

1 **1. Initial Study Environmental Checklist Form**

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3 **1.1 Project Title**

4  
5 Olinda Last Mile Underserved Broadband Project – [Resolution T-17411 and Resolution T-17517]

6  
7 **1.2 Lead Agency Name and Address**

8  
9 California Public Utilities Commission  
10 Infrastructure Permitting and CEQA  
11 505 Van Ness Avenue, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
12 San Francisco, California 94102

13  
14 **1.3 Contact Person and Phone Number**

15  
16 Connie Chen, Project Manager  
17 415-703-2124 or [connie.chen@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:connie.chen@cpuc.ca.gov)

18  
19 **1.4 Project Location**

20  
21 Shasta County, California

22  
23 **1.5 Sponsor's Name and Address**

24  
25 TDS Telecommunications Corporation  
26 Attn: Nate Stanislawski  
27 525 Junction Road  
28 Madison, Wisconsin 53717

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30 **1.6 General Plan Designation**

31  
32 The Olinda Last Mile Underserved Broadband Project (Olinda Project, or the proposed project) area is  
33 located entirely within road right-of-ways (ROW) in areas generally classified as rural residential (R-R)  
34 and limited agriculture (A-1) in the Shasta County General Plan.

35  
36 **1.7 Zoning**

37  
38 R-R and A-1 designations allow for a single-family residential and agricultural uses, as well as non-  
39 agricultural uses such as bed and breakfasts and golf courses, on lots larger than 1 acre. A-1 also allows  
40 for additional agricultural uses such as medium-sized wineries, farm labor quarters, and agricultural  
41 processing facilities. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands near the western part of the proposed  
42 project area are zoned exclusive agriculture/agriculture preserve, which allow for—in addition to  
43 agricultural uses—low-intensity recreational uses. Several parcels classified as mixed use (MU) and  
44 public facilities (PF) are located near the intersections of Oak Street/Cloverdale Road and Palm  
45 Avenue/Happy Valley Road. MU allows for agricultural, residential, some commercial, and industrial  
46 land uses. PF allows for public uses such as parks, schools, hospitals, and facilities supporting other  
47 public services.

1  
2 **1.8 Description of Project**  
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4 The Olinda Last Mile Underserved Broadband Project (Olinda Project, or proposed project) would  
5 involve construction of a second-generation, very-high-bit-rate digital subscriber line (VDSL2) fiber-  
6 optic cable network with 25-megabit-per-second (Mbps) download speed and 5-Mbps upload speed  
7 (25Mbps/5Mbps). Approximately 15.3 miles of new fiber-optic cable would be buried within protective  
8 conduit along existing roads in southwestern Shasta County. The proposed project would be funded in  
9 part by the California Advance Services Fund (CASF) and consists of installation of the following  
10 components:

- 11
- 12 • **New high-speed broadband fiber-optic cable:** TDS Telecom (TDS) would construct a VDSL2  
13 fiber-optic network capable of 25 Mbps/5 Mbps download/upload speed. Approximately 15.3  
14 miles of 96-count, shielded fiber-optic telecommunications cable within 1.25-inch-diameter,  
15 high-density polyethylene conduits would occur along existing roads within the proposed project  
16 area.
  - 17 • **Equipment cabinets on top of buried vaults and cross-connect boxes at Digital Loop Carrier**  
18 **(DLC) sites:** TDS would construct seven new DLC sites and renovate up to six existing sites.  
19 Each DLC would consist of an equipment cabinet; a large, partially buried vault (handhole); and a  
20 cross-connect box. Equipment cabinets would be installed on top of the buried handholes. Gravel  
21 would be placed in a 20-square-foot area around each equipment cabinet.  
22

23 The proposed alignment would run alongside County roads between Igo and the applicant’s central office  
24 in Happy Valley. TDS has completed applications and submitted plans to the County to secure the  
25 required encroachment permits for locations where installations would occur along Shasta County roads.  
26 No additional ROW would be required. No construction work shall commence until the applicant has  
27 obtained all approvals.  
28

29 **1.9 Surrounding Land Uses and Setting**  
30

31 The Olinda Project would be located approximately 11 miles south of the city of Redding in  
32 unincorporated portions of southwestern Shasta County, near the communities of Happy Valley, Olinda,  
33 and Igo. The majority of the proposed project area is used for agriculture, with limited residential and  
34 commercial properties dispersed throughout. Public land managed by the BLM lies near the western  
35 portion of the proposed project area, but the proposed project is not within BLM jurisdiction.  
36

37 **1.10 Other Public Agencies Whose Approval is Required**  
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39 In addition to the Authority to Construct required by the CPUC for overall project approval and  
40 California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review, Table 1-1 describes additional permits that the  
41 applicant will likely be required to obtain for project implementation.  
42

Table 1-1 Required Permits and Approvals

Agency	Permit/Approval	Jurisdiction/Purpose
California Department of Fish and Wildlife	Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement	TDS would conduct work near or within waterways.
State Water Resources Control Board	Construction General Permit (Order 2009-0009-DWQ)	TDS would disturb more than 1 acre of land during proposed project construction.

Table 1-1 Required Permits and Approvals

Agency	Permit/Approval	Jurisdiction/Purpose
Shasta County Public Works	Encroachment Permit	TDS would conduct work within Shasta County roadways.

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