

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 0225-6-BB-0207 for Frontier Communications' Broadband Upgrade Project (5355638)

Project Applicant: Frontier Communications

Project Location - Specific: The project is located along State Route 44 in Shasta County from post mile R19.41 to 43.08.

Project Location - City: Shingletown Project Location - County: Shasta

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:

Frontier Communications proposes the installation of approximately 28,320 feet of fiber optic cable by means of underground placement located in the Caltrans State Route (SR) 44 right-of-way (ROW), in Shingletown, Shasta County between post miles (PM) 19.41-43.08. Frontier is proposing this work to meet federal requirements to bring high speed Internet to rural communities as part of the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF). The Project begins near the southeast corner of Camino Vista and SR 44 where the project enters Caltrans ROW at PM 19.41. The project will be placing underground fiber optic cables intermittently, progressing east along SR 44 towards the Project's terminus near postmile 43.08 at the intersection of Brookside Meadows Lane and SR 44. New infrastructure will be placed at a minimum of 5 feet from the edge of pavement of SR 44. Fiber optic cable will be installed via a mix of plowing, horizontal directional drilling (HDD) and existing conduit. There will be intermittent SR 44 underground crossings along the new fiber route as the installation progresses.

Construction would be staged from the shoulder and will require the closure of a traffic lane and shoulder. Equipment to be used for the construction of the cable includes: a backhoe, HDD machine, a truck and trailer for placing and splicing cable.

Ground disturbances will occur at one hundred nine (109) Bore Pit locations, and at (17,675) feet of plowing, six (6) fiber distribution hubs, fifty-three (53) handholes, nine (9) pull boxes, and two (2) combo handhole/pedestals. The total soil disturbance is 85,080 square feet or 1.95 acres.

Caltrans will issue an encroachment permit (0225-6-BB-0207) to allow the proposed improvements to occur within the right of way of State Route 44.

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: Minor Alterations to Land, Section 15304
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt:

The California Department of Transportation has determined that the project is categorically exempt in accordance with Section 15304 (Minor Alterations to Land) Class 4 (f) – Minor trenching and backfilling where the surface is restored. Class 4 consists of minor public or private alterations in the condition of land, water, and/or vegetation which do not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees except for forestry or agricultural purposes. The project would not have a 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: *Keith Pelfrey* Date: 9/8/25 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.