

Notice of Exemption

To: Office of Planning and Research
1400 Tenth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814
County Clerk
County of: _____

From: (Public Agency) Caltrans, Dist. 06
2015 E. Shields Ave., Suite 100
Fresno CA 93726

Project Title: CVIN Middle-Mile Broadband Network Project, Permit 06-25-6-BB-0819

Project Applicant: California Department of Transportation

Project Location - Specific:
State Route 58, Post Mile 28.75/31.812

Project Location - City: Buttonwillow Project Location - County: Kern

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

This project would include the installation of approximately 15,800 linear feet of broadband infrastructure in California within the State Highway System, including Interstate routes. This Middle-Mile Broadband Network project will install the broadband infrastructure along the State Highway System (SHS) necessary to connect to a third-party operated Last Mile Broadband Network which will bring internet connectivity to homes, businesses, and community institutions. This project will install broadband conduit, vaults and fiber along 15,800 linear feet of alignment along State Route 58 between PM 28.75 and PM 31.812, in Kern County, as part of the Middle Mile Broadband Network. This project is an essential piece of a larger statewide program critical for expanding broadband access across the region.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: California Department of Transportation

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Central Valley Independent Network (CVIN)

Exempt Status (check one):

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

Reason why project is exempt:


Senate Bill 156 (2021) as codified, requires the CPUC to work with stakeholders, especially Caltrans, to identify and prioritize locations on state highway rights-of way where the open access middle-mile network infrastructure can be constructed. (Gov. Code, § 11549.54.) As part of the legislative package to support this initiative, a statutory CEQA exemption was adopted. (Pub. Res. Code, § 21080.51.)

Lead Agency: Caltrans

Contact Person: John Thomas Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (559) 408-4496

If filed by applicant:

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

Signature:  Date: 06/27/2025 Title: Senior Environmental Planner

Signed by Lead Agency Signed by Applicant

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.
Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.

Date Received for filing at OPR _____