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 02-26-6-BB-0419 for Frontier Communications Project 5386006 on State Route 299 in Shasta County at post mile 82.279

Project Applicant: Frontier Communications

Project Location - Specific: State Route 299 in Shasta County at post mile 82.279

Project Location - City: near Burney and Fall River Mills

Project Location - County: Shasta

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:

Frontier Communications proposes to install approximately 213 linear feet of fiber optic cable within the Caltrans right of way (ROW) along State Route 299 in Shasta County at post mile (PM) 82.279 near Burney and Fall River Mills. The project aims to upgrade the existing copper plant with a more reliable fiber optic cable network. The fiber optic cable would be installed underground using horizontal direction drilling (HDD) and would be enclosed within a 1.25-inch diameter high-density polyethylene (HDPE) conduit. The fiber optic cable would enter the Caltrans ROW near 40.962102, -121.579107 and would cross under State Route 299 to a receiving pit located near 40.961875, -121.578761. The fiber optic cable would continue via HDD southeast along Cassel Road, exiting the Caltrans ROW near 40.961647, -121.578682.

Construction will be staged off the shoulder of the streets and will not require the closure of a travel lane. Equipment to be used for the construction of the cable includes a truck and trailer with cable reels, HDD machine, vacuum truck, a backhoe, and a bucket truck. The total soil disturbance is approximately 100 square feet or less than 0.01 acres.

Caltrans has prepared this Notice of Exemption for work occurring within the Caltrans ROW and will issue an encroachment permit (02-26-6-BB-0419) for work occurring within the Caltrans ROW.

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: 10/19/2026 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.