

NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

TO: All Interested Parties

Siskiyou Telephone Company (Siskiyou Telephone) has filed an application for CASF funding in the underserved areas along the State Highway 96 corridor between Somes Bar and Happy Camp in Siskiyou County. The CPUC approved funding for the project from the CASF on December 15, 2016 in Resolution T-17539. Resolution T-17539 stipulates that prior to receiving funds from the CASF grant, the proponent is required to provide a Proponent's Environmental Assessment (PEA) and the CPUC must complete review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

Project Background: Under the Siskiyou Telephone Happy Camp to Somes Bar Fiber Connectivity Project (Proposed Project), Siskiyou Telephone proposes to install fiber optic broadband facility cable within a conduit for approximately 17 miles within the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) right-of-way in or adjacent to State Highway 96 (Mileposts 12.15 to 32.31). State Highway 96 is located in both the Klamath National Forest and Six Rivers National Forest. The United States Forest Service is performing a separate environmental review of the Proposed Project prior to issuance of a Special Use Permit.

Construction of the entire fiber optic broadband facility cable would take approximately 195 days over a 2-year period, with construction occurring only during the dry season (April through October). Siskiyou Telephone has stated that the purpose of the Proposed Project is to provide reliable telephone and broadband service capability to existing and future residences in the area between Clear Creek and Ti Bar and remote areas of Siskiyou County, and to complete a continuous fiber optic route between Interstate 5 and U.S. Highway 101.

Information Available: The CPUC Energy Division has prepared a Mitigated Negative Declaration and supporting Initial Study (IS/MND) describing the project and its potential environmental effects. Based on this document, it has been determined that the Happy Camp to Somes Bar Fiber Connectivity Project, as modified, will not have any significant effects on the environment with incorporation of the mitigation identified in the IS/MND. The CPUC's environmental document may be reviewed at the following locations:

CPUC Energy Division
505 Van Ness Avenue, 3rd Floor
San Francisco, CA 94102

Yreka Branch Library
719 4th Street
Yreka, CA 96097

Happy Camp Branch Library
143 Buckhorn Rd.
Happy Camp, CA 96039

For electronic access to the MND and other project information/reports, check the CPUC's website at:

<http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/environment/info/aspensiskiyoutelco/siskiyoutelco.htm>

Time for Review: This IS/MND will undergo a public review period from March 16 through April 16, 2018. Comments must be in writing and received or postmarked by 5:00 p.m. on April 16, 2018, at the following address:

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