

PROPONENT’S ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT – ZAYO PRINEVILLE-TO-RENO FIBER OPTIC PROJECT

Population and Housing

5.14 POPULATION AND HOUSING

This section describes existing conditions and potential impacts on population and housing as a result of project construction, operation, and maintenance. The analysis concludes that the project would have no impact.

5.14.1 Environmental Setting

5.14.1.1 Population Estimates

The project crosses through unincorporated communities in Modoc County, including New Pine Creek, Davis Creek, Ramsey, and Likely, as well as the City of Alturas. Within Lassen County, the project traverses the communities of Sage Hen, Pinnio, Madeline, Brockman, Moran, Termo, Viewland, Litchfield, Standish, Buntingville, Milford, and Doyle. The portion of the project within Sierra County is relatively undeveloped.

Historical and projected populations for Modoc, Lassen, and Sierra Counties, and California are shown in Table 5.14-1. The populations of the counties in the project area is projected to decline, while the population of California is anticipated to grow in the 30-year period from 2010 to 2040.

Table 5.14-1: Regional Historical and Projected Populations

Location	2010	2015	2020	2030	2040	Change in Population 2010 to 2040 (percent)
Modoc County	9,688	9,542	9,475	9,335	9,004	-7
Lassen County	34,809	30,912	30,065	29,422	27,379	-21
Sierra County	3,233	3,152	3,115	3,009	2,829	-12
California	37,367,579	39,055,383	40,129,160	42,263,654	43,946,643	18

Source: California Department of Finance 2019

Table 5.14-2 summarizes the regional population characteristics within Modoc, Lassen, and Sierra Counties and the City of Alturas. Accordingly, the majority of the population within these counties and the City of Alturas is White alone, followed by Hispanic or Latino.



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Table 5.14-2: Regional Population Characteristics

Location	Total Population	White Alone	Hispanic or Latino	Black or African American Alone	American Indian and Alaska Native Alone	Asian Alone	Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander Alone	Some Other Race Alone	Two or More Races
Modoc County	9,017	78.0%	14.6%	0.7%	4.0%	1.1%	0.1%	0.0%	1.5%
Lassen County	31,470	66.1%	18.5%	8.6%	2.9%	1.5%	0.7%	0.1%	1.6%
Sierra County	2,885	87.0%	10.1%	0.1%	1.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.9%
City of Alturas	2,827	84.8%	12.4%	0.0%	0.8%	0.7%	0.0%	0.0%	1.2%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2017

Table 5.14-3 presents the economic and income characteristics and shows that the percentage of population below poverty level is 18.1 in Modoc County, 14.6 in Lassen County, 12.3 in Sierra County, and 19.0 in the City of Alturas. The percent below the poverty level within Modoc County and the City of Alturas is slightly below the State of California average of 15.1 percent.

Table 5.14-3: Regional Economic and Income Characteristics

Location	Population 16 years and older	Total in Civilian Labor Force	Total Unemployed	Unemployment Rate	Median Household Income	Percentage Below Poverty Level
Modoc County	7,506	3,494	263	7.5%	\$39,296	18.1%
Lassen County	26,937	9,781	729	7.5%	\$54,083	14.6%
Sierra County	2,490	1,213	64	5.3%	\$44,190	12.3%
City of Alturas	2,193	1,149	76	6.6%	\$32,411	19.0%
State of California	30,292,768	19,410,607	1,476,691	7.7%	\$67,169	15.1%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2017

5.14.1.2 Housing Estimates

Table 5.14-5 presents the housing characteristics and shows that the average owner-occupied and renter-occupied household size is 2.35 and 2.30, respectively, in Modoc County; 2.27 and 2.30, respectively, in Lassen County; 2.19 and 3.02, respectively, in Sierra County; and 1.97 and 1.96, respectively, in the City of Alturas.



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Table 5.14-4: Regional Housing Characteristics

Location	Total Housing Units	Average Household Size (Owner Occupied)	Average Household Size (Renter-Occupied)	Housing Units				Occupied Housing Units			
				Occupied		Vacant		Owner Occupied		Renter Occupied	
				#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Modoc County	5,250	2.35	2.30	3,638	69.3	1,612	30.7	2,655	73.0	983	27.0
Lassen County	12,749	2.27	2.30	9,441	74.1	3,308	25.9	6,230	66.0	3,211	34.0
Sierra County	5,250	2.35	2.30	1,208	50.6	1,180	49.4	963	79.7	245	20.3
City of Alturas	12,749	2.27	2.30	1,312	85.3	227	14.7	750	57.2	562	42.8

Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2017

5.14.1.3 Approved Housing Developments

Section 7.0, Cumulative and Other CEQA Considerations, identifies past, present, and reasonably foreseeable cumulative projects in the project area. No proposed housing development projects have been identified within 1 mile of the project.

5.14.2 Regulatory Setting

No regulatory background information is relevant to addressing project-related impacts on population and housing.

5.14.3 Impact Questions

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less-than-Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-than-Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Induce substantial unplanned population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>



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5.14.4 Impact Analysis

a) Induce substantial unplanned population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?

The project would extend 193.9 miles of fiber-optic cable within existing roadways across portions of Modoc, Lassen, and Sierra Counties. No new homes or businesses are proposed as part of the project, and the project is not anticipated to induce population growth either directly or indirectly. The surrounding area in each of the counties is anticipated to decrease from 2020 to 2040, and the project would not affect the change in population, nor would it remove obstacles to population growth. At the peak of construction, approximately 48 construction workers of about eight crews (six people per crew) would be located across various construction locations simultaneously. It is anticipated that construction workers would be drawn from either existing staff in the local area. Because the construction duration is short (approximately 6 months), it is not anticipated that a construction workforce would permanently relocate to the area. The project area has adequate hotels and motels available to provide accommodations to any workers that may temporarily relocate to the area during construction. Thus, project construction activities would not directly or indirectly induce substantial population growth. Once the project is constructed, the system would be remotely monitored through networks in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Based on remote monitoring, the applicant would send out crews if the infrastructure needs to be repaired or if a mandated relocation is needed, and permanent workers would not be required in the project area for the operation and maintenance of the project; therefore, the project would not directly or indirectly induce population growth.

b) Displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?

The project would extend 193.9 miles of fiber-optic cable within existing roadways across portions of Modoc, Lassen, and Sierra Counties. Such activities would require encroachment permits from Caltrans and Lassen County but would not result in conversion of land or displacement of existing housing. The proposed installations and construction staging associated with the project would occur mostly within existing roadway right-of-way, with the exception of some ancillary facilities that would be placed immediately adjacent to the existing roadway in several locations. The project would not displace existing housing, nor require replacement housing; therefore, replacement housing will not be constructed.

5.14.5 Draft Environmental Measures

There are no applicable environmental measures for population and housing.

