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CEQA

Transmittal Memorandum for 2025

0725-141

RECEIVED
KERN COUNTY

Attach **one** transmittal memorandum to the front of the original CEQA document. Clip copies in the back.

- 1) If notice requires F&W receipt, you must provide a minimum of 3 copies of the notice.
2) If notice does not require F&W receipt, you must provide a minimum of 2 copies of the notice.

JUL 11 2025

TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY

AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
AUDITOR-CONTROLLER-COUNTY CLERK
BY [Signature] DEPUTY

LEAD AGENCY City of Wasco

PROJECT TITLE Telcon Sevices City of Wasco Fiber Optic Network Project

FILED
KERN COUNTY

PROJECT APPLICANT Ron Ivie, Telcom Services LLC

JUL 14 2025

PHONE NUMBER (208) 891-5289

AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
AUDITOR-CONTROLLER-COUNTY CLERK
BY [Signature] DEPUTY

PROJECT APPLICANT ADDRESS: 3401 S Old Wick Ave

CITY Eagle STATE ID ZIP CODE 83616

WORK ORDER # _____ ☒ 30-Day Posting ☐ 35-Day Posting ☐ 45-Day Posting ☐ Other _____

CONTACT PERSON Keri Cobb PHONE NUMBER (661) 758-7211

CHECK DOCUMENT BEING FILED:

- ☐ Notice of Availability.....No Fee
- ☐ Notice of Intent.....No Fee
- ☐ Notice of Preparation.....No Fee
- ☐ Notice of Public Hearing.....No Fee
- ☐ Other _____.....No Fee
- ☐ Environmental Impact Report (EIR).....\$4123.50
- ☐ Previously paid F&W (**must attach F&W receipt**) F&W Receipt Number# _____
- ☐ DFG No Effect Determination (**F&W letter must be attached**).....No Fee
- ☐ County Administrative Fee.....\$50.00
- ☐ Mitigated Negative Declaration or Negative Declaration.....\$2968.75
- ☐ Previously paid F&W (**must attach F&W receipt**) F&W Receipt Number# _____
- ☐ DFG No Effect Determination (**F&W letter must be attached**).....No Fee
- ☐ County Administrative Fee.....\$50.00
- ☒ Notice of Exemption.....No Fee
- ☐ County Administrative Fee.....\$50.00

TOTAL \$ _____

*Additional copies to be returned to: _____

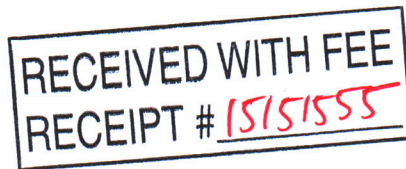
*Method of return: ☐ Hold for pick-up/Call # _____ ☐ Interoffice Mail

PAYMENT METHOD: ALL APPLICABLE FEES MUST BE PAID AT THE TIME OF FILING

- ☐ JV - Ledger Account _____ Cost Center _____ Fund _____ Spend Category _____
- ☐ Money Order
- ☐ Check

25822

Notice of Environmental Document
Posted by County Clerk on 07/14/2025
and for 30 days thereafter, Pursuant to
Section 21152(C), Public Resources Code



City of Wasco
Community Development Department
764 E Street Wasco, CA 93280
(661) 758-7250 phone (661) 758-7239 Fax

Notice of Exemption

To: ☒ Office of Planning and Research
1400 Tenth Street, Room 121
Sacramento, CA 95814

☒ Kern County Clerk
1115 Truxtun Avenue
Bakersfield, CA 93301-4639

From: ☐ City of Wasco
Community Development Department
764 E Street
Wasco, CA 93280

**FILED
KERN COUNTY**

JUL 14 2025

Project Title: Telcon Services City of Wasco Fiber Optic Network Project

AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
AUDITOR CONTROLLER-COUNTY CLERK
BY *[Signature]* DEPUTY

Project Location: The proposed new fiber optic alignments are in the City of Wasco in Kern County in the southern Central Valley, approximately 15 miles northwest of Bakersfield on Highway 43 (**Figure 1**). Highway 46 crosses east to west through the northern portion of the city. The City of Wasco has a population of approximately 25,000 and occurs in the Wasco U.S.G.S. 7.5-minute 1:24K quadrangle. The elevation range in Wasco is approximately 310 to 340 feet above mean sea level, and the topography is relatively flat with gradual slopes. The city is surrounded by active agricultural lands on all four sides. The fiber network installation would occur through an easement for existing utilities within the rights-of-way (ROW) along the streets and sidewalks within the City limits of Wasco (**Figure 2**).

The zoning in the proposed project area is urban and surrounded by agricultural lands. The Project installations are located within commercial and urban residential areas. Poso Creek, a natural drainage, flows three miles north of the city, and the Calloway Canal is approximately 1.8 miles east of the city. No other waterways, creeks, or rivers occur within the City of Wasco. Paved sidewalks and landscaped horticultural trees, shrubs, and plantings occur along the ROW throughout the city limits.

Project Location – County: Kern County

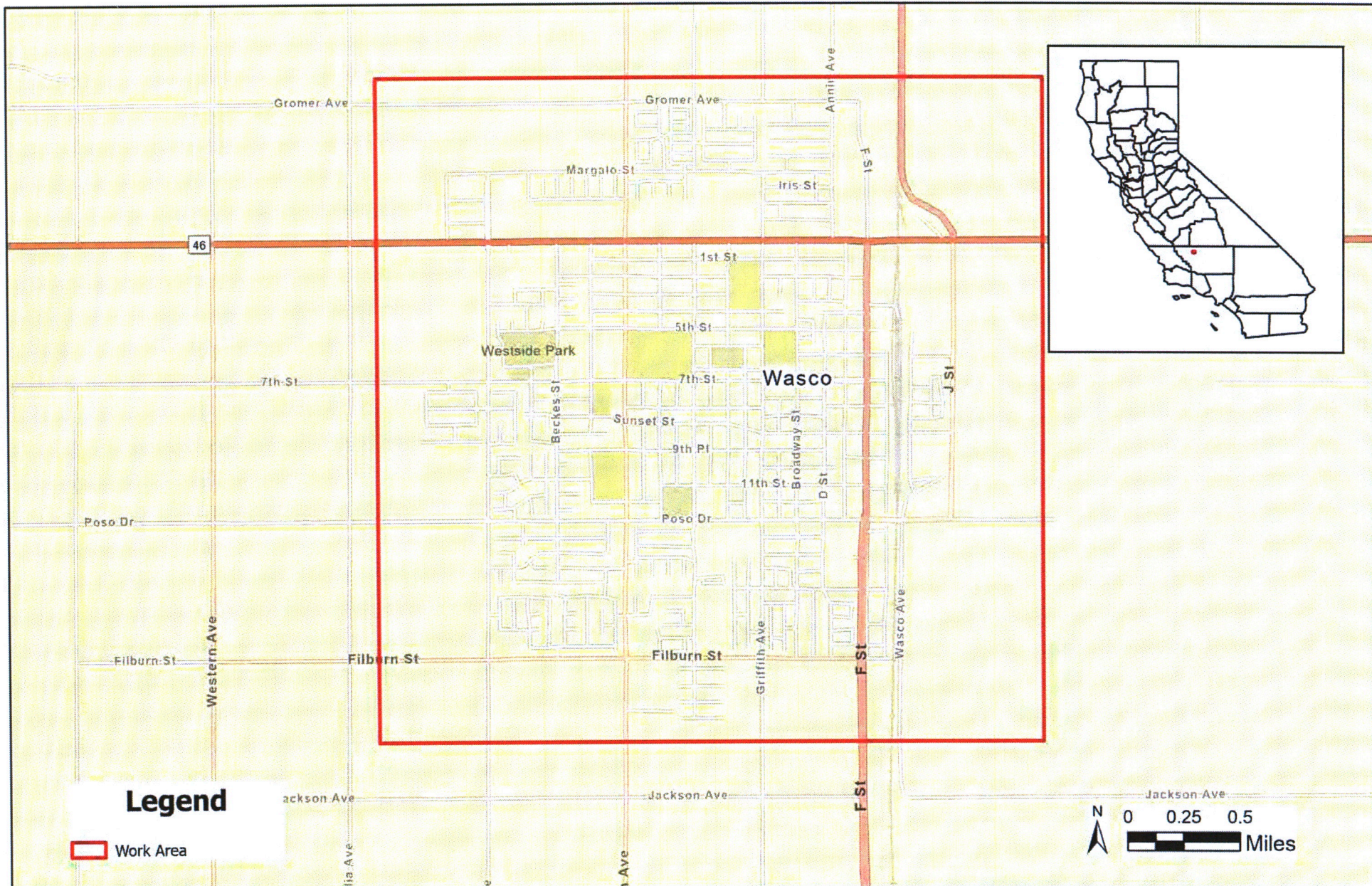
Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project: The Telcon Services City of Wasco Fiber Optic Network Project involves all streets, sidewalks, and ROW in the City of Wasco. The northern edge of the City is demarcated by Gromer Avenue. The southern edge of town is marked by Primrose Court. J Street represents the eastern edge of the city. Magnolia Avenue and Central Avenue are on the western edge of the city.

The Project involves the installation of a 1.25" HDPE conduit, fiber optics, hand holes, and flowerpots via trenching or boring. All areas of cable placement will be within the existing City of Wasco right of way and placed in a linear route next to existing gas, water, power, or communication lines. In any areas crossing existing utility lines, a "pothole or daylight" will be used to access and gather depth measurements of the lines so that they will be avoided.

Date Received for Filing at OPR:

Notice of Environmental Document
Posted by County Clerk on 07/14/2025
and for 30 days thereafter, Pursuant to
Section 21152(C), Public Resources Code

25822



1322 East Shaw Avenue, Suite 400
Fresno, CA 93710
www.soarhere.com
559.547.8884

Title
Location Map

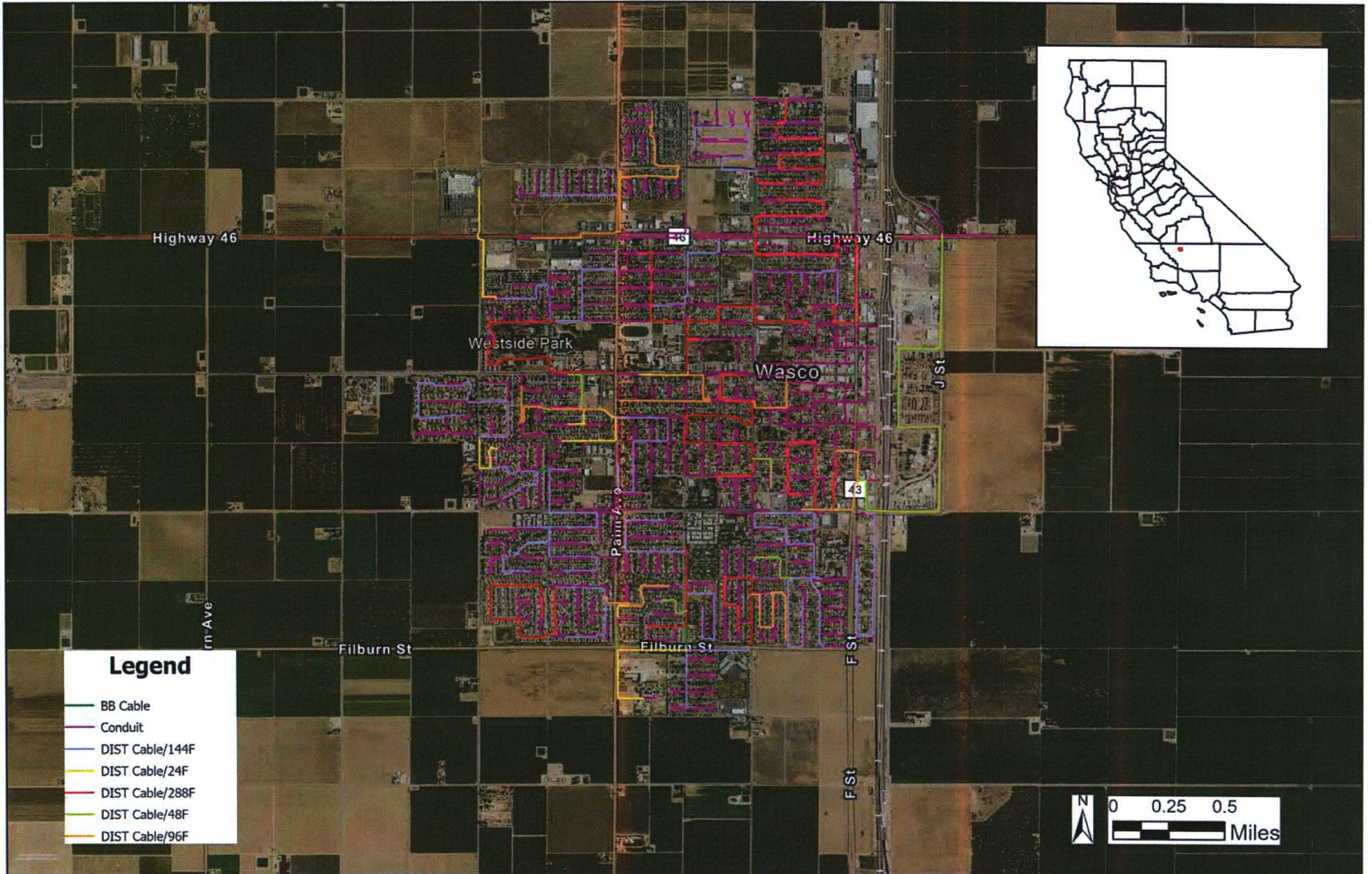
Client
Telecon Services

Facility Address

City of Wasco

Figure # 1
Project Location

Revision Date
02/19/2025



1322 East Shaw Avenue, Suite 400
 Fresno, CA 93710
www.soarhere.com
 559.547.8884

<u>Title</u> Site Map	
<u>Client</u> Telecon Services	

<u>Facility Address</u> City of Wasco
--

Figure # 2 Project Layout
Revision Date 02/19/2025

Placement via bore will generally consist of a 3" borehole and bore path that follows along between existing property lines and pavement, are commonly known as the right of way. The bore will typically be 36" in depth but could be deeper depending on existing utilities. In cases where a 1.25" conduit needs to be encased in bigger conduit (4" conduit will hold (3) 1.25"), the borehole will be a 5" hole, and 4" PVC or roll pipe will be placed. The 1.25" conduit will then be pulled in through the 4" conduit. These locations are anticipated to be at the railroad and state road crossings. Boring will be used to avoid any waterways, trees, wetlands, or extensive landscaping.

Placement via trench will consist of an 18" trench opened to a depth of 36", and conduit will be placed on the bottom of the trench, which will then be backfilled and compacted back to its original condition. Trenching will be utilized in areas that consist of exposed dirt in alleyways and along roads where curbs and sidewalks are not in the right of way.

Fiber optic conduit installation activities would likely take 4 months and are expected to begin in June 2025. The city is the Lead Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for the proposed Telcon Services Fiber Network Installation Project.

The design provides multi-path diversity and redundancy to ensure the reliability of the proposed network. The Project fiber design includes fiber cable, and no new sites will be constructed. The Project would connect the new service area to the existing infrastructure by installing fiber optic cable.

The proposed Project will be located within the public right-of-way along previously disturbed ROW, sidewalks, landscaped roadsides, and utility corridors in urban neighborhoods. Installation of the cables would require ground disturbance that includes a directional bore, a microtrencher to trench in the fiber optic cable then fill and compact the soil, as well as a cable blowing machine, hydraulic power pack, and an air compressor to blow the fiber optic cable through the existing conduit.

The types of activities will be as follows:

- Directional Bore - Place the bore machine in the ditch and bore the channel. Then pull the conduit into the bored space while pulling the bit back out.
- Trench - Trench in the fiber optic cable. Fill in and compact the trench. Back fill, compact the soil.
- Blowing fiber - Open the existing hand holes, pedestals, or cabinets. Use a cable blowing machine, hydraulic power pack, and an air compressor to blow the new fiber optic cable

through the existing, already buried, conduit. Close the existing hand holes, pedestals, or cabinets.

- Erosion and Sediment Controls - the following will be employed:
 - Backhoe - to place the hand hole, the backhoe will use an 18" to 24" bucket allowing minimum soil disturbance. The area will then be backfilled, packed, and seeded as required by governing agencies.
 - Directional Boring - Soil disturbance will be minimal when boring in the conduit for the fiber optic cable. The area will be backfilled, packed, and seeded as required by governing agencies.

Within the City, trenching and directional boring techniques will be used to install the cable along the streets and roadways. A typical trench bucket, which is generally 12 to 18 inches wide,

does minimal temporary disruption to the landscape. Directional boring will also be used to minimize the disruption to the landscape. The depth of cable under the surface will be at a minimum of 24 inches. Concrete may need to be removed when it cannot be avoided by means of boring. Access handholes will be placed along the route as well. Any concrete that has been removed will be replaced by previous standards.

During construction Erosion and Sediment Control Inspection and Maintenance Practices and Spill Prevention and Material Management Practices will be followed.

The proposed Project will follow all state and local entity guidelines for permitting and construction practices to ensure a minor impact on the landscape.

Name of Public Agency Approving the Project:

City of Wasco, Planning Division

Name of Person or Entity Carrying Out the Project:

Ron Ivie, Telcon Services LLC

General Plan and Land Use Zoning:

The proposed Project will take place in public right-of-way along previously disturbed roadways and utility corridors. It does not have a General Plan land use designation or Zoning designation within the city.

The proposed Project will connect existing residential, commercial, and other uses in the city to fiber optic cables.

Exempt Status:

- ☐ Ministerial
- ☐ Declared Emergency
- ☐ Emergency Project
- ☒ Categorical Exemption 15303 class 3 and 15304 class 4
- ☐ Statutory Exemption

Why the Project is Exempt:

Under CEQA Guidelines § 15062, a lead agency must identify the rationale for determining that a Project is exempt under CEQA. Soar Environmental has determined that the Telcon Services Fiber Network Project is exempt under CEQA Guidelines §15303 (Class 3) and §15304 (Class4). CEQA Guidelines §15303 consists of New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures, while CEQA Guidelines §15304 consists of Minor Alterations to Land.

Findings Under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA):

The proposed Project is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) under a Class 3 and/or Class 4 categorical exemption.

Class 3 consists of the construction and location of limited numbers of new, small facilities or structures; installation of small new equipment and facilities in small structures; and the conversion of existing small structures from one use to another where only minor modifications are made in the exterior of the structure. The number of structures described in this section is the maximum allowable on any legal parcel. Examples of this exemption include, but are not limited to:

- Water main, sewage, electrical, gas, and other utility extensions, including street improvements, of reasonable length to serve such construction.

Justification for why the Project is Exempt under Class 3 Exemption:

- The proposed Project would consist of installing small new equipment, such as fiber optic cable, which would expand upon existing utility infrastructure. The cable would connect users within the service area to the service.
- Minor and temporary modifications would be made to the landscape in order to install the fiber optic cables.
- The proposed Project would not construct any new sites and, as such, would not make changes to the maximum allowable number of structures on any parcel.

Therefore, the proposed Project would be exempt from CEQA under Class 3 categorical exemption.

Class 4 consists of minor alterations in the condition of public or private land, water, and/or vegetation, which do not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees except for forestry or agricultural purposes. Examples include, but are not limited to:

- Grading on land with a slope of less than 10 percent, except that grading shall not be exempt in a waterway, in any wetland, in an officially designated (by federal, state, or local government action) scenic area, or in officially mapped areas of severe geologic hazard such as an Alquist Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone or within an official Seismic Hazard Zone, as delineated by the State Geologist.
- Filling of earth into previously excavated land with material compatible with the site's natural features.
- Minor trenching and backfilling where the surface is restored.

Justification for why the Project is Exempt under Class 4 Exemption:

- The proposed Project would not cross any known active or potentially active earthquake faults in the Wasco vicinity.
- The proposed Project would not affect any waterway, in any wetland, in officially designated (by federal, state, or local government action) scenic areas.
- The Project would consist of minor trenching and using an underground boring machine to create minor channels to create space for the fiber optic cables along previously disturbed roadways. After the fiber optic cables are in place, disturbed areas will be backfilled and packed using the previously excavated material.
- The proposed Project would implement erosion and sediment controls. This will minimize soil disturbance.
- Minimal vegetation would be disturbed by project activities, and no trees would be removed.

Considerations of Exceptions to the Use of Exemptions:

The CEQA Guidelines, Section 15300.2 list several exceptions that preclude the use of an exemption.

The proposed Project does not include any of the following:

- Location: Classes 3, 4, 5, 6, and 11 are qualified by consideration of where the Project is to be located - a Project that is ordinarily insignificant in its impact on the environment may, in a particularly sensitive environment, be significant. Therefore, these classes are considered to apply in all instances, except where the Project may impact an environmental resource of hazardous or critical concern where designated, precisely

- mapped, and officially adopted pursuant to law by federal, state, or local agencies.
- The proposed Project is not located in an area that is particularly sensitive or contains environmental resources that are of hazardous or critical concern.
 - Cumulative Impact: All exemptions for these classes are inapplicable when the cumulative impact of successive Projects of the same type in the same place over time is significant.
 - The proposed Project would not result in cumulative impacts from successive projects over time.
 - Significant Effect: A categorical exemption shall not be used for an activity where there is a reasonable possibility that the activity will significantly affect the environment due to unusual circumstances.
 - The proposed Project would not include any activities that would significantly affect the environment due to unusual circumstances.
 - Scenic Highways: A categorical exemption shall not be used for a Project which may result in damage to scenic resources, including but not limited to trees, historic buildings, rock outcroppings, or similar resources, within a highway officially designated as a state scenic highway. This does not apply to improvements that are required as mitigation by an adopted negative declaration or certified EIR.
 - Fiber optic cables installed alongside previously disturbed roadways and utility corridors would be installed under a potential scenic highway and would not damage any scenic resources.
 - Hazardous Waste Sites. A categorical exemption shall not be used for a Project located on a site that is included on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code.
 - Information on hazardous waste in the city and surrounding area was obtained through the review of available environmental records. None of the activities associated with the proposed Project would occur on a hazardous waste site.
 - Historical Resources. A categorical exemption shall not be used for a Project that may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource.
 - Installation of fiber optic cable will not adversely affect any historic property, and no adverse changes will be made to any historic resource.

Lead Agency : City of Wasco

Contact Person and Title: Keri Cobb, Community Development Director **Phone:** (661) 758-7211

Signature: Keri Cobb **Date:** 7/10/2025



State of California - Department of Fish and Wildlife
2025 ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT FILING FEE
CASH RECEIPT
DFW 753.5a (REV. 01/01/25) Previously DFG 753.5a

Print

StartOver

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RECEIPT NUMBER:

15 — 07142025 — 15151555

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NUMBER (If applicable)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON REVERSE. TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY.

LEAD AGENCY	LEAD AGENCY EMAIL	DATE
CITY OF WASCO		7/14/2025
COUNTY/STATE AGENCY OF FILING	DOCUMENT NUMBER	
Kern	25822	

PROJECT TITLE

TELCON SERVICES CITY OF WASCO FIBER OPTIC NETWORK PROJECT

PROJECT APPLICANT NAME	PROJECT APPLICANT EMAIL	PHONE NUMBER
RON IVIE, TELCOM SERVICES LLC		(208) 891-5289
PROJECT APPLICANT ADDRESS	CITY	STATE
3401 S OLD WICK AVE	EAGLE	ID
		ZIP CODE
		83616

PROJECT APPLICANT (Check appropriate box)

☐ Local Public Agency ☐ School District ☐ Other Special District ☐ State Agency ☒ Private Entity

CHECK APPLICABLE FEES:

☐ Environmental Impact Report (EIR)	\$4,123.50	\$	0.00
☐ Mitigated/Negative Declaration (MND)(ND)	\$2,968.75	\$	0.00
☐ Certified Regulatory Program (CRP) document - payment due directly to CDFW	\$1,401.75	\$	0.00

☐ Exempt from fee

☒ Notice of Exemption (attach)

☐ CDFW No Effect Determination (attach)

☐ Fee previously paid (attach previously issued cash receipt copy)

☐ Water Right Application or Petition Fee (State Water Resources Control Board only)	\$850.00	\$	0.00
☒ County documentary handling fee		\$	50.00
☐ Other		\$	

PAYMENT METHOD:

☐ Cash ☐ Credit ☐ Check ☐ Other

TOTAL RECEIVED \$ 50.00

SIGNATURE

x

AGENCY OF FILING PRINTED NAME AND TITLE

M. CEDENO, KERN COUNTY CLERK, FSS