

## 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 1  
1656 Union Street  
Eureka, CA 95501

Project Title: Arcadian Broadband

Project Location - Specific: Mendocino County Line to Hopland Middle Mile Broadband (Mendocino 101 Postmile (PM) 0.103/10.92)

Project Location - County: Mendocino

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 the county line and Hopland in Mendocino 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: 04/20/2026    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.