

## California Public Utilities Commission

### Federal Funding Account Last Mile Grant Program

#### CEQA Review: Categorical Exemption

Class 1: CEQA Section 15301 provides examples of existing facilities including (b) “existing facilities of both investor and publicly-owned utilities to provide electric power, natural gas, sewerage, or other public utility services”. The proposed project is a public utility service – one of three public utilities provided by the City of Fort Bragg (water, wastewater, broadband).

Class 2: Should replacement or reconstruction of water and/or wastewater utilities be necessary, CEQA Guidelines Section 15302(c) allows for the such work so long as work involves negligible or no expansion of capacity.

Class 4: The primary construction method involves Horizontal Directional Drilling with little impact to street, alley and sidewalk surfaces. Any damaged surfaces will be restored to condition existing prior to the undergrounding. Should minor trenching and backfill be necessary, Section 15304 exempts minor alterations to land including subsection (f) “minor trenching and backfilling where the surface is restored”.

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CEQA Section 15300.2 lists several exceptions to Categorical Exemptions, which do not apply to this project because:

- a) The project location is within a previously disturbed area (existing street/alley/sidewalk), NOT within a particularly sensitive environment;
- b) There is not a cumulative impact concerning projects of the same type in the same place because the project has a single scope with design considerations to accommodate future unknown needs, which will avoid disruption to street infrastructure and traffic impacts at a later date;
- c) The proposed project will not have a significant effect because it involves minor alterations to existing streets, alleys, and sidewalks within existing right-of-way, and within existing disturbed areas;
- d) The project is not occurring within an officially designated state scenic highway because California Department of Technology is taking the lead on the State’s Middle Mile Broadband Infrastructure being deployed along CA Route 1;
- e) The project will not be deployed on a hazardous waste site;
- f) The proposed project will be underground and not cause substantial adverse change in the significance of historical resources. The City coordinates with Sherwood Valley Band of Pomo Indians on projects with ground disturbance to arrange tribal monitoring for tribal resources.

Please reach out to Sarah McCormick, Economic Development Manager with questions or for additional information: [smccormick@fortbragg.com](mailto:smccormick@fortbragg.com) or 707-961-2823 x137



## CITY OF FORT BRAGG

Incorporated August 5, 1889  
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### TRANSMITTAL

February 4, 2025

Katrina Bartolomie  
Clerk-Recorder  
County of Mendocino  
501 Low Gap Road, Room 1020  
Ukiah, CA 95482

**Re: Notice of Exemption for CITY OF FORT BRAGG MUNICIPAL BROADBAND UTILITY PROJECT**

Dear Clerk Bartolomie:

Enclosed is the following document:

**Notice of Exemption for City of Fort Bragg Municipal Broadband Utility Project.**

Please record this document and return the original recorded copy to my attention.

Please note that these documents are "Exempt from recording fee (Govt. Code § 6103 and § 27383)".

If you have any questions, please call 707-961-2823 x137, or email [smccormick@fortbragg.com](mailto:smccormick@fortbragg.com). Thank you!

My best,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sarah McCormick".

Sarah McCormick  
Economic Development Manager  
City of Fort Bragg