Resource Area	Proposed Action Alternative	No Action Alternative
Aesthetic and Visual Resources	Installation of broadband infrastructure would occur primarily within ROW and could be collocated on existing utility infrastructure. Infrastructure installed underground would not create changes to the existing landscape. However, Mitigation Measure AES-1 would require a Visual Impact Assessment for aboveground individual broadband projects located within the viewshed of a designated or eligible State Scenic Highway, including State Route 49. No significant impact would occur.	No construction would occur; therefore, no impacts to aesthetic and visual resources related to construction of new aboveground infrastructure would occur.
Land Use	Construction impacts would be temporary and minor. The proposed broadband infrastructure would be primarily located within ROW and utility easements, and would not result in a change in existing land use. No significant impact would occur.	No construction would occur; therefore, no change to existing land use would occur. No impact would occur.
Infrastructure	Individual broadband projects located within ROW or utility easements that would require temporary lane closures could impact local traffic. Mitigation Measure TRA-1 would require the preparation of a Traffic Control Plan for any individual project that requires an encroachment permit, which would minimize impacts to local roadways during construction. Expansion of broadband infrastructure to unserved and underserved areas of the County would increase telecommuting opportunities, which could result in a decrease in vehicle miles traveled within the County. No significant impact would occur.	No construction or temporary lane closures would occur. No impact to local roadways would occur.
Human Health and Safety	If it is determined that an individual broadband project may be located near or on a hazardous materials site, a Phase I Environmental Site Assessment (ESA) would be required to be prepared. Mitigation Measure TRA-1 would require the preparation of a Traffic Control Plan for any individual project that requires an encroachment permit, which would minimize roadway impacts related to human health and safety.	No construction would occur; therefore, no human health and safety impacts related to temporary lane closures or hazardous materials sites would occur.

2.0 Purpose and Need

The purpose of the Proposed Action is to address the lack of broadband service in many areas of the County. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) define advanced telecommunications capability (broadband) primarily in terms of downstream and upstream speeds. In 2015, the FCC updated the definition of broadband to 25 megabits per second (Mbps) downstream and 3 Mbps upstream. In 2017, the California legislature changed the definition of “unserved” areas to areas where broadband is offered at slower speeds than 6 Mbps downstream and 1 Mbps upstream. In 2021, the California broadband standard was increased to 25 Mbps downstream and 3 Mbps upstream, matching the FCC standard.

The Yuba County Strategic Master Broadband Plan concluded that 32.1 percent of households in the County are unserved at 6/1 Mbps; 34.5 percent of households are unserved at 10/1 Mbps; and 47.9 percent are unserved at 25/3 Mbps. These unserved communities in Yuba County lack access to a utility that is now seen as critical to quality of life, among other reasons. The Proposed Action would help attract individual broadband infrastructure investors to bring broadband service to a County in need of

affordable, reliable connectivity. Expansion of broadband technology is vital to the various communities in the County for many reasons, which include but are not limited to:

- supporting economic growth and sustainability;
- improving civic involvement and participation;
- advancing education and continuous learning;
- strengthening social and community connections;
- fostering health care and telehealth services; and,
- enhancing recreation and tourism.

In order to achieve the need of broadband within the County, the County identified the following objectives:

- Promote upgradable and expandable high-speed broadband capacity in the service areas with minimum speeds of 100 Mbps for downloads and 20 Mbps for uploads, which is labeled as “served” areas within California;
- Promote the construction of a broadband network in unserved and underserved areas of unincorporated Yuba County;
- Enable an increase in telecommuting, with a commensurate decrease in vehicle miles traveled (VMT);
- Improve public health and safety through enabling faster emergency response times, enhanced communication between emergency services, and access to critical information during disasters or emergencies;
- Streamline the environmental review process for individual broadband projects that are implemented in the County;
- Promote a reliable foundation of data and acceptable methodology to assess impacts for any specific broadband deployment project;
- Identify known environmental and cultural assets to be protected and/or restored with an approved set of preservation measures and/or mitigations; and,
- Save time and money for both the County of Yuba and broadband project applicants, resulting in greater government and economic efficiencies, reducing the amount of County staff time required to review broadband projects and avoiding duplication of applicant costs.

3.0 Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives

3.1 Introduction

This EA analyzes four project alternatives: the No Action Alternative, the Aerial Installation Only Alternative, the Underground Installation Only Alternative, and the Use of Existing Infrastructure Alternative, in detail to compare to the Proposed Action because of their potential to reduce the potential environmental impacts. The Proposed Action and four alternatives are discussed in greater detail below.

3.2 Proposed Action

Project Components

The area in which future broadband infrastructure could be implemented includes all unincorporated areas of the County; it excludes the incorporated cities of Marysville and Wheatland, federal lands, private roads, and State highway ROW. The County has jurisdiction over a total of approximately 650 miles of County-maintained roads. It is envisioned that the vast majority of future broadband infrastructure would be installed within existing County-maintained road ROW, public utility easements, and/or existing overhead public utility easements of record throughout the County. The exact alignments of future broadband infrastructure are unknown at this time and would be planned based on such considerations as construction feasibility, topographic constraints, local preference, and locations of sensitive environmental resources. See Figure 1, Site and Vicinity Map, for a map of the area in which broadband could be implemented, and Figure 2, Yuba County Roads and Rights-of-Way, for a map of County-maintained roads and ROW within the County (Note: All figures are included in Appendix A to this EA).

It is assumed that new ground disturbance would be required; however, there would be potential for utilizing existing conduit where only installation of fiber optic line would be required. If deemed feasible, the new broadband infrastructure constructed under an individual broadband project would connect to existing infrastructure (e.g., aboveground and/or underground) in the County supported by existing service providers.

Project Construction

Construction of individual broadband projects would begin as early as fall 2025. Implementation of future individual broadband projects would likely occur over the course of many years. It is possible that multiple, individual broadband projects could have overlapping construction timeframes (or phases). Additionally, any individual segment could involve multiple construction crews working simultaneously, with plowing, trenching, and directional drilling occurring at the same time in different locations of the segment. In accordance with the Yuba County Municipal Code Section 8.20.30, construction equipment would not be used between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m., seven days per week.

The construction method used for future individual broadband projects would be determined based on the location, micro-site conditions, and constraints that may be present at an individual project site (e.g., size of road shoulder, water crossing, sensitive habitat, cultural resources, locations of existing buried utilities, etc.). Trees and other vegetation may be growing in road shoulders or otherwise along individual broadband project alignments that could interfere with construction and would require removal. Standard approved hazardous materials (e.g., gasoline, oils, solvents, etc.) may be used during construction activities. If any existing wood utility poles are removed to accommodate installation, the poles would be properly disposed of as treated wood waste. For construction activities involving excavation, the excavated material would typically be re-used as fill material. In some cases, new fill material could be needed, and the specific amount would depend on the type and location of the construction activities.

The construction methods for future individual broadband projects would be determined based on various factors such as location, micro-site conditions, and constraints present at each future individual broadband project site. These methods include horizontal directional drilling, plowing, trenching, and microtrenching. Horizontal directional drilling involves drilling a pilot bore string towards existing access points, then attaching the conduit and pulling it back to install it. Temporary work areas would be

established at the entry and exit pits for the bore rig and installation of access vaults. A plowing technique could be used in unpaved areas, where a vibratory cable plow incises the soil and lays the conduits simultaneously. Tracked vehicles are typically used for plowing, and the disturbance caused by the plow is usually restored within two days. In wet or soft conditions, a specialized "spider plow" may be used to minimize disturbance. Trenching would be employed in areas where plowing is unsuitable, typically due to rocky soil or existing underground infrastructure. A backhoe or similar equipment would create a trench of varying width and depth, and the conduit would be placed at the bottom before backfilling and compacting the trench. In narrow or sensitive areas, pavement cutting, and narrow trenching may be necessary, with slurry backfilling and repaving. Microtrenching is an option for paved areas or sidewalks, involving a narrow excavation trench that is backfilled with slurry or cement and sealed with grout, epoxy, or other sealer.

Once the conduit system is in place, the fiber optic line or microducts would be installed by pulling or blowing them into the conduits. Compressed air or hydraulic pullers would be used for the installation, ensuring smooth pulling within specified tension limits. A pull line would be attached to a plug pushed through the conduit, and then the pull line would be pulled back, threading the fiber optic line through the conduit. Tension limiters and monitors would be used to record the pulling tensions encountered. To facilitate fiber installation, temporary assist points may be excavated if there is damage to the conduit. Access vaults, also known as handholes or pull boxes, could be placed along the alignment to allow for fiber optic line-splicing locations and future access to the buried conduits. Each vault would typically house a length of line slack and would be equipped with a traffic-bearing cover. These vaults would be installed as the final step in the horizontal directional drill process, usually in the same excavations used for drill entry and exit points. In areas where trenching is challenging or topography is extreme, aerial stringing could be used, utilizing existing utility poles, or installing new poles. Guy wires may be used for additional stability, and self-supporting poles may be used where guy wires are not feasible or burying the pole base is not possible.

Staging Areas and Equipment

Staging areas would be established along public roadways or other existing disturbed areas along construction routes in the County. If it is not possible to locate staging areas along roadways due to narrow roads or other constraints, the contractor would locate staging areas and equipment lay-down areas and storage areas in paved or graveled yards or other existing disturbed areas as close to the construction areas as possible. The exact locations of construction staging areas and equipment lay-down areas have not been determined and will be identified as part of the final construction plans for the proposed individual broadband projects. Locations would be selected by construction companies that would be awarded contracts for construction of individual segments. Crews would be mobilized from staging areas with no refueling occurring in the field. Any construction work, including use of staging areas, within County ROWs would be required to obtain an encroachment permit from Yuba County Public Works Department. Each individual broadband project that requires an encroachment permit would be required to employ standard traffic control measures, as documented in a Traffic Control Plan submitted for review and approval by the Yuba County Public Works Department.

The types of construction vehicles and equipment that would be used during construction would vary depending on the type of installation occurring at any given location. In general, there would be five different construction activity types that could be conducted: trenching, directional drilling, fiber blowing, aerial fiber installation, and fiber splicing. The types of equipment that would be used include pickup/utility trucks, plows, trenchers, jackhammers, cutting blades, excavators with a rock saw or rock breaker, dump trucks, backhoes, boring rigs, and bucket trucks (for aerial installation). It is assumed that all locations of fiber installation are accessible by trucks and other construction equipment and that

helicopter use would not be required. The types of equipment needed for a given project would vary depending on construction methods and site conditions.

Project Operations

Operational activities for individual broadband projects would be limited to routine maintenance and emergency repairs. Infrastructure such as circuit cabinets with cooling fans and/or stand-by generators associated with individual broadband projects may be routinely checked, as needed.

3.3 No Action Alternative

Section 1502.14(d) of NEPA requires the analysis of a No Action Alternative. Analysis of the no action alternative provides a benchmark, enabling decision makers to compare the magnitude of the environmental effects to the proposed action or alternatives. No action means that an action would not take place, and the resulting environmental effects from taking no action would be compared with the effects of allowing the proposed activity to go forward. Under the No Action Alternative, broadband infrastructure in Yuba County would remain in its existing condition. None of the impacts associated with construction and operational activities would occur if the No Action Alternative was selected. However, under the No Action Alternative, broadband availability would not be expanded in Yuba County, and many unincorporated communities in the County would continue to lack access to a critical utility.

3.4 Alternatives

Alternative 1: Aerial Installation Only Alternative

This alternative would include only individual broadband projects that install aboveground fiber optic line that would utilize new or existing utility poles. No underground fiber optic line or new conduit would be installed under this alternative. This alternative was considered because it would avoid or reduce potential impacts that may be associated with underground installation of new fiber optic line or new conduit, such as construction impacts associated with horizontal directional drilling, plowing, trenching, micro trenching, line installation, and/or pavement repair. Some areas of the County are known to contain naturally occurring asbestos (NOA); the minimized ground disturbance under aerial installation methods may reduce the potential risk of exposure to hazardous materials. The aerial installation of fiber optic line would also be more feasible for long distance connections, such as in rural areas of the County.

However, the addition of new utility poles may not be feasible in some locations in the County due to the existing terrain and rocky subsurface conditions that would make it nearly impossible to reach the boring depth required for utility poles, which would leave service gaps in those locations. Further, aerial installation may not be feasible in some densely forested and mountainous areas of the County, which may prevent the aerial stringing of fiber optic line or the installation of new utility poles. Aerial fiber optic line also typically requires more frequent maintenance, as compared to underground fiber optic line or conduit. Additionally, this alternative may result in increased impacts to aesthetics and visual resources associated with the construction of new utility poles within the viewshed of scenic vistas or State Route (SR) 49, which is an eligible State Scenic Highway within the County.

Alternative 2: Underground Installation Only Alternative

The Underground Installation Only Alternative would include individual broadband projects that would only install underground fiber optic lines and would utilize new or existing underground conduit. No aboveground fiber optic line or new utility poles would be installed under this alternative. This alternative was considered because it would avoid or reduce potential impacts that would be associated with aboveground installation methods for fiber optic line, including impacts to aesthetics and visual resources associated with the construction of new utility poles within the viewsheds of scenic vistas or SR 49, which is an eligible State Scenic Highway within the County. Additionally, this alternative would be more feasible in certain areas of the County, such as densely forested or mountainous areas that would prevent the aerial stringing of fiber optic line or the installation of new utility poles. Lastly, the underground installation of fiber optic line typically requires less frequent maintenance due to fewer disturbances as compared to aerial fiber optic line.

However, the installation of underground fiber optic lines typically requires more ground disturbance and longer construction periods as compared to aerial installation. Increased construction-related impacts could occur due to the increased ground disturbance required for installation, including horizontal directional drilling, plowing, trenching, micro trenching, and line installation. Under this alternative, underground fiber optic lines could be constructed in areas that have existing buried utilities that could contain hazardous waste. Additionally, some areas of the County are known to contain NOA; the increased ground disturbance resulting from underground installation methods may increase the risk of exposure to hazardous materials including but not limited to NOA. Depending on the prevailing terrain and geological conditions, including bedrock near the surface, it may not be feasible to install underground infrastructure in some parts of the County.

Alternative 3: Use of Existing Infrastructure Alternative

The Use of Existing Infrastructure Alternative would include individual broadband projects that install fiber optic line in existing fiber-specific conduit or along existing utility poles. Under this alternative, no new utility poles or underground conduit would be installed. This alternative was considered because it would avoid or reduce most impacts associated with the Proposed Action, as outlined in this EA, as fewer individual broadband projects would be implemented, and therefore less construction and ground disturbance would occur. This alternative would avoid impacts to aesthetic resources, because the stringing of aerial fiber optic line would occur along existing utility poles, which would not introduce new visible features within the viewshed of scenic vistas or eligible State Scenic Highways in the County. However, this alternative would not meet the basic project objectives associated with providing a reliable system of broadband communications in Yuba County, because it would not provide for the expansion of broadband infrastructure into portions of the service area that do not already include sufficient conduit, utility poles, and supporting infrastructure.

Alternative Selected

While all four alternatives were considered, the Proposed Action was selected because it would involve fewer infrastructure constraints, expand broadband opportunities to a greater area of the County, and fulfill the requirements of the grant.

3.5 Alternatives Considered but Eliminated from Further Discussion

No additional alternatives were considered. This section is not applicable.

4.0 Description of the Affected Environment

4.1 Noise

The County's major transportation corridors are a primary existing source of noise. This includes State Route (SR) 20, SR 65, and SR 70, major County roads, and two railroad lines operated by Union Pacific Railroad. The County also includes several ongoing stationary noise sources, including quarries and mining operations, manufacturing operations, agricultural operations, Marysville Raceway Park, Ostrom Road Landfill, Sleep Train Amphitheater, a concrete plant, Beale Air Force Base, and the County's airports. In addition to the noise contours surrounding the County's major noise sources, ambient noise levels throughout the County were evaluated in a community noise survey conducted to support the County General Plan. Noise level allowances for various types of land uses reflect the varying noise sensitivities associated with those uses. Noise-sensitive land uses (NSLU) include but are not limited to residential development, schools, hospitals, convalescent homes, churches, libraries, or similar facilities where quiet is an important attribute of the environment.

4.2 Air Quality

Yuba County which is situated within the northern subarea of the Sacramento Valley Air Basin. The Northern Sacramento Valley Air Basin (NSVAB) also includes Butte, Colusa, Glenn, Sacramento, Shasta, Sutter, and Tehama counties, and is comprised of seven air districts. Air quality within the Yuba County portion of the NSVAB is regulated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) at the federal level, by the California Air Resources Board (CARB) at the State level, and by the Feather River Air Quality Management District (FRAQMD). Local control in air quality management from the CARB is provided through county or regional level air pollution control districts. The County is located within the FRAQMD, a bi-county district that attains and maintains air quality conditions for Sutter and Yuba counties. The FRAQMD is responsible for enforcing the standards discussed above under the Federal and State Regulations, and regulating stationary sources, while the CARB is responsible for controlling mobile emission sources.

Ambient air quality standards have been established to represent the levels of air quality considered sufficient, with an adequate margin of safety, to protect public health and welfare. They are designed to protect that segment of the public most susceptible to respiratory distress, known as sensitive receptors, such as children under the age of 14, the elderly over 65 years old, persons engaged in strenuous work or exercise, and people with cardiovascular and chronic respiratory diseases. Some land uses are considered more sensitive to air pollution than others due to the types of population groups or activities involved and are referred to as sensitive receptors locations. Examples of these sensitive receptor locations are residences, schools, hospitals, and daycare centers which are located throughout the County.

In accordance with Executive Order 13990, this EA also takes into consideration the potential emissions of greenhouse gases (GHG).

4.3 Geology and Soils

Yuba County is located within the Central Valley Geomorphic Province, which encompasses the Sacramento and San Joaquin valleys. This province is an alluvial plain approximately 50 miles wide and 400 miles long, stretching from Redding to just south of Bakersfield. Yuba County's landscape varies from the Feather River valley to the west upward through the rolling foothills region in the central part of the County, into the Sierra Nevada in the eastern third of the County. Elevation in the County ranges from about 20 feet above mean sea level (amsl) along the Feather River to approximately 4,825 feet

amsl in the northeastern corner of the County. The County is located within an area of California with relatively low seismic activity, where damaging earthquakes are rare. Faults in Yuba County include primarily inactive faults of the Foothills Fault System, which is a complex, braided system of individual fault segments that extends for approximately 200 miles from Mariposa in the south to Lake Almanor in the north. Within Yuba County, the Foothills Fault System runs south-southeastward across the central portion of the County near Loma Rica, Browns Valley, and Smartsville. Most of the faults within the Foothill System have moved between 700,000 and 10,000 years ago (County 2011).

Several faults that have experienced displacement within the past 10,000 years are located within a 60-mile radius of the County, including the Cleveland Hill Fault in south Butte County near Oroville Dam in 1975, the Dog Valley Fault northeast of Truckee in 1966, and the Warm Springs Valley Fault between Doyle and Calneva in 1950. Other faults with movement during the Holocene (less than 10,000 years ago) include the Dunnigan Hills Fault between Dunnigan and Zamora, the Hunting Creek Fault (north of Lake Berryessa), faults on the south end of Clear Lake, the Indian Valley Fault southeast of Lake Almanor, and the North Tahoe Fault in Lake Tahoe (County 2011). According to the Department of Conservation (DOC) – California Geological Survey’s Earthquake Zones of Required Investigation, Yuba County is not within a mapped Alquist-Priolo Fault Zone. Further, the County is not mapped in a State-designated area where strong seismic ground shaking, or secondary seismic events such as liquefaction, landslides, or seiche are likely to occur (DOC 2025a).

The County consists primarily of areas of slight erosion hazard, which are concentrated in the western portion of the County. Areas that have erosion hazards with moderate to very severe potential are located in the foothill and mountain areas in the central and eastern part of the County. Areas with the most severe erosion hazards include the Yuba River and North Yuba River valleys upstream from Smartsville. Expansive or shrink-swell soils contain significant amounts of clay minerals that swell when wet and shrink when dry. These clays tend to swell despite the heavy loads imposed by large structures. Damage such as cracking of foundations results from differential movement and from the repetition of the shrink-swell cycle. The majority of the soils in the County have a low shrink-swell potential. Soils that have high shrink-swell potential are more common on the western end of the County, with some soils having moderate shrink-swell potential also located in valleys in the easternmost part of the County (County 2011).

A paleontologically important rock unit is one that has a high potential paleontological productivity rating and is known to have produced unique, scientifically important fossils. There are no recorded vertebrate fossil sites within Yuba County; however, Pleistocene-age vertebrate fossils have been recorded west of Yuba County in several localities within Sutter County, including the Sutter Buttes, and several localities in Yolo County and the City of Sacramento have yielded Rancholabrean-age fossils (County 2011).

Typically, agricultural land is considered under CEQA in terms of its designation as Important Farmland under the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program (FMMP), which is maintained by the California Department of Conservation (DOC). According to the FMMP 2018-2020 Land Use Conversion Report, there were 82,795 acres of Important Farmland within the County in 2020, which includes 38,969 acres of Prime Farmland; 33,300 acres of Unique Farmland; and 10,526 acres of Farmland of Statewide Importance (DOC 2020). Important Farmland is generally concentrated in the western portion of the County, with the rest of the County comprised of primarily Grazing Land and Other Land (DOC 2025b).

4.4 Water Resources

4.4.1 Surface Water (i.e., Lakes and Rivers)

Surface water in Yuba County includes rivers, streams, reservoirs, and human-made waterways. The primary drainages in Yuba County are the Bear River; North, Middle, and mainstem Yuba Rivers; Dry Creek; Honcut and South Honcut Creeks; and Feather River. Major reservoirs include Englebright, Merle Collins, New Bullards Bar, and Camp Far West. The Yuba River drains approximately one-third of the higher elevations of the County. Jack-Simmerly Slough and South Honcut Creek drain the northern area, and the Bear River drains the southern portion of the County via the Western Pacific Interceptor Canal. The major reservoirs are New Bullards Bar Reservoir on the North Yuba River, Camp Far West on the Bear River, Englebright Reservoir on the Yuba River, Merle Collins Reservoir on Dry Creek, and Lake Francis Reservoir (County 2011).

4.4.2 Groundwater

Groundwater in the foothill and mountain areas of Yuba County is not well defined. The valley floor is underlain by an alluvial aquifer system that contains significant quantities of groundwater, while the foothill and mountain areas are underlain by a fractured rock aquifer. This fractured rock is considered the dominant controlling factor for the occurrence of groundwater in these areas. Wells within the foothill and mountain areas yield low to moderate flows adequate for domestic purposes, but marginal for farming, ranching, or industrial uses. In addition to the alluvial groundwater basins found in the western portion of the County, the foothill area has limited availability of groundwater, due to the poorly understood nature of the fractured granite formations that make up the Sierra Nevada Range. Hardrock systems in the area prevent water from penetrating the rocks, so water can only enter at joints and fractures. Groundwater may be stored in limited amounts in these fractures and in small alluvial deposits located adjacent to local mountain streams. However, these areas of groundwater are not easily delineated or reliable. Groundwater recharge becomes limited in urban areas with paved or impermeable surfaces, since water can no longer filter through sediment (County 2011).

Groundwater in the County is divided into two subbasins of the larger Sacramento Valley Groundwater Basin: the North Yuba Subbasin and the South Yuba Subbasin. Overall, these two subbasins cover approximately 270 square miles. One principal aquifer exists across the Yuba Subbasins, which consists of the Riverbank, Laguna, and Mehrten formations deposited during the Miocene and Pliocene Epochs. There are no known structural properties, such as faults, that significantly restrict groundwater flow within the Yuba Subbasins. Groundwater levels in the North Yuba Subbasin have been generally stable for at least 70 years. Groundwater levels in the South Yuba Subbasin were generally declining from the 1940s through the early 1980s, but have recovered since the introduction of surface water deliveries to the subbasin in 1983. Groundwater conditions are regularly reported in Yuba County Water Agency's annual Monitoring and Measurement Reports (County 2019).

4.4.3 Coastal Zone, Estuary, and Inter-tidal Areas

Yuba County is not in a coastal area and is separated from the Pacific Ocean by approximately 125 miles. This section is not applicable.

4.4.4 Flood Plains

Flood conditions in the County are primarily caused by backwater resulting from high stages (water levels) on the Feather River. These conditions are particularly severe south of the City of Marysville when high stages on the Feather River combine with high Bear River flows to restrict outflows from the Western Pacific Interceptor Canal, causing flooding in the Plumas Lake area and lower areas of Olivehurst. The areas that are prone to flooding, as defined by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) 100-year flood zones, are primarily located in the western portion of the County, with

one area situated in the central portion of the County near Lake Collins and Oregon House. Historically, flooding occurred in the 1900s on the Feather and Yuba Rivers as a result of levee failure. The Three Rivers Levee Improvement Authority (TRLIA) was subsequently created to finance and construct levee improvements designed to protect developed and developing portions of south Yuba County from flooding from the Yuba, Feather, and Bear rivers and the Western Pacific Interceptor Canal (County 2011).

4.4.5 Wild and Scenic Rivers

According to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, there are no designated Wild and Scenic Rivers in Yuba County (NWSRS 2025). This section is not applicable.

4.5 Biological Resources

Biological communities within the County broadly include aquatic, herbaceous, shrub, and forest and woodland habitats, as well as developed and non-vegetated lands. These broadly classified communities are further expanded into 29 California Wildlife Habitat Relationships System (CWHR) habitat types within the County, which are displayed in Figure 3, Biological Communities. Table 2, Biological Communities in Yuba County, provides acreages of each habitat type mapped within the County.

Table 2: Biological Communities in Yuba County

Habitat Type ¹	Acres in Yuba County ²
Developed and Vegetated Habitats	
Barren	7,145
Cropland	2,438
Deciduous Orchard	35,263
Irrigated Row and Field Crops	3,124
Pasture	24,368
Rice	37,913
Urban	10,568
Aquatic habitats	
Fresh Emergent Wetland	594
Lacustrine	8,767
Riverine	1,900
Wet meadow	9
Herbaceous Habitats	
Annual Grassland	58,085
Perennial Grassland	3
Shrub Habitats	
Mixed Chaparral	1,863
Montane Chaparral	624
Forest and Woodland Habitats	
Aspen	10
Blue Oak Woodland	46,263
Blue Oak-Foothill Pine	3,291
Closed-Cone Pine-Cypress	74
Douglas Fir	70
Montane Hardwood	39,115
Montane Hardwood-Conifer	16,775
Montane Riparian	287

Habitat Type ¹	Acres in Yuba County ²
Ponderosa Pine	14,285
Sierran Mixed Conifer	61,495
Valley Oak Woodland	1,401
Valley Foothill Riparian	3,265
White Fir	248

¹ Habitat type classification is based on the CDFW CWHR (Mayer and Laudenslayer 1988).

² Acreage values are rounded to the nearest whole number.

4.5.1 Threatened and Endangered Species

A total of 25 regionally occurring special-status plant species and 29 special-status wildlife species are either known to occur or have the potential to occur in Yuba County and the vicinity. Based on published information and literature review, 54 species have potential to occur within Yuba County. Within Yuba County, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) has mapped two final designated critical habitats for vernal pool tadpole shrimp (*Lepidurus Packardii*) and California red-legged frog (*Rana Draytonii*). Additionally, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) Mapper has EFH for chinook salmon (*Onchorhynchus tshawytscha*) for three different watersheds within Yuba County. EFH for chinook salmon has been mapped in the Honcut Headwaters-Lower Feather watershed (18020159), the Upper Yuba watershed (18020125), and the Upper Bear-Below Camp Far West watershed (18020126).

4.5.2 Critical or Threatened/Endangered Habitat

Wildlife corridors link areas of suitable wildlife habitat that are otherwise separated by rugged terrain, changes in vegetation, and/or human disturbance. This fragmentation of habitat can also occur when a portion of one or more habitats is converted into another habitat; for instance, when woodland or scrub habitat is altered or converted into grasslands after a disturbance such as fire, mudslide, or construction activities. Wildlife corridors mitigate the effects of this fragmentation by: (1) allowing animals to move between remaining habitats, thereby permitting depleted populations to be replenished and promoting genetic exchange; (2) providing escape routes from fire, predators, and human disturbances, thus reducing the risk of catastrophic events (such as wildfire or disease) on population or local species extinction; and, (3) serving as travel routes for individual animals as they move within their home ranges in search of food, water, mates, and other needs. Some areas along the northern and southwestern boundary of the County are mapped as Essential Connectivity Areas (ECA) by the California Essential Habitat Connectivity Project. Other wildlife movement corridors are likely present throughout the Proposed Action area, such as riparian areas, drainages, and/or contiguous vegetated areas. These potential corridors would need to be evaluated on a site-specific level to determine the presence or absence within the Proposed Action area.

4.5.3 Wetland Habitats

Sensitive natural communities, such as wetlands and other waters of the U.S. and State, are present within Yuba County and have potential of being within the footprint of the proposed broadband infrastructure given the numerous stream crossings present along public ROWs. Other sensitive natural communities within the County may include riparian areas oak woodland, and other terrestrial habitats deemed sensitive by the County.

4.6 Historic and Cultural Resources

Cultural resources encompass archaeological, Native American, traditional, and built environment resources, including but not necessarily limited to buildings, structures, objects, districts, and sites. Cultural resources can be categorized into pre- and post-contact resources. Precontact resources represent the remains of human occupation associated with indigenous, non-Euroamerican populations, generally prior to contact with people of European descent. Historic, or post-contact, resources include structures, features, artifacts, and sites that date from Euroamerican settlement of the region.

Yuba County contains many documented historic and prehistoric cultural resources, including historic sites associated with past mining activities. Overall, 2,876 cultural resource sites were identified in the studies used to compile the General Plan Cultural Resources Background Report. Of these, 1,032 sites were prehistoric sites, 925 were related to mining activities, 888 were designated as Other Historic Sites, and 31 were combined prehistoric and historic sites. Overall sensitivity for prehistoric cultural resources is related to areas that have been subject to survey, as well as waterways throughout the County. The types of prehistoric sites observed within the County include bedrock mortars where acorns were ground into flour; occupation sites where people may have lived; and traditional cultural areas such as gathering sites, mythical sites, and religious sites. Historic sites include mining sites like open pits, shafts, adits, tailings, ditches, sluice boxes, etc.; and historic structures or properties such as ranches, farms, cabins, houses, cemeteries, walls and fences, etc. (County 2011).

4.7 Aesthetic and Visual Resources

The visual environment of Yuba County is characterized by a diverse landscape with rivers, farmland, and numerous recreational possibilities that extend into the Sierra foothills (County 2024). From the valley floor, there are views of the expanses of agricultural lands crossed by rivers and canals and the Sierra Nevada foothills to the east. The mountainous areas provide scenic views of peaks, forests, rivers, and lakes, while the most prominent scenic vista in the County is experienced from the foothills: along east-west highways and roads where there are sweeping views of the valley below, with distant views of the Sutter Buttes. SR 20, Hammonton-Smartsville Road, and other roadways in the foothills provide views of the Valley and Sutter Buttes. Although the Sutter Buttes are located in Sutter County west of Yuba County, this mountain range is a distinctive visual feature visible from many developed and undeveloped areas of the County, including both valley and foothill areas (County 2011). From certain public viewpoints in foothill and mountain areas, there are distant views of the valley floor below, with the Sutter Buttes in the distance, and on clear days, the Coastal Range is visible further to the west, as are the Cascade mountain range, Mt. Lassen, and Mt. Shasta to the north. Local-scale scenic views of the Feather, Yuba, and Bear rivers occur at bridge crossings and where roads parallel these rivers.

Although the County does not currently have any officially designated State Scenic Highways, a portion of SR 49 in the eastern portion of the county east of the New Bullards Bar reservoir is eligible for designation as State Scenic Highways (Caltrans 2025). SR 49 is known as the Golden Chain Highway and was designed to connect historical locations and landmarks of the California Gold Rush, passing through many historic mining communities and running through Madera, Mariposa, Tuolumne, Calaveras, Amador, El Dorado, Placer, Nevada, Yuba, Sierra, and Plumas counties (Visit California 2025). See Figure 4, State Scenic Highways, for a map of eligible State Scenic Highways within the County.

4.8 Land Use

Agricultural land uses occupy roughly 55 percent of the County's land area and are important to the local economy. Approximately 115,000 acres of land in Yuba County (28 percent) is in use for crops (which includes agricultural and forest lands). Agricultural areas include much of the western quarter of

the County. There are also large areas of forest land located in the eastern one-third of the County. The County contains approximately 70,000 acres of grazing land, about 17 percent of the total County acreage. Public lands include city, County, State, and federally-owned properties, as well as hospitals, rest homes, cemeteries, historical properties, charitable and fraternal organizations, and other non-taxable properties. Approximately 92,000 acres of land (23 percent of the total) are categorized as public lands. The primary blocks of public lands include Beale Air Force Base (AFB), Spenceville Wildlife Refuge, and the Tahoe National Forest.

Residential lands in the County include condos, townhomes, duplexes, triplexes, fourplexes, rural residential dwellings, urban single-family dwellings, mobile homes, and multi-family residential units. Residential development occupies 60,000 acres (15 percent) of the County's total land area. Single-family residential areas are concentrated in Linda, Olivehurst, and the Plumas Lake development project area, with scattered parcels in foothill and upcountry community plan areas. Condominium and townhomes, duplex and triplex units, and multifamily residential dwellings are focused in developed areas within the valley portion of the County. Commercial and industrial lands occupy roughly 1,300 acres (less than 1 percent) of the County's total land area. Commercial properties are located primarily along highways and major roadways. Community and regional retail lands are generally located next to SR 65 and SR 70, particularly in Linda. Industrial lands are mostly along railroad lines and around the Yuba County Airport (County 2011).

4.9 Infrastructure

Surface water supplies in Yuba County are managed by the Yuba County Water Agency (YCWA) and a number of other entities. YCWA was formed as an independent special district to provide wholesale water and flood control services to Yuba County. It does not provide water directly to users, but it provides wholesale water service to its member units: South Yuba Water District (SYWD); Dry Creek Mutual Water Company; Brophy Water District; Cordua Irrigation District; Hallwood Irrigation Company; Ramirez Water District; Browns Valley Irrigation District (BVID); and Wheatland Water District. YCWA and its constituent members manage surface water supplies within the County. There are 11 State-regulated wastewater treatment facilities in Yuba County, including facilities operated by Olivehurst Public Utilities District, Linda County Water District, River Highlands Community Service District, Beale AFB, and the cities of Marysville and Wheatland. In addition, there are several private sewage systems operated at various facilities throughout the County, including an amphitheater, campgrounds, and mobile home parks. In addition to these larger-scale wastewater treatment facilities, many properties throughout the County, particularly in rural areas, use private septic systems (County 2011).

Yuba County receives electricity and natural gas from Pacific Gas & Electric Company (PG&E). As of 2023, 100 percent of PG&E's electricity is from greenhouse gas-free sources. This includes 34 percent of electricity from renewable resources, including solar and wind power, small hydroelectric generation and biopower; 53 percent from carbon-free nuclear power generated by Diablo Canyon Power Plant, and 13 percent from large hydroelectric power (PG&E 2024). PG&E operates the Narrows I Powerhouse at Englebright Dam, capable of generating 50 MW of electricity, which is distributed to PG&E customers (County 2011). The YCWA owns four hydroelectric powerhouses on the Yuba River Watershed that generate up to 417 MW of energy, including New Colgate Powerhouse, Narrows I and II Powerhouses, and the New Bullards Bar fish release powerhouse. These facilities are ideally suited to provide carbon-free energy and capacity in support of California's resource needs for a reliable, renewable energy grid, and are a flexible complement to solar and wind power. Additionally, the BVID operates a hydroelectric facility at Virginia Ranch Dam at Collins Reservoir (YCWA 2024).

According to the 2021 Yuba County Strategic Master Broadband Plan, the four largest residential internet service providers (ISPs), by service available to households, in the County are: Comcast, 76 percent of households (cable modem); AT&T, 65 percent of households (DSL, fiber optics, and fixed wireless); Digital Path, 16 percent of households (fixed wireless); and Succeed.Net, 11 percent of households (fixed wireless). Further, 96.3 percent of households have access to two or less ISPs, indicating a non-competitive broadband market in the County (County 2021).

SR 20, SR 49, SR 65, and SR 70 comprise the backbone of Yuba County's regional roadway network and serve the majority of the County's population in the cities of Marysville and Wheatland, and unincorporated areas. Arterials and collectors form the remainder of the County's major roadway system. Arterial roadways include portions of McGowan Parkway, Olivehurst Avenue, River Oaks Boulevard, Erle Road, North Beale Road, Simpson Lane, and Marysville Road. Collector roadways include Feather River Boulevard, Olivehurst Avenue, Plumas Arboga Road, Lindhurst Avenue, Arboga Road, Forty Mile Road, South Beale Road, Spenceville Road, Wheatland Road, Hammonton-Smartville Road, Loma Rica Road, and others. Public transportation in Yuba County is provided by Yuba-Sutter Transit, as well as fixed-route and demand-responsive bus service, park-and-ride lots, taxis, commercial buses, and vans/carpools. The overall bicycle and pedestrian network within Yuba County is intermittent. Due to the rolling terrain and considerable distance between major destinations, the foothills of the County do not have bicycle and pedestrian facilities (County 2011).

4.10 Human Health and Safety

Hazardous materials in Yuba County, California, are regulated through a combination of federal, State, and local regulations to ensure their safe handling, storage, transportation, and disposal. Several agencies and departments play a role in overseeing and enforcing these regulations. At the federal level, the USEPA sets standards and regulations for hazardous materials under various laws, such as the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) and the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA). These regulations govern the proper management, storage, and disposal of hazardous materials and address issues related to hazardous waste, contaminated sites, and emergency response. At the State level, the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) has authority over hazardous materials and hazardous waste management (DTSC 2025). They establish regulations and programs to ensure the safe handling, storage, and disposal of hazardous materials, including requirements for permits, inspections, and reporting. In addition to these regulatory agencies, there are also emergency response teams, such as the local fire department and hazardous materials response teams, that are trained and equipped to handle and mitigate hazardous materials incidents.

Both the USEPA and the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) regulate the overall transportation of hazardous waste and material, including transport via highway and rail. Transportation of hazardous materials on highways falls under federal legislation; however, authority is delegated to various State and local agencies that are focused on specific aspects of hazardous materials and transportation. The Hazardous Waste Control Act establishes the California Department of Health Services (DHS) as the lead agency in charge of the implementation of the RCRA program. State and local agencies such as the California Highway Patrol (CHP), Caltrans, and the County Fire Departments are responsible for the enforcement of State and federal regulations and responding to hazardous materials transporting emergencies. The CHP establishes State and federal hazardous material truck routes and has lead responsibility over hazardous material spills on State highways.

The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) regulates spills, leaks, investigation, and cleanup

sites and maintains an online database, GeoTracker, to provide access to environmental data. The GeoTracker database tracks regulatory data about leaking underground storage tank (LUST) sites, fuel pipelines, and public drinking water supplies and presents it in a geographic information system format (SWRCB 2025). SWRCB's GeoTracker database contains a total of 263 records for Yuba County, including: 113 LUST cleanup sites, 17 Cleanup Program Sites, 16 Land Disposal Sites, one WDR Site, 51 AGLand Domestic Wells, 53 Permitted UST Sites, two Single-Walled UST Sites, six Non-Case Information Sites, and three National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Sites. Of these sites, 29 cases are currently open. Additionally, the database contains a total of 228 records for the Beale AFB, including 41 cases that are currently open. DTSC also maintains a list of cleanup sites and hazardous waste permitted facilities on its EnviroStor database. The EnviroStor database has 59 records for Yuba County, three of which are active. The three active records are within the Beale AFB.

The Yuba County Office of Emergency Services (OES) coordinates all emergency management between public safety and service providers during larger-scale or complex events-- your local law enforcement/fire department handles day-to-day calls. To help prepare the County and other organizations for emergency response, OES also provides planning and training services. During an emergency, the County uses the Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS) and the Incident Command System (ICS) to ensure close coordination between police, fire, military personnel, medical service providers, FEMA, and other agencies. Additionally, the County OES created an Emergency Operations Plan to advise how to evacuate in the event of a wildland fire (County 2015). Hazardous materials sites in Yuba County include sites that use hazardous waste products, such oils, solvents, petroleum products, fertilizers, pesticides, solvents, welding gases, manufacturing/processing chemicals, and products that are flammable, toxic, reactive, or corrosive in significant quantities (County 2011).

Public Resources Code 4201-4204 directs CAL FIRE to map fire hazard within SRA based on fuel loading, slope, fire weather, and other relevant factors present, including areas where winds have been identified by the department as a major cause of wildfire spread. These zones, referred to as Fire Hazard Severity Zones, classify a wildland zone as Moderate, High, or Very High fire hazard based on the average hazard across the area included in the zone. The foothills of western Yuba County are primarily located within LRA. The eastern portion of the County is also primarily located within SRA. In 2023, FHSZs in the SRA were mapped as Moderate, 21,366 acres; High, 69,095 acres; and Very High, 119,276 acres. Other areas in Yuba County are located within FRA, including the Beale Airforce Base and land under the jurisdiction of USFS (CAL FIRE 2023).

There are three airports located in Yuba County: Beale AFB, Yuba County Airport, and Brownsville Aeropines Airport, each governed by an ALUCP. Each ALUCP identifies the decibel-level contours that would affect surrounding land uses during airport operation and designates safety zones in which land uses are restricted to prevent interference with airport operations and ensure the safety of surrounding land uses. Although standards established by the FAA form the basis of the safety and noise restrictions, SACOG, the County's established ALUC, is responsible for adopting and tailoring these standards to the specific airport and for enforcing them.

5.0 Analysis of Environmental Impacts

5.1 Noise

Construction of individual broadband projects would result in a temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels related to construction equipment, activities, and vehicles. Noise impacts from construction activities occurring for each individual broadband project would be dependent on the type,

location, and duration of the noise-generating construction activities, and the distance to noise sensitive land uses. The installation of underground or overhead cables for each individual broadband project would be located within existing County maintained road ROW, public utility easements, and/or overhead public utility easements of record throughout the County. However, the exact alignment of future broadband infrastructure was unknown at the time of this analysis.

Construction noise from the development of individual broadband projects would be temporary and short term as construction occurs intermittently and varies depending on the nature or phase of construction (e.g., horizontal directional drilling, plowing, trenching, microtrenching, line installation, aerial stringing, and pavement repair). Construction equipment would vary by construction method, but the construction process could include operation of the following types of equipment: pickup/utility trucks, horizontal drill rigs, auger drill rigs, cranes, generators, excavators, backhoes, dozers, air compressors, trenchers, concrete saws, vibratory rollers, dump trucks, and man lifts. Because Section 8.20.30 of the Yuba County Code does not restrict evening construction activity (7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.), noise from construction under the Proposed Action would be potentially significant. Mitigation Measure NOI-1 would be implemented to restrict construction activity to daytime hours (7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.). With implementation of Mitigation Measure NOI-1, the Proposed Action would not exceed the applicable County construction noise standards.

Some remote sites could include the use of generators to provide power for emergency communications during power outages. Specific types of generators that would be installed are unknown. A typical backup generator for a communications site is a Polar Power 15-kilowatt diesel- or natural gas-powered generator housed in an enclosure which has a rated sound level of 66.2 dBA measured at 23 feet. Noise from routine maintenance and testing of any project emergency generators would be subject to the County stationary noise standards. Emergency generators are typically run for maintenance and testing for 15 to 30 minutes during daytime hours, several times per month. A generator producing 66.2 dBA for 30 minutes in one hour would result in 63.2 dBA L_{EQ} at a distance of 23 feet. Therefore, project emergency backup generators located within 105 feet of a NSLU would result in stationary source noise exceeding the daytime. Mitigation Measure NOI-2 would require emergency backup generators to be located more than 105 feet from any NSLU or provide sound reduction measures to reduce noise from generators to less than 50 dBA measured at affected NSLUs.

Construction would not require activities known to generate excessive ground-borne vibration, such as pile driving or blasting. A possible source of vibration during general project construction activities would be a vibratory roller used for gravel or pavement compaction. A large vibratory roller can create approximately 0.210 inch per second PPV at 25 feet (Caltrans 2020). Specific locations where vibratory rollers could be used during project construction have not been identified. However, construction vibration impacts would be potentially significant if a vibratory roller were used: within 15 feet of an occupied building (exceeding 0.4 inch per second PPV); within 15 feet of an occupied building (exceeding 0.4 inch per second PPV); within 18 feet of an older residential building; or within 60 feet of a fragile historical building, ruin, or ancient monument.¹ Mitigation Measure NOI-3 would require vibratory rollers to be used in static mode only (no vibrations) in proximity to occupied buildings or fragile structures. Once operation, individual broadband projects would not include significant sources of ground-borne vibration.

Construction would be short-term and temporary. Once operational, individual broadband projects would only require occasional short-term maintenance from employees, and would not expose people

¹ Equipment PPV = Reference PPV * (25/D)ⁿ (in/sec), where Reference PPV is PPV at 25 feet, D is distance from equipment to the receiver in feet, and n = 1.1 (the value related to the attenuation rate through the ground); formula from Caltrans 2020.

residing or working in the Proposed Action area to excessive noise levels from public use airports or private airstrips. With implementation of Mitigation Measures NOI-1 and NOI-2, the Proposed Action would not result in significant effects related to noise.

Mitigation Measure NOI-1: Construction Hours

Construction noise-generating activities shall not occur outside the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. seven days a week within 500 feet of noise sensitive land uses including schools, hospitals, rest homes, long-term care facilities, mental care facilities, and residences. Prior to starting construction activities, the individual broadband project applicant or construction contractor shall post a publicly visible sign at the entrance to the individual fiber project site listing the allowable construction hours and the contact information, including telephone numbers, to report noise violations to the County and the contractor.

Mitigation Measure NOI-2: Backup Generator Noise Control

Prior to approving individual broadband projects that require an emergency back generator, the County shall verify that project plans include the following:

- Where feasible, emergency backup generators shall be installed no closer than 25 feet from any noise sensitive land use (e.g., residences, schools, hospitals, convalescent homes, churches, libraries). If it is not feasible to locate emergency generators 25 feet or more from all NSLUs, the project proponent shall incorporate noise attenuating features (e.g., generator sound enclosures, noise barriers) into the equipment installation sufficient to reduce generator noise levels to 60 dBA L_{EQ} or less measured at outdoor use areas or building edges of the closest NSLU. Noise levels at NSLUs shall be verified by a qualified acoustical professional.

Mitigation Measure NOI-3: Vibratory Roller Use

Prior to issuing individual project construction approvals or permits, the County shall insure that construction documentation includes the following restrictions. Vibratory rollers shall be used in static mode only (no vibrations) within the following distances:

- Within 15 feet of any occupied building; and
- Within 18 feet of any older residential building; and
- Within 60 feet of a fragile historical building, ruin, or ancient monument.

5.2 Air Quality

Consistency with the air quality plan is determined by whether the project would hinder implementation of control measures identified in the air quality plan or would result in growth of population or employment that is not accounted for in local and regional planning. Long-range air quality planning throughout the State is based on population and employment growth assumptions. Implementation of individual broadband projects would not result in an increase in population or employment in the County or region. Therefore, the Proposed Action would be consistent with the growth projections used to develop FRAQMD's air quality plan.

It is likely that construction could simultaneously occur at various individual broadband project sites; however, the daily combined construction emissions would not exceed FRAQMD thresholds. It is

assumed that no more than 10 individual broadband project construction sites would be active at one time. Implementation of broadband infrastructure projects would not result in an increase in traffic on the local roadways within the County such that it would impact the efficiency of roadways and/or intersections. As such, there would be no circumstances in which CO hotspots would occur. Additionally, it is not anticipated that construction would expose sensitive receptors to substantial DPM concentrations due to the highly dispersive nature of DPM and the fact that construction activities at any single location would be short-term and temporary.

Construction of individual broadband projects may require the use of diesel-powered equipment. Diesel exhaust can be a temporary source of odors. Due to the temporary and intermittent nature of construction methods, construction of individual broadband projects would not result in emissions leading to odors that would adversely affect substantial numbers of people. Therefore, broadband infrastructure is not considered to be a typical significant source of objectionable odors. As outlined in FRAQMD Type 1 Standard Best Management Practice (BMP), a Fugitive Dust Control Plan would be required to be implemented. Mitigation Measure AQ-1 would require the preparation of a Fugitive Dust Control Plan, per FRAQMD Rule 3.16 to reduce impacts related to air quality.

Once construction is completed and the individual broadband projects are installed, greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions would be significantly reduced to negligible levels. Therefore, there would be no net change in permanent GHG emissions compared to existing conditions. To use the SMAQMD's land use development project GHG emissions significance criteria, SMAQMD requires all projects to implement the Tier 1 GHG reduction BMPs, regardless of the project's GHG emission levels. Individual broadband projects would not include natural gas appliances or natural gas infrastructure, as required under Tier 1 GHG reduction BMP 1. Additionally, parking spaces would not be constructed. Therefore, Tier 1 GHG reduction BMP 2 to provide electric vehicle charging infrastructure per CALGreen Tier 2 would not be applicable. Additionally, as operation would not exceed the 1,100 MT CO₂e per year operational GHG screening level, implementation of Tier 2 BMPs is not required.

The annual construction emissions would not exceed SMAQMD's construction GHG threshold. Additionally, implementation of individual broadband projects would not generate operational GHG emissions that may have a significant impact on the environment. Therefore, the Proposed Action would be consistent with the County General Plan and would not conflict with an applicable plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of GHGs. In conclusion, the Proposed Action would not result in a significant effect related to air quality or GHGs.

Mitigation Measure AQ-1: Prepare a Fugitive Dust Mitigation Plan

The applicant of an individual broadband project, or their designated contractor, shall implement the following fugitive dust control measures.

1. Submit the Feather River Air Quality Management District (FRAQMD) Fugitive Dust Control Plan form to the FRAQMD.
2. Construction equipment exhaust emissions shall not exceed FRAQMD Regulation III, Rule 3.0, Visible Emissions limitation (40 percent opacity or Ringelmann 2.0)
3. The contractor shall be responsible to ensure that all construction equipment is properly tuned and maintained prior to and for the duration of onsite operation

4. Limit idling time to 5 minutes – saves fuel and reduces emission. (State idling rule: commercial diesel vehicles- 13 CCR Chapter 10 Section 2485; off road diesel vehicles- 13 CCR Chapter 9 Article 4.8 Section 2449)
5. Utilize existing power sources (e.g., power poles) or clean fuel generators rather than temporary power generators.
6. Develop a traffic plan to minimize traffic flow interference from construction activities. The plan may include advance public notice of routing, use of public transportation, and satellite parking areas with a shuttle service. Schedule operations affecting traffic for off-peak hours. Minimize obstruction of through-traffic lanes. Provide a flag person to guide traffic properly and ensure safety at construction sites.
7. Portable engines and portable engine-driven equipment units used at the project work site, with the exception of on-road and off-road motor vehicles, may require California Air Resources Board (CARB) Portable Equipment Registration with the State or a local district permit. The owner/operator shall be responsible for arranging appropriate consultations with CARB or the FRAQMD to determine registration and permitting requirements prior to equipment operation at the site.

5.3 Geology and Soils

There is a low probability of secondary seismic events in the County. Since landslides and liquefaction would be most likely to occur during or following an earthquake and as severe earthquake risk is deemed to be low, the risk and danger of liquefaction occurring within the County is also low. Subsidence potential is also known to be minimal throughout the County and most likely to occur in areas where substantial underground mining activity has occurred. However, new development within the County would be required by law to conform to the California Building Code (CBC). The Yuba County Building Department ensures that all new construction complies with current codes and ordinances regarding earthquake safety. Proper engineering, including compliance with the CBC, would minimize the risk to life and property. The proposed broadband infrastructure would be installed primarily within existing County-maintained roads and ROW, public utility easements, and/or existing overhead public utility easements of record throughout the County. As fiber optic lines and/or utility poles would be located primarily in road shoulders, the risk of localized ground failure is assumed to have already been minimized through previous grading, compaction, and use of engineered fills. Further, design and construction of individual broadband projects would be required to comply with the CBC and other applicable engineering specifications and grading regulations that would further reduce the potential for adverse effects due to seismic events or landslides.

Individual broadband projects would be subject to the CBC Section 1808.6, which requires design features for foundations of buildings and structures in areas subject to expansive soils. Prior to construction of broadband infrastructure, a preliminary soils report would be required to be prepared and the potential for expansive soil to occur on the project site would be analyzed. If the preliminary soils report indicates the presence of critically expansive soils or other soil problems that would lead to structural defects, a soils investigation of each individual broadband project area would be required. In addition, any individual broadband projects that disturb over one acre of soil would be required to comply with the California Construction General Permit Order 2009-0009-DWQ (as amended by 2010-0014-DWQ and 2012-0006-DWQ), which requires implementation of a SWPPP and specific BMPs to prevent erosion. Typical erosion-prevention measures such as silt fences, stakes straw bales/wattles, silt/sediment basins and traps, check dams, geofabric, sandbag dikes, and temporary revegetation or

other ground cover would be used to minimize erosion impacts. Therefore, with adherence to existing regulations including CBC requirements and preparation of a SWPPP, the Proposed Action would not result in significant effects related to geology and soils.

5.4 Water Resources

Site clearing, grading, excavation, and construction activities have the potential to impact water quality through soil erosion and increased silt and debris discharged via surface runoff. Additionally, the use of construction materials such as fuels, solvents, and paints may present a risk to surface water quality. Temporary storage of construction materials and equipment in work areas or staging areas could create the potential for a release of hazardous materials, trash, or sediment to the storm drain system. Projects that would result in disturbance of an area greater than one acre would be required to enroll for coverage under the Storm Water Construction General Permit (Construction General Permit) for the NPDES program. The Construction General Permit requires that a project specific SWPPP be prepared and BMPs be implemented during construction of individual broadband projects. Typical BMPs would include diversion of runoff from disturbed areas, protective measures for sensitive areas, temporary soil stabilization measures, storm water runoff quality control measures, concrete waste management, watering for dust control, and installation of perimeter silt fences, as needed. All construction areas would be cleared after construction to ensure all debris is removed.

Construction of individual broadband projects could involve minor use of water for dust control, which would be readily available from existing sources. Operation of the fiber optic facilities would not require additional water supplies as no population would be generated. Additionally, once individual broadband projects are constructed, they would require occasional operational maintenance needs that would not exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems. As individual broadband projects would be constructed primarily within existing County maintained ROW, public utility easements, and/or overhead public utility easements of record throughout the County, it is not likely that individual broadband projects would substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding. After subsurface installation of fiber optic lines and/or conduit, any trenches or pits would be backfilled to pre-disturbance conditions.

Groundwater resources would be managed in a manner consistent with the SGMA which provides guidance for sustainable groundwater management, including BMPs. Construction of individual broadband projects could involve minor use of water for dust control, which would be readily available from existing sources. Operation of the fiber optic facilities would not require additional water supplies as no population would be generated. Therefore, the Proposed Action would not result in significant effects related to water resources in the County.

5.5 Biological Resources

As individual broadband projects would be located primarily within previously disturbed and/or developed areas (e.g., in ROW or public utility easement), it is unlikely that the Proposed Action would result in a substantial adverse effect on special-status species or their associated habitats, including USFWS designated critical habitats and/or NMFS essential fish habitat. However, individual broadband projects would be required to prepare a biological resources assessment (BRA) that would assess the potential for occurrence and impacts to special-status species on the individual project site, as outlined in Mitigation Measure BIO-1. If it is determined in the BRA that there is the potential for impacts to special-status species, applicable mitigation and/or avoidance measures detailed in Mitigation Measures BIO-2 through BIO-7 shall be included in the project-specific BRA as required by Mitigation Measure BIO-

1.

Sensitive natural communities may include, but are not limited to, aquatic resources under federal and/or State jurisdiction, riparian habitats, and oak woodlands. If sensitive natural communities would be impacted by implementation of individual broadband projects, then adverse impacts to biological resources would occur. However, with the implementation of Mitigation Measures BIO-8 and BIO-9 potential impacts to jurisdictional waters, wetlands, sensitive natural communities, and/or oak resources would be reduced. Additionally, potential impacts to State or federally protected aquatic resources would be addressed by avoidance and/or mitigation measures stipulated by regulatory permits as required by Mitigation Measure BIO-8. If it is determined during the biological resources assessment that a project will result in impacts to oak resources, then the County may require mitigation for impacts to oak resources or regulated individual oak trees, as stipulated in Mitigation Measure BIO-9.

Some areas along the Northern and Eastern boundary of the County are mapped as Essential Connectivity Areas (ECA) by the California Essential Habitat Connectivity Project. However, Yuba County is a rural county that currently provides extensive open, dispersal habitat for wildlife movement in the Proposed Action area. Additionally, the Proposed Action would install fiber optic conduit underground, aboveground on overhead pole lines, or a combination of both, which would minimize impacts to wildlife corridors. Implementation of the Proposed Action is unlikely to substantially interfere with the movement of wildlife corridors; however, potential impacts to the movement of native resident wildlife species or wildlife corridors would be addressed in the project-specific BRA to be prepared as required by Mitigation Measure BIO-1 and in the species-specific avoidance measures described in Mitigation Measures BIO-2 through BIO-7. Therefore, with implementation of Mitigation Measures BIO-1 through BIO-9, the Proposed Action would not result in substantial adverse effects on biological resources.

Mitigation Measure BIO-1: Prepare a Site-Specific Biological Resources Assessment

Prior to approval of an individual broadband project, the project applicant shall retain a qualified biologist to prepare a project-specific Biological Resources Assessment (BRA). The project-specific BRA shall consist of a data review and reconnaissance-level surveys prior to project implementation. It will include review of the best available, current data for the area, including vegetation mapping data, species' distribution/range information, CNDDDB, California Native Plant Society (CNPS) Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants of California, relevant BIOS queries, USFWS and NMFS database queries, and relevant general and regional plans. Reconnaissance-level biological surveys will include general surveys and habitat assessments of project areas and appropriate survey buffers for sensitive and special-status biological resources. The qualified surveyor will 1) identify and document sensitive resources, such as riparian communities, wetlands, oak woodlands, or other sensitive habitats or designated sensitive natural communities or wildlife nursery sites or habitat, and 2) assess the suitability of habitat within the project area to support special-status plant and animal species. The surveyor will also record any incidental wildlife observations.

The project-specific BRA shall also include an analysis of potential impacts on biological resources, and if it is determined that special-status species are present within or adjacent to the project area or have the potential to occur within a project area, then the appropriate mitigation measures described below in Mitigation Measures BIO-2 through BIO-9 shall be included in the document to avoid and/or reduce potential impacts as applicable. Potential measures for special-status species may include, but are not limited to, protocol-level surveys, nesting bird surveys, worker awareness trainings, and other focused pre-construction surveys as well as onsite biological monitoring during construction in sensitive habitats or habitats that could support special-status plants or wildlife.

If it is determined that the project has potential to impact U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)-designated critical habitat and/or National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) essential fish habitat, then the project applicant shall coordinate with the USFWS, as necessary, to determine mitigation and/or avoidance measures to reduce potential impacts to a level that would be less than significant. Depending on site-specific conditions, agency involvement may be triggered through the regulatory permitting process or direct agency consultation.

Mitigation Measure BIO-2: Conduct Worker Awareness Training for Applicable Special-Status Species

If it is determined during the preparation of the project-specific BRA prescribed in Mitigation Measure BIO-1 that any special-status species have the potential to occur within a project area or be affected by project construction, then a qualified biologist shall provide environmental awareness training to all project-related personnel before the initiation of work. The training shall include the identification methods for the relevant potentially occurring special-status species, required best management practices to implement before the start of and during construction, general measures that are being implemented to protect the species as they relate to the project, penalties for non-compliance, and boundaries of the permitted disturbance zones. Upon completion of the training, all construction personnel will sign a form stating that they have attended the training and understand all the measures. Proof of this instruction shall be kept on file with the biologist on-site and the project applicant.

Mitigation Measure BIO-3: Implement Mitigation Measures for Special-Status Plant Species

If it is determined during the preparation of the project-specific BRA prescribed in Mitigation Measure BIO-1 that special-status plant species have the potential to occur within a project area or be affected by project construction, then the following measures shall be included in the project-specific BRA and relevant NEPA documents to avoid and/or reduce potential impacts to special-status plants.

- Focused special-status plant surveys shall be conducted by a qualified biologist during the appropriate identification (blooming) periods before any ground disturbing activities in suitable habitat. Surveys shall be conducted as specified in this measure or according to the most current agency guidelines. If no special-status plants are observed, then a letter report documenting the survey results shall be prepared and submitted to the project applicant and the County, and no further measures are recommended.
- If special-status plants are observed within the project area, the location of the special-status plants shall be marked with pin flags or other highly visible markers and recorded with GPS equipment. The project applicant shall determine if the special-status plant(s) on-site can be avoided by project design or utilize construction techniques to avoid impacts to the special-status plant species. All special-status plants to be avoided shall have exclusion fencing or other highly visible material marking the avoidance area, and the avoidance area shall remain in place throughout the entire construction period. Avoidance areas shall also be marked on project plans.

If special-status plants are found within the project area and cannot be avoided, the project applicant shall consult with CDFW and/or USFWS, as appropriate, to determine appropriate measures to mitigate for the loss of special-status plant populations. These measures may include gathering seed from impacted populations for planting within nearby appropriate habitat or within the project footprint after construction, topsoil salvage and replacement, preserving or enhancing existing off-site populations of the plant species affected by the project, or restoring suitable habitat for special-status plant species habitat as directed by the regulatory agencies.

Mitigation Measure BIO-4: Implement Mitigation Measures for Special-Status Vernal Pool Invertebrates

If it is determined during the preparation of the project-specific BRA prescribed in Mitigation Measure BIO-1 that suitable habitat for special-status vernal pool invertebrates (fairy shrimp) is present within a project area, then the following measures shall be included in the project-specific BRA and relevant NEPA documents to avoid and/or reduce potential impacts to special-status vernal pool invertebrates:

- To the extent feasible, projects should be designed to avoid all direct and indirect impacts to potentially suitable wetland habitat. Any wetland habitat designated for avoidance shall be marked with pin flags or other highly visible markers and recorded by GPS equipment. Wetland areas to be avoided shall have exclusion fencing or other highly visible material marking the avoidance area, and the avoidance area shall remain in place throughout the entire construction period. Avoidance areas shall also be marked on project plans.
- If it is determined that suitable habitat for special-status vernal pool invertebrates cannot be avoided, the project applicant may enlist a qualified biologist to perform protocol surveys for vernal pool invertebrates according to the 2017 *USFWS Survey Guidelines for the Listed Large Branchiopods* (<https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/survey-guidelines-for-large-branchiopods.pdf>). If the surveys are negative for special-status vernal pool invertebrates and the USFWS accepts the survey results, it is assumed that the features can be impacted after appropriate environmental permits are acquired for dredge and fill of the features (see Mitigation Measure BIO-8).
- If special-status vernal pool invertebrates are found to be present or assumed to be present and will be impacted by the proposed project, the project applicant shall be required to mitigate for impacts to the species. If mitigation for vernal pool invertebrates is required and the project has a federal nexus (e.g., is pursuant to a USACE permit, is federally funded, or occurs on federal land), impacts can be addressed through Section 7 consultation with the USFWS. If the project does not have a federal nexus, the project applicant, through coordination with the USFWS, can prepare a Habitat Conservation Plan under Section 10 of FESA. Possible mitigation opportunities include off-site preservation of occupied off-site habitat or the purchase of habitat credits at a qualified mitigation bank as agreed to by the USFWS.

Mitigation Measure BIO-5: Implement Mitigation Measures for Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle

If it is determined during the preparation of the project-specific BRA prescribed in Mitigation Measure BIO-1 that suitable habitat for valley elderberry longhorn beetle (elderberry shrubs) is present within a project area, then the following measures shall be included in the project-specific BRA and relevant NEPA documents to avoid and/or reduce potential impacts to valley elderberry longhorn beetle:

- To the extent feasible, projects should be designed to avoid all direct and indirect impacts to elderberry shrubs within or adjacent to the project footprint. If elderberry shrubs are found on or adjacent to the site, a 100-foot wide avoidance buffer (measured from the dripline of the plant) will be established around all elderberry shrubs with stems greater than one-inch diameter at ground level and will be clearly identified in the field by staking, flagging, or fencing, consistent with the *USFWS 2017 Framework for Assessing Impacts to the Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle (Desmocerus californicus dimorphus)* (<https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/survey-guidelines-for-valley-elderberry-longhorn-beetle.pdf>). No construction activities involving mechanized equipment will occur

within the buffer areas. Human access may be permitted in the buffer, provided that it does not cause disturbance to the shrubs. Avoidance areas shall also be marked on project plans.

- If it is determined that suitable habitat for valley elderberry longhorn beetle cannot be avoided, the project applicant will be required to mitigate for impacts to elderberry shrubs consistent with USFWS guidelines. If mitigation for valley elderberry longhorn beetle is required and the project has a federal nexus (e.g., is pursuant to a USACE permit, is federally funded, or occurs on federal land), impacts can be addressed through Section 7 consultation with the USFWS. If the project does not have a federal nexus, the project applicant, through coordination with the USFWS, can prepare a Habitat Conservation Plan under Section 10 of FESA. Possible mitigation may include transplanting of the affected shrubs to a USFWS-approved offsite location according to USFWS transplant guidance and/or purchase of USFWS-approved mitigation bank credits at a level specified by the USFWS.

Mitigation Measure BIO-6: Implement Mitigation Measures for Special-Status Aquatic Species

If it is determined during the preparation of the project-specific BRA prescribed in Mitigation Measure BIO-1 that special-status aquatic species (green sturgeon [southern DPS], steelhead [Central Valley DPS], Chinook salmon [Central Valley spring-run ESU], California red-legged frog, Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog, northwestern pond turtle, or Giant garter snake) have the potential to occur within a project area or be impacted by construction, then the following measures shall be included in the project-specific BRA and relevant NEPA documents to avoid and/or reduce potential impacts.

- Project applicants shall consult with the qualified biologist during the project design phase to ensure that project designs make every attempt to avoid impacts to aquatic resources through project alignment shifts, work area restrictions, construction methods, or other means.
- A qualified biologist shall map aquatic resources with a sub-meter GPS and delineate suitable aquatic habitats as described in Mitigation Measure BIO-8. These aquatic features shall have wildlife exclusion fencing installed around them prior to the start of construction. Wetland avoidance areas shall be depicted in project work plans. Fencing shall be solid fencing and not include a mesh design that could trap wildlife. Fencing shall be trenched into the soil at least six inches, and the soil must be carefully compacted against both sides of the fence for its entire length to prevent animals from entering the construction area. Exclusion fencing will be inspected daily for the duration of construction to ensure it remains intact, and any holes, tears, or gaps will be repaired immediately. Fencing will be removed upon construction completion.
- Focused surveys for special-status aquatic species (green sturgeon [southern DPS], steelhead [Central Valley DPS], Chinook salmon [Central Valley spring-run ESU], southern long-toed salamander, Foothill yellow-legged frog [north Sierra DPS], California red-legged frog, Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog, northwestern pond turtle, or giant garter snake) shall be conducted by a qualified biologist according to the most current agency protocols (<https://wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Survey-Protocols>) before any ground disturbing activities in suitable habitat. If no special-status aquatic species are detected, then a letter report documenting the survey results should be prepared and submitted to the project applicant, and no further measures are recommended.
- A qualified biologist shall conduct a pre-construction survey for special-status aquatic species within 24 hours before the start of grading or land-disturbing activities. If the survey shows that there is no evidence of these species, then a letter report shall be prepared to document the

survey and provided to the project applicant and the County, and no additional measures are recommended. If development does not commence within 24 hours of the survey, or halts for more than seven days, then an additional survey is required before starting or resuming work.

- If any of these species are observed during the survey, no work shall occur within a 250-foot buffer of the species' occurrence until consulting with the appropriate wildlife agencies to determine if additional mitigation and avoidance measures are required.

A qualified biologist shall monitor construction and be present during all ground disturbance activities within suitable habitat for special-status species. If any of these special-status species are observed within the project area, all work shall immediately halt in the vicinity of the special-status aquatic species to allow the species to leave the area of its own will. If the special-status aquatic species is in immediate danger, the qualified biologist shall relocate the species outside of the construction zone, at a safe distance from all construction-related activities, and within suitable habitat as approved by the wildlife agencies. No one other than the qualified biologist shall handle, take, or otherwise harass the aquatic species. No work within a 250-foot buffer of the species occurrence shall resume until the aquatic species has left the project area or been relocated from areas of potential disturbance.

Mitigation Measure BIO-7: Implement Mitigation Measures for Special-Status Bird Species and Other Nesting Birds

Active nests are protected by the California Fish and Game Code Section 3503.5 and the MBTA. Construction activities could result in disturbance of nest sites through temporary increases in ambient noise levels and increased human activity. In addition, vegetation clearing operations, including pruning or the removal of trees and shrubs, could impact nesting birds if these activities occur during the nesting season (February 1 to August 31). All vegetation clearing, including removal of trees and shrubs, shall be completed between September 1 and January 31, if feasible. If it is determined during the preparation of the project-specific BRA prescribed in Mitigation Measure BIO-1 that special-status bird species and other nesting birds have the potential to occur within a project area or be impacted by construction, then the following mitigation measures shall be included in the project-specific BRA and relevant NEPA documents to avoid and/or reduce potential impacts.

- If construction activities are proposed to begin during the non-breeding season (September 1 through January 31), a survey is not required, and no further studies are necessary.
- If vegetation removal and grading activities begin during the nesting season (February 1 to August 31), the project applicant shall require that a qualified biologist conduct a pre-construction survey of the project area for active nests. Additionally, the surrounding 500 feet should be surveyed for active raptor nests, where accessible. The pre-construction survey should be conducted within 7 days before the commencement of ground-disturbing activities. Surveys shall be conducted as specified in this measure or according to the most current agency guidelines. If the pre-construction survey shows that there is no evidence of active nests, a letter report shall be prepared to document the survey, and no additional measures are recommended. If construction does not commence within 7 days of the pre-construction survey, or halts for more than 7 days, an additional survey is required before starting work.

If nests are found during construction activities and considered to be active, the qualified biologist shall establish buffer zones to prohibit construction activities and minimize nest disturbance until the young have successfully fledged. Buffer width will be determined by the qualified biologist and will depend on the species in question, surrounding existing disturbances, and specific site characteristics, but may

range from 20 feet for some songbirds to 250 feet for most raptors. If active nests are found within any trees slated for removal, then an appropriate buffer shall be established around the trees and the trees will not be removed until the qualified biologist determines that the nestlings have successfully fledged.

Mitigation Measure BIO-8: Jurisdictional Delineation and Regulatory Permitting

If it is determined that impacts to jurisdictional waters or other sensitive natural communities cannot be avoided, then the applicant of an individual broadband project shall apply for any necessary permits from the USACE, CDFW, and RWQCB (e.g., Section 401/404 permits, CDFW Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement, etc.) prior to approval. If necessary, a formal delineation of wetlands and “other waters” of the U.S. shall be prepared in accordance with the USACE *Corps of Engineers Wetlands Delineation Manual* and appropriate regional supplements to determine the extent of aquatic resources and quantify impacts. Impacts to jurisdictional waters and/or sensitive natural habitat shall be mitigated in accordance with agency requirements.

Mitigation Measure BIO-9: Oak Resources Inventory

If it is determined during the project-specific BRA that an individual broadband project will result in impacts to oak resources, then the County may require mitigation for impacts to oak resources or regulated individual oak trees. Prior to project approval, the Community Development and Services Agency may require an inventory of prematurely removed trees or canopy cover to determine the extent of the loss. The inventory shall be prepared by a resource professional with expertise in oak woodlands ecology who is on the list of qualified consultants maintained by the Community Development and Services Agency. Resource professionals may include botanists, ecologists, wildlife biologists, and foresters.

5.6 Historic and Cultural Resources

The Proposed Action would require the aerial installation of fiber optic line on utility poles in instances where constraints prevent the installation of subsurface conduit. Such installations may introduce new visual elements to areas with concentrations of historical built-environment cultural resources such as buildings and structures that comprise historic districts. Historic districts derive much of their significance from their ability to visually convey a sense of time and place from their architecture, street furniture, and streetscape corridor appearance.

The use of existing or newly constructed utility poles for the collocation of fiber optic cable could change the visual signature of the poles and their vicinity. However, these collocations and new installations would be relatively minor additions to existing utility corridors in the County already populated with other utility infrastructure, including in and near historic districts and historical resources. The installation of these fiber optic lines, as proposed, would not diminish a built-environment resource’s ability to convey its significance or justify the reasons for its qualification as a historical resource, two of the criteria of material impairment in the definition of a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource.

Yuba County has a rich archaeological record with expressions of material culture in almost every environmental setting. Examples of these archaeological cultural resources can range from precontact-era settlement and resource procurement areas to historic-era mining-related features such as adits and tailings, or archaeological features sealed beneath the hardscape of the County’s urbanized areas. Their significance can lie in their ability to contain information important in prehistory or history, but also in their value to descendant communities as expressions of their cultural heritage and patrimony. Because

archaeological cultural resources are non-renewable, project-related disturbance can impede or destroy their ability to convey their significance, which can embody scientific and/or traditional cultural value. Should that occur, a significant effect on the environment could result.

Implementation of Mitigation Measures CUL-1 and CUL-2, which contain measures that would identify potential archaeological resource impact scenarios, would seek to avoid impacts to such resources if feasible, and would mitigate those impacts that cannot be avoided through project design. Avoidance would prevent the loss of scientific and/or heritage values of the resource, and archaeological mitigation would offset the loss of scientifically consequential data through a program of excavation, analysis, and documentation of information.

Mitigation Measure CUL-1: Archaeological Cultural Resources Investigations

Preconstruction Screening Identification

Prior to each phase of individual broadband projects, including installation and/or use of appurtenant structures, unpaved staging areas, and fiber optic line, Yuba County shall request a records search for all project footprints for construction activities that require ground disturbance in areas that have not been previously subject to such disturbance. For those areas of native, unpaved soil that have not been adequately surveyed for archaeological cultural resources in the past, the County shall require a pedestrian field survey by a qualified professional archaeologist. If archaeological cultural resources are identified as a result of that survey, the County shall implement the recommendations of the consulting archaeologist to avoid or substantially reduce the severity of impacts on such resources. For those areas that have been surveyed previously, the County shall abide by the recommendations of the professional archaeologist who conducted the original survey.

Known Resource Conflicts

In the event that the records search described above identifies archaeological resources that would be subject to project-related impacts, the County shall evaluate the status of the resource under NEPA. The archaeological resource shall be assessed for significance through the implementation of a Phase II investigation by a qualified archaeologist. This may require some or all of the following measures to be implemented:

- Development of a research design that guides assessments of site significance and scientific potential.
- Mapping and systematic collection of a representative sample of surface artifacts.
- Subsurface investigation through shovel test pits, surface scrapes, or 1- by 1-meter excavation units; a combination of such methods; or equivalent methods.
- Analysis of recovered material to determine significance pursuant to NEPA.
- Preparation of a report, including an evaluation of site significance and recommendations for mitigation, if appropriate.
- Appropriate curation of collected artifacts.

If the resource is precontact in nature, the Phase II investigation shall be coordinated with descendant tribal communities.

If the Phase II evaluation concludes that the archaeological resource does not qualify as a historical resource (PRC §21084.1) or unique archaeological resource (PRC §21083.2), then no further study or protection of the resource is necessary. If the resource does qualify as a historical or unique archaeological resource, then the County shall require the implementation of the Phase III approach described below.

A Phase III data recovery effort shall be implemented by the consulting archaeologist for those sites that are shown by the Phase II efforts to qualify as significant under NEPA. The City shall ensure that data recovery conducted to the level that reduces impacts to below the level of significance has been completed prior to project implementation. The Phase III data recovery program shall include all or a combination of the following methods:

- Development of a research design to identify important research questions that may be answered through a systematic study of the resource.
- Mapping and systematic collection of surface artifacts, possibly complete data recovered depending on site size.
- Subsurface investigation through methods such as controlled hand-excavation units, machine excavations, deep testing, or a combination of methods. When applicable, other techniques, such as geophysical testing, may be warranted.
- Analysis of recovered material through visual inspection and chemical analysis when applicable.
- Preparation of a report.
- Appropriate curation of collected artifacts.

If the resource is precontact in nature, the Phase III investigation shall be coordinated with descendant tribal communities.

Mitigation Measure CUL-2: Inadvertent Discovery of Archaeological Cultural Resources

In the event that cultural resources are exposed during ground-disturbing activities during construction of individual broadband projects, construction activities shall be halted within 100 feet of the discovery. Cultural resources could consist of but are not limited to stone, bone, wood, or shell artifacts, or features, including hearths, structural remains, or historic dumpsites. If the resources cannot be avoided during the remainder of construction, a consulting archaeologist who meets the Secretary of the Interior's *Professional Qualifications Standards* for archaeology shall assess the resource and provide appropriate management recommendations. The County shall implement those recommendations to avoid or substantially reduce the severity of impacts on significant resources.

5.7 Aesthetic and Visual Resources

Yuba County contains varying topography and land cover that provides many different types of views and scenic vistas. Prominent aesthetic resources visible within Yuba County include the Sutter Buttes,

Sierra Nevada foothills and mountains, the valley floor, expansive agricultural lands, rivers and river valleys, and lakes and reservoirs. Future individual broadband projects would have the potential to affect scenic vistas if new or intensified development blocked views of areas that provide or contribute to such vistas. Potential impacts could include blocking views of a scenic vista from such publicly accessible vantage points or the alteration of the overall scenic vista itself. A portion of SR 49 is eligible for designation as State Scenic Highways; however, the County does not have any officially designated State Scenic Highways (Caltrans 2025).

Some roadway segments and previously disturbed and/or developed areas within the County may have scenic views of natural features (e.g., streams, hills, forests) and buildings of architectural value. However, many roadways are lined with tall vertical features (e.g., mature trees, utility poles, streetlights, and roadway signs) and horizontal features (e.g., building and pavement edges, fences, and utility lines). The aboveground fiber optic lines on newly or previously constructed utility poles could be introduced to existing viewsheds; however, these structures would be generally consistent with existing vertical and horizontal features within the County. New aboveground fiber optic lines and utility poles would not be so large in scale that they would dominate existing viewsheds or detract from existing views. Construction activities would result in temporary visual changes for sensitive viewer groups (e.g., residents, recreation users). Implementation of future individual broadband projects would likely occur over the course of many years. It is possible that multiple, individual broadband projects could have overlapping construction timeframes (or phases). Additionally, any individual broadband project segment could involve multiple construction crews working simultaneously, with plowing, trenching, or directional drilling occurring at the same time in different locations of the segment.

Short-term light and glare impacts associated with construction of individual broadband projects would likely be limited to lighting in the evening/nighttime hours. In the event that construction lighting becomes a nuisance to surrounding uses, the County would ensure construction-related lighting would be oriented away from adjacent residential areas, if necessary, and consist of the minimal wattage necessary to provide safety at the construction site. Construction activities would occur between 7:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m., seven days per week, which would further minimize temporary light and glare impacts associated with construction activities. Once constructed, individual broadband projects could utilize security lighting; however, all lighting would be minimal and downward facing to prevent light spillover and glare and would be required to adhere to the applicable provisions in Section 11.26.070, *Lighting and Glare*, of the Yuba County Code.

Although the County does not currently have any officially designated State Scenic Highways, a portion of SR 49 is eligible for designation as State Scenic Highways (Caltrans 2025). Aboveground individual broadband projects could be installed along SR 49, as well as roadway segments and previously disturbed and/or developed areas within the County that may have scenic resources such as rivers, streams, mountains, and forests, as well as buildings of architectural value. SR 49 could be affected by operation of aboveground individual broadband projects located within the viewshed of the highway. Implementation of Mitigation Measure AES-1 would ensure that scenic resources are protected and that project-specific visual impacts are adequately addressed.

Mitigation Measure AES-1: Visual Impact Assessment

For each aboveground individual broadband project proposed within the viewshed of a designated or eligible State Scenic Highway, the project applicant shall prepare a Visual Impact Assessment (VIA) for Lead Agency review and approval. The VIA shall be prepared by a qualified professional with experience in visual resource analysis. The VIA shall evaluate the potential impacts of the project on scenic resources, including but not limited to consideration of aesthetic values, visual quality, and the character

of the surrounding landscape. The VIA shall include the following components:

- Baseline Conditions: Documentation of existing visual conditions, including photographs, renderings, and/or other visual tools to establish the project site's current view and its relationship to surrounding scenic resources.
- Visual Simulations: Preparation of photo-realistic visual simulations depicting the project as proposed from key public viewpoints, including those within the scenic vista or from the State Scenic Highway.
- Impact Analysis: Identification of potential impacts on scenic vistas and resources, using thresholds of significance established under NEPA or applicable local policies.
- Design Recommendations or Mitigation Measures: Identification of feasible design measures or project-specific mitigation measures to avoid, minimize, and/or reduce potentially significant visual impacts. These measures may include, but are not limited to:
 - Modifications to project design, height, massing, and/or orientation.
 - Use of landscaping, vegetative screening, and/or earthworks to soften visual impacts.
 - Use of non-reflective and/or neutral-colored materials to reduce visual contrast.
 - Adjustment of lighting design to prevent glare and/or light trespass into sensitive areas.

All recommendations and mitigation measures identified in the VIA and approved by the Lead Agency shall be incorporated into project plans and specifications before project approval.

5.8 Land Use

There are various general plan land use designations and zoning designations within the County limits. Public roads are currently designated in County general plans, zoning codes, and ordinances to accommodate utility infrastructure. Although some temporary construction-related traffic disturbances could occur, individual broadband projects would not permanently divide an established community. The proposed broadband would be used to connect communities that are currently unserved or underserved. Prior to issuance of use permits, grading, and/or encroachment permits by Yuba County, individual broadband projects would be required to demonstrate compliance with all applicable laws, regulations, policies, and ordinances.

5.9 Infrastructure

Construction of individual broadband projects could involve minor use of water for dust control, which would be readily available from existing sources. However, this minor use would not result in wastewater generation. Additionally, operation of future broadband infrastructure would not require additional water supplies, as individual broadband projects would not use water, and no population would be generated. Construction of individual broadband projects could occur in areas with existing stormwater drainage facilities. Once fiber optic conduits are installed, the ground surface along the individual fiber optic line alignments would be restored to its previous condition (paved or unpaved). Therefore, the amount of pervious and impervious surfaces would not be significantly altered upon completion of individual broadband projects. As such, individual broadband projects would not require

new or expanded stormwater facilities.

During construction, it is anticipated that portable toilets could be provided for workers and waste would be hauled to an approved facility for treatment/disposal. As wastewater associated with portable toilets would be a temporary demand, implementation of individual broadband projects would not exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (CVRWQCB) and no new wastewater treatment facilities, or expansion of such facilities would be required. No wastewater would be generated during operations of the individual broadband projects. Construction would generate minimal solid waste. Such waste could include the packaging of fiber optic lines, asphalt, and vegetation removal. Due to the minimal amount of solid waste generated by individual broadband projects, the County's ability to comply with the State waste diversion requirements would not be adversely affected. Construction waste would not exceed State or Yuba County solid waste standards or infrastructure capacity.

Construction of individual broadband projects may require temporary lane closures, which have the potential to impede or interfere with emergency access routes or services. Coordination with local agencies (e.g., CHP and local police and fire departments) for any necessary and temporary road closures would be required, especially for construction within designated emergency access routes or in areas that would impede or otherwise affect evacuation and emergency access or services. Individual broadband projects that would be located in County road ROW would be required to submit an encroachment permit to the County Public Works Department. To minimize or avoid lane closures that could interfere with traffic circulation during emergencies and disrupt access to private properties and roadways, each individual broadband project that would require the issuance of an encroachment permit would be required to develop and implement a Traffic Control Plan as stipulated in Mitigation Measure TRA-1. Standard traffic control measures specified in the Traffic Control Plan would be required for all construction activities along County road ROW, and would be subject to review and approval by the County Public Works Department.

Mitigation Measure TRA-1: Traffic Control Plan

Prior to the issuance of an encroachment permit, a Traffic Control Plan shall be developed for individual broadband projects that require an encroachment permit for construction activities along County road rights-of-way (ROW) to manage traffic during construction. The applicant shall consult with the Yuba County Public Works Department regarding construction activities that may affect area traffic (such as construction staging necessitating lane closure, trenching, etc.) to ensure that the Traffic Control Plan is prepared in conformance with applicable code and ordinance requirements for emergency access. The construction contractor shall implement appropriate traffic controls identified in the Traffic Control Plan in accordance with the California Vehicle Code and other State and local requirements to avoid or minimize impacts on traffic during construction. The Traffic Control Plan shall be submitted along with the encroachment permit to the Yuba County Public Works Department prior to the commencement of construction activities.

5.10 Human Health and Safety

According to the FCC Office of Engineering & Technology, levels of radio frequency (RF) energy routinely encountered by the general public are typically far below levels necessary to produce significant heating and increased body temperature (FCC 1999). There have been no conclusive results that have examined the possibility of a link between RF exposure and cancer, and other studies have failed to find evidence for a causal link to cancer or any related conditions (FCC 1999). As no conclusive or causal evidence of biological effects from RF energy has been determined, there is no evidence to suggest the proposed

telecommunications utility poles would cause health problems to the surrounding communities.

Construction activities would mainly involve the use of hazardous materials such as fuels, lubricants, and solvents typically associated with construction equipment and vehicles. These materials are commonly used during construction and are not acutely hazardous. Operation of either underground or aboveground fiber optic conduit would not require long-transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials; however, small quantities of hazardous materials may be used or handled during routine maintenance checks. Project applicants, builders, and contractors for individual broadband projects would be required to use, store, and transport hazardous materials in accordance with local, State, and federal regulations, including Cal/OSHA and DTSC requirements and manufacturer's instructions, during individual broadband project construction and operation. Transportation of hazardous materials on area roadways is also regulated by the CHP and Caltrans. Title 49 of the CFR, *Hazardous Materials Regulations*, includes requirements for the classification of materials, packaging, hazard communication, transportation, handling, hazardous materials employee training, and incident reporting.

The California Department of Public Health regulates the haulers of hazardous waste. A valid registration issued by DTSC is required, unless specifically exempted, to transport hazardous wastes, and the California Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) requires all hazardous materials transporters to possess a commercial driver's license with a hazardous materials endorsement. Vehicle Code Section 31303 outlines general routing and parking restrictions for hazardous material and hazardous waste shipments, and the CHP publishes a list of restricted or prohibited highways. The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration also maintains a Hazmat Route Registry that describes the highway routes that must be utilized for the transport of certain classes of hazardous waste that is monitored and regulated by the administration's field office and the CHP.

Spills during on-site fueling of equipment during construction or an upset condition could result in a release of fuel or oils into the environment, including sensitive waterways within the vicinity of the proposed activity. In addition, subsurface hazardous materials may be encountered during construction such as hazardous minerals. Procedures regarding spill prevention and response, as well as proper handling and disposal of hazardous materials are established by federal, State, and local regulations and would be implemented as part of individual broadband projects. Due to the limited area of ground disturbance and short exposure window, the potential for construction activities to encounter hazardous conditions that could affect worker health, or the environment would be limited. However, as the location of individual broadband projects relative to hazardous materials sites is not yet known, there would be some potential for exposure of construction workers and the public to hazardous materials contamination during construction. If encountered, contaminated materials may be classified as hazardous waste, a designated waste, or a special waste, depending on the type and degree of contamination. If it is determined that an individual broadband project may be located near or on a hazardous materials site, a Phase I Environmental Site Assessment (ESA) would be required to be prepared.

As discussed in Section 5.9, Infrastructure, each individual broadband project that would require the issuance of an encroachment permit would be required to develop and implement a Traffic Control Plan as stipulated in Mitigation Measure TRA-1, which would minimize or avoid lane closures that could interfere with traffic circulation during emergencies and disrupt access to private properties and roadways. With implementation of Mitigation Measure TRA-1, the Proposed Action would not result in significant effects to human health and safety.

6.0 Applicable Environmental Permits and Regulatory Requirements

Table 3: Potential Applicable Statutory, Regulatory, and Other Requirements

Potentially Applicable Requirement	Relevant Project Information
All Resources	
NEPA of 1969 42 U.S.C. § 4321 et seq.	An Environmental Assessment has been prepared in compliance with Federal NEPA requirements.
Vegetation, Wildlife, and Fish	
Endangered Species Act of 1973 16 U.S.C. § 1531 et seq.	This is applicable. This EA is evaluated at a programmatic level for the County as a whole. The objective of this EA is to achieve compliance with NEPA for the Proposed Action in advance such that individual broadband projects can take advantage of State and federal grant funding programs. Based on an individual broadband project footprint, regulatory permitting may be required. All required permits would be evaluated at the appropriate time.
Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act) of 1976 16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.	This is applicable. This EA is evaluated at a programmatic level for the County as a whole. The objective of this EA is to achieve compliance with NEPA for the Proposed Action in advance such that individual broadband projects can take advantage of State and federal grant funding programs. Based on an individual broadband project footprint, regulatory permitting may be required. All required permits would be evaluated at the appropriate time.
Bald Eagle and Golden Eagle Protection Act (Eagle Act) of 1940 16 U.S.C. § 668-668d	This is applicable. This EA is evaluated at a programmatic level for the County as a whole. The objective of this EA is to achieve compliance with NEPA for the Proposed Action in advance such that individual broadband projects can take advantage of State and federal grant funding programs. Based on an individual broadband project footprint, regulatory permitting may be required. All required permits would be evaluated at the appropriate time.
Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) of 1918 16 U.S.C. § 703-712 Responsibilities to Federal Agencies to Protect Migratory Birds Executive Order 13186	This is applicable. This EA is evaluated at a programmatic level for the County as a whole. The objective of this EA is to achieve compliance with NEPA for the Proposed Action in advance such that individual broadband projects can take advantage of State and federal grant funding programs. Based on an individual broadband project footprint, regulatory permitting may be required. All required permits would be evaluated at the appropriate time.
Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act 16 U.S.C. § 2901 et seq. Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act 16 U.S.C. § 661 et seq.	This is applicable. This EA is evaluated at a programmatic level for the County as a whole. The objective of this EA is to achieve compliance with NEPA for the Proposed Action in advance such that individual broadband projects can take advantage of State and federal grant funding programs. Based on an individual broadband project footprint, regulatory permitting may be required. All required permits would be evaluated at the appropriate time.
Waters, Wetlands, and Floodplain Protection	

Clean Water Act 33 U.S.C. § 1251 et seq. Floodplain/Wetlands Environmental Review Requirements 10 CFR 1022.12 Floodplain Management Executive Order 11988 Protection of Wetlands Executive Order 11990	This is applicable. This EA is evaluated at a programmatic level for the County as a whole. The objective of this EA is to achieve compliance with NEPA for the Proposed Action in advance such that individual fiber projects can take advantage of State and federal grant funding programs. Based on an individual broadband project footprint, regulatory permitting may be required. All required permits would be evaluated at the appropriate time.
Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) 16 U.S.C. § 1451 et seq.	The Proposed Action is not located in a coastal zone and would not require coordination under the CZMA.
Air Quality and Greenhouse Gases	
The Clean Air Act, as revised in 1990 42 U.S.C. § 4701	The project is not anticipated to require any air permits. To minimize the effects of fugitive dust during construction, dust suppression techniques via water trucks or other methods would be implemented.
Final Mandatory Reporting of Greenhouse Gases Rule 40 CFR 98 Federal Leadership in Environmental, Energy, and Economic Performance Executive Order 13514	The project is not anticipated to require any air permits. To minimize the effects of fugitive dust during construction, dust suppression techniques via water trucks or other methods would be implemented.

Cultural and Historic Resources	
Antiquities Act of 1906 16 U.S.C. § 431-433 Historic Sites Act of 1935 16 U.S.C. § 461-467 NHPA of 1966, as amended, inclusive of Section 106 54 U.S.C. § 306108 et seq. Archaeological Data Preservation Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. § 469 – 469-1) Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979, as amended 16 U.S.C. § 469 a-c Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act 25 U.S.C. § 3001 et seq. Indian Sacred Sites Executive Order 13007 American Indian Religious Freedom Act of 1978 (42 U.S.C. § 1996)	This is applicable. This EA is evaluated at a programmatic level for the County as a whole. The objective of this EA is to achieve compliance with NEPA for the Proposed Action in advance such that individual fiber projects can take advantage of State and federal grant funding programs. The project applicant will utilize an unanticipated discovery plan during construction and stop work if archeological materials are discovered.
Noise, Public Health, and Safety	
Noise Control Act of 1972 42 U.S.C. § 4901 et seq.	This is applicable. This EA is evaluated at a programmatic level for the County as a whole. The objective of this EA is to achieve compliance with NEPA for the Proposed Action in advance such that individual broadband projects can take advantage of State and federal grant funding programs. Construction work will be performed between 7:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m. and any noise-generating activities will be limited to 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.
Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasures Rule 40 CFR 112 Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act 42 U.S.C. § 9601 et seq. Resource Conservation and Recovery Act 42 U.S.C. § 6901 et seq.	This is applicable. This EA is evaluated at a programmatic level for the County as a whole. The objective of this EA is to achieve compliance with NEPA for the Proposed Action in advance such that individual broadband projects can take advantage of State and federal grant funding programs.

The Toxic Substances Control Act 15 U.S.C. 2601 et seq.	This is applicable. This EA is evaluated at a programmatic level for the County as a whole. The objective of this EA is to achieve compliance with NEPA for the Proposed Action in advance such that individual broadband projects can take advantage of State and federal grant funding programs.
Federal Communications Commission (FCC)	This is applicable. This EA is evaluated at a programmatic level for the County as a whole. The objective of this EA is to achieve compliance with NEPA for the Proposed Action in advance such that individual broadband projects can take advantage of State and federal grant funding programs.
State, County, and Local Plan Consistency	
Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board	Depending on the individual broadband project-specific character, location, and construction techniques of future broadband, a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination Construction General Permit (NPDES) and Section 401 water quality certification or a waiver of discharge requirements would be obtained.
California Department of Fish and Wildlife	Depending on the individual broadband project-specific character, location, and construction techniques of future broadband, a Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement (LSAA) Section 1602 of the Fish and Game Code would be obtained.
County of Yuba	Depending on the individual broadband project-specific character, location, and construction techniques of future broadband, use permits and encroachment permits would be obtained.

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Appendix D

Scoping Memorandum

Memorandum

HELIX Environmental Planning, Inc.
1180 Iron Point Road, Suite 130
Folsom, CA 95630
916.435.1205 tel
www.helixepi.com



Date: March 3, 2025

To: Ian Scott, Special Projects Manager; County of Yuba, Community Development and Services Agency

From: Robert Edgerton, AICP CEP, HELIX Environmental Planning, Inc.

Subject: County of Yuba Broadband Infrastructure Programmatic EIR Public Scoping Comment Summary

HELIX Project: 02602.00004.001

Message: This memorandum summarizes written and verbal comments received during the public scoping period conducted by the County of Yuba (County) and HELIX Environmental Planning to support the draft program Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the County of Yuba Broadband Infrastructure Project (referred to as the “proposed Program” or “Program”). The proposed Program involves expanding access to fiber optic broadband technology throughout the unincorporated areas of the County. The proposed Countywide Program would allow for the installation of broadband technology in the unincorporated areas of the County primarily along existing County-maintained rights-of-way (ROW), public utility easements, and/or overhead public utility easements. The proposed Program would not include the installation of broadband technology on federal lands, private roads, state highway ROW, or within the incorporated cities of Marysville or Wheatland.

This memorandum includes topics raised by written comments submitted during the Notice of Preparation (NOP) comment period. The NOP is included as Appendix A, and written comments submitted are included as Appendix B.

Overview

To assist the County in determining the focus and scope of the analysis for the EIR for the proposed Program and in accordance with the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the County issued an NOP per CEQA Guidelines Section 15082 on January 21, 2025, to government agencies, special service districts, and individuals with an interest in or jurisdiction over the Program. This step ensures early consultation on the scope of the EIR. The comment period closed on February 19, 2025.

The NOP is a brief notice sent by the County as CEQA Lead Agency for the proposed Program to inform responsible agencies, trustee agencies, and potentially affected federal, State, and local agencies that the County plans to prepare an EIR. Yuba County conducted one virtual public scoping meeting for this Program, held on Monday, February 3, 2025 via Zoom™.

The meeting was attended by eight participants, including two County staff. County staff provided an overview of the proposed Program and potential environmental impacts, as identified in the NOP. Participants were then provided an opportunity to ask questions and clarify their understanding of the project description, and to provide comments regarding potential environmental impacts, content of the proposed Program, and the CEQA processes associated with the proposed Program.

Scoping Comments

During the public scoping meeting, participants were given an opportunity to ask questions to clarify their understanding of the proposed Program and CEQA process. Questions were addressed by County staff. Comments made during the meeting are summarized below:

- Participant opinions on the proposed Program were overall positive, with participants eager to be involved in future development under the proposed Program.
- One participant asked about what communities the proposed Program would focus on bringing reliable broadband access to, as well as if there would be funding provided to encourage Internet Service Providers (ISPs) to develop under the proposed Program.

NOP Comment Letters

In addition to the comments received during the public scoping meeting, the County also received one comment letter during the public comment period. A comment letter was received on February 10, 2025 from Priscilla Torres-Fuentes, Cultural Resources Analyst for the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC). The comment letter is included in full as Appendix B.

Responses to the February 10, 2025 letter from Priscilla Torres-Fuentes of the NAHC are below:

- The letter describes the AB 52 requirements for CEQA projects. The County will follow AB 52 tribal consultation requirements and include a description of the consultation as part of the EIR, and include all relevant information received as a result of that consultation in the impact analysis of the EIR.
- The letter describes the SB 18 requirements for tribal consultation prior to adoption of a general plan or specific plan. The County will follow SB 18 tribal consultation requirements and include documentation of its consultation under SB 18 in the EIR.
- The NAHC also provided a list of recommendations for Cultural Resources Assessments, including that the appropriate regional California Historical Research Information System (CHRIS) Center be contacted for an archaeological records search, that a professional report be prepared documenting the findings of any cultural resources surveys and records searches, and that the NAHC be contacted to provide a Sacred Land File search and Native American Tribal Consultation list. These recommendations will be taken into consideration during preparation of the EIR.

The February 18, 2025 email from Morgan Gross of Caltrans District 3 had no comments regarding the proposed Program. The letter noted that any project or work that takes place along or within the State's

ROW requires an encroachment permit issues by Caltrans, and included contact information for the District 3 Office of Permits. This information has been noted.

Next Steps

The County will document and consider comments received during the NOP scoping meetings and identified in NOP comment letters during the public review period in the Draft EIR prepared for the proposed Program. The Draft EIR is anticipated to be available for public review and comment in spring/summer of 2025.

Appendices

- A. Notice of Preparation
- B. Written Comments

End of memorandum

Appendix E

Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program

MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM

INTRODUCTION

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), Public Resources Code (PRC) Section 21081.6, requires that a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP) be established upon completing findings. CEQA stipulates that “the public agency shall adopt a reporting or monitoring program for the changes to the project which it has adopted or made a condition of project approval in order to mitigate or avoid significant effects on the environment. The reporting or monitoring program shall be designed to ensure compliance during project implementation.”

This MMRP addresses the County of Yuba Broadband Infrastructure Project (“proposed Program” or “Program”) Program Environmental Impact Report (EIR) proposed by the County of Yuba (County). The County is the Lead Agency for the proposed Program under CEQA and shall administer and implement the MMRP. The County is responsible for reviewing all monitoring reports, enforcement actions, and document disposition. The County shall rely on information provided by the project site observers/monitors (e.g., construction manager, project manager, biologist, archaeologist, etc.) as accurate and up-to-date and shall provide personnel to field check mitigation measure status, as required.

MMRP FORMAT AND IMPLEMENTATION

Mitigation measures that would reduce or eliminate potential environmental impacts of the proposed Program are identified in the program EIR. These mitigation measures will become conditions of approval if the proposed Program is approved. The County is required to verify that all adopted mitigation measures are implemented properly and to ensure compliance, this MMRP (including the checklist) has been formulated. The MMRP shall be adopted, along with CEQA Findings, by the County (Lead Agency) and must be administered by County personnel from the Community Development and Services Agency. Specific responsibilities are delineated for each measure in the attached checklist table and these responsibilities may be delegated to qualified County staff or consultants.

The checklist in the following table is intended to be used by the applicant, grading/construction contractors, and personnel from the Community Development and Services Agency as the appointed mitigation implementation and monitoring entities. The information contained within the checklist clearly identifies each mitigation measure, defines the conditions required to verify compliance, and delineates the monitoring schedule. The following is an explanation of the columns that constitute each MMRP checklist.

<u>Column 1</u>	<i>Mitigation Measure:</i> An inventory of each mitigation measure is provided.
<u>Column 2</u>	<i>Monitoring Responsibility:</i> Identifies who is responsible for determining compliance with each mitigation measure (e.g., Yuba County, construction contractor, individual broadband project applicant, qualified biologist or archaeologist).
<u>Column 3</u>	<i>Implementation Schedule:</i> As scheduling is dependent upon the progression of the overall program, specific dates are not used within the “Schedule” column. Instead, scheduling describes a logical succession of events (e.g., prior to ground-disturbing activities, etc.) and, if necessary, delineates a follow-up program.
<u>Column 4</u>	<i>Monitoring Compliance Record Name/Date:</i> Column is left blank and is to be signed and dated when compliance with the mitigation measure has been met.

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MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM
County of Yuba Broadband Infrastructure Project

Mitigation Measure	Monitoring / Mitigation Timing	Reporting / Responsible Party	Verification of Compliance	
			Initials	Date
AESTHETICS				
AES-1: Visual Impact Assessment For each aboveground individual broadband project proposed within the viewshed of a designated or eligible State Scenic Highway, the project applicant shall prepare a Visual Impact Assessment (VIA) for Lead Agency review and approval. The VIA shall be prepared by a qualified professional with experience in visual resource analysis. The VIA shall evaluate the potential impacts of the project on scenic resources in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines, including but not limited to consideration of aesthetic values, visual quality, and the character of the surrounding landscape. The VIA shall include the following components: • <u>Baseline Conditions</u>: Documentation of existing visual conditions, including photographs, renderings, and/or other visual tools to establish the project site’s current view and its relationship to surrounding scenic resources. • <u>Visual Simulations</u>: Preparation of photo-realistic visual simulations depicting the project as proposed from key public viewpoints, including those within the scenic vista or from the State Scenic Highway. • <u>Impact Analysis</u>: Identification of potential impacts on scenic vistas and resources, using thresholds of significance established under CEQA Guidelines or applicable local policies. • <u>Design Recommendations or Mitigation Measures</u>: Identification of feasible design measures or project-specific mitigation measures to avoid, minimize, and/or reduce potentially significant visual impacts. These measures may include,	Prior to approval of individual broadband projects	Yuba County; Project Applicant		

Mitigation Measure	Monitoring / Mitigation Timing	Reporting / Responsible Party	Verification of Compliance	
			Initials	Date
but are not limited to: ○ Modifications to project design, height, massing, and/or orientation. ○ Use of landscaping, vegetative screening, and/or earthworks to soften visual impacts. ○ Use of non-reflective and/or neutral-colored materials to reduce visual contrast. ○ Adjustment of lighting design to prevent glare and/or light trespass into sensitive areas. All recommendations and mitigation measures identified in the VIA and approved by the Lead Agency shall be incorporated into project plans and specifications before project approval.				
AIR QUALITY				
AQ-1: Construction Fugitive Dust Control The applicant of an individual broadband project, or their designated contractor, shall implement the following fugitive dust control measures. 1. Submit the Feather River Air Quality Management District (FRAQMD) Fugitive Dust Control Plan form to the FRAQMD. 2. Construction equipment exhaust emissions shall not exceed FRAQMD Regulation III, Rule 3.0, Visible Emissions limitation (40 percent opacity or Ringelmann 2.0) 3. The contractor shall be responsible to ensure that all construction equipment is properly tuned and maintained prior to and for the duration of onsite operation 4. Limit idling time to 5 minutes – saves fuel and reduces emission. (State idling rule: commercial diesel vehicles- 13 CCR Chapter 10 Section 2485; off road diesel vehicles- 13 CCR Chapter 9 Article 4.8 Section 2449)	Prior to initiation of construction activities for each individual broadband infrastructure project	Air Pollution Control Officer of the Feather River Air Quality Management District; Yuba County; Project Applicant		

Mitigation Measure	Monitoring / Mitigation Timing	Reporting / Responsible Party	Verification of Compliance	
			Initials	Date
5. Utilize existing power sources (e.g., power poles) or clean fuel generators rather than temporary power generators. 6. Develop a traffic plan to minimize traffic flow interference from construction activities. The plan may include advance public notice of routing, use of public transportation, and satellite parking areas with a shuttle service. Schedule operations affecting traffic for off-peak hours. Minimize obstruction of through-traffic lanes. Provide a flag person to guide traffic properly and ensure safety at construction sites. 7. Portable engines and portable engine-driven equipment units used at the project work site, with the exception of on-road and off-road motor vehicles, may require California Air Resources Board (CARB) Portable Equipment Registration with the State or a local district permit. The owner/operator shall be responsible for arranging appropriate consultations with CARB or the FRAQMD to determine registration and permitting requirements prior to equipment operation at the site.				
BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES				
BIO-1: Prepare a Site-Specific Biological Resources Assessment Prior to approval of an individual broadband project, the project applicant shall retain a qualified biologist to prepare a project-specific Biological Resources Assessment (BRA). The project-specific BRA shall consist of a data review and reconnaissance-level surveys prior to project implementation. The data reviewed will include the applicable biological resources setting, species and sensitive natural communities tables, and habitat information from Section 4.3, Biological Resources, of the program EIR for where the project will occur. It will also include review of the best available, current data for the area, including vegetation mapping data, species' distribution/range information, California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB), California Native Plant Society (CNPS) Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants of California, relevant Biogeographic Information and Observation System (BIOS) queries, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) database queries, and relevant general and regional plans. Reconnaissance-level biological surveys will include general surveys and habitat assessments of project areas and	Prior to approval of individual broadband projects	Qualified Biologist; California Department of Fish and Wildlife and/or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; Yuba County; Project Applicant		

Mitigation Measure	Monitoring / Mitigation Timing	Reporting / Responsible Party	Verification of Compliance	
			Initials	Date
appropriate survey buffers for sensitive and special-status biological resources. The qualified surveyor will 1) identify and document sensitive resources, such as riparian communities, wetlands, oak woodlands, or other sensitive habitats or designated sensitive natural communities or wildlife nursery sites or habitat, and 2) assess the suitability of habitat within the project area to support special-status plant and animal species. The surveyor will also record any incidental wildlife observations. The project-specific BRA shall also include an analysis of potential impacts on biological resource, and if it is determined during the BRA that special-status species have the potential to occur within a project area or have the potential to occur within a project area, then the appropriate mitigation measures described below in Mitigation Measures BIO-2 through BIO-10 shall be recommended to avoid and/or reduce potential impacts as applicable. Potential measures for special-status species may include, but are not limited to, protocol-level surveys, nesting bird surveys, worker awareness trainings, and other focused preconstruction surveys as well as onsite biological monitoring during construction in sensitive habitats or habitats that could support special-status plants or wildlife. If it is determined that the project has potential to impact USFWS-designated critical habitat and/or NMFS essential fish habitat, then the project applicant shall coordinate USFWS, as necessary, to determine mitigation and/or avoidance measures to reduce potential impacts to a level that would be less than significant. Depending on site-specific conditions, agency involvement may be triggered through the regulatory permitting process or direct agency consultation.				

Mitigation Measure	Monitoring / Mitigation Timing	Reporting / Responsible Party	Verification of Compliance	
			Initials	Date
BIO-2: Conduct Worker Awareness Training for Applicable Special-Status Species If it is determined during the preparation of the project-specific BRA prescribed in Mitigation Measure BIO-1 that any special-status species have the potential to occur within a project area or be affected by project construction, then a qualified biologist shall provide environmental awareness training to all project-related personnel before the initiation of work. The training shall include the identification methods for the relevant potentially occurring special-status species, required Best Management Practices (BMPs) to implement before the start of and during construction, general measures that are being implemented to protect the species as they relate to the project, penalties for non-compliance, and boundaries of the permitted disturbance zones. Upon completion of the training, all construction personnel will sign a form stating that they have attended the training and understand all the measures. Proof of this instruction shall be kept on file with the biologist on-site and the project applicant.	Prior to start of construction on individual broadband projects	Qualified Biologist, Yuba County, Project Applicant		
BIO-3: Implement Mitigation Measures for Special-Status Plant Species If it is determined during the preparation of the project-specific BRA prescribed in Mitigation Measure BIO-1 that special-status plant species have the potential to occur within a project area or be affected by project construction, then the following measures shall be included in the project-specific BRA, relevant CEQA documents, and the associated MMRP to avoid and/or reduce potential impacts to special-status plants. • Focused special-status plant surveys shall be conducted by a qualified biologist during the appropriate identification (blooming) periods before any ground disturbing activities in suitable habitat. Surveys shall be conducted as specified in this measure or according to the most current agency guidelines. If no special-status plants are observed, then a letter report documenting the survey results shall be prepared and submitted to the project applicant and the County, and no further measures are recommended. • If special-status plants are observed within the project area, the location of the special-status plants shall be marked with pin flags or other highly visible	Prior to and during construction activities for individual broadband projects	Qualified Biologist, California Department of Fish and Wildlife and/or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Yuba County, Project Applicant		

Mitigation Measure	Monitoring / Mitigation Timing	Reporting / Responsible Party	Verification of Compliance	
			Initials	Date
markers and recorded with GPS equipment. The project applicant shall determine if the special-status plant(s) on-site can be avoided by project design or utilize construction techniques to avoid impacts to the special-status plant species. All special-status plants to be avoided shall have exclusion fencing or other highly visible material marking the avoidance area, and the avoidance area shall remain in place throughout the entire construction period. Avoidance areas shall also be marked on project plans. If special-status plants are found within the project area and cannot be avoided, the project applicant shall consult with CDFW and/or USFWS, as appropriate, to determine appropriate measures to mitigate for the loss of special-status plant populations. These measures may include gathering seed from impacted populations for planting within nearby appropriate habitat or within the project footprint after construction, topsoil salvage and replacement, preserving or enhancing existing off-site populations of the plant species affected by the project, or restoring suitable habitat for special-status plant species habitat as directed by the regulatory agencies.				
BIO-4: Implement Mitigation Measures for Special-Status Vernal Pool Invertebrates If it is determined during the preparation of the project-specific BRA prescribed in Mitigation Measure BIO-1 that suitable habitat for special-status vernal pool invertebrates (fairy shrimp) is present within a project area, then the following measures shall be included in the project-specific BRA, relevant CEQA documents, and the associated MMRP to avoid and/or reduce potential impacts to special-status vernal pool invertebrates: To the extent feasible, projects should be designed to avoid all direct and indirect impacts to potentially suitable wetland habitat. Any wetland habitat designated for avoidance shall be marked with pin flags or other highly visible markers and recorded by GPS equipment. Wetland areas to be avoided shall have exclusion fencing or other highly visible material marking the avoidance	Prior to and during construction activities for individual broadband projects	Qualified Biologist, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Yuba County, Project Applicant		

Mitigation Measure	Monitoring / Mitigation Timing	Reporting / Responsible Party	Verification of Compliance	
			Initials	Date
area, and the avoidance area shall remain in place throughout the entire construction period. Avoidance areas shall also be marked on project plans. - If it is determined that suitable habitat for special-status vernal pool invertebrates cannot be avoided, the project applicant may enlist a qualified biologist to perform protocol surveys for vernal pool invertebrates according to the 2017 <i>USFWS Survey Guidelines for the Listed Large Branchiopods</i> (https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/survey-guidelines-for-large-branchiopods.pdf). If the surveys are negative for special-status vernal pool invertebrates and the USFWS accepts the survey results, it is assumed that the features can be impacted after appropriate environmental permits are acquired for dredge and fill of the features (see Mitigation Measure BIO-11). - If special-status vernal pool invertebrates are found to be present or assumed to be present and will be impacted by the proposed project, the project applicant shall be required to mitigate for impacts to the species. If mitigation for vernal pool invertebrates is required and the project has a federal nexus (e.g., is pursuant to a USACE permit, is federally funded, or occurs on federal land), impacts can be addressed through Section 7 consultation with the USFWS. If the project does not have a federal nexus, the project applicant, through coordination with the USFWS, can prepare a Habitat Conservation Plan under Section 10 of FESA. Possible mitigation opportunities include off-site preservation of occupied off-site habitat or the purchase of habitat credits at a qualified mitigation bank as agreed to by the USFWS.				
BIO-5: Implement Mitigation Measures for Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle If it is determined during the preparation of the project-specific BRA prescribed in Mitigation Measure BIO-1 that suitable habitat for valley elderberry longhorn beetle (elderberry shrubs) is present within a project area, then the following measures shall be included in the project-specific BRA, relevant CEQA documents, and the associated MMRP to avoid and/or reduce potential impacts to valley elderberry longhorn beetle:	Prior to and during construction activities for individual broadband projects	Qualified Biologist, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Yuba County, Project Applicant		

Mitigation Measure	Monitoring / Mitigation Timing	Reporting / Responsible Party	Verification of Compliance	
			Initials	Date
- To the extent feasible, projects should be designed to avoid all direct and indirect impacts to elderberry shrubs within or adjacent to the project footprint. If elderberry shrubs are found on or adjacent to the site, a 100-foot wide avoidance buffer (measured from the dripline of the plant) will be established around all elderberry shrubs with stems greater than one-inch diameter at ground level and will be clearly identified in the field by staking, flagging, or fencing, consistent with the <i>USFWS 2017 Framework for Assessing Impacts to the Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle (Desmocerus californicus dimorphus)</i> (https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/survey-guidelines-for-valley-elderberry-longhorn-beetle.pdf). No construction activities involving mechanized equipment will occur within the buffer areas. Human access may be permitted in the buffer, provided that it does not cause disturbance to the shrubs. Avoidance areas shall also be marked on project plans. - If it is determined that suitable habitat for valley elderberry longhorn beetle cannot be avoided, the project applicant will be required to mitigate for impacts to elderberry shrubs consistent with USFWS guidelines. If mitigation for valley elderberry longhorn beetle is required and the project has a federal nexus (e.g., is pursuant to a USACE permit, is federally funded, or occurs on federal land), impacts can be addressed through Section 7 consultation with the USFWS. If the project does not have a federal nexus, the project applicant, through coordination with the USFWS, can prepare a Habitat Conservation Plan under Section 10 of FESA. Possible mitigation may include transplanting of the affected shrubs to a USFWS-approved offsite location according to USFWS transplant guidance and/or purchase of USFWS-approved mitigation bank credits at a level specified by the USFWS.				
BIO-6: Implement Mitigation Measures for Western Bumble Bee If it is determined during the preparation of the project-specific BRA prescribed in Mitigation Measure BIO-1 that suitable habitat for western bumble bee is present within a project area, then the following measures shall be included in the project-specific BRA, relevant CEQA documents, and the associated MMRP to avoid and/or reduce potential	Prior to and during construction activities for individual broadband projects	Qualified Biologist, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Yuba County, Project Applicant		

Mitigation Measure	Monitoring / Mitigation Timing	Reporting / Responsible Party	Verification of Compliance	
			Initials	Date
impacts to western bumble bee: - To the extent feasible, projects should be designed to avoid all direct and indirect impacts to suitable habitat for western bumble bee within or adjacent to the project footprint. Areas designated for avoidance shall be marked with pin flags or other highly visible markers and recorded by GPS equipment. Areas to be avoided shall have exclusion fencing or other highly visible material marking the avoidance area, and the avoidance area shall remain in place throughout the entire construction period. Avoidance areas shall also be marked on project plans. - If suitable habitat for western bumble bee cannot be avoided by project construction, a qualified biologist familiar with California bumble bee species shall conduct pre-construction surveys to confirm the presence or absence of western bumble bee before the implementation of project-related activities. Surveys shall be conducted during the Colony Active Period (April to August) and when floral resources are present, ideally during peak bloom. Before project implementation, at least three onsite surveys should take place, and each survey should ideally be spaced two to four weeks apart during the Colony Active Period (April to August). Surveys should occur during the day (at least one hour after sunrise and at least two hours before sunset, though ideally between 9 AM and 1 PM) on warm but not hot, sunny days (65 to 90 degrees Fahrenheit), with low wind (less than 8 miles per hour). Survey methodology should remain consistent with CDFW's Survey Considerations for California Endangered Species Act (CESA) Candidate Bumble Species (https://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FileHandler.ashx?DocumentID=213150&inline). If surveys from a particular project site failed to detect bumble bees one year, the project applicant shall perform a full round of surveys in each year that project construction will occur within suitable habitat or assume presence. If western bumble bee is not found during the multiple rounds of focused surveys within				

Mitigation Measure	Monitoring / Mitigation Timing	Reporting / Responsible Party	Verification of Compliance	
			Initials	Date
suitable nesting, foraging, and/or overwintering habitat, it is assumed that western bumble bee is not present and no further action is required. If a western bumble bee individual or colony is identified within the project site or within 25 feet of the project site during pre-construction surveys, the project applicant may propose site-specific measures to avoid take (such as work-exclusion buffers) or consult with CDFW to obtain an Incidental Take Permit (ITP) if take of CESA-protected bumble bees may occur and be impacted by project activities. The project applicant shall follow all measures in the ITP during project construction and operation.				
BIO-7: Implement Mitigation Measures for Special-Status Aquatic Species If it is determined during the preparation of the project-specific BRA prescribed in Mitigation Measure BIO-1 that special-status aquatic species (green sturgeon [southern DPS], steelhead [Central Valley DPS], Chinook salmon [Central Valley spring-run ESU], southern long-toed salamander, Foothill yellow-legged frog [north Sierra DPS], California red-legged frog, Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog, northwestern pond turtle, or Giant garter snake) have the potential to occur within a project area or be impacted by construction, then the following measures shall be included in the project-specific BRA, relevant CEQA documents, and the associated MMRP to avoid and/or reduce potential impacts. - Project applicants shall consult with the qualified biologist during the project design phase to ensure that project designs make every attempt to avoid impacts to aquatic resources through project alignment shifts, work area restrictions, construction methods, or other means. - A qualified biologist shall map aquatic resources with a sub-meter GPS and delineate suitable aquatic habitats as described in Mitigation Measure BIO-11. These aquatic features shall have wildlife exclusion fencing installed around them prior to the start of construction. Wetland avoidance areas shall be depicted in project work plans. Fencing shall be solid fencing and not include a	Prior to and during construction activities for individual broadband projects	Qualified Biologist, Yuba County, Project Applicant		

Mitigation Measure	Monitoring / Mitigation Timing	Reporting / Responsible Party	Verification of Compliance	
			Initials	Date
mesh design that could trap wildlife. Fencing shall be trenched into the soil at least six inches, and the soil must be carefully compacted against both sides of the fence for its entire length to prevent animals from entering the construction area. Exclusion fencing will be inspected daily for the duration of construction to ensure it remains intact, and any holes, tears, or gaps will be repaired immediately. Fencing will be removed upon construction completion. • Focused surveys for special-status aquatic species (green sturgeon [southern DPS], steelhead [Central Valley DPS], Chinook salmon [Central Valley spring-run ESU], southern long-toed salamander, Foothill yellow-legged frog [north Sierra DPS], California red-legged frog, Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog, northwestern pond turtle, or giant garter snake) shall be conducted by a qualified biologist according to the most current agency protocols (https://wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Survey-Protocols) before any ground disturbing activities in suitable habitat. If no special-status aquatic species are detected, then a letter report documenting the survey results should be prepared and submitted to the project applicant, and no further measures are recommended. • A qualified biologist shall conduct a pre-construction survey for special-status aquatic species within 24 hours before the start of grading or land-disturbing activities. If the survey shows that there is no evidence of these species, then a letter report shall be prepared to document the survey and provided to the project applicant and the County, and no additional measures are recommended. If development does not commence within 24 hours of the survey, or halts for more than seven days, then an additional survey is required before starting or resuming work. ○ If any of these species are observed during the survey, no work shall occur within a 250-foot buffer of the species' occurrence until				

Mitigation Measure	Monitoring / Mitigation Timing	Reporting / Responsible Party	Verification of Compliance	
			Initials	Date
consulting with the appropriate wildlife agencies to determine if additional mitigation and avoidance measures are required. A qualified biologist shall monitor construction and be present during all ground disturbance activities within suitable habitat for special-status species. If any of these special-status species are observed within the project area, all work shall immediately halt in the vicinity of the special-status aquatic species to allow the species to leave the area of its own will. If the special-status aquatic species is in immediate danger, the qualified biologist shall relocate the species outside of the construction zone, at a safe distance from all construction-related activities, and within suitable habitat as approved by the wildlife agencies. No one other than the qualified biologist shall handle, take, or otherwise harass the aquatic species. No work within a 250-foot buffer of the species occurrence shall resume until the aquatic species has left the project area or been relocated from areas of potential disturbance.				
BIO-8: Implement Mitigation Measures for Special-Status Bird Species and Other Nesting Birds Active nests are protected by the California Fish and Game Code Section 3503.5 and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA). Construction activities could result in disturbance of nest sites through temporary increases in ambient noise levels and increased human activity. In addition, vegetation clearing operations, including pruning or the removal of trees and shrubs, could impact nesting birds if these activities occur during the nesting season (February 1 to August 31). All vegetation clearing, including removal of trees and shrubs, shall be completed between September 1 and January 31, if feasible. If it is determined during the preparation of the project-specific BRA prescribed in Mitigation Measure BIO-1, that special-status bird species and other nesting birds have the potential to occur within a project area or be impacted by construction, then the following mitigation measures shall be included in the project-specific BRA, relevant CEQA documents, and the associated MMRP to avoid and/or reduce potential impacts.	Prior to and during construction activities occurring during the breeding season (February 1 through August 31) for individual broadband projects	Qualified Biologist, Yuba County, Project Applicant		

Mitigation Measure	Monitoring / Mitigation Timing	Reporting / Responsible Party	Verification of Compliance	
			Initials	Date
- If construction activities are proposed to begin during the non-breeding season (September 1 through January 31), a survey is not required, and no further studies are necessary. - If vegetation removal and grading activities begin during the nesting season (February 1 to August 31), the project applicant shall require that a qualified biologist conduct a pre-construction survey of the project area for active nests. Additionally, the surrounding 500 feet should be surveyed for active raptor nests, where accessible. The pre-construction survey should be conducted within 7 days before the commencement of ground-disturbing activities. Surveys shall be conducted as specified in this measure or according to the most current agency guidelines. If the pre-construction survey shows that there is no evidence of active nests, a letter report shall be prepared to document the survey, and no additional measures are recommended. If construction does not commence within 7 days of the pre-construction survey, or halts for more than 7 days, an additional survey is required before starting work. If nests are found during construction activities and considered to be active, the qualified biologist shall establish buffer zones to prohibit construction activities and minimize nest disturbance until the young have successfully fledged. Buffer width will be determined by the qualified biologist and will depend on the species in question, surrounding existing disturbances, and specific site characteristics, but may range from 20 feet for some songbirds to 250 feet for most raptors. If active nests are found within any trees slated for removal, then an appropriate buffer shall be established around the trees and the trees will not be removed until the qualified biologist determines that the nestlings have successfully fledged.				
BIO-9: Implement Mitigation Measures for Western Red Bat If it is determined during the preparation of the project-specific BRA prescribed in Mitigation Measure BIO-1 that Western red bats have the potential to occur within a project area or be impacted by construction, then the following mitigation measures	Within 7 days prior to and during construction activities for individual broadband projects	Qualified Biologist, Yuba County, Project Applicant		

Mitigation Measure	Monitoring / Mitigation Timing	Reporting / Responsible Party	Verification of Compliance	
			Initials	Date
shall be included in the project-specific BRA, relevant CEQA documents, and the associated MMRP to avoid and/or reduce potential impacts. - The project applicant shall require that a qualified biologist conduct a pre-construction survey within 7 days before clearing or grading operations. Surveys shall be conducted as specified in this measure or according to the most current agency guidelines. If no bats are observed, a letter report should be prepared and submitted to the project applicant and the County to document the survey, and no additional measures are recommended. If construction does not commence within 7 days of the pre-construction survey, or halts for more than 7 days, an additional survey shall be completed before starting work. - If bats are present and roosting on or within 100 feet of the project area, then the qualified biologist shall establish an appropriate buffer around the roost site. At minimum, no trees or structures shall be removed until the biologist has determined that the bat is no longer roosting in the tree or structure. Additional mitigation measures for bat species, such as the installation of bat boxes or alternate roost structures, would be recommended if special-status bat species are found to be roosting within the project area.				
Mitigation Measure BIO-10: Implement Mitigation Measures for Fishers If it is determined during the preparation of the project-specific BRA prescribed in Mitigation Measure BIO-1, that fishers (<i>Pekania pennanti</i>) have the potential to occur within a project area or be impacted by construction, then the following mitigation measures shall be included in the project-specific BRA, relevant CEQA documents, and the associated MMRP, to avoid and/or reduce potential impacts. Focused surveys for fishers shall be conducted by a qualified biologist as appropriate and following the most recent agency protocol (https://wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Survey-Protocols#377281285-mammals) before any ground disturbing activities in suitable habitat. Focused survey	No more than 7 days prior to construction activities for individual broadband projects	Qualified Biologist, Yuba County, Project Applicant		

Mitigation Measure	Monitoring / Mitigation Timing	Reporting / Responsible Party	Verification of Compliance	
			Initials	Date
methods may include camera trapping or the use of track plates over extended periods of time. If no fishers are detected, then a letter report documenting the survey results shall be prepared and submitted to the project applicant, and no further measures are recommended. A qualified biologist shall conduct a preconstruction survey for fishers no more than 7 days prior to the beginning of ground disturbance related to construction activities, or any other project activity likely to impact them (such as staging, mowing, vegetation clearing), to determine if there are any mammal dens on the project site. If there are no fisher dens on the project site, no further mitigation is necessary. If dens are located within the work area and cannot be avoided, a qualified biologist shall determine if the dens are occupied. If unoccupied, the dens shall be collapsed under the supervision of the biologist. If occupied, the biologist shall determine if it is a natal/pupping den or a solitary fisher den. Dens of solitary individuals may be collapsed under the supervision of the biologist once the animal has vacated the den. Natal/pupping dens shall be avoided by establishment of an exclusion zone around the den, the size of the exclusion zone shall be determined by the qualified biologist on site, until the young are old enough to leave the den and survive on their own.				
BIO-11: Jurisdictional Delineation and Regulatory Permitting If it is determined that impacts to jurisdictional waters or other sensitive natural communities cannot be avoided, then the applicant of an individual broadband project shall apply for any necessary permits from the USACE, CDFW, and the RWQCB (e.g., Section 401/404 permits, CDFW Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement, etc.). If necessary, a formal delineation of wetlands and “other waters” of the U.S. shall be prepared in accordance with the USACE <i>Corps of Engineers Wetlands Delineation Manual</i> and appropriate regional supplements to determine the extent of aquatic resources and quantify impacts. Impacts to jurisdictional waters and/or sensitive natural habitat shall be mitigated in accordance with agency requirements.	Prior to approval of individual broadband projects	Project Applicant		
BIO-12: Oak Resources Inventory If is determined during the BRA that an individual broadband project will result in impacts to oak resources, then the County may require mitigation for impacts to oak	Prior to approval of individual broadband projects	Qualified Botanist, Ecologist, Wildlife Biologist, or		

Mitigation Measure	Monitoring / Mitigation Timing	Reporting / Responsible Party	Verification of Compliance	
			Initials	Date
resources or regulated individual oak trees. Prior to project approval, the Community Development and Services Agency may require an inventory of prematurely removed trees or canopy cover to determine the extent of the loss. The inventory shall be prepared by a resource professional with expertise in oak woodlands ecology who is on the list of qualified consultants maintained by the Community Development and Services Agency. Resource professionals may include botanists, ecologists, wildlife biologists, and foresters.		Forester; Yuba County		
CULTURAL RESOURCES				
CUL-1: Archaeological Cultural Resources Investigations <i>Preconstruction Screening Identification</i> Prior to each phase of individual broadband projects, including installation and/or use of appurtenant structures, unpaved staging areas, and fiber optic line, Yuba County shall request a records search for all project footprints for construction activities that require ground disturbance in areas that have not been previously subject to such disturbance. For those areas of native, unpaved soil that have not been adequately surveyed for archaeological cultural resources in the past, the County shall require a pedestrian field survey by a qualified professional archaeologist. If archaeological cultural resources are identified as a result of that survey, the County shall implement the recommendations of the consulting archaeologist to avoid or substantially reduce the severity of impacts on such resources. For those areas that have been surveyed previously, the County shall abide by the recommendations of the professional archaeologist who conducted the original survey. <i>Known Resource Conflicts</i> In the event that the records search described above identifies archaeological resources that would be subject to project-related impacts, the County shall evaluate the status of the resource under CEQA. The archaeological resource shall be assessed for significance through the implementation of a Phase II investigation by a qualified archaeologist. This may require some or all of the following measures to be	Prior to each phase of individual broadband projects	Qualified Archaeologist; Yuba County; Descendent Tribal Communities		

Mitigation Measure	Monitoring / Mitigation Timing	Reporting / Responsible Party	Verification of Compliance	
			Initials	Date
implemented: • Development of a research design that guides assessments of site significance and scientific potential. • Mapping and systematic collection of a representative sample of surface artifacts. • Subsurface investigation through shovel test pits, surface scrapes, or 1- by-1 meter excavation units; a combination of such methods; or equivalent methods. • Analysis of recovered material to determine significance pursuant to the CEQA Guidelines. • Preparation of a report, including an evaluation of site significance, and recommendations for mitigation, if appropriate. • Appropriate curation of collected artifacts. If the resource is precontact in nature, the Phase II investigation shall be coordinated with descendant tribal communities. If the Phase II evaluation concludes that the archaeological resource does not qualify as a historical resource (PRC Section 21084.1) or unique archaeological resource (PRC Section 21083.2), then no further study or protection of the resource is necessary. If the resource does qualify as a historical or unique archaeological resource, then the County shall require the implementation of the Phase III approach described below. The Phase III data recovery program shall include all or a combination of the following methods: • Development of a research design to identify important research questions				

Mitigation Measure	Monitoring / Mitigation Timing	Reporting / Responsible Party	Verification of Compliance	
			Initials	Date
that may be answered through a systematic study of the resource. - Mapping and systematic collection of surface artifacts, possibly complete data recovered depending on site size. - Subsurface investigation through methods such as controlled hand-excavation units, machine excavations, deep testing, or a combination of methods. When applicable, other techniques, such as geophysical testing, may be warranted. - Analysis of recovered material through visual inspection and chemical analysis when applicable. - Preparation of a report. - Appropriate curation of collected artifacts. If the resource is precontact in nature, the Phase III investigation shall be coordinated with descendant tribal communities.				
CUL-2: Inadvertent Discovery of Archaeological Cultural Resources In the event that cultural resources are exposed during ground-disturbing activities during construction of individual broadband projects, construction activities shall be halted within 100 feet of the discovery. Cultural resources could consist of but are not limited to stone, bone, wood, or shell artifacts, or features, including hearths, structural remains, or historic dumpsites. If the resources cannot be avoided during the remainder of construction, a consulting archaeologist who meets the Secretary of the Interior's <i>Professional Qualifications Standards</i> for archaeology shall assess the resource and provide appropriate management recommendations. The County shall implement those recommendations to avoid or substantially reduce the severity of impacts on significant resources.	Immediately upon discovery of archaeological cultural resources	Qualified Archaeologist; Yuba County		

Mitigation Measure	Monitoring / Mitigation Timing	Reporting / Responsible Party	Verification of Compliance	
			Initials	Date
NOISE				
NOI-1: Construction Hours Construction activities shall not occur outside the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m. seven days a week. Prior to starting construction activities, the-individual broadband project applicant or construction contractor shall post a publicly visible sign at the entrance to the individual fiber project site listing the allowable construction hours and the contact information, including telephone numbers, to report noise violations to the County and the contractor.	Prior to issuing individual broadband project construction permits	Project Applicant; Construction Contractor; Yuba County		
NOI-2: Backup Generator Noise Control Prior to approving individual broadband projects that require an emergency back generator, the County shall verify that project plans include the following: Where feasible, emergency backup generators shall be installed no closer than 25 feet from any noise sensitive land use (NSLU) (e.g., residences, schools, hospitals, convalescent homes, churches, libraries). If it is not feasible to locate emergency generators 25 feet or more from all NSLUs, the project proponent shall incorporate noise attenuating features (e.g., generator sound enclosures, noise barriers) into the equipment installation sufficient to reduce generator noise levels to 60 dBA LEQ or less measured at outdoor use areas or building edges of the closest NSLU. Noise levels at NSLUs shall be verified by a qualified acoustical professional.	Prior to approval of individual broadband projects	Yuba County		
NOI-3: Vibratory Roller Use Prior to issuing individual broadband project construction approvals or permits, the County shall insure that construction documentation includes the following restrictions. Vibratory rollers shall be used in static mode only (no vibrations) within the flowing distances: Within 15 feet of any occupied building; and,	Prior to issuing individual broadband project construction permits	Yuba County		

Mitigation Measure	Monitoring / Mitigation Timing	Reporting / Responsible Party	Verification of Compliance	
			Initials	Date
• Within 18 feet of any older residential building; and, • Within 60 feet of a fragile historical building, ruin, or ancient monument.				
TRANSPORTATION				
TRA-1: Traffic Control and Detour Plan Prior to the issuance of an encroachment permit, a Traffic Control Plan shall be developed for individual broadband projects that require an encroachment permit for construction activities along County road rights-of-way (ROW) to manage traffic during construction. The applicant shall consult with the Yuba County Public Works Department regarding construction activities that may affect area traffic (such as construction staging necessitating lane closure, trenching, etc.) to ensure that the Traffic Control Plan is prepared in conformance with applicable code and ordinance requirements for emergency access. The construction contractor shall implement appropriate traffic controls identified in the Traffic Control Plan in accordance with the California Vehicle Code and other State and local requirements to avoid or minimize impacts on traffic during construction. The Traffic Control Plan shall be submitted along with the encroachment permit to the Yuba County Public Works Department prior to the commencement of construction activities.	Prior to issuing individual broadband project encroachment permit	Project Applicant; Yuba County		
TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES				
TCR-1: Tribal Consultation When an application for an individual broadband project is deemed complete by Yuba County, the County, as the CEQA Lead Agency, shall conduct tribal consultation outreach to relevant California Native American tribes, pursuant to Public Resources Code (PRC) Section 21080.3.1, for all individual broadband projects included within the scope of the County of Yuba Broadband Infrastructure Project Program EIR prior to project approval. The County shall utilize the outreach procedures of AB 52 regardless of the level of environmental review required for the individual broadband project. In the event that a general plan or specific plan adoption or amendment is required for the implementation of an individual broadband project, the County shall comply with the requirements of Senate Bill 18 (SB) 18, in coordination with AB 52, as described in	AB 52 consultation	Yuba County		

Mitigation Measure	Monitoring / Mitigation Timing	Reporting / Responsible Party	Verification of Compliance	
			Initials	Date
California Government Code Section 65352.3.				
TCR-2: Tribal Treatment and Tribal Consultation In the event that potential tribal cultural resources (TCRs) are exposed during ground-disturbing activities, construction activities (e.g., grading, grubbing, or vegetation clearing) shall be halted in the immediate vicinity of the discovery. The consulting tribe that is culturally and geographically affiliated with the area shall then be retained to evaluate if the resource is a TCR, and thus significant under CEQA. If the discovery is a TCR, additional work and mitigation measures, such as those listed in PRC §21084.3, as deemed appropriate by the tribal organization consulting on the find. Such mitigation may include avoidance and preservation in place as the preferred alternative.	Immediately upon discovery	Tribal Organization consulting on the find		

Appendix F

CalEEMod Output

Yuba County Broadband Detailed Report

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1. Basic Project Information

1.1. Basic Project Information

Data Field	Value
Project Name	Yuba County Broadband
Construction Start Date	5/1/2025
Lead Agency	—
Land Use Scale	Project/site
Analysis Level for Defaults	County
Windspeed (m/s)	3.30
Precipitation (days)	2.20
Location	Yuba County, CA, USA
County	Yuba
City	Unincorporated
Air District	Feather River AQMD
Air Basin	Sacramento Valley
TAZ	346
EDFZ	4
Electric Utility	Pacific Gas & Electric Company
Gas Utility	Pacific Gas & Electric
App Version	2022.1.1.28

1.2. Land Use Types

Land Use Subtype	Size	Unit	Lot Acreage	Building Area (sq ft)	Landscape Area (sq ft)	Special Landscape Area (sq ft)	Population	Description
User Defined Linear	1.00	Mile	0.80	0.00	0.00	—	—	—

1.3. User-Selected Emission Reduction Measures by Emissions Sector

No measures selected

2. Emissions Summary

2.1. Construction Emissions Compared Against Thresholds

Criteria Pollutants (lb/day for daily, ton/yr for annual) and GHGs (lb/day for daily, MT/yr for annual)

Un/Mit.	ROG	NOx	CO	SO2	PM10E	PM10D	PM10T	PM2.5E	PM2.5D	PM2.5T	CO2e
Daily, Summer (Max)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Unmit.	0.80	7.68	9.59	0.02	0.29	0.53	0.71	0.26	0.06	0.27	2,028
Average Daily (Max)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Unmit.	0.01	0.08	0.10	< 0.005	< 0.005	< 0.005	< 0.005	< 0.005	< 0.005	< 0.005	18.4
Annual (Max)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Unmit.	< 0.005	0.01	0.02	< 0.005	< 0.005	< 0.005	< 0.005	< 0.005	< 0.005	< 0.005	3.04

2.2. Construction Emissions by Year, Unmitigated

Criteria Pollutants (lb/day for daily, ton/yr for annual) and GHGs (lb/day for daily, MT/yr for annual)

Year	ROG	NOx	CO	SO2	PM10E	PM10D	PM10T	PM2.5E	PM2.5D	PM2.5T	CO2e
Daily - Summer (Max)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2025	0.80	7.68	9.59	0.02	0.29	0.53	0.71	0.26	0.06	0.27	2,028
Daily - Winter (Max)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Average Daily	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2025	0.01	0.08	0.10	< 0.005	< 0.005	< 0.005	< 0.005	< 0.005	< 0.005	< 0.005	18.4
Annual	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2025	< 0.005	0.01	0.02	< 0.005	< 0.005	< 0.005	< 0.005	< 0.005	< 0.005	< 0.005	3.04

3. Construction Emissions Details

3.1. Horizontal Directional Drilling (2025) - Unmitigated

Criteria Pollutants (lb/day for daily, ton/yr for annual) and GHGs (lb/day for daily, MT/yr for annual)

Location	ROG	NOx	CO	SO2	PM10E	PM10D	PM10T	PM2.5E	PM2.5D	PM2.5T	CO2e
Onsite	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Daily, Summer (Max)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Off-Road Equipment	0.78	7.66	8.95	0.02	0.29	—	0.29	0.26	—	0.26	1,915
Dust From Material Movement	—	—	—	—	—	0.00	0.00	—	0.00	0.00	—
Onsite truck	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Daily, Winter (Max)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Average Daily	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Off-Road Equipment	< 0.005	0.02	0.02	< 0.005	< 0.005	—	< 0.005	< 0.005	—	< 0.005	5.25
Dust From Material Movement	—	—	—	—	—	0.00	0.00	—	0.00	0.00	—
Onsite truck	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Annual	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Off-Road Equipment	< 0.005	< 0.005	< 0.005	< 0.005	< 0.005	—	< 0.005	< 0.005	—	< 0.005	0.87
Dust From Material Movement	—	—	—	—	—	0.00	0.00	—	0.00	0.00	—
Onsite truck	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Offsite	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Daily, Summer (Max)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Worker	0.02	0.01	0.24	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.03	0.00	0.01	0.01	36.1
Vendor	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Hauling	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Daily, Winter (Max)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Average Daily	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Worker	< 0.005	< 0.005	< 0.005	0.00	0.00	< 0.005	< 0.005	0.00	< 0.005	< 0.005	0.09
Vendor	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Hauling	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Annual	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Worker	< 0.005	< 0.005	< 0.005	0.00	0.00	< 0.005	< 0.005	0.00	< 0.005	< 0.005	0.01
Vendor	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Hauling	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

3.3. Plowing (2025) - Unmitigated

Criteria Pollutants (lb/day for daily, ton/yr for annual) and GHGs (lb/day for daily, MT/yr for annual)

Location	ROG	NOx	CO	SO2	PM10E	PM10D	PM10T	PM2.5E	PM2.5D	PM2.5T	CO2e
Onsite	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Daily, Summer (Max)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Off-Road Equipment	0.29	2.56	2.47	< 0.005	0.18	—	0.18	0.17	—	0.17	350
Dust From Material Movement	—	—	—	—	—	0.53	0.53	—	0.06	0.06	—
Onsite truck	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Daily, Winter (Max)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Average Daily	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Off-Road Equipment	< 0.005	0.01	0.01	< 0.005	< 0.005	—	< 0.005	< 0.005	—	< 0.005	0.96
Dust From Material Movement	—	—	—	—	—	< 0.005	< 0.005	—	< 0.005	< 0.005	—
Onsite truck	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Annual	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Off-Road Equipment	< 0.005	< 0.005	< 0.005	< 0.005	< 0.005	—	< 0.005	< 0.005	—	< 0.005	0.16
Dust From Material Movement	—	—	—	—	—	< 0.005	< 0.005	—	< 0.005	< 0.005	—
Onsite truck	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Offsite	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Daily, Summer (Max)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Worker	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Vendor	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Hauling	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Daily, Winter (Max)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Average Daily	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Worker	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Vendor	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Hauling	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Annual	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Worker	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Vendor	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Hauling	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

3.5. Line Installation (2025) - Unmitigated

Criteria Pollutants (lb/day for daily, ton/yr for annual) and GHGs (lb/day for daily, MT/yr for annual)

Location	ROG	NOx	CO	SO2	PM10E	PM10D	PM10T	PM2.5E	PM2.5D	PM2.5T	CO2e
Onsite	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Daily, Summer (Max)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Off-Road Equipment	0.27	1.97	2.04	< 0.005	0.07	—	0.07	0.06	—	0.06	283
Dust From Material Movement	—	—	—	—	—	0.00	0.00	—	0.00	0.00	—
Onsite truck	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Daily, Winter (Max)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Average Daily	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Off-Road Equipment	< 0.005	0.01	0.01	< 0.005	< 0.005	—	< 0.005	< 0.005	—	< 0.005	0.77
Dust From Material Movement	—	—	—	—	—	0.00	0.00	—	0.00	0.00	—
Onsite truck	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Annual	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Off-Road Equipment	< 0.005	< 0.005	< 0.005	< 0.005	< 0.005	—	< 0.005	< 0.005	—	< 0.005	0.13
Dust From Material Movement	—	—	—	—	—	0.00	0.00	—	0.00	0.00	—
Onsite truck	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Offsite	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Daily, Summer (Max)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Worker	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Vendor	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Hauling	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Daily, Winter (Max)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Average Daily	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Worker	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Vendor	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Hauling	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Annual	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Worker	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Vendor	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Hauling	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

3.7. Aerial Stringing (2025) - Unmitigated

Criteria Pollutants (lb/day for daily, ton/yr for annual) and GHGs (lb/day for daily, MT/yr for annual)

Location	ROG	NOx	CO	SO2	PM10E	PM10D	PM10T	PM2.5E	PM2.5D	PM2.5T	CO2e
Onsite	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Daily, Summer (Max)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Off-Road Equipment	0.67	7.19	9.59	0.02	0.25	—	0.25	0.23	—	0.23	2,028
Dust From Material Movement	—	—	—	—	—	0.00	0.00	—	0.00	0.00	—
Onsite truck	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Daily, Winter (Max)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Average Daily	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Off-Road Equipment	< 0.005	0.02	0.03	< 0.005	< 0.005	—	< 0.005	< 0.005	—	< 0.005	5.56
Dust From Material Movement	—	—	—	—	—	0.00	0.00	—	0.00	0.00	—

Onsite truck	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Annual	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Off-Road Equipment	< 0.005	< 0.005	< 0.005	< 0.005	< 0.005	—	< 0.005	< 0.005	—	< 0.005	0.92
Dust From Material Movement	—	—	—	—	—	0.00	0.00	—	0.00	0.00	—
Onsite truck	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Offsite	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Daily, Summer (Max)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Worker	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Vendor	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Hauling	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Daily, Winter (Max)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Average Daily	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Worker	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Vendor	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Hauling	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Annual	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Worker	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Vendor	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Hauling	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

3.9. Pavement Repair (2025) - Unmitigated

Criteria Pollutants (lb/day for daily, ton/yr for annual) and GHGs (lb/day for daily, MT/yr for annual)

Location	ROG	NOx	CO	SO2	PM10E	PM10D	PM10T	PM2.5E	PM2.5D	PM2.5T	CO2e
Onsite	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Daily, Summer (Max)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Off-Road Equipment	0.30	2.40	3.22	< 0.005	0.10	—	0.10	0.09	—	0.09	490
Onsite truck	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Daily, Winter (Max)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Average Daily	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Off-Road Equipment	< 0.005	0.01	0.01	< 0.005	< 0.005	—	< 0.005	< 0.005	—	< 0.005	1.34
Onsite truck	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Annual	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Off-Road Equipment	< 0.005	< 0.005	< 0.005	< 0.005	< 0.005	—	< 0.005	< 0.005	—	< 0.005	0.22
Onsite truck	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Offsite	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Daily, Summer (Max)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Worker	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Vendor	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Hauling	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Daily, Winter (Max)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Average Daily	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Worker	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Vendor	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Hauling	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Annual	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Worker	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Vendor	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Hauling	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

3.11. Microtrenching (2025) - Unmitigated

Criteria Pollutants (lb/day for daily, ton/yr for annual) and GHGs (lb/day for daily, MT/yr for annual)

Location	ROG	NOx	CO	SO2	PM10E	PM10D	PM10T	PM2.5E	PM2.5D	PM2.5T	CO2e
Onsite	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Daily, Summer (Max)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Off-Road Equipment	0.30	2.39	3.36	< 0.005	0.10	—	0.10	0.09	—	0.09	500
Onsite truck	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Daily, Winter (Max)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Average Daily	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Off-Road Equipment	< 0.005	0.01	0.01	< 0.005	< 0.005	—	< 0.005	< 0.005	—	< 0.005	1.37
Onsite truck	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Annual	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Off-Road Equipment	< 0.005	< 0.005	< 0.005	< 0.005	< 0.005	—	< 0.005	< 0.005	—	< 0.005	0.23
Onsite truck	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Offsite	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Daily, Summer (Max)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Worker	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Vendor	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Hauling	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Daily, Winter (Max)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Average Daily	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Worker	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Vendor	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Hauling	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Annual	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Worker	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Vendor	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Hauling	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

3.13. Trenching (2025) - Unmitigated

Criteria Pollutants (lb/day for daily, ton/yr for annual) and GHGs (lb/day for daily, MT/yr for annual)

Location	ROG	NOx	CO	SO2	PM10E	PM10D	PM10T	PM2.5E	PM2.5D	PM2.5T	CO2e
Onsite	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Daily, Summer (Max)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Off-Road Equipment	0.60	5.41	7.70	0.01	0.18	—	0.18	0.16	—	0.16	1,112
Onsite truck	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Daily, Winter (Max)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Average Daily	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Off-Road Equipment	< 0.005	0.01	0.02	< 0.005	< 0.005	—	< 0.005	< 0.005	—	< 0.005	3.05
Onsite truck	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Annual	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Off-Road Equipment	< 0.005	< 0.005	< 0.005	< 0.005	< 0.005	—	< 0.005	< 0.005	—	< 0.005	0.50
Onsite truck	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Offsite	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Daily, Summer (Max)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Worker	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Vendor	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Hauling	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Daily, Winter (Max)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Average Daily	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Worker	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Vendor	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Hauling	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Annual	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Worker	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Vendor	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Hauling	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

4. Operations Emissions Details

4.10. Soil Carbon Accumulation By Vegetation Type

4.10.1. Soil Carbon Accumulation By Vegetation Type - Unmitigated

Criteria Pollutants (lb/day for daily, ton/yr for annual) and GHGs (lb/day for daily, MT/yr for annual)

Vegetation	ROG	NOx	CO	SO2	PM10E	PM10D	PM10T	PM2.5E	PM2.5D	PM2.5T	CO2e
Daily, Summer (Max)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Daily, Winter (Max)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Annual	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

4.10.2. Above and Belowground Carbon Accumulation by Land Use Type - Unmitigated

Criteria Pollutants (lb/day for daily, ton/yr for annual) and GHGs (lb/day for daily, MT/yr for annual)

Land Use	ROG	NOx	CO	SO2	PM10E	PM10D	PM10T	PM2.5E	PM2.5D	PM2.5T	CO2e
Daily, Summer (Max)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Daily, Winter (Max)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Annual	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

4.10.3. Avoided and Sequestered Emissions by Species - Unmitigated

Criteria Pollutants (lb/day for daily, ton/yr for annual) and GHGs (lb/day for daily, MT/yr for annual)

Species	ROG	NOx	CO	SO2	PM10E	PM10D	PM10T	PM2.5E	PM2.5D	PM2.5T	CO2e
Daily, Summer (Max)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Avoided	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Subtotal	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sequestered	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Subtotal	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Removed	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Subtotal	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Daily, Winter (Max)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Avoided	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Subtotal	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sequestered	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Subtotal	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Removed	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Subtotal	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Annual	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Avoided	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Subtotal	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sequestered	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Subtotal	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Removed	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Subtotal	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

5. Activity Data

5.1. Construction Schedule

Phase Name	Phase Type	Start Date	End Date	Days Per Week	Work Days per Phase	Phase Description
Horizontal Directional Drilling	Linear, Grubbing & Land Clearing	5/1/2025	5/1/2025	5.00	1.00	—
Plowing	Linear, Grading & Excavation	5/2/2025	5/2/2025	5.00	1.00	—
Line Installation	Linear, Drainage, Utilities, & Sub-Grade	5/5/2025	5/5/2025	5.00	1.00	—
Aerial Stringing	Linear, Drainage, Utilities, & Sub-Grade	5/6/2025	5/6/2025	5.00	1.00	—
Pavement Repair	Linear, Paving	5/9/2025	5/9/2025	5.00	1.00	—
Microtrenching	Linear, Trenching	5/7/2025	5/7/2025	5.00	1.00	—
Trenching	Linear, Trenching	5/8/2025	5/8/2025	5.00	1.00	—

5.2. Off-Road Equipment

5.2.1. Unmitigated

Phase Name	Equipment Type	Fuel Type	Engine Tier	Number per Day	Hours Per Day	Horsepower	Load Factor
Horizontal Directional Drilling	Bore/Drill Rigs	Diesel	Average	1.00	8.00	83.0	0.50
Horizontal Directional Drilling	Cranes	Diesel	Average	1.00	8.00	367	0.29
Horizontal Directional Drilling	Generator Sets	Diesel	Average	1.00	8.00	14.0	0.74
Horizontal Directional Drilling	Excavators	Diesel	Average	1.00	8.00	36.0	0.38
Horizontal Directional Drilling	Tractors/Loaders/Back hoes	Diesel	Average	1.00	8.00	84.0	0.37
Plowing	Crawler Tractors	Diesel	Average	1.00	8.00	87.0	0.43
Line Installation	Air Compressors	Diesel	Average	1.00	8.00	37.0	0.48
Line Installation	Generator Sets	Diesel	Average	1.00	8.00	14.0	0.74
Aerial Stringing	Bore/Drill Rigs	Diesel	Average	1.00	8.00	83.0	0.50
Aerial Stringing	Cranes	Diesel	Average	1.00	8.00	367	0.29
Aerial Stringing	Rough Terrain Forklifts	Diesel	Average	1.00	8.00	96.0	0.40
Aerial Stringing	Tractors/Loaders/Back hoes	Diesel	Average	1.00	8.00	84.0	0.37
Pavement Repair	Tractors/Loaders/Back hoes	Diesel	Average	1.00	8.00	84.0	0.37
Pavement Repair	Rollers	Diesel	Average	1.00	8.00	36.0	0.38
Pavement Repair	Cement and Mortar Mixers	Diesel	Average	1.00	8.00	10.0	0.56
Microtrenching	Trenchers	Diesel	Average	1.00	8.00	40.0	0.50
Microtrenching	Tractors/Loaders/Back hoes	Diesel	Average	1.00	8.00	84.0	0.37
Trenching	Concrete/Industrial Saws	Diesel	Average	1.00	8.00	33.0	0.73
Trenching	Excavators	Diesel	Average	2.00	8.00	36.0	0.38

Trenching	Tractors/Loaders/Back	Diesel	Average	2.00	8.00	84.0	0.37
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5.3. Construction Vehicles

5.3.1. Unmitigated

Phase Name	Trip Type	One-Way Trips per Day	Miles per Trip	Vehicle Mix
Horizontal Directional Drilling	—	—	—	—
Horizontal Directional Drilling	Worker	3.13	14.3	LDA,LDT1,LDT2
Horizontal Directional Drilling	Vendor	0.00	8.80	HHDT,MHDT
Horizontal Directional Drilling	Hauling	0.00	20.0	HHDT
Horizontal Directional Drilling	Onsite truck	—	—	HHDT
Plowing	—	—	—	—
Plowing	Worker	0.00	14.3	LDA,LDT1,LDT2
Plowing	Vendor	0.00	8.80	HHDT,MHDT
Plowing	Hauling	0.00	20.0	HHDT
Plowing	Onsite truck	—	—	HHDT
Line Installation	—	—	—	—
Line Installation	Worker	0.00	14.3	LDA,LDT1,LDT2
Line Installation	Vendor	0.00	8.80	HHDT,MHDT
Line Installation	Hauling	0.00	20.0	HHDT
Line Installation	Onsite truck	—	—	HHDT
Pavement Repair	—	—	—	—
Pavement Repair	Worker	0.00	14.3	LDA,LDT1,LDT2
Pavement Repair	Vendor	0.00	8.80	HHDT,MHDT
Pavement Repair	Hauling	0.00	20.0	HHDT
Pavement Repair	Onsite truck	—	—	HHDT
Aerial Stringing	—	—	—	—
Aerial Stringing	Worker	0.00	14.3	LDA,LDT1,LDT2

Aerial Stringing	Vendor	0.00	8.80	HHDT,MHDT
Aerial Stringing	Hauling	0.00	20.0	HHDT
Aerial Stringing	Onsite truck	—	—	HHDT
Microtrenching	—	—	—	—
Microtrenching	Worker	0.00	14.3	LDA,LDT1,LDT2
Microtrenching	Vendor	—	8.80	HHDT,MHDT
Microtrenching	Hauling	0.00	20.0	HHDT
Microtrenching	Onsite truck	—	—	HHDT
Trenching	—	—	—	—
Trenching	Worker	0.00	14.3	LDA,LDT1,LDT2
Trenching	Vendor	—	8.80	HHDT,MHDT
Trenching	Hauling	0.00	20.0	HHDT
Trenching	Onsite truck	—	—	HHDT

5.4. Vehicles

5.4.1. Construction Vehicle Control Strategies

Non-applicable. No control strategies activated by user.

5.5. Architectural Coatings

Phase Name	Residential Interior Area Coated (sq ft)	Residential Exterior Area Coated (sq ft)	Non-Residential Interior Area Coated (sq ft)	Non-Residential Exterior Area Coated (sq ft)	Parking Area Coated (sq ft)
------------	--	--	--	--	-----------------------------

5.6. Dust Mitigation

5.6.1. Construction Earthmoving Activities

Phase Name	Material Imported (cy)	Material Exported (cy)	Acres Graded (acres)	Material Demolished (sq. ft.)	Acres Paved (acres)
Horizontal Directional Drilling	—	—	0.80	0.00	—
Plowing	—	—	0.80	0.00	—

Line Installation	—	—	0.80	0.00	—
Aerial Stringing	—	—	0.80	0.00	—

5.6.2. Construction Earthmoving Control Strategies

Non-applicable. No control strategies activated by user.

5.7. Construction Paving

Land Use	Area Paved (acres)	% Asphalt
User Defined Linear	0.80	100%

5.8. Construction Electricity Consumption and Emissions Factors

kWh per Year and Emission Factor (lb/MWh)

Year	kWh per Year	CO2	CH4	N2O
2025	0.00	204	0.03	< 0.005

5.18. Vegetation

5.18.1. Land Use Change

5.18.1.1. Unmitigated

Vegetation Land Use Type	Vegetation Soil Type	Initial Acres	Final Acres
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5.18.1. Biomass Cover Type

5.18.1.1. Unmitigated

Biomass Cover Type	Initial Acres	Final Acres
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5.18.2. Sequestration

5.18.2.1. Unmitigated

Tree Type	Number	Electricity Saved (kWh/year)	Natural Gas Saved (btu/year)
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6. Climate Risk Detailed Report

6.1. Climate Risk Summary

Cal-Adapt midcentury 2040–2059 average projections for four hazards are reported below for your project location. These are under Representation Concentration Pathway (RCP) 8.5 which assumes GHG emissions will continue to rise strongly through 2050 and then plateau around 2100.

Climate Hazard	Result for Project Location	Unit
Temperature and Extreme Heat	29.8	annual days of extreme heat
Extreme Precipitation	8.00	annual days with precipitation above 20 mm
Sea Level Rise	—	meters of inundation depth
Wildfire	13.1	annual hectares burned

Temperature and Extreme Heat data are for grid cell in which your project are located. The projection is based on the 98th historical percentile of daily maximum/minimum temperatures from observed historical data (32 climate model ensemble from Cal-Adapt, 2040–2059 average under RCP 8.5). Each grid cell is 6 kilometers (km) by 6 km, or 3.7 miles (mi) by 3.7 mi.

Extreme Precipitation data are for the grid cell in which your project are located. The threshold of 20 mm is equivalent to about ¾ an inch of rain, which would be light to moderate rainfall if received over a full day or heavy rain if received over a period of 2 to 4 hours. Each grid cell is 6 kilometers (km) by 6 km, or 3.7 miles (mi) by 3.7 mi.

Sea Level Rise data are for the grid cell in which your project are located. The projections are from Radke et al. (2017), as reported in Cal-Adapt (Radke et al., 2017, CEC-500-2017-008), and consider inundation location and depth for the San Francisco Bay, the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta and California coast resulting different increments of sea level rise coupled with extreme storm events. Users may select from four scenarios to view the range in potential inundation depth for the grid cell. The four scenarios are: No rise, 0.5 meter, 1.0 meter, 1.41 meters

Wildfire data are for the grid cell in which your project are located. The projections are from UC Davis, as reported in Cal-Adapt (2040–2059 average under RCP 8.5), and consider historical data of climate, vegetation, population density, and large (> 400 ha) fire history. Users may select from four model simulations to view the range in potential wildfire probabilities for the grid cell. The four simulations make different assumptions about expected rainfall and temperature are: Warmer/drier (HadGEM2-ES), Cooler/wetter (CNRM-CM5), Average conditions (CanESM2), Range of different rainfall and temperature possibilities (MIROC5). Each grid cell is 6 kilometers (km) by 6 km, or 3.7 miles (mi) by 3.7 mi.

6.2. Initial Climate Risk Scores

Climate Hazard	Exposure Score	Sensitivity Score	Adaptive Capacity Score	Vulnerability Score
Temperature and Extreme Heat	5	0	0	N/A
Extreme Precipitation	3	0	0	N/A
Sea Level Rise	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Wildfire	1	0	0	N/A

Flooding	0	0	0	N/A
Drought	0	0	0	N/A
Snowpack Reduction	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Air Quality Degradation	0	0	0	N/A

The sensitivity score reflects the extent to which a project would be adversely affected by exposure to a climate hazard. Exposure is rated on a scale of 1 to 5, with a score of 5 representing the greatest exposure.

The adaptive capacity of a project refers to its ability to manage and reduce vulnerabilities from projected climate hazards. Adaptive capacity is rated on a scale of 1 to 5, with a score of 5 representing the greatest ability to adapt.

The overall vulnerability scores are calculated based on the potential impacts and adaptive capacity assessments for each hazard. Scores do not include implementation of climate risk reduction measures.

6.3. Adjusted Climate Risk Scores

Climate Hazard	Exposure Score	Sensitivity Score	Adaptive Capacity Score	Vulnerability Score
Temperature and Extreme Heat	5	1	1	4
Extreme Precipitation	3	1	1	3
Sea Level Rise	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Wildfire	1	1	1	2
Flooding	1	1	1	2
Drought	1	1	1	2
Snowpack Reduction	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Air Quality Degradation	1	1	1	2

The sensitivity score reflects the extent to which a project would be adversely affected by exposure to a climate hazard. Exposure is rated on a scale of 1 to 5, with a score of 5 representing the greatest exposure.

The adaptive capacity of a project refers to its ability to manage and reduce vulnerabilities from projected climate hazards. Adaptive capacity is rated on a scale of 1 to 5, with a score of 5 representing the greatest ability to adapt.

The overall vulnerability scores are calculated based on the potential impacts and adaptive capacity assessments for each hazard. Scores include implementation of climate risk reduction measures.

6.4. Climate Risk Reduction Measures

7. Health and Equity Details

7.1. CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Scores

The maximum CalEnviroScreen score is 100. A high score (i.e., greater than 50) reflects a higher pollution burden compared to other census tracts in the state.

Indicator	Result for Project Census Tract
Exposure Indicators	—
AQ-Ozone	—
AQ-PM	—
AQ-DPM	—
Drinking Water	—
Lead Risk Housing	—
Pesticides	—
Toxic Releases	—
Traffic	—
Effect Indicators	—
CleanUp Sites	—
Groundwater	—
Haz Waste Facilities/Generators	—
Impaired Water Bodies	—
Solid Waste	—
Sensitive Population	—
Asthma	—
Cardio-vascular	—
Low Birth Weights	—
Socioeconomic Factor Indicators	—
Education	—
Housing	—
Linguistic	—
Poverty	—
Unemployment	—

7.2. Healthy Places Index Scores

The maximum Health Places Index score is 100. A high score (i.e., greater than 50) reflects healthier community conditions compared to other census tracts in the state.

Indicator	Result for Project Census Tract
Economic	—
Above Poverty	—
Employed	—
Median HI	—
Education	—
Bachelor's or higher	—
High school enrollment	—
Preschool enrollment	—
Transportation	—
Auto Access	—
Active commuting	—
Social	—
2-parent households	—
Voting	—
Neighborhood	—
Alcohol availability	—
Park access	—
Retail density	—
Supermarket access	—
Tree canopy	—
Housing	—
Homeownership	—
Housing habitability	—
Low-inc homeowner severe housing cost burden	—
Low-inc renter severe housing cost burden	—

Uncrowded housing	—
Health Outcomes	—
Insured adults	—
Arthritis	—
Asthma ER Admissions	—
High Blood Pressure	—
Cancer (excluding skin)	—
Asthma	—
Coronary Heart Disease	—
Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease	—
Diagnosed Diabetes	—
Life Expectancy at Birth	—
Cognitively Disabled	—
Physically Disabled	—
Heart Attack ER Admissions	—
Mental Health Not Good	—
Chronic Kidney Disease	—
Obesity	—
Pedestrian Injuries	—
Physical Health Not Good	—
Stroke	—
Health Risk Behaviors	—
Binge Drinking	—
Current Smoker	—
No Leisure Time for Physical Activity	—
Climate Change Exposures	—
Wildfire Risk	—
SLR Inundation Area	—

Children	—
Elderly	—
English Speaking	—
Foreign-born	—
Outdoor Workers	—
Climate Change Adaptive Capacity	—
Impervious Surface Cover	—
Traffic Density	—
Traffic Access	—
Other Indices	—
Hardship	—
Other Decision Support	—
2016 Voting	—

7.3. Overall Health & Equity Scores

Metric	Result for Project Census Tract
CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Score for Project Location (a)	—
Healthy Places Index Score for Project Location (b)	—
Project Located in a Designated Disadvantaged Community (Senate Bill 535)	No
Project Located in a Low-Income Community (Assembly Bill 1550)	No
Project Located in a Community Air Protection Program Community (Assembly Bill 617)	No

a: The maximum CalEnviroScreen score is 100. A high score (i.e., greater than 50) reflects a higher pollution burden compared to other census tracts in the state.
b: The maximum Health Places Index score is 100. A high score (i.e., greater than 50) reflects healthier community conditions compared to other census tracts in the state.

7.4. Health & Equity Measures

No Health & Equity Measures selected.

7.5. Evaluation Scorecard

Health & Equity Evaluation Scorecard not completed.

7.6. Health & Equity Custom Measures

No Health & Equity Custom Measures created.

8. User Changes to Default Data

Screen	Justification
Construction: Construction Phases	It was estimated that each construction method would be completed in one day for each individual fiber project.
Construction: Off-Road Equipment	Equipment per HELIX Air Quality Specialist.
Construction: Trips and VMT	Assumes each construction activity will be completed in one day.

Appendix G

Potential to Occur Table

Scientific Name/Common Name ¹	Status ²	Habitat, Ecology and Life History	Potential to Occur ³
Plants			
<i>Astragalus tener</i> var. <i>ferrisiae</i> Ferris' milk-vetch	1B.1	Annual herb that occurs in vernal mesic meadows and seeps, and subalkaline flats of valley and foothill grassland from 5 - 245 feet (CNPS 2024).	This species is known to occur in Yuba County. A site-specific analysis will be required to determine its potential to occur within the project footprint of the proposed broadband infrastructure.
<i>Buxbaumia viridis</i> Green shield-moss	2B.2	Moss that occurs in lower montane coniferous forest, subalpine coniferous forest, and upper montane coniferous forest from 3200 - 7220 feet (CNPS 2024).	This species is known to occur in Yuba County. A site-specific analysis will be required to determine its potential to occur within the project footprint of the proposed broadband infrastructure.
<i>Calycadenia spicata</i> Spicate calycadenia	1B.3	Annual herb that occurs in cismontane woodland, and valley and foothill grassland from 130 - 4595 feet (CNPS 2024).	This species is known to occur in Yuba County. A site-specific analysis will be required to determine its potential to occur within the project footprint of the proposed broadband infrastructure.
<i>Carex cyrtostachya</i> Sierra arching sedge	1B.2	Perennial herb that occurs in mesic lower montane coniferous forest, meadows and seeps, marshes and swamps, and riparian forest margins from 2000 - 4460 feet (CNPS 2024).	This species is known to occur in Yuba County. A site-specific analysis will be required to determine its potential to occur within the project footprint of the proposed broadband infrastructure.
<i>Carex xerophila</i> Chaparral sedge	1B.2	Perennial herb that occurs in chaparral, cismontane woodland, and lower montane coniferous forest from 1445 - 2525 feet (CNPS 2024).	This species is known to occur in Yuba County. A site-specific analysis will be required to determine its potential to occur within the project footprint of the proposed broadband infrastructure.
<i>Clarkia mosquinii</i> Mosquin's clarkia	1B.1	Annual herb that occurs in cismontane woodland and lower montane coniferous forest from 605 - 4890 feet (CNPS 2024).	This species is known to occur in Yuba County. A site-specific analysis will be required to determine its potential to occur within the project footprint of

Scientific Name/Common Name ¹	Status ²	Habitat, Ecology and Life History	Potential to Occur ³
			the proposed broadband infrastructure.
<i>Delphinium recurvatum</i> Recurved larkspur	1B.2	Perennial herb that occurs in chenopod scrub, cismontane woodland, and valley and foothill grassland from 10 - 2590 feet (CNPS 2024).	This species is known to occur in Yuba County. A site-specific analysis will be required to determine its potential to occur within the project footprint of the proposed broadband infrastructure.
<i>Downingia pusilla</i> Dwarf downingia	2B.2	Annual herb that occurs in mesic valley and foothill grassland, and vernal pools from 5 - 1460 feet (CNPS 2024).	This species is known to occur in Yuba County. A site-specific analysis will be required to determine its potential to occur within the project footprint of the proposed broadband infrastructure.
<i>Eriogonum umbellatum</i> var. <i>ahartii</i> Ahart's buckwheat	1B.2	Perennial herb that occurs in chaparral and cismontane woodland from 1310 - 6560 feet (CNPS 2024).	This species is known to occur in Yuba County. A site-specific analysis will be required to determine its potential to occur within the project footprint of the proposed broadband infrastructure.
<i>Fissidens pauperculus</i> Minute pocket moss	1B.2	Moss that occurs in damp coastal soil of North Coast coniferous forest from 35 - 3360 feet (CNPS 2024).	This species is known to occur in Yuba County. A site-specific analysis will be required to determine its potential to occur within the project footprint of the proposed broadband infrastructure.
<i>Fremontodendron decumbens</i> Pine Hill flannelbush	1B.2	Perennial evergreen shrub that occurs in chaparral and cismontane woodland from 1395 - 2495 feet (CNPS 2024).	This species is known to occur in Yuba County. A site-specific analysis will be required to determine its potential to occur within the project footprint of the proposed broadband infrastructure.
<i>Fritillaria eastwoodiae</i> Butte County fritillary	3.2	Perennial bulbiferous herb that occurs in chaparral, cismontane woodland, and lower montane coniferous forest (openings) from 165 - 4920 feet (CNPS 2024).	This species is known to occur in Yuba County. A site-specific analysis will be required to determine its potential to occur within the project footprint of

Scientific Name/Common Name ¹	Status ²	Habitat, Ecology and Life History	Potential to Occur ³
			the proposed broadband infrastructure.
<i>Juncus leiospermus</i> var. <i>ahartii</i> Ahart's dwarf rush	1B.2	Annual herb that occurs in mesic valley and foothill grassland from 100 - 750 feet (CNPS 2024).	This species is known to occur in Yuba County. A site-specific analysis will be required to determine its potential to occur within the project footprint of the proposed broadband infrastructure.
<i>Legenere limosa</i> Legenere	1B.1	Annual herb that occurs in vernal pools from 5 - 2885 feet (CNPS 2024).	This species is known to occur in Yuba County. A site-specific analysis will be required to determine its potential to occur within the project footprint of the proposed broadband infrastructure.
<i>Lewisia cantelovii</i> Cantelow's lewisia	1B.2	Perennial herb that occurs in broadleafed upland forest, chaparral, cismontane woodland, and lower montane coniferous forest from 1085 - 4495 feet (CNPS 2024).	This species is known to occur in Yuba County. A site-specific analysis will be required to determine its potential to occur within the project footprint of the proposed broadband infrastructure.
<i>Monardella venosa</i> Veiny monardella	1B.1	Annual herb that occurs in cismontane woodland, and valley and foothill grassland from 195 - 1345 feet (CNPS 2024).	This species is known to occur in Yuba County. A site-specific analysis will be required to determine its potential to occur within the project footprint of the proposed broadband infrastructure.
<i>Packera layneae</i> Layne's ragwort	1B.2	Perennial herb that occurs in chaparral and cismontane woodland from 655 - 3560 feet (CNPS 2024).	This species is known to occur in Yuba County. A site-specific analysis will be required to determine its potential to occur within the project footprint of the proposed broadband infrastructure.
<i>Plagiobothrys glyptocarpus</i> var. <i>modestus</i> Cedar Crest popcornflower	3	Annual herb that occurs in cismontane woodland, and mesic valley and foothill grassland from 2855 - 2855 feet (CNPS 2024).	This species is known to occur in Yuba County. A site-specific analysis will be required to determine its potential to occur within the project footprint of

Scientific Name/Common Name ¹	Status ²	Habitat, Ecology and Life History	Potential to Occur ³
			the proposed broadband infrastructure.
<i>Pohlia flexuosa</i> Flexuose threadmoss	2B.1	Moss that occurs in lower montane coniferous forest from 3115 - 3365 feet (CNPS 2024).	This species is known to occur in Yuba County. A site-specific analysis will be required to determine its potential to occur within the project footprint of the proposed broadband infrastructure.
<i>Pseudobahia bahiifolia</i> Hartweg's golden sunburst	1B.1	Annual herb that occurs in cismontane woodland, and valley and foothill grassland from 50 - 490 feet (CNPS 2024).	This species is known to occur in Yuba County. A site-specific analysis will be required to determine its potential to occur within the project footprint of the proposed broadband infrastructure.
<i>Pyrrocoma lucida</i> Sticky pyrrocoma	1B.2	Perennial herb that occurs in, Great Basin scrub, lower montane coniferous forest, meadows and seeps from 2295 - 6400 feet (CNPS 2024).	This species is known to occur in Yuba County. A site-specific analysis will be required to determine its potential to occur within the project footprint of the proposed broadband infrastructure.
<i>Rhynchospora capitellata</i> Brownish beaked-rush	2B.2	Perennial herb that occurs in lower montane coniferous forest, meadows and seeps, marshes and swamps, and upper montane coniferous forest from 150 - 6560 feet (CNPS 2024).	This species is known to occur in Yuba County. A site-specific analysis will be required to determine its potential to occur within the project footprint of the proposed broadband infrastructure.
<i>Sagittaria sanfordii</i> Sanford's arrowhead	1B.2	Emergent perennial rhizomatous herb that occurs in shallow freshwater of marshes and swamps from 0 - 2135 feet (CNPS 2024).	This species is known to occur in Yuba County. A site-specific analysis will be required to determine its potential to occur within the project footprint of the proposed broadband infrastructure.
<i>Vaccinium coccineum</i> Siskiyou Mountains huckleberry	3.3	Perennial deciduous shrub that occurs in lower montane coniferous forest and upper montane coniferous forest from 3595 - 7005 feet (CNPS 2024).	This species is known to occur in Yuba County. A site-specific analysis will be required to determine its potential to occur within the project footprint of

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			the proposed broadband infrastructure.
<i>Wolffia brasiliensis</i> Brazilian watermeal	2B.3	Aquatic perennial herb that occurs in shallow freshwater of marshes and swamps from 65 - 330 feet (CNPS 2024).	This species is known to occur in Yuba County. A site-specific analysis will be required to determine its potential to occur within the project footprint of the proposed broadband infrastructure.
Animals			
Invertebrates			
<i>Bombus occidentalis</i> Western bumble bee	--; SE; --	Bumble bees are primitively eusocial insects that live in underground colonies made up of one queen, female workers, and reproductive members of the colony. New colonies are initiated by solitary queens, generally in the early spring, which typically occupy abandoned rodent burrows (Thorp <i>et al.</i> 1983). This species occurs in meadows and grasslands with an abundance of floral resources (CDFW 2019). This species is a generalist forager and have been reported visiting a wide variety of flowering plants. A short-tongued bumble bee; select food plants include <i>Melilotus</i> spp., <i>Cirsium</i> spp., <i>Trifolium</i> spp., <i>Centaurea</i> spp., <i>Eriogonum</i> spp., and <i>Chrysothamnus</i> spp. (Koch et al. 2012). This species has a short tongue and typically prefers open flowers with short corollas but is known to chew through the base of flowers with long corollas. The flight period for queens in California is from early February to late November, peaking in late June and late September. New queens hibernate over the winter and initiate a new colony the following spring (Thorp <i>et al.</i> 1983). Rare throughout its range and in decline west of the Sierra Nevada crest.	This species has been documented in Yuba County. A site-specific analysis will be required to determine its potential to occur within the project footprint of the proposed broadband infrastructure.

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<i>Branchinecta lynchi</i> Vernal pool fairy shrimp	FT; --; --	Vernal pools ranging from small, clear, sandstone rock pools to large, turbid, alkaline, grassland valley floor pools. It is most frequently found in pools measuring less than 0.05 acre; although has been collected from vernal pools exceeding 25 acres. The known range within California includes the Central Valley and southern California (USFWS 2005).	This species is known to occur in Yuba County. A site-specific analysis will be required to determine its potential to occur within the project footprint of the proposed broadband infrastructure.
<i>Desmocerus californicus dimorphus</i> Valley elderberry longhorn beetle	FT; --; --	Endemic to elderberry shrubs (<i>Sambucus</i> spp.) occurring in riparian habitat in the Sacramento and San Joaquin Valleys, riparian habitats in the Sacramento and San Joaquin Valleys, and less common throughout riparian forests of the Central Valley from Redding to Fresno County (USFWS 2014) typically below 152 m amsl (USFWS 2017a).	This species is known to occur in Yuba County. A site-specific analysis will be required to determine its potential to occur within the project footprint of the proposed broadband infrastructure.
<i>Lepidurus packardii</i> Vernal pool tadpole shrimp	FE; --; --	Occupies freshwater vernal pools from 54 square feet to 89 acres, containing clear- to highly-turbid water. Its known range is within the Central Valley of California and in the San Francisco Bay area (USFWS 2005).	This species is known to occur in Yuba County. A site-specific analysis will be required to determine its potential to occur within the project footprint of the proposed broadband infrastructure.
Fishes			
<i>Acipenser medirostris</i> pop. 1 Green sturgeon - southern DPS	FT; --; SSC	Spawn in freshwater streams, in fast, deep water, over gravel, cobble, or boulders. Juveniles inhabit estuarine waters for 1-4 years until dispersing into coastal marine waters as adults. Adults return to spawn in fresh water every 6-10 years. Sacramento River watershed, including the Feather River, is the only known historical and present spawning areas for green sturgeon (NMFS 2018).	This species is known to occur in the Feather River and portions of the Yuba River. A site-specific analysis will be required to determine its potential to occur within the project footprint of the proposed broadband infrastructure.
<i>Oncorhynchus mykiss irideus</i> pop. 11 Steelhead - Central Valley DPS	FT; --; SSC	This distinct population segment includes all naturally spawned anadromous steelhead populations below natural and manmade impassable barriers in the Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers and their tributaries, excluding	This species is known to occur in the Feather River and portions of the Yuba River. A site-specific analysis will be required to determine its potential to occur within the project footprint

Scientific Name/Common Name ¹	Status ²	Habitat, Ecology and Life History	Potential to Occur ³
		steelhead from San Francisco and San Pablo Bays and their tributaries, as well as two artificial propagation programs: the Coleman NFH, and Feather River Hatchery steelhead hatchery programs (NMFS 2016). Steelhead spawn in rivers and streams with cool, clear, water and suitable silt free substrate (NMFS 2016).	of the proposed broadband infrastructure.
<i>Oncorhynchus tshawytscha</i> pop. 11 Chinook salmon - Central Valley spring-run ESU	FT; ST; --	Central Valley spring-run Chinook salmon spawn in rivers and streams with cool, clear, water and suitable cobble and gravel substrate. Historically occurred in all major rivers and tributaries of the Central Valley. Spawning is currently located in tributary streams of the Sacramento River (NMFS 2014). Immigration of adults through the Delta and lower Sacramento River occurs from March through September. Spawning occurs between late-August through October (NMFS 2014).	This species is known to occur in the Feather River and portions of the Yuba River. A site-specific analysis will be required to determine its potential to occur within the project footprint of the proposed broadband infrastructure.
Amphibians			
<i>Ambystoma macrodactylum sigillatum</i> Southern long-toed salamander	--; --; SSC	Inhabits alpine meadows, high mountain ponds and lakes. Adults spend much of their lives underground, often utilizing the tunnels of burrowing mammals such as moles and ground squirrels (Stebbins and McGinnis 2012).	This species has been documented in Yuba County. A site-specific analysis will be required to determine its potential to occur within the project footprint of the proposed broadband infrastructure.
<i>Rana boylei</i> pop. 3 Foothill yellow-legged frog - north Sierra DPS	--; ST; --	The foothill yellow-legged frog occurs along the coast ranges from Oregon to Los Angeles and along the western side of the Sierra Nevada. This species uses perennial rocky streams in a wide variety of habitats up to 6,400 feet above msl (Jennings and Hayes 1994). This species rarely ventures far from water, is usually found basking in the water, or under surface debris or underground within 165 feet of water. Eggs are laid in clusters attached to gravel or rocks along stream	This species is known to occur in Yuba County. A site-specific analysis will be required to determine its potential to occur within the project footprint of the proposed broadband infrastructure.

Scientific Name/Common Name ¹	Status ²	Habitat, Ecology and Life History	Potential to Occur ³
		margins in flowing water. Tadpoles typically require up to four months to complete aquatic development. Breeding typically follows winter rainfall and snowmelt, which varies based upon location (Jennings and Hayes 1994; USFWS 2023a). Upland habitat types may include springs, seeps, pools, woody debris, root wads, undercut banks, boulders and debris (USFWS 2023a). This species has been documented traveling up to 331 meters from breeding habitat, or up to 7 kilometers via a network of drainages and ridges during hot conditions (USFWS 2023a).	
<i>Rana draytonii</i> California red-legged frog	FT; --; SSC	The California red-legged frog occupies a distinct habitat, combining both specific aquatic and riparian components. The adults require dense, shrubby or emergent riparian vegetation closely associated with deep (greater than 2 1/3-foot deep) still or slow-moving water. The largest densities of California red-legged frogs are associated with deep-water pools with dense stands of overhanging willows (<i>Salix</i> spp.) and an intermixed fringe of cattails (<i>Typha latifolia</i>). Well-vegetated terrestrial areas within the riparian corridor may provide important sheltering habitat during winter. California red-legged frogs aestivate (enter a dormant state during summer or dry weather) in small mammal burrows and moist leaf litter. They have been found up to 100 feet from water in adjacent dense riparian vegetation. Studies have indicated that this species cannot inhabit water bodies that exceed 70° F, especially if there are no cool, deep portions (USFWS 2002).	This species is known to occur in Yuba County. A site-specific analysis will be required to determine its potential to occur within the project footprint of the proposed broadband infrastructure.

Scientific Name/Common Name ¹	Status ²	Habitat, Ecology and Life History	Potential to Occur ³
<i>Rana sierrae</i> Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog	FE; ST; WL	A high elevation frog that requires permanent water bodies that do not freeze solid over winter, which may include lakes, streams, tarns, perennial plunge pools in intermittent streams. Aquatic habitat for overwintering must be a minimum of 5.6 feet, but 8.2 feet or deeper or other habitat structures is preferred to avoid freezing conditions (USFWS 2016). Tadpoles require two years to develop, so water bodies that do not freeze solid or dry up during normal years are essential (USFWS 2016). This species has a maximum known upland movement of 82 feet from streams and up to 984 feet between water bodies around lakes (USFWS 2016).	This species is known to occur in Yuba County. A site-specific analysis will be required to determine its potential to occur within the project footprint of the proposed broadband infrastructure.
Reptiles			
<i>Actinemys marmorata</i> Northwestern pond turtle	FT; --; SSC	Occurs in a variety of aquatic habitats; typically, semi-permanent ponds, lakes, streams, irrigation ditches, canals, marshes, or pools in intermittent drainages. Prefers areas lined with abundant vegetation and either rocky or muddy substrates. Requires basking sites such as logs, rocks, cattail mats or exposed banks. Active from February to November, and breeding occurs from April to May. Females typically nest in compact and dry soils from 3 to 400 meters from water, with a preference for south facing slopes between 0 and 60 degrees with little vegetation cover, however pond turtles occurring in forested areas will select nest sites under forest canopy that is more open. Overwintering occurs in upland terrestrial habitats close to water sources in open areas (up to 500 meters from water), in which they will bury themselves under loose soil where leaf litter is present (USFWS 2023b). In intermittent water systems,	This species is known to occur in Yuba County. A site-specific analysis will be required to determine its potential to occur within the project footprint of the proposed broadband infrastructure.

Scientific Name/Common Name ¹	Status ²	Habitat, Ecology and Life History	Potential to Occur ³
		this species spends less time in water and more time at refuges sites in uplands.	
<i>Thamnophis gigas</i> Giant garter snake	FT; ST; --	Endemic to the San Joaquin and Sacramento Valley floors. Inhabits agricultural wetlands and other waterways such as irrigation and drainage canals, sloughs, ponds, small lakes, low gradient streams, and adjacent uplands. Requires adequate water during its active season (early spring through mid-fall) to provide food and cover, emergent, herbaceous wetland vegetation for foraging and cover, grassy banks and openings in waterside vegetation for basking, and higher elevation uplands for cover and refuge from flood waters during its dormant season (winter). Inhabits small mammal burrows and other soil crevices with sunny exposure along south and west facing slopes, above prevailing flood elevations when dormant. Primarily found in marshes and sloughs as well as slow-moving creeks but absent from large rivers (USFWS 2017b).	This species is known to occur in Yuba County. A site-specific analysis will be required to determine its potential to occur within the project footprint of the proposed broadband infrastructure.
Birds			
<i>Agelaius tricolor</i> Tricolored blackbird	--; ST; SSC	Common locally throughout central California. Nests and seeks cover in emergent wetland vegetation and thorny vegetation such as Himalayan blackberry (<i>Rubus armeniacus</i>) as well as cattails and tules. Nesting area must be large enough to support a minimum colony of 50 pairs as they are a highly colonial species. Forages on ground in croplands, grassy fields, flooded land, and edges of ponds for insects (Shuford and Gardali 2008).	This species is known to occur in Yuba County. A site-specific analysis will be required to determine its potential to occur within the project footprint of the proposed broadband infrastructure.
<i>Ammodramus savannarum</i> Grasshopper sparrow	--; --; SSC	A summer resident of foothills and lowlands west of the Cascade-Sierra Nevada crest. Occurs in grasslands with scattered shrubs or other tall structures which it utilizes as singing perches. Nests on the ground in dense grass	This species has been documented in Yuba County. A site-specific analysis will be required to determine its potential to occur within the project

Scientific Name/Common Name ¹	Status ²	Habitat, Ecology and Life History	Potential to Occur ³
		with overhanging taller grasses and forbs (Zeiner et al. 1990).	footprint of the proposed broadband infrastructure.
<i>Asio otus</i> Long-eared owl	--; --; SSC	Requires riparian habitat for roosting and nesting. Typically nests in open forests, such as conifer, oak or pinyon-juniper forests, or in dense forests on the edge of grasslands or another open habitat. Will nest in old hawk or corvid nests, squirrel nests, woodrat nests or mistletoe brooms (Shuford and Gardali 2008). Usually forages in open habitat and rarely in wooded areas.	This species has been documented in Yuba County. A site-specific analysis will be required to determine its potential to occur within the project footprint of the proposed broadband infrastructure.
<i>Athene cunicularia</i> Burrowing owl	--; --; SSC	Forages in grasslands, agricultural fields, and disturbed places where burrowing mammals are abundant with low and sparse vegetation. Nests in burrows, especially those of California ground squirrel (<i>Otospermophilus beecheyi</i>) but will use other refuge sites (Shuford and Gardali 2008). In the Central Valley of California, most foraging occurs within a 600-m radius of the nest (Gervais et al. 2003).	This species has been documented in Yuba County. A site-specific analysis will be required to determine its potential to occur within the project footprint of the proposed broadband infrastructure.
<i>Buteo swainsoni</i> Swainson's hawk	--; ST; --	Swainson's hawks usually arrive in the Central Valley between March 1 and April 1 and migrate south between September and October. Found in a variety of habitats including grasslands, agricultural areas, and open woodlands. Often nests peripherally to riparian systems or other aquatic habitats. Nests in mature lone trees or groves of mature trees in agricultural fields, residential trees, or roadside trees. Prefers nest sites adjacent to large, open areas suitable for foraging. Fremont cottonwood, walnut, and willow, at least 30 feet in height, are the most commonly used nest trees in the Central Valley, but are not required (CDFW 1994).	This species is known to occur in Yuba County. A site-specific analysis will be required to determine its potential to occur within the project footprint of the proposed broadband infrastructure.
<i>Circus hudsonius</i> Northern harrier	--; --; SSC	Inhabits a variety of treeless habitats including freshwater marsh, brackish- and saltwater	This species is known to occur in Yuba County. A site-specific analysis will be

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		marsh, wet meadows, lake margins, grasslands, croplands, desert sinks, and sagebrush flats. Builds nests on large mounds of vegetation between March and August. Forages in most open habitats (Shuford and Gardali 2008).	required to determine its potential to occur within the project footprint of the proposed broadband infrastructure.
<i>Coccyzus americanus occidentalis</i> Western yellow-billed cuckoo	FT; SE; --	Occurs at isolated sites in Sacramento Valley in northern California, and along Kern and Colorado River systems in southern California. Frequents valley foothill and desert riparian habitats. Inhabits open woodlands with clearings, and riparian habitats with dense understory foliage along slow-moving drainages, backwaters, or seeps. Prefers dense willows for roosting but will use adjacent orchard in the Sacramento Valley. Typically requires expansive riparian habitat for nesting (Zeiner et al. 1990).	This species has been documented in Yuba County. A site-specific analysis will be required to determine its potential to occur within the project footprint of the proposed broadband infrastructure.
<i>Elanus leucurus</i> White-tailed kite	--; --; FP	Raptor that inhabits rolling foothills and valley margins with scattered oaks, as well as river bottomlands or marshes next to deciduous woodland. Nests in isolated, dense-topped trees in open areas. Forages in a variety of habitats including grassland, marshes, and agricultural fields (Zeiner et al. 1990).	This species is known to occur in Yuba County. A site-specific analysis will be required to determine its potential to occur within the project footprint of the proposed broadband infrastructure.
<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i> Bald eagle	Delisted; SE; FP	Occurs in a variety of habitats near large aquatic resources such as river systems, lakes, ocean shorelines and coastal wetlands. Nests in mature trees or snags, often in remote mixed stands adjacent to water. Suitable foraging habitat consists of large bodies of water with abundant fish and adjacent perching sites such as snags or large trees. Nests are usually located within a 1-mile radius of water. Nests are most often situated in large trees with a commanding view of the area (Zeiner et al. 1990).	This species is known to occur in Yuba County. A site-specific analysis will be required to determine its potential to occur within the project footprint of the proposed broadband infrastructure.

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<i>Laterallus jamaicensis coturniculus</i> California black rail	--; ST; FP	Inhabits brackish marsh, primarily in the upper marsh zone dominated by alkali heath (<i>Frankenia salina</i>), cattail, and rush (<i>Juncus</i> spp.); prefers lower salinity environments. In the Sierra Nevada foothills, black rail is a year-round resident along wetland edges where water is 1.2 inches or less (Richmond et al. 2010). Black rail is typically associated with perennial wetlands associated with flowing water such as irrigation canals, perennial streams and springs with dense vegetation in the Sierra Nevada foothills (Richmond et al. 2010). Forages on the ground, under cover of dense vegetation (Richmond et al. 2010).	This species is known to occur in Yuba County. A site-specific analysis will be required to determine its potential to occur within the project footprint of the proposed broadband infrastructure.
<i>Melospiza melodia</i> pop. 1 Song sparrow ("Modesto" population)	--; --; SSC	Breeds in riparian thickets in shrubs or vines near fresh or saline emergent wetland. Nests are typically situated low to the ground or on the ground under dense riparian vegetation (Zeiner et al. 1990).	This species has been documented in Yuba County. A site-specific analysis will be required to determine its potential to occur within the project footprint of the proposed broadband infrastructure.
<i>Riparia riparia</i> Bank swallow	--; ST; --	Found primarily in riparian and lowland habitat in California. Nests in colonies along cliffs or steep river banks in holes. In California, a majority of the population is situated along the Sacramento River and the Feather River. Other smaller populations persist near Monterey and north of Shasta counties (Zeiner et al. 1990).	This species is known to occur in Yuba County. A site-specific analysis will be required to determine its potential to occur within the project footprint of the proposed broadband infrastructure.
<i>Strix nebulosa</i> Great gray owl	--; SE; --	Lives in mixed conifer or red fir forest in or on the edge of meadows. Requires large diameter snags (greater than 60 cm in diameter) in a forest with a high canopy closure which provide a cool sub-canopy microclimate. Snags include conifers and oaks (Wu et al. 2015). They typically use larger quality meadow habitat areas of at least 25 acres (Beck and Winter 2000) and select territories by the abundance of prey. Nests tend to be within	This species is known to occur in Yuba County. A site-specific analysis will be required to determine its potential to occur within the project footprint of the proposed broadband infrastructure.

Scientific Name/Common Name ¹	Status ²	Habitat, Ecology and Life History	Potential to Occur ³
		250 m of quality meadow habitat at higher elevations (above 1,800 m amsl). At lower elevations, it was documented that nearly a third of nests were greater than 750 m from meadows (at elevations from 700 m – 1,500 m), and likely not associated with meadows (Wu et al. 2015).	
<i>Vireo bellii pusillus</i> Least Bell's vireo	FE; SE; --	Is an obligate riparian species during the breeding season that prefers early successional habitat (USFWS 1998). Typically found in structurally diverse habitat such as cottonwood-willow forests, oak woodlands, and mule fat scrub (USFWS 1998) that generally contains both canopy and shrub layers and includes some associated upland habitat. This species will winter in arroyos that contain mesquite scrub habitat and are not limited to willow dominated habitats. Previously considered to be limited to southern California, recent account of this species with successful breeding in Salinas Valley and in Yolo county show that this species is expanding back into its former range (NatureServe 2020).	This species has been documented in Yuba County. A site-specific analysis will be required to determine its potential to occur within the project footprint of the proposed broadband infrastructure.
Mammals			
<i>Lasiurus frantzii</i> Western red bat	--; --; SSC	Roosts primarily in woodlands and forests amongst branches and avoids roosting in caves or buildings (Bolster 1998). Forages in open habitat such as croplands, grasslands and shrublands. This species is typically associated with water and has a poor urine concentrating ability. Primarily roosts solitarily in trees from 2–40 feet high in the trees, with females and young roosting higher in the trees than males. Forages along edge habitats (Zeiner et al. 1990). This species is rarely found in the winter at locations that freeze (Pierson et al. 2006).	This species has been documented in Yuba County. A site-specific analysis will be required to determine its potential to occur within the project footprint of the proposed broadband infrastructure.

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<i>Pekania pennanti</i> Fisher	--; --; SSC	Occupy late-successional conifer and mixed conifer-hardwood forests with an abundance of downed wood, snags, large trees, and a dense canopy (Zielinski 2014). Typically found at elevations from 1,070 – 2,135 m amsl, where persistent snow does not accumulate and impede movement (Zielinski 2014). Riparian forests and habitat close to open water such as streams are important. Cavities and branches in trees, snags, stumps, rock piles, and downed timber are used as resting sites, and large diameter live, or dead trees are selected for natal and maternal dens (Zielinski 2014). There is a significant gap in the range of fisher between the southern Sierra Nevada population and the northern Sierra Nevada/southern Cascade population that stretches approximately 400 km wide (Zielinski 2014).	This species has been documented in Yuba County. A site-specific analysis will be required to determine its potential to occur within the project footprint of the proposed broadband infrastructure.

¹ Sensitive species reported in CNDDDB or CNPS within Yuba County or in USFWS lists for the county.

² Status is as follows: Federal (ESA) listing/State (CESA) listing/other CDFW status or CRPR. F = Federal; S = State of California; E = Endangered; T = Threatened; C = Candidate; FP=Fully Protected; SSC=Species of Special Concern; WL=Watch List.

³ Status in the project area is assessed as follows: This species has one or more documented occurrences within the County of Yuba and there is suitable habitat present for this species. A site specific analysis will be required to further determine its potential to occur.

CRPR = California Rare Plant Rank: 1B – rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere; 2B – rare, threatened, or endangered in California but more common elsewhere. Extension codes: .1 – seriously endangered; .2 – moderately endangered.

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