

Notice of Exemption

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

From: Caltrans District 2
1657 Riverside Drive
Redding, CA 96001

Project Title: Caltrans Encroachment Permit 02-26-X-XX-0234 for the Frontier Project 5338934

Project Applicant: Frontier Communications

Project Location - Specific: State Route 44 in Shasta County from post mile 10.956 to 11.739 and from post mile 11.928 to 12.104

Project Location - City: near Palo Cedro and Millville Project Location - County: Shasta

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:

Frontier Communication proposes the installation of approximately 5,016 linear feet of fiber optic cable via horizontal directional drilling (HDD) inside Caltrans' right of way (ROW) along State Route 44 in Shasta County near the communities of Palo Cedro and Millville. The proposed project aims to expand the existing copper plant with a more reliable fiber optic network. The project begins at an existing utility pull box east of the intersection of State Route 44 and Millville Plains Road at Post Mile R10.956 near 40.535091, -122.170859. The project will then progress east in conduit for approximately 4,123 linear feet, crossing the highway underground once at PM R11.499. This portion of conduit terminates at an existing utility pole near 40.534995, -122.158100 at post mile 11.739. As the project continues east, there is an additional stretch of approximately 893 linear feet of conduit and cable placement at PM R11.928 starting from existing utility pole near 40.534799, -122.154645 and terminating at an existing utility pole near 40.534764, -122.151436 at post mile 12.104.

Construction within Caltrans' ROW will be staged from the shoulder and may require the closure of a shoulder as construction progresses. Equipment to be used for the construction of the cable includes a bucket truck, a backhoe, a HDD machine, vacuum truck, trucks equipped with cable reels, a truck and trailer for cable placement and splicing, and a shovel.

Soil disturbance is anticipated at approximately five (5) proposed bore pit / handhole combos, and seven (7) bore pits / dig pits. The total soil disturbance is approximately 1200 square feet or approximately 0.03 acres.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Caltrans (for issuance of encroachment permit)

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Frontier Communications

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: Minor Alterations to Land (Section 15304)
- ☐ Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt:

The California Department of Transportation has determined that the project is categorically exempt in accordance with Section 15304 (Minor Alterations to Land) Class 4. Class 4 consists of minor public or private alterations in the condition of land, water, and/or vegetation which do not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees except for forestry or agricultural purposes. Examples include, but are not limited to:

- (f) – Minor trenching and backfilling where the surface is restored.

The project would not have a significant effect on the environment.

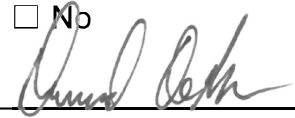
Lead Agency Contact Person: David DeMar

Phone number: (530) 759-3406

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:  Date: 6/9/2026 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.