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

Project Information

Project Name: Utility Pole Ground Bed Placement

DIST-CO-RTE: 07-VEN-126 **PM/PM:** R28.01

TRACKING Number: 726-6US-1892 **DEP CE Number:** 202608010

Project Description

Caltrans approves of the encroachment permit for Pacific Bell Telephone Company (dba AT&T California) to excavate and access an existing pole (#1202438E) to place new ground bed and 24 feet of ground wire within Caltrans right-of-way (ROW) along State Route (SR) 126 at post mile (PM) R28.01, as well as perform traffic control activities in the City of Fillmore, Ventura County. Excavation will have a maximum depth of 3 feet and a minimum depth of 1 foot, and an average width and length of 1 foot by 8 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	Pauline Lee	08/19/2026
Print Name	Signature	Date

Project Manager

Norman Hui		08/19/2026
Print Name	Signature	Date

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	Pauline Lee	08/19/2026
Print Name	Signature	Date

Project Manager/ DLA Engineer

Norman Hui		08/19/2026
Print Name	Signature	Date

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).

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.
- Applicant must conduct necessary bird surveys of pole and trees/vegetation adjacent up to 500 feet from pole for potential nests. If an active nest is found, all appropriate bird protection BMPs should be employed.