Notice of Exemption

To: Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: Caltrans District 2
1657 Riverside Drive
Redding, CA 96001

Project Title: Caltrans Encroachment Permit 0225-6BB-0090 for Frontier Communications' Middle-Mile Broadband Network Project (Project 5320921)

Project Applicant: Frontier Communications

Project Location - Specific: State Route 36 in Tehama County from post mile (PM) 94.01 to 98.12, 98.63 to R98.90, R99.21 to R99.39, 100.76, and 101.90 to 102.91

Project Location - City: _____ Project Location - County: Tehama

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:

Frontier Communications proposes to install fiber optic cable as part of the broadband middle mile network within the California Department of Transportation's (Caltrans) right of way along State Route 36 in Tehama County from post mile (PM) 94.01 to 98.12, 98.63 to R98.90, R99.21 to R99.39, 100.76, and 101.90 to 102.91. The proposed work would install three 1.25-in HDPE conduits for fiber optic cable by plowing and directional boring (HDD), install new utility poles and overhead fiber optic cable, overlash fiber optic cable, and install new 3-ft x5-ft vaults within the State right of way at the postmiles noted below on Highway 36, east of Mineral, Tehama County, per submitted plans.

- 94.01 to 98.12: HDD, plowing, new vaults, new poles and overhead, overlash.
- 98.63 to R98.90: Plowing.
- R99.21 to R99.39: HDD and plowing with transverse crossing.
- 100.76: HDD transverse crossing.
- 101.90 to 102.91: HDD, plowing, and new vaults.

Caltrans will issue an encroachment permit (0225-6BB-0090) to allow the proposed improvements to occur within the right of way of State Route 36.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Caltrans (for issuance of encroachment permit)

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Frontier Communications

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 Exemptions. State code number: Public Resources Code Section 21080.51

Reasons why project is exempt:

Senate Bill 156 (chaptered July 21, 2021) added section 21080.51 to the California Public Resources Code (PRC) to statutorily exempt Middle Mile Broadband Network projects. As such, Caltrans has determined that the project is statutorily exempt in accordance with PRC Section 21080.51. The project would have no significant effect on the environment.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Keith Pelfrey Phone number: (530) 941-3340

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: _____ for Keith Pelfrey Date: 8/20/25 Title: Branch Chief – R3

☒ Signed by Lead Agency ☐ Signed by Applicant

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____

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