

Notice of Exemption

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: American Dark Fiber Middle Mile Broadband Project ADF-F24-CD4-UG1, UG2, UG3

Project Applicant: American Dark Fiber, Caltrans

Project Location - Specific: SR-4, SR-116, PM R30.547 - R30.55 / R45.304 - R5.541 / R47.314 - R47.316

Project Location - City: Antioch Project Location - County: Contra Costa

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:

American Dark Fiber, LLC, in coordination with California Department of Technology, proposes to construct fiber optic lines for the Middle Mile Broadband Network project. Work would include the installation of subsurface broadband conduit and fiber, the installation of network repeater hubs at approximately 50-mile intervals, as well as the installation of vaults (Pull, Splice, and Buried) at various locations. All work will take place within 30 feet of highway rights-of-way. The areas of project impact will be limited to the existing paved surfaces, disturbed shoulders, and maintained Caltrans right-of-way.

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: ^{05/06/2026} 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 CC-4-160 Projects_5-6-2026

Final Audit Report

2026-05-06

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