

Notice of Exemption

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: American Dark Fiber MEN 1 Broadband (0434)

Project Location - Specific: MEN 1 PM 63.981-63.984 to R65.129-R65.138

Project Location - County: Mendocino

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:

American Dark Fiber, in coordination with the California Department of Technology, proposes the installation of approximately 52 feet of new underground 4-inch high-density polyethylene conduit with fiber optic cable within Caltrans right-of-way (ROW) along State Route 1 in Mendocino County, California, between PM 63.984–63.986 and PM R65.130–R65.137. Installation will be performed by trenching in accordance with the traffic control plan. Steel plates will maintain traffic flow on driveways, and open pits or trenches will be filled or covered during non-working hours. Fiber optic and metallic disk markers will be installed along the conduit alignment. All work will occur within the existing Caltrans ROW.

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: 07/13/2026 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.