

## Notice of Exemption

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

**From:** Caltrans, District 04  
111 Grand Ave.  
Oakland, CA 94612

Project Title: Middle Mile Broadband Network Project - ADF-F23R1-CD4-UG1

Project Applicant: Caltrans and American Dark Fiber

Project Location - Specific: I-680, Post Miles 0.168-0.171

Project Location - City: Milpitas Project Location - County: Alameda

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:

Approximately 0.0593 miles of three 1.25-inch high-density polyethylene conduit installation with fiber optic cable, underground, running along State Highway 680 along the northern side of Scott Creek Road near Milpitas, in Alameda County, California, along postmiles (PM) M0.168-M0.171. Methods of conduit installation include trenching, horizontal directional drilling (HDD), or boring, all to be done in accordance with the traffic control plan. During non-working hours, contractors would fill or cover all open pits or trenches. Work also includes placement of temporary traffic control devices and signage as well as installation one 36" wide by 60" long by 36" deep vault. This will provide the infrastructure necessary to connect to a third-party operated Last Mile Broadband Network which will bring internet connectivity to homes, businesses, and communities.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Caltrans

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out 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:

Middle mile broadband initiative (MMBI) projects that are either installed underground or placed aerially along an existing pole in the right-of-way are exempt, under Senate Bill 156, which added section 21080.51 to the PRC.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Brian Gassner

Phone number: (510) 506-0372

**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: *Brian Gassner*      Date: 04/08/2026      Title: Branch Chief

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.

# NOE\_ADF 04-25-6-BB-3451

Final Audit Report

2026-04-08

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