

# Contents

<b>1. Mitigated Negative Declaration</b> .....	1-1
1.1 Project Information.....	1-1
1.2 Introduction.....	1-1
1.3 Project Description.....	1-2
1.4 Environmental Determination.....	1-2
<b>2. Environmental Determination</b> .....	2-1
2.1 Environmental Factors Potentially Affected.....	2-1
2.2 Environmental Determination.....	2-1
<b>3. Introduction to the Initial Study</b> .....	3-1
3.1 Proposed Project Overview.....	3-1
3.2 Environmental Analysis.....	3-1
3.2.1 CEQA Process.....	3-1
3.2.2 CEQA Lead Agency.....	3-1
3.2.3 Initial Study.....	3-2
<b>4. Project Description</b> .....	4-1
4.1 Project Title.....	4-1
4.2 Lead Agency Name and Address.....	4-1
4.3 Lead Agency Contact Person and Phone Number.....	4-1
4.4 Project Location.....	4-1
4.5 Project Sponsor’s Name and Address.....	4-3
4.6 General Plan Designation.....	4-3
4.7 Zoning.....	4-3
4.8 Surrounding Land Uses and Setting.....	4-3
4.9 Project Overview.....	4-3
4.9.1 Project Objectives.....	4-4
4.9.2 Purpose and Need.....	4-4
4.10 Project Components.....	4-4
4.10.1 Fiber Optic Broadband Facility Cable.....	4-4
4.10.2 Utility Boxes.....	4-6
4.10.3 Right-of-Way Requirements.....	4-6
4.11 Project Construction.....	4-6
4.11.1 Underground Cable Installation.....	4-6
4.11.2 Material Storage and Equipment Staging Areas.....	4-8
4.11.3 Work Areas.....	4-8
4.11.4 Use and Disposal of Excavated Material.....	4-9
4.11.5 Vegetation Clearance.....	4-9
4.11.6 Stream Crossings.....	4-9
4.11.7 Water Use.....	4-9
4.11.8 Erosion and Sediment Control and Pollution Prevention during Construction.....	4-9
4.11.9 Site Clean-up and Roadway Restoration.....	4-10
4.11.10 Construction Personnel and Equipment.....	4-11
4.11.11 Construction Schedule.....	4-12
4.12 Operations and Maintenance.....	4-12
4.13 Other Permits and Approvals.....	4-12
4.14 Applicant Proposed Measures.....	4-13
4.15 Alternatives.....	4-16

<b>5. Environmental Setting and Environmental Impacts</b> .....	5-1
5.1 Aesthetics.....	5-1
5.1.1 Setting.....	5-1
5.1.2 Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures.....	5-3
5.2 Agriculture and Forestry Resources.....	5-4
5.2.1 Setting.....	5-4
5.2.2 Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures.....	5-6
5.3 Air Quality.....	5-8
5.3.1 Setting.....	5-8
5.3.2 Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures.....	5-11
5.4 Biological Resources.....	5-15
5.4.1 Setting.....	5-15
5.4.2 Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures.....	5-28
5.5 Cultural Resources.....	5-42
5.5.1 Cultural Resources and Paleontological Setting.....	5-42
5.5.2 Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures.....	5-56
5.6 Geology and Soils.....	5-58
5.6.1 Setting.....	5-58
5.6.2 Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures.....	5-65
5.7 Greenhouse Gas Emissions.....	5-69
5.7.1 Setting.....	5-69
5.7.2 Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures.....	5-71
5.8 Hazards and Hazardous Materials.....	5-73
5.8.1 Setting.....	5-73
5.8.2 Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures.....	5-79
5.9 Hydrology and Water Quality.....	5-84
5.9.1 Setting.....	5-84
5.9.2 Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures.....	5-88
5.10 Land Use and Planning.....	5-92
5.10.1 Setting.....	5-92
5.10.2 Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures.....	5-93
5.11 Mineral Resources.....	5-95
5.11.1 Setting.....	5-95
5.11.2 Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures.....	5-96
5.12 Noise.....	5-97
5.12.1 Setting.....	5-97
5.12.2 Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures.....	5-99
5.13 Population and Housing.....	5-102
5.13.1 Setting.....	5-102
5.13.2 Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures.....	5-103
5.14 Public Services.....	5-105
5.14.1 Setting.....	5-105
5.14.2 Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures.....	5-107
5.15 Recreation.....	5-109
5.15.1 Setting.....	5-109
5.15.2 Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures.....	5-110
5.16 Transportation/Traffic.....	5-111
5.16.1 Setting.....	5-111
5.16.2 Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures.....	5-114

5.17	Tribal Cultural Resources.....	5-117
5.17.1	Setting.....	5-117
5.17.2	Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures.....	5-121
5.18	Utilities and Service Systems.....	5-122
5.18.1	Setting.....	5-122
5.18.2	Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures.....	5-124
5.19	Mandatory Findings of Significance.....	5-128
<b>6.</b>	<b>Mitigation Monitoring Plan</b> .....	<b>6-1</b>
6.1	Minor Project Refinements.....	6-1
6.2	Dispute Resolution.....	6-2
<b>7.</b>	<b>Response to Comments</b>	
	Reserved for Final MND/IS	

## Tables

Table 4-1	Construction Workforce and Equipment.....	4-11
Table 4-2	Permits that May Be Required for the Proposed Project.....	4-12
Table 4-3	Applicant Proposed Measures (APMs).....	4-13
Table 5.3-1	National and California Ambient Air Quality Standards.....	5-9
Table 5.3-2	Attainment Status for Siskiyou County.....	5-9
Table 5.3-3	Applicant Proposed Measures – Air Quality.....	5-11
Table 5.3-3	Estimated Construction Emissions.....	5-12
Table 5.4-1	Special-Status Species that Could Occur in the Project Vicinity.....	5-19
Table 5.4-2	Applicant Proposed Measures – Biological Resources.....	5-27
Table 5.5-1	Applicant Proposed Measures – Cultural Resources.....	5-56
Table 5.6-1	Key Characteristics of Soils Underlying the Proposed Project Alignment.....	5-60
Table 5.6-2	Active and Potentially Active Faults in the Project Vicinity.....	5-62
Table 5.6-3	Applicant Proposed Measures – Geology and Soils.....	5-65
Table 5.7-1	Applicant Proposed Measures – Greenhouse Gas Emissions.....	5-71
Table 5.8-1	Applicant Proposed Measures – Hazards and Hazardous Materials.....	5-78
Table 5.9-1	Applicant Proposed Measures – Hydrology and Water Quality.....	5-87
Table 5.10-1	Applicant Proposed Measures – Land Use and Planning.....	5-93
Table 5.12-1	Applicant Proposed Measures – Noise.....	5-99
Table 5.12-2	Typical Noise Levels for Individual Construction Equipment.....	5-100
Table 5.13-1	Year 2017 Existing Conditions – Population, Housing, and Employment.....	5-102
Table 5.14-1	Applicant Proposed Measures – Public Services.....	5-107
Table 5.16-1	Applicant Proposed Measures – Transportation and Traffic.....	5-114
Table 5.17-1	Applicant Proposed Measures – Tribal Cultural Resources.....	5-120
Table 5.18-1	Applicant Proposed Measures – Utilities and Service Systems.....	5-124
Table 5.19-1	Planned and Current Projects in the Vicinity of the Proposed Project.....	5-129
Table 6-1	Mitigation Monitoring Plan.....	6-3

## Figures

Figure 1-1	Project Vicinity.....	1-3
Figure 4-1	Project Route.....	4-2
Figure 4-2	Northwest California CASF Grant Projects.....	4-5
Figure 4-3	Typical Utility Box.....	4-7

## **Appendices**

- Appendix A Maps of Creek Crossings
- Appendix B Siskiyou Telephone's Site Plans
- Appendix C List of Preparers
- Appendix D References
- Appendix E Air Quality/Greenhouse Gas Emissions Calculations