



**CEQA EXEMPTION / NEPA CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION
DETERMINATION FORM (rev. 04/2022)**

Project Information

Project Name: Ground Bed Placement Project

DIST-CO-RTE: 07-VEN-150

PM/PM: 15.11

TRACKING Number: 726-6US-1057

DEP CE Number: 202605017

Project Description

Caltrans approves of the encroachment permit for Pacific Bell Telephone Company (AT&T California) to excavate and access an existing utility pole (#1067499E) to place an adjacent new ground bed within Caltrans right-of-way (ROW) along State Route (SR) 150 at post mile (PM) 15.11, as well as perform traffic control activities, in the City of Ojai, Ventura County. Placing the ground bed will include the direct burial of ground wire from a pole that is interconnected to two new copper grounding rods which will be driven underground. Excavation will have a minimum depth of 42 inches and maximum depth of 48 inches, and an average width and length of 1 foot by 10 feet. No public utilities will be relocated, and no new ROW will be acquired.

Caltrans CEQA Determination (Check one)

- Not Applicable** – Caltrans is not the CEQA Lead Agency
- Not Applicable** – Caltrans has prepared an IS or EIR under CEQA

Based on an examination of this proposal and supporting information, the project is:

- Exempt by Statute.** (PRC 21080[b]; 14 CCR 15260 et seq.)
- Categorically Exempt. Class 1b.** (PRC 21084; 14 CCR 15301)
 - No exceptions apply that would bar the use of a categorical exemption (PRC 21084 and 14 CCR 15300.2). See the [SER Chapter 34](#) for exceptions.
- Covered by the Common Sense Exemption.** This project does not fall within an exempt class, but it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity may have a significant effect on the environment (14 CCR 15061[b][3].)

Senior Environmental Planner or Environmental Branch Chief

Pauline Lee		05/20/2026
Print Name	Signature	Date

Project Manager

Norman Hui		05/20/2026
Print Name	Signature	Date



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Caltrans NEPA Determination (Check one)

Not Applicable

Caltrans has determined that this project has no significant impacts on the environment as defined by NEPA, and that there are no unusual circumstances as described in 23 CFR 771.117(b). See SER Chapter 30 for unusual circumstances. As such, the project is categorically excluded from the requirements to prepare an EA or EIS under NEPA and is included under the following:

23 USC 326: Caltrans has been assigned, and hereby certifies that it has carried out the responsibility to make this determination pursuant to 23 USC 326 and the Memorandum of Understanding dated April 18, 2022, executed between FHWA and Caltrans. Caltrans has determined that the project is a Categorical Exclusion under:

- 23 CFR 771.117(c): activity (c)
23 CFR 771.117(d): activity (d)
Activity 6 listed in Appendix A of the MOU between FHWA and Caltrans

23 USC 327: Based on an examination of this proposal and supporting information, Caltrans has determined that the project is a Categorical Exclusion under 23 USC 327. The environmental review, consultation, and any other actions required by applicable Federal environmental laws for this project are being, or have been, carried out by Caltrans pursuant to 23 USC 327 and the Memorandum of Understanding dated December 23, 2016 and executed by FHWA and Caltrans.

Senior Environmental Planner or Environmental Branch Chief

Pauline Lee Signature Date 05/20/2026

Project Manager/ DLA Engineer

Norman Hui Signature Date 05/20/2026

Date of Categorical Exclusion Checklist completion (if applicable): N/A
Date of Environmental Commitment Record or equivalent: N/A

Briefly list environmental commitments on continuation sheet if needed (i.e., not necessary if included on an attached ECR). Reference additional information, as appropriate (e.g., additional studies and design conditions).



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Continuation sheet:

- Please contact the Division of Environmental Planning should there be changes to the project scope.
- If there are any such changes to the proposed undertaking, an additional review by the cultural resource unit will be required. If previously unidentified cultural materials are unearthed during construction, work shall be halted in that area until a qualified archaeologist can assess the significance of the find.
- No construction dewatering will be involved during construction activities.
- The Office of Permit needs to provide the Encroachment Permit Special Provisions (TR-0408) to the applicant.
- If there is an active nest on the pole, the applicant will follow standard procedures to avoid impacts to the nest until the young have fledged. This will be done under the guidance of a professional biologist.