Notice of Exemption

To: Office of Planning and Research
1400 Tenth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

County Clerk
County of:

_____

_____

_____

From: (Public Agency) Caltrans, Dist. 06
2015 E. Shields Ave., Suite 100
Fresno CA 93726

Project Title: CVIN MMBN FRE SR 180 PM 83.828/87.716

Project Applicant: California Department of Transportation

Project Location - Specific:
FRE State Route 180, Post Mile 83.828/87.716

Project Location - City: Navelencia Project Location - County: Fresno

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:
This project would include the installation of approximately 3.8 miles of broadband infrastructure in California within the State Highway System, including Interstate routes. This Middle-Mile Broadband Network project will install the broadband infrastructure along the State Highway System (SHS) necessary to connect to a third-party operated Last Mile Broadband Network which will bring internet connectivity to homes, businesses, and community institutions. This project will install broadband conduit and fiber along 3.8 miles of alignment along SR 180 between post mile 83.82 and 87.71, in Fresno County, as part of the Middle Mile Broadband Network. This project is an essential piece of a larger statewide program critical for expanding broadband access across the region.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: California Department of Transportation

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Central Valley Independent Network (CVIN)

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 Exemption. State code number: Pub. Res. Code, § 21080.51

Reason why project is exempt:

Senate Bill 156 (2021) as codified, requires the CPUC to work with stakeholders, especially Caltrans, to identify and prioritize locations on state highway rights-of way where the open access middle-mile network infrastructure can be constructed. (Gov. Code, § 11549.54.) As part of the legislative package to support this initiative, a statutory CEQA exemption was adopted. (Pub. Res. Code, § 21080.51.)

Lead Agency: Caltrans
Contact Person: John Thomas Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (559) 408-4496

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 Juan Torres Date: 7/31/2026 Title: Acting Senior Environmental Planner

☒ Signed by Lead Agency ☐ Signed by Applicant

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.
Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.

Date Received for filing at OPR _____

Revised 2011