

Notice of Exemption

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

County Clerk
County of Alameda
1106 Madison Street
Oakland, CA 94607

From: California Department of Transportation
111 Grand Avenue
Oakland, CA 94612

Project Title: Middle-Mile Broadband Network Project: ADF-F18-CD4-UG5; 04-25-6-BB-2014

Project Applicant: Caltrans and American Dark Fiber

Project Location - Specific: Along U.S. Route 101 and California State Route 1 near Mill Valley in Marin County, between Post Miles 4.013 and 4.200.

Project Location - City: Mill Valley

Project Location - County: Marin

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:

American Dark Fiber, in coordination with the California Department of Technology, proposes installation of approximately 353 linear feet of new underground fiber optic infrastructure using high-density polyethylene conduit with fiber optic cable within Caltrans right-of-way along U.S. Route 101 and California State Route 1 near Mill Valley in Marin County, between Post Miles 4.013 and 4.200. The project consists of the F18 UG-5 segment of the Middle-Mile Broadband Network and includes installation of three 1.25-inch and one 2-inch diameter high-density polyethylene conduits containing fiber optic cable and two pull vaults measuring 36 inches wide by 60 inches long by 24 to 36 inches deep. Construction activities include placement of temporary traffic control devices and signage, open trenching, horizontal directional drilling or boring as needed, and installation of associated conduit, vaults, fiber optic markers, and related facilities. Trenching will generally involve excavation approximately 12 to 24 inches wide and up to 48 inches deep. Open trenches will be limited in length, and all trenches and pits will be backfilled or covered during non-working hours. Steel plates will be used as needed to maintain traffic flow at driveways and access points. All work will occur within existing Caltrans right-of-way and previously disturbed transportation corridors, including paved roadway shoulders, gravel shoulders, roadside embankments, and landscaped areas. Installation methods will be selected to avoid sensitive environmental resources and existing utilities to the extent practicable. No expansion beyond existing rights-of-way is proposed.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: California Department of Transportation, District 4

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: California Department of Transportation, District 4

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 aurally 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: Patrick Co

Phone number: (510) 381-2877

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: 07/02/2026 Title: D4 Environmental Analysis 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.

04-25-6-BB-2014 noe-a11y

Final Audit Report

2026-07-02

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