

Notice of Exemption

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

From: Caltrans District 1
1656 Union Street
Eureka, CA 95501

Project Title: Arcadian Broadband

Project Location - Specific: Benbow to Redcrest (Humboldt 101 PM 5.98/39.68)

Project Location - County: Humboldt

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:

The purpose of the project is to install the broadband infrastructure along the state highway system (Highway 101 between Benbow and Redcrest in Humboldt County) to connect to a third-party-operated Last Mile Broadband Network that will bring internet connectivity to homes, businesses, and community institutions. The project is needed because the lack of available middle mile broadband infrastructure has been a major issue in connecting California's communities. This project intends to support these communities in providing critical statewide broadband infrastructure to enhance access to and increase the affordability of high-speed internet for all Californians.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Caltrans

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: PRC 21080.51

Reasons why project is exempt:

This project is a linear broadband deployment in the Caltrans right-of-way or right of way of a public road that meets all conditions of Section 21080.51, and the project is statutorily exempt from CEQA. Environmental specialist reviews have occurred, and this project would not cause a significant impact to the environment.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Cassie Nichols

Phone number: 707-798-7557

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: *Cassie Nichols* Date: 04/08/2026 Title: Sr Environmental Scientist

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.