February 10, 2026, **Agenda ID: 24029**

RESOLUTION T-17907

TO: CASF Service List

This is Draft Resolution T-17907 of the Communications Division. This Draft Resolution will appear on the agenda at the next Commission meeting to be held March 19, 2026, at least 30 days after the date of this letter. The Commission may vote on this Resolution at that time, or it may postpone a vote until a later meeting. To confirm when the item will be heard, please see the Business Meeting agenda, which is posted on the Commission's website 10 days before each Business Meeting. When the Commission votes on a Draft Resolution, it may adopt all or part of it as written, amend, modify, or set it aside and prepare a different Resolution. Only when the Commission acts does the Resolution become binding on the parties.

Any member of the public may serve comments on the Draft Resolution as provided in Public Utilities Code, § 311(g) and Rule 14.5 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (Rules).

Comments along with a certificate of service (COS) shall be sent via email to: angela.beane@cpuc.ca.gov, justin.fong@cpuc.ca.gov , and federalfundingaccount@cpuc.ca.gov by March 2, 2026 at 5:00 PM.

Those submitting comments on the Draft Resolution must serve their comments on the entire service list the Draft Resolution was served to on the same date that the comments are submitted to the Communications Division.

Comments shall focus on factual, legal, or technical errors in the proposed Draft Resolution. Comments that merely reargue positions taken in the advice letter or protests will be accorded no weight and are not to be submitted. Comments should list the recommended changes to the Draft Resolution.

Replies to comments must be submitted no later than March 7, 2026. Replies shall be submitted and served in the same manner as opening comments

Sincerely,

/s/

Maria Ellis

Director for Broadband Initiatives

Communications Division

California Public Utilities Commission

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION **RESOLUTION T-17907**
March 19, 2026

R E S O L U T I O N

RESOLUTION T-17907: Approves California Environmental Quality Act Exemption for six Federal Funding Account projects with conditions.

PROPOSED OUTCOME:

- Finds six grants from the last mile Federal Funding Account in Del Norte, Humboldt, Kings, San Diego, and Yolo counties to be statutorily exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act, subject to specified conditions:
  - AT&T's Kings-1A project in Kings County,
  - AT&T's Riverside-1 project in Riverside and San Bernardino counties,
  - AT&T's Yolo-1 project in Yolo County,
  - AT&T's Yolo- 1B project in Yolo County,
  - Yurok Telecommunications Corporation's YTEL FTTH project in Del Norte and Humboldt counties, and
  - Zito Southern California, LLC's Julian/Ramona/Borrego Springs project in San Diego County.

SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS:

- There are no adverse safety considerations identified by the Communications Division. The projects which are planned to be implemented by the work products in this award have the potential to improve communications resiliency and redundancy.

ESTIMATED COST:

- There are no costs associated with this resolution.

SUMMARY

This Resolution authorizes the release of Federal Funding Account grant funding for the following projects summarized in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Summary of Grant Funding

Awardee	Project Name	County	Resolution	Awarded Amount
AT&T	Kings – 1A	Kings	T-17870	$4,070,000
AT&T	Riverside – 1	Riverside, San Bernardino	T-17833	$11,580,196
AT&T	Yolo - 1	Yolo	T-17859	$9,035,808
AT&T	Yolo – 1B	Yolo	T-17859	$2,570,000
Yurok Telecommunications Corporation	YTEL FTTH Project	Del Norte, Humboldt	T-17846	$19,602,036
Zito Southern California, LLC	Julian/Ramona/ Borrego Springs	San Diego	T-17865	$19,756,393
			Total	$66,614,433

BACKGROUND

CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT STATUTORY EXEMPTION

On June 30, 2025, Governor Gavin Newsom signed Senate Bill 131 (Statutes 2025, Chapter 24), which included substantial and immediately effective changes to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for broadband projects deployed within 30 feet of the right-of-way of any public roadway in the State. The statutory exemption is contained in Public Resources Code Section 21080.51, and requires:

> 1) The project is constructed along, or within 30-feet of, the right-of-way of any public road or highway.
> (2) The project is either deployed underground where the surface area is restored to a condition existing before the project or placed aerially along an existing utility pole right-of-way.
> (3) The project incorporates, as a condition of project approval, measures developed by the Public Utilities Commission, the Department of Transportation, or the city, county, or city and county responsible for the

right-of-way to address potential environmental impacts. At minimum, the project shall be required to include monitors during construction activities and measures to avoid or address impacts to cultural and biological resources.

(4) The project applicant agrees to comply with all conditions otherwise authorized by law, imposed by a city, county, or city and county as part of a local agency permit process, that are required to mitigate potential impacts of the proposed project, and to comply with the Keene-Nejedly California Wetlands Preservation Act (Chapter 7 (commencing with Section 5810) of Division 5), the California Endangered Species Act (Chapter 1.5 (commencing with Section 2050) of Division 3 of the Fish and Game Code), as applicable, other applicable state laws, and all applicable federal laws.

As a condition of project approval, the California Public Utilities Commission incorporates the environmental protection measures contained in Appendices A, B, and C as project requirements. These measures address impacts to cultural and biological impacts and incorporate design features and best practices to avoid impacts. The California Public Utilities Commission environmental monitors will ensure compliance with these measures during construction activities. California Public Utilities Commission staff are authorized to approve minor project refinements to the approved measures consistent with existing process, allowing for minor changes to the measures during construction that do not significantly alter environmental impacts. A request for minor changes may be submitted by following the Minor Project Refinement process in Appendix D.

As a condition of accepting the grant, the project awardee agrees to comply with all conditions otherwise authorized by law, imposed by a city, county, or city and county as part of a local agency permit process, that are required to mitigate potential impacts of the proposed project, and to comply with the Keene-Nejedly California Wetlands Preservation Act (Chapter 7 (commencing with Section 5810) of Division 5), the California Endangered Species Act (Chapter 1.5 (commencing with Section 2050) of Division 3 of the Fish and Game Code), as applicable, other applicable state laws, and all applicable federal laws. Noncompliance with the environmental protection measures or other applicable laws may result in Commission action including but not limited to stop work orders or rescission of the grant pursuant to the Federal Funding Account Program Rules and Guidelines and/or enforcement pursuant to Resolution M-4846.

Additionally, the project awardee is required to perform the following:

(1) Notify, in writing, any affected public agency, including, but not limited to, any public agency having permit, land use, environmental, public health protection, or emergency response authority, of the exemption of the project pursuant to this section.
(2) Provide notice to the public in the area affected by the project in a manner consistent with subdivision (b) of California Public Resources Code Section 21108.
(3) In the case of private rights-of-way over private property, receive from the underlying property owner permission for access to the property.
(4) Comply with all conditions authorized by law imposed by a city, county, or city and county as part of any local agency permit process, that are required to mitigate potential impacts of the proposed project, and otherwise comply with the Keene-Nejedly California Wetlands Preservation Act (Chapter 7 (commencing with Section 5810) of Division 5), the California Endangered Species Act (Chapter 1.5 (commencing with Section 2050) of Division 3 of the Fish and Game Code), as applicable, other applicable state laws, and all applicable federal laws.

COMMENTS

In compliance with Public Utilities Code Section 311(g)(1), a Notice of Availability of this draft resolution was e-mailed on February 10, 2026, informing all parties on the CASF Distribution List and the R. 20-09-001 Service List of the availability of the draft of this Resolution, and of the opportunity to comment, at the Commission's website at http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/. Comments must be received by March 2, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. and reply comments by March 7, 2026.

On March 2, 2026, the California Public Utilities Commission received one opening comment from AT&T regarding AT&T's Kings 1A, Riverside, Yolo 1, and Yolo 1B projects. AT&T requested changes to the Best Management Practices and measures in Draft Resolution T-17907, Appendix A.

Draft Resolution T-17907 states that Commission staff may work with AT&T to revise the measures contained in the appendices based upon site-specific field survey results to reduce or avoid potential impacts to biological and cultural resources. Draft Resolution T-17907 also states that the measures are project specific and Commission staff will continue to work with AT&T to revise the measures contained in Appendix A, as needed. The measures in Appendix A reflect best management practices developed through the environmental review process based on currently available information.

Therefore, it is unnecessary to make changes to the Best Management Practices and measures in Draft Resolution T-17907, Appendix A.

Commission staff and environmental consultants will continue to coordinate with AT&T during pre-construction and construction activities to adjust measures, as new information becomes available.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. The Commission is the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act for environmental review of the broadband projects approved in this Resolution.
2. Public Resources Code Section 21080.51 contains a statutory exemption from California Environmental Quality Act for broadband projects, and requires:
    a. The project is constructed along, or within 30-feet of, the right-of-way of any public road or highway.
    b. The project is either deployed underground where the surface area is restored to a condition existing before the project or placed aerially along an existing utility pole right-of-way.
    c. The project incorporates, as a condition of project approval, measures developed by the Public Utilities Commission, the Department of Transportation, or the city, county, or city and county responsible for the right-of-way to address potential environmental impacts. At minimum, the project shall be required to include monitors during construction activities and measures to avoid or address impacts to cultural and biological resources.
    d. The project applicant agrees to comply with all conditions otherwise authorized by law, imposed by a city, county, or city and county as part of a local agency permit process, that are required to mitigate potential impacts of the proposed project, and to comply with the Keene-Nejedly California Wetlands Preservation Act (Chapter 7 (commencing with Section 5810) of Division 5), the California Endangered Species Act (Chapter 1.5

(commencing with Section 2050) of Division 3 of the Fish and Game Code), as applicable, other applicable state laws, and all applicable federal laws.

3. The broadband projects approved in this Resolution qualify for the Public Resources Code Section 20108.51 statutory exemption.
4. The Commission developed measures to address potential environmental impacts, which are contained in the appendices to this Resolution.
5. As a condition of project approval, the California Public Utilities Commission incorporates the environmental protection measures contained in the appendices as project requirements. These measures address impacts to cultural and biological impacts – and incorporate best practices to avoid impacts.
6. California Public Utilities Commission environmental monitors will ensure compliance with these measures during construction activities.
7. California Public Utilities Commission staff should be authorized to approve minor project refinements to the approved measures based upon field survey results to reduce or avoid potential impacts to biological and cultural resources.
8. As a condition of approval, each project sponsor is required to perform the following:
    a. Notify, in writing, any affected public agency, including, but not limited to, any public agency having permit, land use, environmental, public health protection, or emergency response authority, of the exemption of the project pursuant to this section.
    b. Provide notice to the public in the area affected by the project in a manner consistent with subdivision (b) of Section Public Resources Code Section 21108.
    c. In the case of private rights-of-way over private property, receive from the underlying property owner permission for access to the property.
    d. Comply with all conditions authorized by law imposed by a city, county, or city and county as part of any local agency permit process, that are required to mitigate potential impacts of the proposed project, and otherwise comply with the Keene-Nejedly California Wetlands Preservation Act (Chapter 7 (commencing with Section 5810) of Division 5), the California Endangered Species Act (Chapter 1.5 (commencing with

Section 2050) of Division 3 of the Fish and Game Code), as applicable, other applicable state laws, and all applicable federal laws.

9. AT&T's Kings 1A, Yolo 1, Yolo 1B, and Riverside 1 projects are statutorily exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act with the incorporation of the project design features as listed in the appendices.
10. The Yurok Telecommunication Corporation's YTEL FTTH project is statutorily exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act with the incorporation of the project design features as listed in the appendices.
11. Zito Southern California, LLC's Julian/Ramona/Borrego Springs project include five segments with aerial installations that are categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act pursuant to 14 California Code of Regulations section 15301 (Existing Facilities), and 14 California Code of Regulations section 15303 (New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures) with the incorporation of the project design features as listed in Appendix C. These segments include 1) Alignment west of Salton City going towards to Borrego Salton Sea Way, 2) areas north of State Route 79 near Julian and Wynola communities, 3) areas north and south of State Route 78 near Ballena community, 4) last mile drop into City of Ramona, and 5) north of State Route 78 and west of Ramona.
12. Zito Southern California, LLC's Julian/ Romona / Borrego Springs' project is statutorily exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act with the incorporation of the project design features as listed in the appendices.
13. The project awardees will implement the measures contained in the appendices as conditions of project approval and have adopted systems to document and verify implementation of the measures; the Commission may revise the measures consistent with the Commission's minor project refinement process.
14. AT&T's Construction Monitoring, Compliance and Reporting Plan (which includes measures listed in Appendix A as well as mitigation measures required by other agencies involved in the project) should include protocols that will be followed prior to, during, and after construction by the Commission's Energy Division staff, AT&T's designated environmental monitors, and project staff.
15. Yurok Telecommunications Corporation's Construction Monitoring, Compliance and Reporting Plan (which includes measures listed in Appendix B as well as mitigation measures required by other agencies involved in the project) should include protocols that will be followed prior to, during, and after construction by

the Commission's Energy Division staff, Yurok Telecommunications Corporation's designated environmental monitors, and project staff.

16. Zito Southern California, LLC's Construction Monitoring, Compliance and Reporting Plan (which includes measures listed in Appendix C as well as mitigation measures required by other agencies involved in the project) should include protocols that will be followed prior to, during, and after construction by the Commission's Energy Division staff, Zito Southern California, LLC's designated environmental monitors, and project staff.

THERFORE, IT IS ORDERED THAT:

1. The Commission adopts a statutory exemption for AT&T's Kings 1A, Yolo 1, Yolo 1B, and Riverside 1 projects pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21080.51; the environmental measures listed in Appendix A are adopted as conditions of project approval.

2. The Commission adopts a statutory exemption for Zito Southern California, LLC's Julian / Ramona / Borrego Springs project pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21080.51; the environmental measures listed in Appendix C are adopted as conditions of project approval.

3. AT&T's Construction Monitoring, Compliance and Reporting Plan should be prepared by the Commission's Energy Division Staff prior to the construction of the Project. The Construction Monitoring, Compliance and Reporting Plan shall contain the environmental measures listed in Appendix A as well as those required by other agencies involved in each of these projects. AT&T shall implement and comply with the Construction Monitoring, Compliance and Reporting Plan requirements. The Construction Monitoring, Compliance and Reporting Plan shall include:
    a. Environmental measures that AT&T is required to implement as part of the Kings 1A, Yolo 1, Yolo 1B, and Riverside 1 projects
    b. Compliance documentation and consultation requirements for each environmental measure;
    c. Monitoring requirements; and
    d. Timing for implementation of the environmental measures.

4. Yurok Telecommunications Corporation's Construction Monitoring, Compliance and Reporting Plan should be prepared by the California Public Utilities Commission's Energy Division Staff prior to the construction of the Project. The Construction Monitoring, Compliance and Reporting Plan shall contain the environmental measures listed in Appendix B as well as those required by other agencies involved in the Project. shall implement and comply with the Construction Monitoring, Compliance and Reporting Plan requirements. The Construction Monitoring, Compliance and Reporting Plan shall include:
    a. environmental measures that Yurok Telecommunications Corporation is required to implement as part of the Project
    b. Compliance documentation and consultation requirements for each environmental measure;
    c. Monitoring requirements; and
    d. Timing for implementation of the environmental measures.
5. Zito Southern California, LLC's Construction Monitoring, Compliance and Reporting Plan should be prepared by the California Public Utilities Commission's Energy Division Staff prior to the construction of the Project. The Construction Monitoring, Compliance and Reporting Plan shall contain the environmental measures listed in Appendix C as well as those required by other agencies involved in the Project. Zito Southern California, LLC shall implement and comply with the Construction Monitoring, Compliance and Reporting Plan requirements. The Construction Monitoring, Compliance and Reporting Plan shall include:
    a. environmental measures that Zito Southern California, LLC is required to implement as part of the Project
    b. Compliance documentation and consultation requirements for each environmental measure;
    c. Monitoring requirements; and
    d. Timing for implementation of the environmental measures.
6. All project design features and other measures identified in Appendix A are adopted and hereby imposed on AT&T and made as conditions of project approval.
7. The Commission adopts a statutory exemption for Yurok Telecommunications Corporation's FTTH project pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21080.51; the environmental measures listed in Appendix B are adopted as conditions of project approval.

8. All project design features and other measures identified in Appendix B are adopted and hereby imposed on Yurok Telecommunications Corporation and made as conditions of project approval.
9. All project design features and other measures identified in Appendix C are adopted and hereby imposed on Zito Southern California, LLC and made as a condition of project approval.
10. AT&T is required to adopt a system to document and verify implementation of the measures contained in Appendix A.
11. Yurok Telecommunications Corporation is required to adopt a system to document and verify implementation of the measures contained in Appendix B.
12. Zito Southern California, LLC is required to adopt a system to document and verify implementation of the measures contained in Appendix C.
13. Commission staff may revise the measures contained in appendices based upon the field surveys results to reduce or avoid potential impacts to biological and cultural resources, consistent with the Commission's minor project refinement process.
14. Noncompliance with the environmental protection measures or other applicable laws may result in Commission action including but not limited to stop work orders or grant rescission pursuant to the Federal Funding Account Program Rules and Guidelines and/or enforcement pursuant to Resolution M-4846.

This resolution is effective today.

The foregoing resolution was duly introduced, passed and adopted at a conference of the Public Utilities Commission of the State of California held on March 19, 2026 the following Commissioners voting favorably thereon:

/s/ LEUWAM TESFAI

Leuwam Tesfai

Executive Director

ALICE REYNOLDS

President

DARCIE L. HOUCK

JOHN REYNOLDS

KAREN DOUGLAS

MATTHEW BAKER

Commissioners

Dated March 19, 2026, at Sacramento, California

Appendix A

The Commission's environmental consultant, Ascent Environmental, Inc., prepared Summary Reports for the AT&T projects and developed the project design features (DF). These design features were informed by the biological and cultural resource reports completed by Ascent and address potential environmental impacts. The project design features listed in Appendix A were compiled from the Summary Reports for the four AT&T projects: Kings 1, Yolo 1, Yolo 1B, and Riverside 1. Energy Division staff determined these projects meet the requirements of the statutory exemption for linear broadband projects in Public Resources Code Section 21080.51.

AT&T's Kings 1A Project Design Features

Measures to Avoid or Minimize Impacts on Biological and Cultural Resources

In accordance with Section 21080.51(a) of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the California Public Utilities Commission may require measures to address potential environmental impacts as conditions of approval on the project. The following measures are required by the California Public Utilities Commission.

Biological Resources

The California Public Utilities Commission requires AT&T to implement the following design feature (DF) measures.

DF–1: Biological Monitoring

A biological monitor approved by the California Public Utilities Commission shall be retained by AT&T and shall be present during construction to observe project activities that may adversely affect biological resources. The frequency and duration of monitoring shall be at the discretion of the California Public Utilities Commission upon review of final project construction plans. The biological monitor shall have the authority to stop work if a sensitive biological resource is observed in or near the project alignment and shall report observations of sensitive biological resources to the California Public Utilities Commission immediately. The biological monitor shall coordinate with the California Public Utilities Commission in a manner and frequency determined by the California Public Utilities Commission upon review of final project construction plans, potentially including but not limited to written progress reports and periodic project meetings. The biological monitor shall be retained at least two weeks prior to initial ground disturbance to review final plans and sensitive areas.

DF–2: Identify and Avoid Special-Status Plants

AT&T shall avoid removal or trimming of vegetation (i.e., trees, shrubs, herbaceous vegetation) during ground disturbance in and adjacent to the project alignment, which would avoid potential impacts on special-status plants, special-status wildlife habitat, riparian habitat, and sensitive natural communities. Staging activities (i.e., vehicles, equipment, materials) shall occur in developed (e.g., paved areas) or previously disturbed areas (i.e., areas devoid of vegetation) only.

If avoidance of all vegetation is determined to be infeasible, AT&T shall retain a qualified botanist to conduct protocol-level surveys for special-status plants in the project

alignment following survey methods from California Department of Fish and Wildlife's *Protocols for Surveying and Evaluating Impacts on Special-Status Native Plant Populations and Natural Communities* (California Department of Fish and Wildlife 2018 or most recent version). Protocol-level surveys shall be conducted prior to implementation of any ground disturbing activities and during the blooming period for the special-status plant species with potential to occur in the project alignment.

If special-status plants are not found, the botanist shall document the findings in a report to AT&T and the California Public Utilities Commission, and no further mitigation shall be required.

If special-status plants are found, the plants shall be avoided by a minimum 50-foot buffer that will be fenced or flagged by the qualified botanist or biological monitor. Any project components requiring ground disturbance within the 50-foot buffer shall be redesigned to completely avoid the special-status plants.

DF-3: Identify and Avoid Bird Nests

AT&T shall implement all ground-disturbing activities and activities that would require the use of heavy equipment (i.e., trenching, directional boring) outside of the nesting bird season, which is typically February 1 through August 31, which would avoid potential disturbance of special-status and other native birds that may nest in vegetation types adjacent to the project alignment (e.g., annual grassland, riparian areas).

If avoidance of the nesting bird season is determined to be infeasible, AT&T shall retain a qualified biologist to conduct focused surveys for nesting birds prior to implementation of ground disturbing activities during the nesting bird season (February 1 through August 31). The survey shall be conducted within seven days of the start of ground-disturbing activities.

The survey shall include the project alignment and accessible areas within 0.5 miles for Swainson's hawk, 0.25 miles for white-tailed kite, 500 feet for other raptor species and special-status birds, and 50 feet for non-raptor common native bird nests.

If active nests are not found, the biologist shall document the findings in a report to AT&T and the California Public Utilities Commission, and no further mitigation shall be required.

If active nests are found, impacts on nesting birds shall be avoided by establishing appropriate buffers around active nest sites to prevent disturbance to the nest. Ground disturbing project activity shall not commence within the buffer areas until

a qualified biologist has determined that the young have fledged, the nest is no longer active, or reducing the buffer would not likely result in nest abandonment. Buffers typically shall be 0.5 miles for Swainson's hawk, 0.25 miles for white-tailed kite, and 500 feet for other raptors and other special-status birds. Buffer size for non-raptor bird species shall be determined by a qualified biologist. Factors to be considered for determining buffer size shall include presence of natural buffers provided by vegetation or topography, nest height above the ground, baseline levels of noise and human activity, species sensitivity, and proposed project activities. Generally, buffer size for these species shall be at least 500 feet for special-status bird species and at least 20 feet for common bird species. The size of the buffer may be adjusted if a qualified biologist determines that such an adjustment shall not be likely to adversely affect the nest. Any buffer reduction for a special-status bird species shall require coordination with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. Daily monitoring of the nest by a qualified biologist or biological monitor during project activities shall be required if the activity has potential to adversely affect the nest as determined by the qualified biologist, the buffer has been reduced, or if birds within active nests are showing behavioral signs of agitation (e.g., standing up from a brooding position, flying off the nest) during project activities, as determined by the qualified biologist.

DF-4: Identify and Avoid Burrowing Owls

AT&T shall retain a qualified biologist to conduct surveys for burrowing owls in areas of habitat suitable for the species on and within 1,640 feet (500 meters) of underground segments of the project alignment. Inaccessible areas (e.g., adjacent private property) will not be surveyed directly, but the biologist may use binoculars or a spotting scope to survey these areas. A minimum of four surveys shall be conducted to determine whether burrowing owls occupy the project alignment. Surveys shall be conducted according to Appendix D of the 2012 *Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation* prepared by the California Department of Fish and Game (now the California Department of Fish and Wildlife) (California Department of Fish and Game 2012), or any subsequent updated guidance. If feasible, at least one survey should be conducted between February 15 and April 15 and the remaining surveys should be conducted between April 15 and July 15, at least three weeks apart. Because burrowing owls may recolonize a site after only a few days, one of the surveys, or an additional survey, shall be conducted no less than 14 days before initiating ground disturbance activities to verify that take of burrowing owl would not occur.

If no burrowing owls are found, the qualified biologist shall submit a report documenting the survey methods and results to AT&T and the California Public Utilities Commission, and no further mitigation shall be required.

If a burrow occupied by a burrowing owl is found during the surveys, AT&T shall establish and maintain a buffer around the occupied burrow and any identified satellite burrows (i.e., non-nesting burrows that burrowing owls use to escape predators or move young into after hatching) to prevent take of the burrowing owls.

During the non-breeding season (September 1 through January 31), the minimum buffer distance shall be 164 feet (50 m). During the breeding season (February 1 through August 31), the minimum buffer distance shall be 1,640 feet (500 m).

The buffer may be adjusted if, in consultation with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, a qualified biologist determines that an alternative buffer shall not result in take of burrowing owl adults, young, or eggs because of particular site features (e.g., natural line-of-sight barriers), level of project disturbance, or other considerations. If the buffer is reduced, a qualified biologist shall monitor the behavior of the burrowing owls during all project activities within 1,640 feet of the burrow. If the owls are disturbed or agitated (e.g., vocalizations, bill snaps, fluffing feathers to increase body size appearance, drooping wings and rotating them forward, crouching and weaving back and forth) by the project activities, the biologist shall have the authority to halt the activities and re-establish a buffer consistent with the first bullet until the agitated behavior ceases and normal behavior resumes.

The buffer shall remain in place around the occupied burrow and associated satellite burrows until a qualified biologist has determined through noninvasive methods that the burrows are no longer occupied by burrowing owl. A previously occupied burrow will be considered unoccupied if surveys demonstrate that no owls have used the burrow for seven consecutive days.

Locations of burrowing owls detected during surveys shall be reported to the California Natural Diversity Database.

If implementation of a buffer to prevent take of burrowing owl is not feasible, AT&T shall consult with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and obtain an Incidental Take Permit prior to commencing project related ground-disturbing activities. The impacts of taking burrowing owl shall be minimized and fully mitigated.

AT&T shall compensate for the loss of burrowing owl by establishing permanent protection and perpetual management on land that provides burrowing owl habitat. Habitat management lands for burrowing owl may be established by conservation easement or fee title or credits may be purchased from a California Department Fish and Wildlife-approved conservation or mitigation bank. The compensatory mitigation shall satisfy permit conditions and all other permit conditions shall be implemented.

DF–5: Identify and Avoid Crotch's Bumble Bee Colonies

AT&T shall implement all ground-disturbing activities and activities that would require the use of heavy equipment (i.e., excavation, directional boring) outside of the colony active period for this species, which is typically April 1–August 31, which will avoid potential disturbance of underground Crotch's bumble bee colonies.

If avoidance of the Crotch's bumble bee colony active period is determined to be infeasible, AT&T shall retain a qualified biologist to conduct a focused habitat assessment and surveys for Crotch's bumble bees prior to implementation of ground disturbing activities during the colony active period.

A qualified biologist (i.e., familiar with bumble bees of California, experienced using survey methods for bumble bees) shall assess the project alignment through a desktop analysis and habitat assessment to determine whether foraging, nesting, or overwintering habitat for Crotch's bumble bee is present. The habitat assessment will follow the methods in *Survey Considerations for California Endangered Species Act (CESA) Candidate Bumble Bee Species* (California Department of Fish and Wildlife 2023). If the site visit does not occur during the blooming season for flowering plants, historic aerial imagery will be referenced.

If habitat suitable for Crotch's bumble bee is determined not to be present in the project alignment, then no further mitigation shall be required.

If habitat suitable for Crotch's bumble bee is determined to be present in the project alignment, then the following measures shall be implemented prior to construction:

a. Limited Operating Period

If it is determined during the habitat assessment described above, that a work area contains foraging habitat or nesting habitat, initial ground-disturbing work shall take place between September 1 and March 31, if feasible, to avoid impacts on nesting and foraging Crotch's bumble bees. If this limited operating period is determined to be

infeasible, then focused surveys for Crotch's bumble bee shall be conducted and avoidance measures shall be implemented.

b. Focused Surveys and Avoidance Measures

If it is determined during the habitat assessment described above, that a work area contains overwintering habitat (or if the limited operating period described above is infeasible for projects that contain foraging or nesting habitat), focused surveys for Crotch's bumble bee shall be conducted following the methods in *Survey Considerations for California Endangered Species Act (CESA) Candidate Bumble Bee Species* (California Department of Fish and Wildlife 2023).

A qualified biologist shall conduct focused survey for Crotch's bumble bee before the start of any ground-disturbing activities. Focused surveys shall be performed when Crotch's bumble bee is most likely to be identified, typically from April through August when floral resources and ideal weather conditions are present, and shall follow the methods in *Survey Considerations for California Endangered Species Act (CESA) Candidate Bumble Bee Species* (California Department of Fish and Wildlife 2023) or any subsequent protocol approved by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

c. Non-Invasive Surveys

Non-invasive focused surveys would include the use of cameras to photograph bumble bees. Photographs would be reviewed and verified by a qualified individual to identify the bumble bees to species. Permits are not required for non-invasive surveys.

d. Non-Lethal Capture Surveys

Surveys that would include capturing bumble bees for identification purposes and subsequently releasing the bees, would require a Memorandum of Understanding from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. No capture surveys will be conducted before the surveyor obtains a Memorandum of Understanding. Prior to conducting non-lethal capture surveys, AT&T will provide the surveyor's qualifications and survey methodology to the California Public Utilities Commission and California Department of Fish and Wildlife for review and approval. For any non-lethal capture surveys, AT&T shall submit a survey report to the California Public Utilities Commission and California Department of Fish and Wildlife within one month of survey completion and shall notify the California Public Utilities Commission and California Department of Fish and Wildlife within 24 hours if Crotch's bumble bees are detected.

If Crotch's bumble bees are not detected during the focused survey, no additional mitigation shall be required.

If Crotch's bumble bees are detected during the focused survey, appropriate avoidance measures shall be implemented. Avoidance measures may include, but are not limited to, the following:

Protective buffers shall be implemented around active nesting colonies until these sites are no longer active as determined by a qualified biologist. A qualified biologist, in consultation with the California Public Utilities Commission and California Department of Fish and Wildlife, shall determine the appropriate buffer size to protect nesting colonies; however, buffers will typically be at least 50 feet.

If impacts on Crotch's bumble bee cannot be avoided, compliance with the California Endangered Species Act and consultation with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife shall be required and may involve acquiring an Incidental Take Permit from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. AT&T shall implement all avoidance measures included in the Incidental Take Permit. AT&T shall compensate for the loss of Crotch's bumble bee by establishing permanent protection and perpetual management on land that provides bumble bee habitat. Habitat management lands may be established by conservation easement or fee title or credits may be purchased from a California Department of Fish and Wildlife -approved conservation or mitigation bank. The compensatory mitigation shall satisfy permit conditions and all other permit conditions shall be implemented.

<u>DF–6: Identify and Avoid Special-Status Bat Roosts</u>

AT&T shall implement all ground-disturbing activities and activities that would require the use of heavy equipment (i.e., trenching, directional boring) outside of the roosting bat season, which is typically April 1–August 31, which would avoid potential disturbance of special-status and common bats that may roost in or adjacent to the project alignment (e.g., under bridges, in trees).

If avoidance of the bat maternity season is determined to be infeasible, AT&T shall retain a qualified biologist to conduct focused surveys for roosting bats prior to implementation of ground disturbing activities during the bat maternity season (April 1–August 31). The survey shall be conducted within 14 days of the start of ground-disturbing activities and shall include the project alignment and areas within 250 feet of the project alignment.

If no evidence of bat roosts is found, the biologist shall document the findings in a report to AT&T and the California Public Utilities Commission, and no further mitigation shall be required.

If evidence of bat maternity roosts or hibernacula is observed, species and number of bats using the roost shall be determined by a qualified biologist using noninvasive methods. Bat detectors (i.e., acoustic monitoring) or evening emergence surveys shall be used if deemed necessary to supplement survey efforts by the qualified biologist.

A no-disturbance buffer of 250 feet shall be established around active fringed myotis or pallid bat maternity roosts or hibernacula, as well as substantial maternity roosts or hibernacula of other bat species considered to be a wildlife nursery by the qualified biologist, and ground disturbing project activities shall not occur within this buffer until after the roosts are unoccupied as determined by a qualified biologist.

DF-7: Implement Wildlife Entrapment and Vehicle Collision Prevention Measures for San Joaquin Kit Fox

Project-related vehicles shall observe a daytime speed limit of 20-mph throughout the site in all project areas, except on county roads and state and federal highways; this is particularly important at night when kit foxes are most active. Night-time construction shall be minimized to the extent possible. However, if it does occur, then the speed limit shall be reduced to 10 mph. Off-road traffic outside of designated project areas shall be minimized. All trenches or other excavation sites shall be excavated and closed in a single workday to avoid leaving holes open overnight and potential wildlife entrapment.

All food-related trash items such as wrappers, cans, bottles, and food scraps shall be disposed of in securely closed containers and removed at least once a week from a construction or project site.

In the case of trapped animals, escape ramps or structures shall be installed immediately to allow the animal(s) to escape, or the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and California Department of Fish and Wildlife shall be contacted for guidance.

If a San Joaquin kit fox is observed in the project alignment during construction activities, all work shall stop until the fox has left the area on its own volition. AT&T shall report any sightings of San Joaquin kit foxes to the California Public Utilities Commission for further guidance.

Cultural Resources

The California Public Utilities Commission requires AT&T to implement the following cultural (CUL) measure:

CUL–1: Archaeological Monitoring

An archaeological monitor approved by the California Public Utilities Commission shall be retained by AT&T and shall be present during construction to observe project activities that may adversely affect cultural resources. The frequency and duration of monitoring shall be at the discretion of the California Public Utilities Commission upon review of final project construction plans. The archaeological monitor shall have the authority to stop work if a sensitive cultural resource is observed in or near the project alignment and shall report observations of sensitive archaeological resources to the California Public Utilities Commission immediately. The archaeological monitor shall coordinate with the California Public Utilities Commission in a manner and frequency determined by the California Public Utilities Commission upon review of final project construction plans, potentially including but not limited to written progress reports and periodic project meetings. The archaeological monitor shall be retained at least two weeks prior to initial ground disturbance to review final plans and sensitive areas.

Compliance with Applicable State and Federal Laws and Conditions Imposed by a City or County

AT&T shall comply with all conditions otherwise authorized by law, imposed by city, county, or city and county as part of a local agency permit process, that are required to mitigate potential impacts of the proposed project, and to comply with the Keene-Nejedly California Wetlands Preservation Act (Chapter 7 (commencing with Section 5810) of Division 5), the California Endangered Species Act (Chapter 1.5 (commencing with Section 2050) of Division 3 of the Fish and Game Code), as applicable, other applicable state laws, and all applicable federal laws.

AT&T's Yolo 1 Project Design Features

Measures to Avoid or Minimize Impacts on Biological and Cultural Resources

In accordance with Section 21080.51(a) of the California Environmental Quality Act, the California Public Utilities Commission may require measures to address potential environmental impacts as conditions of approval on the project. The following measures are required by the California Public Utilities Commission.

Biological Resources

The California Public Utilities Commission requires AT&T to implement the following design feature (DF) measures.

DF–1: Biological Monitoring

A biological monitor approved by the California Public Utilities Commission shall be retained by AT&T and shall be present during construction to observe project activities that may adversely affect biological resources. The frequency and duration of monitoring shall be at the discretion of the California Public Utilities Commission upon review of final project construction plans. The biological monitor shall have the authority to stop work if a sensitive biological resource is observed in or near the project alignment and shall report observations of sensitive biological resources to the California Public Utilities Commission immediately. The biological monitor shall coordinate with the California Public Utilities Commission in a manner and frequency determined by the California Public Utilities Commission upon review of final project construction plans, potentially including but not limited to written progress reports and periodic project meetings. The biological monitor shall be retained at least two weeks prior to initial ground disturbance to review final plans and sensitive areas.

DF–2: Limit Staging Area Locations

Staging activities (i.e., vehicles, equipment, materials) shall occur in developed (e.g., paved areas) or previously disturbed areas (i.e., areas devoid of vegetation) only.

DF–3: Identify and Avoid Special-Status Plants

AT&T shall avoid removal or trimming of vegetation (i.e., trees, shrubs, herbaceous vegetation) during ground disturbance in and adjacent to the project alignment, which would avoid potential impacts on special-status plants, special-status wildlife habitat, riparian habitat, and sensitive natural communities.

If avoidance of all vegetation is determined to be infeasible, AT&T shall retain a qualified botanist to conduct protocol-level surveys for special-status plants in the project alignment following survey methods from California Department of Fish and Wildlife's *Protocols for Surveying and Evaluating Impacts on Special-Status Native Plant Populations and Natural Communities* (California Department of Fish and Wildlife 2018 or most recent version). Protocol-level surveys shall be conducted prior to implementation of any ground disturbing activities and during the blooming period for the special-status plant species with potential to occur in the project alignment.

If special-status plants are not found, the botanist shall document the findings in a report to AT&T and the California Public Utilities Commission, and no further mitigation shall be required.

If special-status plants are found, the plants shall be avoided by a minimum 50-foot buffer that shall be fenced or flagged by the qualified botanist or biological monitor. Any project components requiring ground disturbance within the 50-foot buffer shall be redesigned to completely avoid the special-status plants.

DF-4: Identify and Avoid Wetlands and Other Waters

Prior to project implementation, AT&T shall delineate wetlands and other waters in and within 250 feet of the project alignment, which would avoid potential impacts on wetland and other water habitats and associated special-status plants and wildlife. The delineation shall identify and geo-locate all wetlands and other waters in and within 250 feet of the project alignment using Global Positioning System. The boundaries of wetlands and other waters identified during the wetland delineation shall be demarcated on project maps and using brightly colored flagging or fencing. Ground disturbing activities and staging shall be completely avoided in wetland areas.

Avoidance buffers of 250 feet from the edge of all delineated wetlands in or adjacent to the project alignment shall be implemented. No ground disturbing work or staging shall occur, including driving vehicles, within this avoidance buffer.

Avoidance buffers of 200 feet from the edge of all delineated streams (including human-made ditches) in or adjacent to the project alignment shall be implemented. Stream setbacks shall be measured as the horizontal distance from the stream transition line (i.e., ordinary high-water mark) on either side of streams. No ground disturbing work or staging shall occur, including driving vehicles, within this avoidance buffer.

DF-5: Avoid Giant Gartersnake, Northwestern Pond Turtle, and Western Spadefoot

In addition to the wetland and stream avoidance measures described in DF-4 above, all hand holes, bore pits, or other excavation sites associated with underground fiber installation will be located at least 1,500 feet away from any stream, including human-made ditches to avoid inadvertent impacts on giant garter snakes and northwestern pond turtles.

As described in DF-1, a biological monitor approved by the California Public Utilities Commission shall be retained by AT&T and shall be present during construction to observe project activities that may adversely affect biological resources. The biological monitor shall be present for all ground disturbing activities for underground fiber installation. If a giant garter snake, northwestern pond turtle, or western spadefoot is observed, all work will stop immediately, and the animal will be allowed to leave the area on its own volition. If the animal will not leave the area, AT&T shall contact the California Public Utilities Commission, United States Fish and Wildlife Service, and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to seek additional guidance. Ground disturbing work shall not begin until the animal has left the area.

All trenches or other excavation sites shall be excavated and closed in a single work day to avoid leaving holes open overnight and potential wildlife entrapment.

DF-6: Identify and Avoid Bird Nests

AT&T shall implement all ground-disturbing activities and activities that would require the use of heavy equipment (i.e., micro-trenching, directional boring) outside of the nesting bird season, which is typically February 1 through August 31, which would avoid potential disturbance of special-status and other native birds that may nest in vegetation types adjacent to the project alignment (e.g., annual grassland, riparian areas).

If avoidance of the nesting bird season is determined to be infeasible, AT&T shall retain a qualified biologist to conduct focused surveys for nesting birds prior to implementation of ground disturbing activities during the nesting bird season (February 1 through August 31). The survey shall be conducted within seven days of the start of ground-disturbing activities.

The survey shall include the project alignment and accessible areas within 0.25 miles for Swainson's hawk and white-tailed kite; 500 feet for other raptor species and special-status birds; and 50 feet for non-raptor common native bird nests.

If active nests are not found, the biologist shall document the findings in a report to AT&T and the California Public Utilities Commission, and no further mitigation shall be required.

If active nests are found, impacts on nesting birds shall be avoided by establishing appropriate buffers around active nest sites to prevent disturbance to the nest. Ground disturbing project activity shall not commence within the buffer areas until a qualified biologist has determined that the young have fledged, the nest is no longer active, or reducing the buffer would not likely result in nest abandonment. Buffers typically shall be 0.25 miles for Swainson's hawk and white-tailed kite; and 500 feet for other raptors and other special-status birds. Buffer size for non-raptor bird species shall be determined by a qualified biologist. Factors to be considered for determining buffer size shall include presence of natural buffers provided by vegetation or topography, nest height above the ground, baseline levels of noise and human activity, species sensitivity, and proposed project activities. Generally, buffer size for these species shall be at least 500 feet for special-status bird species and at least 50 feet for common bird species. The size of the buffer may be adjusted if a qualified biologist determines that such an adjustment shall not be likely to adversely affect the nest. Any buffer reduction for a special-status bird species shall require coordination with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. Daily monitoring of the nest by a qualified biologist or biological monitor during project activities shall be required if the activity has potential to adversely affect the nest as determined by the qualified biologist, the buffer has been reduced, or if birds within active nests are showing behavioral signs of agitation (e.g., standing up from a brooding position, flying off the nest) during project activities, as determined by the qualified biologist.

DF-7: Identify and Avoid Burrowing Owls

AT&T shall retain a qualified biologist to conduct surveys for burrowing owls in areas of habitat suitable for the species on and within 1,640 feet (500 meters) of underground segments of the project alignment. Inaccessible areas (e.g., adjacent private property) shall not be surveyed directly, but the biologist may use binoculars or a spotting scope to survey these areas. A minimum of four surveys shall be conducted to determine whether burrowing owls occupy the project alignment. Surveys shall be conducted according to Appendix D of the 2012 *Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation* prepared by the California Department of Fish and Game (now California Public Utilities Commission) (California Department of Fish and Game 2012), or any subsequent updated guidance. If feasible, at least one survey should be conducted between February 15 and April 15

and the remaining surveys should be conducted between April 15 and July 15, at least three weeks apart. Because burrowing owls may recolonize a site after only a few days, one of the surveys, or an additional survey, shall be conducted no less than 14 days before initiating ground disturbance activities to verify that take of burrowing owl would not occur.

If no burrowing owls are found, the qualified biologist shall submit a report documenting the survey methods and results to AT&T and the California Public Utilities Commission, and no further mitigation shall be required.

If a burrow occupied by a burrowing owl is found during the surveys, AT&T shall establish and maintain a buffer around the occupied burrow and any identified satellite burrows (i.e., non-nesting burrows that burrowing owls use to escape predators or move young into after hatching) to prevent take of the burrowing owls.

During the non-breeding season (September 1 through January 31), the minimum buffer distance shall be 164 feet (50 meters). During the breeding season (February 1 through August 31), the minimum buffer distance shall be 1,640 feet (500 meters).

The buffer may be adjusted if, in consultation with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, a qualified biologist determines that an alternative buffer shall not result in take of burrowing owl adults, young, or eggs because of particular site features (e.g., topography, natural line-of-sight barriers), level of project disturbance, or other considerations. If the buffer is reduced, a qualified biologist shall monitor the behavior of the burrowing owls during all project activities within 1,640 feet of the burrow. If the owls are disturbed or agitated (e.g., vocalizations, bill snaps, fluffing feathers to increase body size appearance, drooping wings and rotating them forward, crouching and weaving back and forth) by the project activities, the biologist shall have the authority to halt the activities and re-establish a buffer consistent with the first bullet until the agitated behavior ceases and normal behavior resumes.

The buffer shall remain in place around the occupied burrow and associated satellite burrows until a qualified biologist has determined through noninvasive methods that the burrows are no longer occupied by burrowing owl. A previously occupied burrow shall be considered unoccupied if surveys demonstrate that no owls have used the burrow for seven consecutive days.

Locations of burrowing owls detected during surveys shall be reported to the California Natural Diversity Database.

If implementation of a buffer to prevent take of burrowing owl is not feasible, AT&T shall consult with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and obtain an Incidental Take Permit prior to commencing project related ground-disturbing activities. The impacts of taking burrowing owl shall be minimized and fully mitigated.

AT&T shall compensate for the loss of burrowing owl by establishing permanent protection and perpetual management on land that provides burrowing owl habitat. Habitat management lands for burrowing owl may be established by conservation easement or fee title or credits may be purchased from a California Department of Fish and Wildlife -approved conservation or mitigation bank. The compensatory mitigation shall satisfy permit conditions and all other permit conditions shall be implemented.

DF–8: Identify and Avoid Western Red Bat and Common Bats

AT&T shall implement all ground-disturbing activities and activities that would require the use of heavy equipment (i.e., micro-trenching, directional boring) outside of the roosting bat season, which is typically April 1 through August 31, which would avoid potential disturbance of western red bat and common bats that may roost in or adjacent to the project alignment (e.g., under bridges, in trees).

If avoidance of the bat maternity season is determined to be infeasible, AT&T shall retain a qualified biologist to conduct focused surveys for roosting bats prior to implementation of ground disturbing activities during the bat maternity season (April 1 through August 31). The survey shall be conducted within 14 days of the start of ground-disturbing activities and shall include the project alignment and areas within 250 feet of the project alignment.

If no evidence of bat roosts is found, the biologist shall document the findings in a report to AT&T and the California Public Utilities Commission, and no further mitigation shall be required.

If evidence of bat maternity roosts or hibernacula is observed, species and number of bats using the roost shall be determined by a qualified biologist using noninvasive methods. Bat detectors (i.e., acoustic monitoring) or evening emergence surveys shall be used if deemed necessary to supplement survey efforts by the qualified biologist.

A no-disturbance buffer of 250 feet shall be established around active western red bat maternity roosts or hibernacula, as well as substantial maternity roosts or hibernacula of other bat species considered to be a wildlife nursery by the qualified biologist, and

ground disturbing project activities shall not occur within this buffer until after the roosts are unoccupied as determined by a qualified biologist.

DF–9: Identify and Avoid Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle Habitat

AT&T shall retain a qualified biologist to conduct surveys for valley elderberry longhorn beetle according to the protocol outlined in the United States Fish and Wildlife Service *Framework for Assessing Impacts to the Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle* (United States Fish and Wildlife Service 2017).

If elderberry shrubs are located 165 feet or more from project activities, direct or indirect impacts are not expected.

For elderberry shrubs identified within 165 feet of the project alignment, these shrubs shall be retained and protected, and impacts on valley elderberry longhorn beetle shall be avoided and minimized by following the Conservation Measures outlined in the United States Fish and Wildlife Service 2017 Framework.

Shrubs shall be protected during construction by establishing and maintaining high visibility flagging at least 165 feet from the drip line of each elderberry shrub. Flagged areas shall be avoided.

If elderberry shrubs can be retained within the project footprint, project activities may occur up to 20 feet from the dripline of elderberry shrubs if precautions are implemented to minimize the potential for indirect impacts. Specifically, these minimization measures include:

a. All areas to be avoided during construction activities shall be flagged as close to construction limits as possible.

b. A minimum avoidance area of at least 20 feet from the dripline of each elderberry plant shall be maintained to avoid direct impacts that could damage or kill the plant.

A qualified biologist shall provide training for all contractors, work crews, and any onsite personnel on the status of valley elderberry longhorn beetle, its host plant and habitat, the need to avoid damaging the elderberry shrubs, and the possible penalties for non-compliance.

A qualified biologist shall monitor the work area at project-appropriate intervals to assure that all avoidance and minimization measures are implemented. The amount and

duration of monitoring shall depend on the project specifics and shall be discussed with a United States Fish and Wildlife Services biologist.

As much as feasible, all activities that could occur within 165 feet of an elderberry shrub shall be conducted outside of the flight season of the valley elderberry longhorn beetle (March–July).

Trimming of elderberry shrubs shall occur between November and February and shall avoid removal of any branches or stems that are greater than or equal to one inch in diameter to avoid and minimize adverse effects to valley elderberry longhorn beetle.

Project activities, such as truck traffic or other use of machinery, shall not create excessive dust while work is being implemented, such that the growth or vigor of elderberry shrubs is adversely affected. Enforcement of speed limits and watering dirt roadways are potential methods to minimize excessive dust creation.

If elderberry shrubs cannot be avoided, consultation with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service shall be required. Conservation and minimization measures are likely to include preparation of supporting documentation that describes methods for relocation of existing shrubs and maintaining existing shrubs and other vegetation in a conservation area. All elderberry shrubs with stems greater than one inch in diameter that cannot be avoided or have been adversely affected by indirect damage to stems of the entire shrub shall be transplanted.

Relocation of existing elderberry shrubs and planting of new elderberry seedlings and associated riparian species shall be implemented according to the Framework (United States Fish and Wildlife Service 2017). The Framework uses presence or absence of exit holes, and whether the affected elderberry shrubs are located in riparian habitat to determine the number of elderberry seedlings or cuttings and associated riparian vegetation that would need to be planted as compensatory mitigation for affected valley elderberry longhorn beetle habitat. Compensatory mitigation may include purchasing credits at a United States Fish and Wildlife Service -approved conservation bank, providing on-site mitigation, or establishing and protecting habitat for valley elderberry longhorn beetle.

DF–10: Identify and Avoid Crotch's Bumble Bee Colonies

AT&T shall implement all ground-disturbing activities and activities that would require the use of heavy equipment (i.e., micro-trenching, directional boring) outside of the

colony active period for this species, which is typically April 1 through August 31, which shall avoid potential disturbance of underground Crotch's bumble bee colonies.

If avoidance of the Crotch's bumble bee colony active period is determined to be infeasible, AT&T shall retain a qualified biologist to conduct a focused habitat assessment and surveys for Crotch's bumble bees prior to implementation of ground disturbing activities during the colony active period.

A qualified biologist (i.e., familiar with bumble bees of California, experienced using survey methods for bumble bees) shall assess the project alignment through a desktop analysis and habitat assessment to determine whether foraging, nesting, or overwintering habitat for Crotch's bumble bee is present. The habitat assessment shall follow the methods in *Survey Considerations for California Endangered Species Act (CESA) Candidate Bumble Bee Species* (California Department of Fish and Wildlife 2023). If the site visit does not occur during the blooming season for flowering plants, historic aerial imagery shall be referenced.

If habitat suitable for Crotch's bumble bee is determined not to be present in portions of the project alignment where ground disturbance would occur, then further mitigation shall not be required.

If habitat suitable for Crotch's bumble bee is determined to be present in portions of the project alignment where ground disturbance would occur, then the following measures shall be implemented prior to construction:

a. Limited Operating Period

If it is determined during the habitat assessment described above, that a work area contains foraging habitat or nesting habitat, initial ground-disturbing work shall take place between September 1 and March 31, if feasible, to avoid impacts on nesting and foraging Crotch's bumble bees. If this limited operating period is determined to be infeasible, then focused surveys for Crotch's bumble bee shall be conducted and avoidance measures shall be implemented.

b. Focused Surveys and Avoidance Measures

If it is determined during the habitat assessment described above, that a work area contains overwintering habitat (or if the limited operating period described above is infeasible for projects that contain foraging or nesting habitat), focused surveys for Crotch's bumble bee shall be conducted following the methods in *Survey Considerations*

for California Endangered Species Act Candidate Bumble Bee Species (California Department of Fish and Wildlife 2023).

A qualified biologist shall conduct focused survey for Crotch's bumble bee before the start of any ground-disturbing activities. Focused surveys shall be performed when Crotch's bumble bee is most likely to be identified, typically from April through August when floral resources and ideal weather conditions are present, and shall follow the methods in Survey Considerations for California Endangered Species Act (CESA) Candidate Bumble Bee Species (California Department of Fish and Wildlife 2023) or any subsequent protocol approved by California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Non-Invasive Surveys

Non-invasive focused surveys shall include the use of cameras to photograph bumble bees. Photographs shall be reviewed and verified by a qualified individual to identify the bumble bees to species. Permits are not required for non-invasive surveys.

Non-Lethal Capture Surveys: surveys that would include capturing bumble bees for identification purposes and subsequently releasing the bees, would require a Memorandum of Understanding from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. No capture surveys shall be conducted before the surveyor obtains a Memorandum of Understanding. Prior to conducting non-lethal capture surveys, AT&T shall provide the surveyor's qualifications and survey methodology to the California Public Utilities Commission and California Department of Fish and Wildlife for review and approval.

For any non-lethal capture surveys, AT&T shall submit a survey report to the California Public Utilities Commission and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife within one month of survey completion and shall notify the California Public Utilities Commission and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife within 24 hours if Crotch's bumble bees are detected. If Crotch's bumble bees are not detected during the focused survey, no additional mitigation is required. If Crotch's bumble bees are detected during the focused survey, appropriate avoidance measures shall be implemented. Avoidance measures may include, but are not limited to, the following:

Protective buffers shall be implemented around active nesting colonies until these sites are no longer active as determined by a qualified biologist.

A qualified biologist, in consultation with the California Public Utilities Commission and California Department of Fish and Wildlife, shall determine the appropriate buffer size to protect nesting colonies; however, buffers shall typically be at least 50 feet.

If impacts on Crotch's bumble bee cannot be avoided, compliance with the California Endangered Species Act and consultation with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife shall be required and may involve acquiring an Incidental Take Permit from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. AT&T shall implement all avoidance measures included in the Incidental Take Permit. AT&T shall compensate for the loss of Crotch's bumble bee by establishing permanent protection and perpetual management on land that provides bumble bee habitat. Habitat management lands may be established by conservation easement or fee title or credits may be purchased from a California Department of Fish and Wildlife-approved conservation or mitigation bank. The compensatory mitigation shall satisfy permit conditions and all other permit conditions shall be implemented.

DF-11: Identify and Avoid Valley Foothill Riparian Habitat

Prior to project implementation, AT&T shall delineate riparian vegetation within 100 feet of the project alignment. AT&T shall implement a valley foothill riparian avoidance buffer of 100 feet from the canopy dripline of the trees in riparian areas. No ground disturbance or staging shall occur, including driving vehicles, within this no-disturbance buffer.

DF-12: Avoid Spread of Invasive Species

AT&T shall clean clothing, footwear, and equipment used during project activities of soil, seeds, vegetative matter, or other debris or seed-bearing material, or water (e.g., rivers, streams, creeks, lakes) before entering the project alignment, which would avoid impacts on special-status plants from invasive species. For all heavy equipment and vehicles traveling off established roads, AT&T shall pressure wash, if feasible, or otherwise appropriately decontaminate equipment at a designated weed-cleaning station prior to entering the project alignment. Lastly, AT&T shall inspect all heavy equipment, vehicles, tools, or other materials for sand, mud, or other signs that weed seeds or propagules could be present prior to use in the project alignment.

Cultural Resources

The following cultural (CUL) measure would be required by the California Public Utilities Commission to be implemented by AT&T.

CUL–1: Archaeological Monitoring

An archaeological monitor approved by the California Public Utilities Commission shall be retained by AT&T and shall be present during construction to observe project

activities that may adversely affect cultural resources. The frequency and duration of monitoring shall be at the discretion of the California Public Utilities Commission upon review of final project construction plans. The archaeological monitor shall have the authority to stop work if a sensitive cultural resource is observed in or near the project alignment and shall report observations of sensitive archaeological resources to the California Public Utilities Commission immediately. The archaeological monitor shall coordinate with the California Public Utilities Commission in a manner and frequency determined by the California Public Utilities Commission upon review of final project construction plans, potentially including but not limited to written progress reports and periodic project meetings. The archaeological monitor shall be retained at least two weeks prior to initial ground disturbance to review final plans and sensitive areas.

Compliance with Applicable State and Federal Laws and Conditions Imposed by a City or a County

AT&T shall comply with all conditions otherwise authorized by law, imposed by city, county, or city and county as part of a local agency permit process, that are required to mitigate potential impacts of the proposed project, and to comply with the Keene-Nejedly California Wetlands Preservation Act (Chapter 7 (commencing with Section 5810) of Division 5), the California Endangered Species Act (Chapter 1.5 (commencing with Section 2050) of Division 3 of the Fish and Game Code), the Federal Endangered Species Act (Chapter 35), as applicable, other applicable state laws, and all applicable federal laws.

AT&T's Yolo 1B Project Design Features

Measures to Avoid or Minimize Impacts on Biological and Cultural Resources

In accordance with Section 21080.51(a) of California Environmental Quality Act, the California Public Utilities Commission may require measures to address potential environmental impacts as conditions of approval on the project. The following measures are required by the California Public Utilities Commission.

Biological Resources

The following design feature (DF) measures would be required by the California Public Utilities Commission to be implemented by AT&T.

DF–1: Biological Monitoring

A biological monitor approved by the California Public Utilities Commission shall be retained by AT&T and shall be present during construction to observe project activities that may adversely affect biological resources. The frequency and duration of monitoring shall be at the discretion of the California Public Utilities Commission upon review of final project construction plans. The biological monitor shall have the authority to stop work if a sensitive biological resource is observed in or near the project alignment and shall report observations of sensitive biological resources to the California Public Utilities Commission immediately. The biological monitor shall coordinate with the California Public Utilities Commission in a manner and frequency determined by the California Public Utilities Commission upon review of final project construction plans, potentially including but not limited to written progress reports and periodic project meetings. The biological monitor shall be retained at least two weeks prior to initial ground disturbance to review final plans and sensitive areas.

DF–2: Limit Staging Area Locations

Staging activities (i.e., vehicles, equipment, materials) shall occur in developed (e.g., paved areas) or previously disturbed areas (i.e., areas devoid of vegetation) only.

DF–3: Identify and Avoid Special-Status Plants

AT&T shall avoid removal or trimming of vegetation (i.e., trees, shrubs, herbaceous vegetation) during ground disturbance in and adjacent to the project alignment, which would avoid potential impacts on special-status plants, special-status wildlife habitat, riparian habitat, and sensitive natural communities.

If avoidance of all vegetation is determined to be infeasible, AT&T shall retain a qualified botanist to conduct protocol-level surveys for special-status plants in the project alignment following survey methods from California Department of Fish and Wildlife's *Protocols for Surveying and Evaluating Impacts on Special-Status Native Plant Populations and Natural Communities* (California Department of Fish and Wildlife 2018 or most recent version). Protocol-level surveys shall be conducted prior to implementation of any ground disturbing activities and during the blooming period for the special-status plant species with potential to occur in the project alignment.

If special-status plants are not found, the botanist shall document the findings in a report to AT&T and the California Public Utilities Commission, and no further mitigation shall be required.

If special-status plants are found, the plants shall be avoided by a minimum 50-foot buffer that shall be fenced or flagged by the qualified botanist or biological monitor. Any project components requiring ground disturbance within the 50-foot buffer shall be redesigned to completely avoid the special-status plants.

DF-4: Avoid California Tiger Salamander and Western Spadefoot

As described in DF-1, a biological monitor approved by the California Public Utilities Commission shall be retained by AT&T and shall be present during construction to observe project activities that may adversely affect biological resources. The biological monitor shall be present for all ground disturbing activities in the segment of underground fiber along County Road 88. If a California tiger salamander or western spadefoot is observed, all work will stop immediately, and the animal will be allowed to leave the area on its own volition. If the salamander or spadefoot will not leave the area, AT&T shall contact the California Public Utilities Commission, United States Fish and Wildlife Service, and California Department of Fish and Wildlife to seek additional guidance. Ground disturbing work shall not begin until the animal has left the area.

All trenches or other excavation sites shall be excavated and closed in a single workday to avoid leaving holes open overnight and potential wildlife entrapment.

DF-5: Identify and Avoid Bird Nests

AT&T will implement all ground-disturbing activities and activities that would require the use of heavy equipment (i.e., micro-trenching, directional boring) outside of the nesting bird season, which is typically February 1 through August 31, which would avoid potential disturbance of special-status and other native birds that may nest in

vegetation types adjacent to the project alignment (e.g., annual grassland, riparian areas).

If avoidance of the nesting bird season is determined to be infeasible, AT&T shall retain a qualified biologist to conduct focused surveys for nesting birds prior to implementation of ground disturbing activities during the nesting bird season (February 1 through August 31). The survey shall be conducted within seven days of the start of ground-disturbing activities.

The survey shall include the project alignment and accessible areas within 0.5 miles for bald eagle, golden eagle, Swainson's hawk and white-tailed kite; 500 feet for other raptor species and special-status birds; and 50 feet for non-raptor common native bird nests.

If active nests are not found, the biologist shall document the findings in a report to AT&T and the California Public Utilities Commission, and no further mitigation shall be required.

If active nests are found, impacts on nesting birds shall be avoided by establishing appropriate buffers around active nest sites to prevent disturbance to the nest. Ground disturbing project activity shall not commence within the buffer areas until a qualified biologist has determined that the young have fledged, the nest is no longer active, or reducing the buffer would not likely result in nest abandonment. Buffers typically shall be 0.5 miles for bald eagle, golden eagle, Swainson's hawk, and white-tailed kite; and 500 feet for other raptors and other special-status birds. Buffer size for non-raptor bird species shall be determined by a qualified biologist. Factors to be considered for determining buffer size shall include presence of natural buffers provided by vegetation or topography, nest height above the ground, baseline levels of noise and human activity, species sensitivity, and proposed project activities. Generally, buffer size for these species shall be at least 500 feet for special-status bird species and at least 50 feet for common bird species. The size of the buffer may be adjusted if a qualified biologist determines that such an adjustment shall not be likely to adversely affect the nest. Any buffer reduction for a special-status bird species shall require coordination with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. Daily monitoring of the nest by a qualified biologist or biological monitor during project activities shall be required if the activity has potential to adversely affect the nest as determined by the qualified biologist, the buffer has been reduced, or if birds within active nests are showing behavioral signs of agitation (e.g., standing up from a brooding position, flying off the nest) during project activities, as determined by the qualified biologist.

DF-6: Identify and Avoid Burrowing Owls

AT&T shall retain a qualified biologist to conduct surveys for burrowing owls in areas of habitat suitable for the species on and within 1,640 feet (500 meters) of underground segments of the project alignment. Inaccessible areas (e.g., adjacent private property) will not be surveyed directly, but the biologist may use binoculars or a spotting scope to survey these areas. A minimum of four surveys shall be conducted to determine whether burrowing owls occupy the project alignment. Surveys shall be conducted according to Appendix D of the 2012 *Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation* prepared by the California Department of Fish and Game (now California Department of Fish and Wildlife) (California Department of Fish and Game 2012), or any subsequent updated guidance. If feasible, at least one survey should be conducted between February 15 and April 15 and the remaining surveys should be conducted between April 15 and July 15, at least three weeks apart. Because burrowing owls may recolonize a site after only a few days, one of the surveys, or an additional survey, shall be conducted no less than 14 days before initiating ground disturbance activities to verify that take of burrowing owl would not occur.

If no burrowing owls are found, the qualified biologist shall submit a report documenting the survey methods and results to AT&T and the California Public Utilities Commission, and no further mitigation shall be required.

If a burrow occupied by a burrowing owl is found during the surveys, AT&T shall establish and maintain a buffer around the occupied burrow and any identified satellite burrows (i.e., non-nesting burrows that burrowing owls use to escape predators or move young into after hatching) to prevent take of the burrowing owls.

During the non-breeding season (September 1 through January 31), the minimum buffer distance shall be 164 feet (50 meters). During the breeding season (February 1 through August 31), the minimum buffer distance shall be 1,640 feet (500 meters).

The buffer may be adjusted if, in consultation with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, a qualified biologist determines that an alternative buffer shall not result in take of burrowing owl adults, young, or eggs because of particular site features (e.g., topography, natural line-of-sight barriers), level of project disturbance, or other considerations. If the buffer is reduced, a qualified biologist shall monitor the behavior of the burrowing owls during all project activities within 1,640 feet of the burrow. If the owls are disturbed or agitated (e.g., vocalizations, bill snaps, fluffing feathers to increase body size appearance, drooping wings and rotating them forward, crouching and

weaving back and forth) by the project activities, the biologist shall have the authority to halt the activities and re-establish a buffer consistent with the first bullet until the agitated behavior ceases and normal behavior resumes.

The buffer shall remain in place around the occupied burrow and associated satellite burrows until a qualified biologist has determined through noninvasive methods that the burrows are no longer occupied by burrowing owl. A previously occupied burrow will be considered unoccupied if surveys demonstrate that no owls have used the burrow for seven consecutive days.

Locations of burrowing owls detected during surveys shall be reported to the California Natural Diversity Database.

If implementation of a buffer to prevent take of burrowing owl is not feasible, AT&T shall consult with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and obtain an Incidental Take Permit prior to commencing project related ground-disturbing activities. The impacts of taking burrowing owl shall be minimized and fully mitigated.

AT&T shall compensate for the loss of burrowing owl by establishing permanent protection and perpetual management on land that provides burrowing owl habitat. Habitat management lands for burrowing owl may be established by conservation easement or fee title or credits may be purchased from a California Department of Fish and Wildlife-approved conservation or mitigation bank. The compensatory mitigation shall satisfy permit conditions and all other permit conditions shall be implemented.

DF–7: Identify and Avoid Special-Status Bat Roosts

AT&T will implement all ground-disturbing activities and activities that would require the use of heavy equipment (i.e., micro-trenching, directional boring) outside of the roosting bat season, which is typically April 1 through August 31, which would avoid potential disturbance of special-status and common bats that may roost in or adjacent to the project alignment (e.g., under bridges, in trees).

If avoidance of the bat maternity season is determined to be infeasible, AT&T shall retain a qualified biologist to conduct focused surveys for roosting bats prior to implementation of ground disturbing activities during the bat maternity season (April 1 through August 31). The survey shall be conducted within 14 days of the start of ground-disturbing activities and shall include the project alignment and areas within 250 feet of the project alignment.

If no evidence of bat roosts is found, the biologist shall document the findings in a report to AT&T and the California Public Utilities Commission, and no further mitigation shall be required.

If evidence of bat maternity roosts or hibernacula is observed, species and number of bats using the roost shall be determined by a qualified biologist using noninvasive methods. Bat detectors (i.e., acoustic monitoring) or evening emergence surveys shall be used if deemed necessary to supplement survey efforts by the qualified biologist.

A no-disturbance buffer of 250 feet shall be established around active special-status bats maternity roosts or hibernacula, as well as substantial maternity roosts or hibernacula of other bat species considered to be a wildlife nursery by the qualified biologist, and ground disturbing project activities shall not occur within this buffer until after the roosts are unoccupied as determined by a qualified biologist.

DF–8: Identify and Avoid Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle Habitat

AT&T shall retain a qualified biologist to conduct surveys for valley elderberry longhorn beetle according to the protocol outlined in the United States Fish and Wildlife Service *Framework for Assessing Impacts to the Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle* (United States Fish and Wildlife Service 2017).

If elderberry shrubs are located 165 feet or more from project activities, direct or indirect impacts are not expected.

For elderberry shrubs identified within 165 feet of the project alignment, these shrubs shall be retained and protected, and impacts on valley elderberry longhorn beetle shall be avoided and minimized by following the Conservation Measures outlined in the United States Fish and Wildlife Service 2017 Framework.

Shrubs shall be protected during construction by establishing and maintaining high visibility flagging at least 165 feet from the drip line of each elderberry shrub. Flagged areas shall be avoided.

If elderberry shrubs can be retained within the project footprint, project activities may occur up to 20 feet from the dripline of elderberry shrubs if precautions are implemented to minimize the potential for indirect impacts. Specifically, these minimization measures include:

a. All areas to be avoided during construction activities shall be flagged as close to construction limits as possible.

b. A minimum avoidance area of at least 20 feet from the dripline of each elderberry plant shall be maintained to avoid direct impacts that could damage or kill the plant.

A qualified biologist shall provide training for all contractors, work crews, and any onsite personnel on the status of valley elderberry longhorn beetle, its host plant and habitat, the need to avoid damaging the elderberry shrubs, and the possible penalties for non-compliance.

A qualified biologist shall monitor the work area at project-appropriate intervals to assure that all avoidance and minimization measures are implemented. The amount and duration of monitoring shall depend on the project specifics and shall be discussed with a United States Fish and Wildlife Service biologist.

As much as feasible, all activities that could occur within 165 feet of an elderberry shrub shall be conducted outside of the flight season of the valley elderberry longhorn beetle (March–July).

Trimming of elderberry shrubs shall occur between November and February and shall avoid removal of any branches or stems that are greater than or equal to one inch in diameter to avoid and minimize adverse effects to valley elderberry longhorn beetle.

Project activities, such as truck traffic or other use of machinery, shall not create excessive dust while work is being implemented, such that the growth or vigor of elderberry shrubs is adversely affected. Enforcement of a speed limit and watering dirt roadways are potential methods to minimize excessive dust creation.

If elderberry shrubs cannot be avoided, consultation with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service shall be required. Conservation and minimization measures are likely to include preparation of supporting documentation that describes methods for relocation of existing shrubs and maintaining existing shrubs and other vegetation in a conservation area. All elderberry shrubs with stems greater than one inch in diameter that cannot be avoided or have been adversely affected by indirect damage to stems of the entire shrub shall be transplanted.

Relocation of existing elderberry shrubs and planting of new elderberry seedlings and associated riparian species shall be implemented according to the Framework (United States Fish and Wildlife Service 2017). The Framework uses presence or absence of exit holes, and whether the affected elderberry shrubs are located in riparian habitat to determine the number of elderberry seedlings or cuttings and associated riparian

vegetation that would need to be planted as compensatory mitigation for affected valley elderberry longhorn beetle habitat. Compensatory mitigation may include purchasing credits at a United States Fish and Wildlife Service -approved conservation bank, providing on-site mitigation, or establishing and protecting habitat for valley elderberry longhorn beetle.

DF–9: Identify and Avoid Crotch's Bumble Bee Colonies

AT&T shall implement all ground-disturbing activities and activities that would require the use of heavy equipment (i.e., micro-trenching, directional boring) outside of the colony active period for this species, which is typically April 1 through August 31, which will avoid potential disturbance of underground Crotch's bumble bee colonies.

If avoidance of the Crotch's bumble bee colony active period is determined to be infeasible, AT&T shall retain a qualified biologist to conduct a focused habitat assessment and surveys for Crotch's bumble bees prior to implementation of ground disturbing activities during the colony active period.

A qualified biologist (i.e., familiar with bumble bees of California, experienced using survey methods for bumble bees) shall assess the project alignment through a desktop analysis and habitat assessment to determine whether foraging, nesting, or overwintering habitat for Crotch's bumble bee is present. The habitat assessment will follow the methods in *Survey Considerations for California Endangered Species Act Candidate Bumble Bee Species* (California Department of Fish and Wildlife 2023). If the site visit does not occur during the blooming season for flowering plants, historic aerial imagery shall be referenced.

If habitat suitable for Crotch's bumble bee is determined not to be present in portions of the project alignment where ground disturbance would occur, then further mitigation shall not be required.

If habitat suitable for Crotch's bumble bee is determined to be present in portions of the project alignment where ground disturbance would occur, then the following measures shall be implemented prior to construction:

a. Limited Operating Period

If it is determined during the habitat assessment described above, that a work area contains foraging habitat or nesting habitat, initial ground-disturbing work shall take place between September 1 and March 31, if feasible, to avoid impacts on nesting and foraging Crotch's bumble bees. If this limited operating period is determined to be

infeasible, then focused surveys for Crotch's bumble bee shall be conducted and avoidance measures will be implemented.

b. Focused Surveys and Avoidance Measures

If it is determined during the habitat assessment described above, that a work area contains overwintering habitat (or if the limited operating period described above is infeasible for projects that contain foraging or nesting habitat), focused surveys for Crotch's bumble bee shall be conducted following the methods in *Survey Considerations for California Endangered Species Act Candidate Bumble Bee Species* (California Department of Fish and Wildlife 2023).

A qualified biologist shall conduct focused survey for Crotch's bumble bee before the start of any ground-disturbing activities. Focused surveys shall be performed when Crotch's bumble bee is most likely to be identified, typically from April through August when floral resources and ideal weather conditions are present, and shall follow the methods in *Survey Considerations for California Endangered Species Act Candidate Bumble Bee Species* (California Department of Fish and Wildlife 2023) or any subsequent protocol approved by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

c. Non-Invasive Surveys

Non-invasive focused surveys shall include the use of cameras to photograph bumble bees. Photographs shall be reviewed and verified by a qualified individual to identify the bumble bees to species. Permits are not required for non-invasive surveys.

d. Non-Lethal Capture Surveys

Surveys that would include capturing bumble bees for identification purposes and subsequently releasing the bees, would require a Memorandum of Understanding from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. No capture surveys shall be conducted before the surveyor obtains a Memorandum of Understanding. Prior to conducting non-lethal capture surveys, AT&T shall provide the surveyor's qualifications and survey methodology to the California Public Utilities Commission and California Department of Fish and Wildlife for review and approval.

For any non-lethal capture surveys, AT&T shall submit a survey report to the California Public Utilities Commission and California Department of Fish and Wildlife within 1 month of survey completion and shall notify the California Public Utilities Commission and California Department of Fish and Wildlife within 24 hours if Crotch's bumble bees are detected.

If Crotch's bumble bees are not detected during the focused survey, no additional mitigation is required.

If Crotch's bumble bees are detected during the focused survey, appropriate avoidance measures shall be implemented. Avoidance measures may include, but are not limited to, the following:

a. Protective buffers shall be implemented around active nesting colonies until these sites are no longer active as determined by a qualified biologist. A qualified biologist, in consultation with the California Public Utilities Commission and California Department of Fish and Wildlife, shall determine the appropriate buffer size to protect nesting colonies; however, buffers will typically be at least 50 feet.

If impacts on Crotch's bumble bee cannot be avoided, compliance with the California Endangered Species Act and consultation with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife shall be required and may involve acquiring an Incidental Take Permit from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. AT&T shall implement all avoidance measures included in the Incidental Take Permit. AT&T shall compensate for the loss of Crotch's bumble bee by establishing permanent protection and perpetual management on land that provides bumble bee habitat. Habitat management lands may be established by conservation easement or fee title or credits may be purchased from a California Department of Fish and Wildlife -approved conservation or mitigation bank. The compensatory mitigation shall satisfy permit conditions and all other permit conditions shall be implemented.

DF-10: Identify and Avoid Valley Foothill Riparian Habitat

Prior to project implementation, AT&T shall delineate riparian vegetation within 100 feet of the project alignment. AT&T shall implement a valley foothill riparian avoidance buffer of 100 feet from the canopy dripline of the trees in riparian areas. No ground disturbance or staging shall occur, including driving vehicles, within this no-disturbance buffer.

DF-11: Identify and Avoid Wetlands and Other Waters

Prior to project implementation, AT&T shall delineate wetlands and other waters in and within 250 feet of the project alignment, which would avoid potential impacts on wetland and other water habitats and associated special-status plants and wildlife. The delineation shall identify and geo-locate all wetlands and other waters in and within 250 feet of the project alignment using Global Positioning System. The boundaries of

wetlands and other waters identified during the wetland delineation shall be demarcated on project maps and using brightly colored flagging or fencing. Ground disturbing activities and staging shall be completely avoided in wetland areas.

Avoidance buffers of 250 feet from the edge of all delineated wetlands in or adjacent to the project alignment shall be implemented. No ground disturbing work or staging shall occur, including driving vehicles, within this avoidance buffer.

Avoidance buffers of 200 feet from the edge of all delineated streams (including human-made ditches) in or adjacent to the project alignment shall be implemented. Stream setbacks shall be measured as the horizontal distance from the stream transition line (i.e., ordinary high-water mark) on either side of streams. No ground disturbing work or staging shall occur, including driving vehicles, within this avoidance buffer.

DF-12: Avoid Spread of Invasive Species

AT&T shall clean clothing, footwear, and equipment used during project activities of soil, seeds, vegetative matter, or other debris or seed-bearing material, or water (e.g., rivers, streams, creeks, lakes) before entering the project alignment, which would avoid impacts on special-status plants from invasive species. For all heavy equipment and vehicles traveling off established roads, AT&T shall pressure wash, if feasible, or otherwise appropriately decontaminate equipment at a designated weed-cleaning station prior to entering the project alignment. Lastly, AT&T shall inspect all heavy equipment, vehicles, tools, or other materials for sand, mud, or other signs that weed seeds or propagules could be present prior to use in the project alignment.

Cultural Resources

The following cultural (CUL) measure would be required by the California Public Utilities Commission to be implemented by AT&T.

CUL–1: Archaeological Monitoring

An archaeological monitor approved by the California Public Utilities Commission shall be retained by AT&T and shall be present during construction to observe project activities that may adversely affect cultural resources. The frequency and duration of monitoring shall be at the discretion of the California Public Utilities Commission upon review of final project construction plans. The archaeological monitor shall have the authority to stop work if a sensitive cultural resource is observed in or near the project alignment and shall report observations of sensitive archaeological resources to the California Public Utilities Commission immediately. The archaeological monitor shall

coordinate with the California Public Utilities Commission in a manner and frequency determined by the California Public Utilities Commission upon review of final project construction plans, potentially including but not limited to written progress reports and periodic project meetings. The archaeological monitor shall be retained at least two weeks prior to initial ground disturbance to review final plans and sensitive areas.

Compliance with Applicable State and Federal Laws and Conditions Imposed by a City or a County

AT&T will comply with all conditions otherwise authorized by law, imposed by city, county, or city and county as part of a local agency permit process, that are required to mitigate potential impacts of the proposed project, and to comply with the Keene-Nejedly California Wetlands Preservation Act (Chapter 7 (commencing with Section 5810) of Division 5), the California Endangered Species Act (Chapter 1.5 (commencing with Section 2050) of Division 3 of the Fish and Game Code), the Federal Endangered Species Act (Chapter 35), as applicable, other applicable state laws, and all applicable federal laws.

AT&T's Riverside 1 Project Design Features

Measures to Avoid or Minimize Impacts on Biological and Cultural Resources

In accordance with Section 21080.51(a) of the California Environmental Quality Act, the California Public Utilities Commission may require measures to address potential environmental impacts as conditions of approval on the project. The following measures are required by the California Public Utilities Commission.

Biological Resources

The following design feature (DF) measures would be required by the California Public Utilities Commission to be implemented by AT&T.

DF–1: Biological Monitoring

A biological monitor approved by the California Public Utilities Commission shall be retained by AT&T and shall be present during construction to observe project activities that may adversely affect biological resources. The frequency and duration of monitoring shall be at the discretion of the California Public Utilities Commission upon review of final project construction plans. The biological monitor shall have the authority to stop work if a sensitive biological resource is observed in or near the project alignment and shall report observations of sensitive biological resources to the California Public Utilities Commission immediately. The biological monitor shall coordinate with the California Public Utilities Commission in a manner and frequency determined by the California Public Utilities Commission upon review of final project construction plans, potentially including but not limited to written progress reports and periodic project meetings. The biological monitor shall be retained at least two weeks prior to initial ground disturbance to review final plans and sensitive areas.

DF-2: Identify and Avoid Bird Nests

AT&T shall implement all ground-disturbing activities and activities that would require the use of heavy equipment (i.e., trenching, directional boring) outside of the nesting bird season, which is typically February 1 through August 31, which would avoid potential disturbance of special-status and other native birds that may nest in vegetation types adjacent to the project alignment (e.g., annual grassland, riparian areas).

If avoidance of the nesting bird season is determined to be infeasible, AT&T shall retain a qualified biologist to conduct focused surveys for nesting birds prior to implementation of ground disturbing activities during the nesting bird season (February 1 through

August 31). The survey shall be conducted within seven days of the start of ground-disturbing activities.

The survey shall include the project alignment and accessible areas within 0.5 miles for bald eagle, golden eagle, and Swainson's hawk; 0.25 miles for white-tailed kite; 1,000 feet for coastal California gnatcatcher, Least Bell's vireo, and tricolored blackbird; 500 feet for other raptor species and special-status birds; and 50 feet for non-raptor common native bird nests.

If active nests are not found, the biologist shall document the findings in a report to AT&T and the California Public Utilities Commission, and no further mitigation shall be required.

If active nests are found, impacts on nesting birds shall be avoided by establishing appropriate buffers around active nest sites to prevent disturbance to the nest. Ground disturbing project activity shall not commence within the buffer areas until a qualified biologist has determined that the young have fledged, the nest is no longer active, or reducing the buffer would not likely result in nest abandonment. Buffers typically shall be 0.5 miles for bald eagle, golden eagle, and Swainson's hawk; 0.25 miles for white-tailed kite; 1,000 feet for coastal California gnatcatcher, Least Bell's vireo, and tricolored blackbird; and 500 feet for other raptors and other special-status birds. Buffer size for non-raptor bird species shall be determined by a qualified biologist. Factors to be considered for determining buffer size shall include presence of natural buffers provided by vegetation or topography, nest height above the ground, baseline levels of noise and human activity, species sensitivity, and proposed project activities. Generally, buffer size for these species shall be at least 500 feet for special-status bird species and at least 20 feet for common bird species. The size of the buffer may be adjusted if a qualified biologist determines that such an adjustment shall not be likely to adversely affect the nest. Any buffer reduction for a special-status bird species shall require coordination with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. Daily monitoring of the nest by a qualified biologist or biological monitor during project activities shall be required if the activity has potential to adversely affect the nest as determined by the qualified biologist, the buffer has been reduced, or if birds within active nests are showing behavioral signs of agitation (e.g., standing up from a brooding position, flying off the nest) during project activities, as determined by the qualified biologist.

<u>DF-3: Identify and Avoid Burrowing Owls</u>

AT&T shall retain a qualified biologist to conduct surveys for burrowing owls in areas of habitat suitable for the species on and within 1,640 feet (500 meters) of underground segments of the project alignment. Inaccessible areas (e.g., adjacent private property) will not be surveyed directly, but the biologist may use binoculars or a spotting scope to survey these areas. A minimum of four surveys shall be conducted to determine whether burrowing owls occupy the project alignment. Surveys shall be conducted according to Appendix D of the 2012 *Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation* prepared by the California Department of Fish and Game (now California Department of Fish and Wildlife) (California Department of Fish and Game 2012), or any subsequent updated guidance. If feasible, at least one survey should be conducted between February 15 and April 15 and the remaining surveys should be conducted between April 15 and July 15, at least three weeks apart. Because burrowing owls may recolonize a site after only a few days, one of the surveys, or an additional survey, shall be conducted no less than 14 days before initiating ground disturbance activities to verify that take of burrowing owl would not occur.

If no burrowing owls are found, the qualified biologist shall submit a report documenting the survey methods and results to AT&T and the California Public Utilities Commission, and no further mitigation shall be required.

If a burrow occupied by a burrowing owl is found during the surveys, AT&T shall establish and maintain a buffer around the occupied burrow and any identified satellite burrows (i.e., non-nesting burrows that burrowing owls use to escape predators or move young into after hatching) to prevent take of the burrowing owls.

During the non-breeding season (September 1 through January 31), the minimum buffer distance shall be 164 feet (50 m). During the breeding season (February 1 through August 31), the minimum buffer distance shall be 1,640 feet (500 m).

The buffer may be adjusted if, in consultation with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, a qualified biologist determines that an alternative buffer shall not result in take of burrowing owl adults, young, or eggs because of particular site features (e.g., topography, natural line-of-sight barriers), level of project disturbance, or other considerations. If the buffer is reduced, a qualified biologist shall monitor the behavior of the burrowing owls during all project activities within 1,640 feet of the burrow. If the owls are disturbed or agitated (e.g., vocalizations, bill snaps, fluffing feathers to increase body size appearance, drooping wings and rotating them forward, crouching and weaving back and forth) by the project activities, the biologist shall have the authority to

halt the activities and re-establish a buffer consistent with the first bullet until the agitated behavior ceases and normal behavior resumes.

The buffer shall remain in place around the occupied burrow and associated satellite burrows until a qualified biologist has determined through noninvasive methods that the burrows are no longer occupied by burrowing owl. A previously occupied burrow will be considered unoccupied if surveys demonstrate that no owls have used the burrow for seven consecutive days.

Locations of burrowing owls detected during surveys shall be reported to the California Natural Diversity Database.

If implementation of a buffer to prevent take of burrowing owl is not feasible, AT&T shall consult with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and obtain an Incidental Take Permit prior to commencing project-related ground-disturbing activities. The impacts of taking burrowing owl shall be minimized and fully mitigated.

AT&T shall compensate for the loss of burrowing owl by establishing permanent protection and perpetual management on land that provides burrowing owl habitat. Habitat management lands for burrowing owl may be established by conservation easement or fee title or credits may be purchased from a California Department of Fish and Wildlife-approved conservation or mitigation bank. The compensatory mitigation shall satisfy permit conditions and all other permit conditions shall be implemented.

DF–4: Identify and Avoid Crotch's Bumble Bee Colonies

AT&T shall implement all ground-disturbing activities and activities that would require the use of heavy equipment (i.e., excavation, directional boring) outside of the colony active period for this species, which is typically April 1–August 31, which will avoid potential disturbance of underground Crotch's bumble bee colonies.

If avoidance of the Crotch's bumble bee colony active period is determined to be infeasible, AT&T shall retain a qualified biologist to conduct a focused habitat assessment and surveys for Crotch's bumble bees prior to implementation of ground disturbing activities during the colony active period.

A qualified biologist (i.e., familiar with bumble bees of California, experienced using survey methods for bumble bees) shall assess the project alignment through a desktop analysis and habitat assessment to determine whether foraging, nesting, or overwintering habitat for Crotch's bumble bee is present. The habitat assessment will follow the methods in *Survey Considerations for California Endangered Species Act Candidate*

Bumble Bee Species (California Department of Fish and Wildlife 2023). If the site visit does not occur during the blooming season for flowering plants, historic aerial imagery will be referenced.

If habitat suitable for Crotch's bumble bee is determined not to be present in the project alignment, then no further mitigation shall be required.

If habitat suitable for Crotch's bumble bee is determined to be present in the project alignment, then the following measures shall be implemented prior to construction:

a. Limited Operating Period

If it is determined during the habitat assessment described above, that a work area contains foraging habitat or nesting habitat, initial ground-disturbing work shall take place between September 1 and March 31, if feasible, to avoid impacts on nesting and foraging Crotch's bumble bees. If this limited operating period is determined to be infeasible, then focused surveys for Crotch's bumble bee shall be conducted and avoidance measures shall be implemented.

b. Focused Surveys and Avoidance Measures

If it is determined during the habitat assessment described above, that a work area contains overwintering habitat (or if the limited operating period described above is infeasible for projects that contain foraging or nesting habitat), focused surveys for Crotch's bumble bee shall be conducted following the methods in *Survey Considerations for California Endangered Species Act Candidate Bumble Bee Species* (California Department of Fish and Wildlife 2023).

A qualified biologist shall conduct focused survey for Crotch's bumble bee before the start of any ground-disturbing activities. Focused surveys shall be performed when Crotch's bumble bee is most likely to be identified, typically from April through August when floral resources and ideal weather conditions are present, and shall follow the methods in *Survey Considerations for California Endangered Species Act Candidate Bumble Bee Species* (California Department of Fish and Wildlife 2023) or any subsequent protocol approved by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

c. Non-Invasive Surveys

Non-invasive focused surveys would include the use of cameras to photograph bumble bees. Photographs would be reviewed and verified by a qualified individual to identify the bumble bees to species. Permits are not required for non-invasive surveys.

d. Non-Lethal Capture Surveys

Surveys that would include capturing bumble bees for identification purposes and subsequently releasing the bees, would require a Memorandum of Understanding from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. No capture surveys will be conducted before the surveyor obtains a Memorandum of Understanding. Prior to conducting non-lethal capture surveys, AT&T will provide the surveyor's qualifications and survey methodology to the California Public Utilities Commission and California Department of Fish and Wildlife for review and approval. For any non-lethal capture surveys, AT&T shall submit a survey report to the California Public Utilities Commission and California Department of Fish and Wildlife within 1 month of survey completion and shall notify the California Public Utilities Commission and California Department of Fish and Wildlife within 24 hours if Crotch's bumble bees are detected.

If Crotch's bumble bees are not detected during the focused survey, no additional mitigation shall be required.

If Crotch's bumble bees are detected during the focused survey, appropriate avoidance measures shall be implemented. Avoidance measures may include, but are not limited to, the following:

Protective buffers shall be implemented around active nesting colonies until these sites are no longer active as determined by a qualified biologist. A qualified biologist, in consultation with the California Public Utilities Commission and California Department of Fish and Wildlife, shall determine the appropriate buffer size to protect nesting colonies; however, buffers will typically be at least 50 feet.

If impacts on Crotch's bumble bee cannot be avoided, compliance with the California Environmental Species Act and consultation with California Department of Fish and Wildlife shall be required and may involve acquiring an Incidental Take Permit from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. AT&T shall implement all avoidance measures included in the Incidental Take Permit. AT&T shall compensate for the loss of Crotch's bumble bee by establishing permanent protection and perpetual management on land that provides bumble bee habitat. Habitat management lands may be established by conservation easement or fee title or credits may be purchased from a California Department of Fish and Wildlife-approved conservation or mitigation bank. The compensatory mitigation shall satisfy permit conditions and all other permit conditions shall be implemented.

<u>DF–5: Identify and Avoid Special-Status Bat Roosts</u>

AT&T shall implement all ground-disturbing activities and activities that would require the use of heavy equipment (i.e., trenching, directional boring) outside of the roosting bat season, which is typically April 1–August 31, which would avoid potential disturbance of special-status and common bats that may roost in or adjacent to the project alignment (e.g., under bridges, in trees).

If avoidance of the bat maternity season is determined to be infeasible, AT&T shall retain a qualified biologist to conduct focused surveys for roosting bats prior to implementation of ground disturbing activities during the bat maternity season (April 1–August 31). The survey shall be conducted within 14 days of the start of ground-disturbing activities and shall include the project alignment and areas within 250 feet of the project alignment.

If no evidence of bat roosts is found, the biologist shall document the findings in a report to AT&T and the California Public Utilities Commission, and no further mitigation shall be required.

If evidence of bat maternity roosts or hibernacula is observed, species and number of bats using the roost shall be determined by a qualified biologist using noninvasive methods. Bat detectors (i.e., acoustic monitoring) or evening emergence surveys shall be used if deemed necessary to supplement survey efforts by the qualified biologist.

A no-disturbance buffer of 250 feet shall be established around active pallid bat, pocketed free-tailed bat, Townsend's big-eared bat, western mastiff bat, or western yellow bat maternity roosts or hibernacula, as well as substantial maternity roosts or hibernacula of other bat species considered to be a wildlife nursery by the qualified biologist, and ground disturbing project activities shall not occur within this buffer until after the roosts are unoccupied as determined by a qualified biologist.

DF-6: Implement Wildlife Entrapment Prevention Measures for Special-Status Reptiles

All trenches or other excavation sites shall be excavated and closed in a single work day to avoid leaving holes open overnight and potential wildlife entrapment.

In the case of trapped animals, escape ramps or structures shall be installed immediately to allow the animal(s) to escape, or the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and California Department of Fish and Wildlife shall be contacted for guidance.

Cultural Resources

The following cultural (CUL) measure would be required by the California Public Utilities Commission to be implemented by AT&T.

CUL–1: Archaeological Monitoring

An archaeological monitor approved by the California Public Utilities Commission shall be retained by AT&T and shall be present during construction to observe project activities that may adversely affect cultural resources. The frequency and duration of monitoring shall be at the discretion of the California Public Utilities Commission upon review of final project construction plans. The archaeological monitor shall have the authority to stop work if a sensitive cultural resource is observed in or near the project alignment and shall report observations of sensitive archaeological resources to the California Public Utilities Commission immediately. The archaeological monitor shall coordinate with the California Public Utilities Commission in a manner and frequency determined by the California Public Utilities Commission upon review of final project construction plans, potentially including but not limited to written progress reports and periodic project meetings. The archaeological monitor shall be retained at least two weeks prior to initial ground disturbance to review final plans and sensitive areas.

Compliance with Applicable State and Federal Laws and Conditions Imposed by a City or County

AT&T shall comply with all conditions otherwise authorized by law, imposed by city, county, or city and county as part of a local agency permit process, that are required to mitigate potential impacts of the proposed project, and to comply with the Keene-Nejedly California Wetlands Preservation Act (Chapter 7 (commencing with Section 5810) of Division 5), the California Endangered Species Act (Chapter 1.5 (commencing with Section 2050) of Division 3 of the Fish and Game Code), as applicable, other applicable state laws, and all applicable federal laws.

Appendix B

Yurok Telecommunications Corporation's YTEL FTTH Project Design Features

The California Public Utilities Commission's environmental consultant, Ascent, prepared a summary report for a biological resources analysis for the Yurok Telecommunications Corporation's YTEL FTTH project). Yurok Telecommunications Corporation, with assistance their consultant Vantage Point Solutions, prepared an exemption memorandum, incorporated Ascent's feedback, completed a cultural resource assessment, and added additional best management practices.

The memorandum identified project design features and best management practices for key environmental considerations associated with the proposed project, including potential impacts, areas requiring further analysis, and recommendations to support the Commission's ongoing review and decision-making process.

Measures to Avoid or Minimize Impacts on Biological and Cultural Resources

In accordance with Section 21080.51(a) of the California Environmental Quality Act, the California Public Utilities Commission may require measures to address potential environmental impacts as conditions of approval on the project. The following design feature (DF) measures are required by California Public Utilities Commission.

Biological Resources

Project design features (DF) DF–1, DF–2, and DF–8 would prevent impacts on sensitive biological resources that may occur in or adjacent to the project alignment by prohibiting removal of habitat potentially occupied by special-status plant and wildlife species, including trees (for special-status birds and mammals), shrubs (for special-status birds), herbaceous vegetation (e.g., upland habitat for special-status amphibians and reptiles), wetlands (for special-status amphibians), and streams (for special-status amphibians and reptiles). All ground-disturbing activities and activities that would require the use of heavy equipment would occur from September 1 through January 31, which would avoid the sensitive life history periods for wildlife (DF–3 through DF–7). Impacts related to wildlife movement corridors would be prevented by implementing wildlife entrapment avoidance measures pursuant to DF–9. The following project design features are recommended to avoid impacts on special-status wildlife:

<u>DF–1: Avoid Removal of Vegetation</u>

Yurok Telecommunications Corporation will completely avoid removal or trimming of vegetation (i.e., trees, shrubs, herbaceous vegetation) during ground disturbance in and adjacent to the project alignment. Staging activities (i.e., vehicles, equipment, materials) would occur in developed (e.g., paved areas) or only previously disturbed areas (i.e., areas devoid of vegetation), which would avoid potential impacts on special-status plants, special-status wildlife habitat, riparian habitat, and sensitive natural communities.

DF–2: Avoid Wetlands

Yurok Telecommunications Corporation will completely avoid wetlands by mapping wetlands in and within 100 feet of the project alignment and designing the project to avoid all wetlands by 100 feet which would avoid potential impacts on wetland habitats and associated special-status plants and wildlife. The mapping will identify and geo-locate all wetland habitat in and within 100 feet of the project alignment using Global Positioning System. The boundaries of wetlands identified during the wetland mapping will be demarcated on project maps and using brightly colored flagging or fencing. Ground disturbing activities will be completely avoided in wetland areas and within 100 feet of wetlands (i.e., consistent with wetland setback required under the Humboldt County Municipal Code) to avoid direct and indirect impacts on these resources.

DF–3: Avoid the Nesting Bird Season

Yurok Telecommunications Corporation will implement all ground-disturbing activities and activities that would require the use of heavy equipment (i.e., excavation, directional boring) outside of the nesting bird season, which is typically February 1 through August 31, which would avoid potential disturbance of special-status and other native birds that may nest in vegetation types adjacent to the project alignment (e.g., forest, annual grassland).

DF–4: Avoid the Western Bumble Bee Colony Active Period

Yurok Telecommunications Corporation will implement all ground-disturbing activities and activities that would require the use of heavy equipment (i.e., excavation, directional boring) outside of the colony active period for these species, which is typically April through September, which would avoid potential disturbance of underground western bumble bee colonies.

DF–5: Avoid the Bat Maternity Season

Yurok Telecommunications Corporation will implement all ground-disturbing activities and activities that would require the use of heavy equipment (i.e., excavation, directional boring) outside of the roosting bat season, which is typically April 1–August 31, which would avoid potential disturbance of special-status and common bats that may roost in or adjacent to the project alignment (e.g., under bridges, in trees).

DF–6: Avoid the Ringtail Maternity Season

Yurok Telecommunications Corporation will implement all ground-disturbing activities and activities that would require the use of heavy equipment (i.e., excavation, directional boring) outside of the ringtail maternity season, which is typically April 15–June 30, which would avoid potential disturbance of northern California ringtails that may nest in riparian or forest vegetation types adjacent to the project alignment.

DF-7: Avoid the Humboldt Marten Maternity Season

Yurok Telecommunications Corporation will implement all ground-disturbing activities and activities that would require the use of heavy equipment (i.e., excavation, directional boring) outside of the marten maternity season, which is typically March 1 to Jun 30, which would avoid potential disturbance of Humboldt martens that may den in forest vegetation types adjacent to the project alignment.

DF–8: Implement Streamside Management Areas

Pursuant to the Humboldt County Municipal Code, Yurok Telecommunications Corporation will implement Streamside Management Areas adjacent to perennial and intermittent streams in or adjacent to the project alignment, within which no project activities will occur. Streamside Management Areas will be 100 feet, measured as the horizontal distance from the stream transition line on either side of perennial streams and 50 feet, measured as the horizontal distance from the stream transition line on either side of intermittent streams.

DF–9: Implement Wildlife Entrapment Prevention Measure

All excavated hand holes, pull boxes, and conduit vaults will be excavated and closed in a single workday to avoid leaving holes open overnight and potential wildlife entrapment.

Cultural Resources

The following cultural resource (CUL) measures will be implemented during construction:

CUL-1

Cultural resources located in the project area will be avoided by construction activities. The Tribal Historic Preservation Officer of the Yurok Tribe requests that a tribal monitor is present during construction on the Yurok Reservation. In addition, the construction would operate under the Yurok Tribal Inadvertent Discovery Plan whereby should cultural resources be located during any portion of construction, work would cease and the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer office and the California Public Utilities Commission would be notified immediately.

Best Management Practices

The following best management practices (BMP) will be implemented during and following all construction activities. Best management practices for this project include:

BMP-1

Utilization of all necessary erosion control devices including silt fences, hay bales, and rock dams during ground disturbing activities, namely horizontal directional drilling/boring under wetlands and waterbodies, to minimize any potential secondary impacts.

BMP-2

All fuels, solvents, construction adhesives, and other hazardous materials will be stored at least 100 feet away from any waterbodies.

BMP-3

Avoid construction activities within wetlands to the greatest extent practicable. When construction within wetlands is unavoidable, maintain natural drainage patterns to an extent practicable by installing culverts in sufficient number and size to prevent ponding, diversion, or concentrated runoff, and time the use of heavy equipment to avoid periods of heavy moisture.

BMP-4

Avoid diversion of surface water and groundwater sources, which could affect nearby wetlands.

BMP-5

Avoid above and belowground wetland crossings. When crossing a wetland is unavoidable, take advantage of already disturbed areas such as easements, roads, roadway shoulders, bridges, or old railroad beds.

BMP-6

Create and maintain buffer zones around wetlands to protect their functions and values.

BMP-7

Preserve existing tree canopies and natural areas in and around wetlands as much as possible. When cutting wetland vegetation is unavoidable, complete the work by hand (chain or hand saw) instead of using large equipment.

BMP-8

Span wetlands by locating telecommunication poles on either side of the wetland, instead of disturbing the interior.

BMP-9

Clearly mark the boundaries of wetland areas to be avoided during construction using flagging and maintaining markers until reclamation is complete. Train equipment operators on the activities to avoid within or near wetlands.

BMP-10

Install and maintain sediment barriers at saturated wetlands or wetlands with standing water across the entire construction rights of way upslope of the wetland boundary and where saturated wetlands or wetlands with standing water are adjacent to the construction right of way as necessary to prevent sediment flow into the wetland.

BMP-11

Revegetate bare areas as progressively and quickly as possible (preferably within the same growing season) to stabilize soils, reduce sedimentation, and avoid the spread of invasive species. Install erosion protection and leave in place until the area is revegetated, and the soil is stabilized.

BMP-12

Avoid construction of roads and other impervious surfaces in floodplain areas to the extent practicable, and where necessary in floodplains, construct roads and other impervious surfaces level with existing grades to not change or restrict water flow.

Through the avoidance and minimization measures that include site rehabilitation, the proposed action is not anticipated to adversely impact waterbodies, wetlands, floodplains, water quality, sole source aquifers, public water supply systems, or state, local, or Tribal water quality. As the fiber project area is located in roadside right of ways, there are no public water supplies in the project area. The shallow depth the cable will be buried at is not deep enough to impact any groundwater. All wetlands and waterbodies will be avoided; therefore, Section 404 or 401 permits are not required.

Appendix C

Zito Southern California, LLC's Julian/Ramona/Borrego Springs- Project Design Features

Zito Southern California, LLC's consultant, Environmental Science Associates, provided reports for a biological resources analysis and a cultural resources analysis for the Julian-Ramona-Borrego Springs Broadband California Public Utilities Commission Federal Funding Account project. These reports identified project design features for key environmental considerations associated with the proposed project, including potential impacts, areas requiring further analysis, and recommendations to support the California Public Utilities Commission's ongoing review and decision-making process.

Measures to Avoid or Minimize Impacts on Biological and Cultural Resources

In accordance with Section 21080.51(a) of the California Environmental Quality Act, the Commission may require measures to address potential environmental impacts as conditions of approval on the project. The following measures are required by the Commission.

Biological Best Management Practices

In addition to biological resources consultation in project design with a qualified bi ologist, Attachment A contains a full list of best management practices, included as part of the project, for habitat and individual special status species that will be implemented, based on presence or potential to occur. These project best management practices are summarized in Attachment A.

Cultural Best Management Practices

In addition to cultural and tribal resources consultation in project design with a qualified archaeologist, several construction best management practices will be implemented as warranted to avoid known or unknown resources and minimize the risk of affecting these resources. These best management practices are listed here and discussed below in relation to each Project segment.

Project Segments and Subsegments

Due to differences in the prescribed segments and the unique archaeological considerations within each, Environmental Science Associates archaeologists have further subdivided certain segments ("subsegments") to prescribe best

management practices on a more detailed scale that would avoid or minimize the risk of disturbance to cultural resources. A description of each segment and subsection (if appropriate), along with a discussion of cultural resource constraints identified as result of the South Coastal Information Center records search results and best management practices, are provided for the project alignment.

Table 1 includes a summary of the segments and subsections, installation type, environmental constraints, and a summary of best management practices (see Attachment A for more detail).

Survey results, constraints, and best management practices are summarized in Table 1.

TABLE 1

SURVEY AREAS, INSTALLATION TYPE, ENVIRONMENTAL CONSTRAINTS, AND BMP SUMMARY

Segment / Subsegments	Installation Type	Environmental Constraints				BMP
		Prehistoric Resources	Historic Resources	Multicomponent Resources	Indeterminate Resources	
Calipatria to USCBP Middle-Mile Segment						
South Salton Sea	Aerial and Underground	• 13-006298 • 13-006549 • 13-011395	• 13-006299 • 13-006414 • 13-008334			For Aerial Portions: • Resource avoidance (including 30-meter buffer) where feasible • Limit work to existing paved surfaces where feasible • Protocol for inadvertent discovery of resource • Tribal consultation letter(s)

Segment / Subsegments	Installation Type	Environmental Constraints				BMP
		Prehistoric Resources	Historic Resources	Multicomponent Resources	Indeterminate Resources	
						• Potential tribal consultation • Protocol for Inadvertent discovery of human remains For Underground Portions: • Resource avoidance (including 30-meter buffer) where feasible • Limit work to existing paved surfaces where feasible • Pre-construction survey for Project alignment on or near identified resource intersecting alignment • Potential monitoring • Potential WEAP training • Potential involvement of designated archaeologist • Protocol for inadvertent discovery of resource • Tribal consultation letter(s) • Potential tribal consultation • Potential tribal monitoring • Protocol for Inadvertent discovery of human remains • Potential reporting to CPUC
Salton City to Borrego Middle-Mile Segment						

West Salton Sea	Aerial		• 13-006978			• Resource avoidance (including 30-meter buffer) where feasible • Limit work to existing paved surfaces where feasible • Protocol for inadvertent discovery of resource • Tribal consultation letter(s) • Potential tribal consultation • Protocol for Inadvertent discovery of human remains
Badlands	Underground				• 37-0011260	• Resource avoidance (including 30-meter buffer) where feasible • Limit work to existing paved surfaces where feasible • Pre-construction survey for Project alignment on or near identified resource intersecting alignment • Potential monitoring • Potential WEAP training • Potential involvement of designated archaeologist • Protocol for inadvertent discovery of resource

Segment / Subsegments	Installation Type	Environmental Constraints				BMP
		Prehistoric Resources	Historic Resources	Multicomponent Resources	Indeterminate Resources	
						• Tribal consultation letter(s) • Potential tribal consultation • Potential tribal monitoring • Protocol for Inadvertent discovery of human remains • Potential reporting to CPUC
Borrego Springs Last Mile Fiber Installation Segment						
Borrego Springs	Aerial and Underground	• 37-004994 • 37-005343 • 37-027189				For Aerial Portions: • Resource avoidance (including 30-meter buffer) where feasible • Limit work to existing paved surfaces where feasible • Protocol for inadvertent discovery of resource • Tribal consultation letter(s) • Potential tribal consultation • Protocol for Inadvertent discovery of human remains For Underground Portions: • Resource avoidance (including 30-meter buffer) where feasible • Limit work to existing paved surfaces where feasible • Pre-construction survey for Project alignment on or near identified resource intersecting

						alignment • Potential monitoring • Potential WEAP training • Potential involvement of designated archaeologist • Protocol for inadvertent discovery of resource • Tribal consultation letter(s) • Potential tribal consultation • Potential tribal monitoring • Protocol for Inadvertent discovery of human remains • Potential reporting to CPUC
Julian Middle-Mile and Last-Mile Fiber Installation Segment						
Julian	Aerial and underground	• 37-004592 • 37-005724 • 37-005733 • 37-007102 • 37-008196 • 37-013734 • 37-024796	• 37-033374 • 37-036507			For Aeriel Portions: • Resource avoidance (including 30-meter buffer) where feasible • Limit work to existing paved surfaces where feasible • Protocol for inadvertent discovery of resource

Segment / Subsegments	**Installation Type**	**Environmental Constraints**				**BMP**
		Prehistoric Resources	**Historic Resources**	**Multicomponent Resources**	**Indeterminate Resources**	

		• 37-025428 • 37-025955 • 37-026717 • 37-027902 • 37-031485 • 37-034820 • 37-036651 • 37-039255 • 37-039274 • 37-039277 • 37-039285 • 37-039286 • 37-039298 • 37-040369 • 37-040375 • 37-040452				• Tribal consultation letter(s) • Potential tribal consultation • Protocol for Inadvertent discovery of human remains For Underground Portions: • Resource avoidance (including 30-meter buffer) where feasible • Limit work to existing paved surfaces where feasible • Pre-construction survey for Project alignment on or near identified resource intersecting alignment • Potential monitoring • Potential WEAP training • Potential involvement of designated archaeologist • Protocol for inadvertent discovery of resource • Tribal consultation letter(s) • Potential tribal consultation • Potential tribal monitoring • Protocol for Inadvertent discovery of human remains • Potential reporting to CPUC

Santa Ysabel	Aerial, underground, and unknown	• 37-001220 • 37-004594 • 37-026916 • 37-031475 • 37-033110 • 37-038162 • 37-038168	• 37-005837 • 37-039847	• 37-031474		For Aeriel Portions: • Resource avoidance (including 30-meter buffer) where feasible • Limit work to existing paved surfaces where feasible • Protocol for inadvertent discovery of resource • Tribal consultation letter(s) • Potential tribal consultation • Protocol for Inadvertent discovery of human remains For Underground Portions: • Resource avoidance (including 30-meter buffer) where feasible • Limit work to existing paved surfaces where feasible • Pre-construction survey for Project alignment on or near identified resource intersecting alignment • Potential monitoring • Potential WEAP training • Potential involvement of designated archaeologist

Segment / Subsegments	Installation Type	Environmental Constraints				BMP
		Prehistoric Resources	Historic Resources	Multicomponent Resources	Indeterminate Resources	
						• Protocol for inadvertent discovery of resource • Tribal consultation letter(s) • Potential tribal consultation • Potential tribal monitoring • Protocol for Inadvertent discovery of human remains • Potential reporting to CPUC
Ramona Last-Mile Fiber Installation Segment						
Ramona	Aerial and underground	• 37-005927 • 37-006019 • 37-009931 • 37-010642 • 37-010740 • 37-024317 • 37-034514 • 37-034534 • 37-034629 • 37-034790 • 37-035724 • 37-035725 • 37-035730 • 37-035731 • 37-036636 • 37-038157 • 37-025948	• 37-009220 • 37-015828 • 37-024346 • 37-034512 • 37-035718 • 37-036633 • 37-024350 • 37-031974 • 37-035240 • 37-036513 • 37-039849	• 37-005927 • 37-038154		For Aeriel Portions: • Resource avoidance (including 30-meter buffer) where feasible • Limit work to existing paved surfaces where feasible • Protocol for inadvertent discovery of resource • Tribal consultation letter(s) • Potential tribal consultation • Protocol for Inadvertent discovery of human remains For Underground Portions: • Resource avoidance (including 30-meter buffer) where feasible • Limit work to existing paved surfaces where feasible • Pre-construction survey for Project alignment on or near identified resource intersecting alignment • Potential monitoring • Potential WEAP training • Potential involvement of designated archaeologist • Protocol for inadvertent discovery of resource • Tribal consultation letter(s) • Potential tribal consultation • Potential tribal monitoring • Protocol for Inadvertent discovery of human remains • Potential reporting to CPUC

SOURCE: Data compiled by Environmental Science Associates in 2025 NOTES: BMP = best management practice

The primary archaeological constraints that will require avoidance and minimization of disturbance risk in the project design and implementation include previously recorded and unknown resources that intersect alignment locations designated for either aerial installation or underground installation. A designated qualified archaeologist shall aid in the project design and implementation of certain best management practices, and to generally support project operations as needed (See Attachment A for more information).

Attachment A

Project Best Management Practices for Biological Resources

Resource	Project Best Management Practices	Segment
Desert Pupfish (FE/SE/CH)	No staging or ground disturbance activities shall occur within 50 feet of San Felipe Creek (**Figure 7**).	South Salton Sea
	Ground disturbing activities (e.g., micro tunneling) shall be avoided within suitable and critical habitat for desert pupfish, and earthen-lined agricultural drainages, when surface water is present.	
	Project activities that may directly impact desert pupfish, or critical or suitable habitat for desert pupfish, shall occur outside of the wet season (December through April), if feasible.	
	If ground disturbing activities or staging need to occur within suitable habitat and/or when water is visible, a pre-construction survey shall be conducted within 7 days of Project activities.	
	If species are detected during pre-construction surveys or other biological monitoring efforts, a qualified biologist shall record all locations pursuant to federal and state requirements, establish and clearly delineate (e.g., flagging) a 50-foot no-work buffer.	
Burrowing Owl (SC)	Pre-construction surveys shall be conducted for burrowing owl within suitable habitat along the South Salton Sea Alignment within 72 hours of Project activities.	South Salton Sea
	A qualified biologist shall conduct weekly spot checks when Project activities are occurring along the South Salton Sea Alignment.	
	To the extent feasible, work shall not occur within 100 feet of maintained berms including along agricultural drainages.	
	Crews shall conduct a daily check of the project site to avoid crushing any burrows present prior to the start of Project activities.	
	All excavations shall be covered at the end of each day.	
	If species are detected during pre-construction surveys or other biological monitoring efforts, a qualified biologist shall record all locations pursuant to federal and state requirements, establish and clearly delineate (e.g., flagging) a 100-foot no-work buffer.	
Pallid Bat (SSC)	Project activities shall only occur during daytime hours.	South Salton Sea
	A pre-construction survey for bats shall be conducted in the South Salton Sea Alignment by a qualified biologist whenever Project activities will occur within 100 feet of bridges, buildings, or suitable vegetation within 7 days of Project activities.	
	If species are detected during pre-construction surveys or other biological monitoring efforts, a qualified biologist shall record all locations pursuant to federal and state requirements, establish and clearly delineate (e.g., flagging) a 100-foot no-work buffer.	
Bighorn Sheep (FE/ST/CH/FP)	Project activities shall only occur during daytime hours.	Badlands, Borrego Springs
	To the extent feasible, Project activities shall be conducted outside of the lambing season within suitable habitat for bighorn sheep (January through June) within the Badlands and Borrego Springs Alignments.	

	All excavations shall be covered at the end of each day.	
	No standing water shall be left onsite at the end of each day.	
	A qualified biologist shall conduct weekly spot checks when Project activities are occurring along the Badlands and Borrego Springs Alignment.	

Resource	Project Best Management Practices	Segment
	If species are detected, either directly or through sign, a qualified biologist shall record all locations, and monitor Project activities within 100-feet of the detection area.	
Flat-tailed Horned Lizard (SSC)	All ground disturbing activities (e.g., micro tunneling) within suitable habitat for flat-tailed horned lizard (**Figure 8**) shall be monitored by a qualified biologist.	Badlands
	Project activities shall occur during daytime hours.	
	Project activities, including staging, shall occur on paved surfaces to the extent feasible to minimize crushing of potential burrowed individuals.	
	All excavations shall be covered at the end of each day.	
	If species are detected during other biological monitoring efforts, a qualified biologist shall record all locations pursuant to federal and state requirements, establish and clearly delineate (e.g., flagging) a 50-foot no-work buffer.	
Arroyo Toad (FE/CH/SSC)	All ground disturbing activities within critical habitat for arroyo toad (**Figure 9**) shall be monitored by a qualified biologist.	Santa Ysabel
	Project activities shall occur during daytime hours.	
	If vegetation may be impacted within critical habitat, a pre-construction survey for arroyo toad shall be conducted a qualified biologist within 7 days of Project activities.	
	Project activities shall be designed to avoid impacts to critical habitat for arroyo toad during the breeding season (February-July), including using existing roadways for work and staging, to the extent feasible.	
	If species are detected during pre-construction surveys or other biological monitoring efforts, a qualified biologist shall record all locations, establish, and clearly delineate (e.g., flagging) a 50-foot no-work buffer.	
	All excavations shall be covered at the end of each day.	
Coastal California Gnatcatcher (FT/CH/SSC)	All vegetation impacts within suitable habitat for coastal California gnatcatcher (**Figure 10**) shall be monitored by a qualified biologist.	Ramona
	A pre-construction survey shall be conducted by a qualified biologist for all Project activities that may impact vegetation within critical and suitable habitats within 7 days of Project activities.	
	If coastal California gnatcatcher is detected during pre-construction surveys or other biological monitoring efforts, a qualified biologist shall record all locations pursuant to federal and state requirements, establish, and clearly delineate (e.g., flagging) a 50-foot no-work buffer.	
	To the extent feasible, Project activities shall be designed to avoid crushing or trimming vegetation during the nesting season (February 15-August 15), especially within chaparral and coastal sage shrub habitats that are less than 8 feet in height.	
Least Bell's Vireo (FE/SE/CH)	All vegetation impacts within suitable habitat for least Bell's vireo shall be monitored by a qualified biologist.	Ramona
	To the extent feasible, Project activities shall be designed to avoid crushing or trimming vegetation within suitable habitat for least Bell's vireo during the nesting season (March 15-August 31).	

	If species are detected during pre-construction surveys or other biological monitoring efforts, a qualified biologist shall record all locations pursuant to federal and state requirements, establish, and clearly delineate (e.g., flagging) a 50-foot no-work buffer.	

Resource	Project Best Management Practices	Segment
Western Spadefoot (PT/SSC)	Project activities shall avoid impacting vernal pools, slow-moving streams, and temporary standing water features (e.g., large mud puddles and locations where water ponding occurs) to the extent feasible.	Santa Ysabel, Ramona
	Project activities within suitable habitat for western spadefoot shall occur outside of the breeding season (January–May) to the extent feasible.	
	If Project activities must occur within the breeding season (January–May), a pre-construction survey shall be conducted within 3 days of Project activities to identify suitable breeding habitat that shall be avoided.	
	If species are detected during pre-construction surveys or other biological monitoring efforts, a qualified biologist shall record all locations pursuant to federal and state requirements, establish and clearly delineate (e.g., flagging) a 50-foot no-work buffer.	
Crotch's Bumble Bee (SC)	Ground disturbing activities (e.g., micro tunneling) within suitable nesting habitat for Crotch's bumble bee shall be monitored by a qualified biologist.	Borrego Springs, Julian, Ramona, Santa Ysabel
	Project activities shall occur during daytime hours.	
	If vegetation impacts shall occur within suitable nesting or foraging habitat during the colony active period (April–August), a qualified biologist shall conduct a visual pre-construction survey within 7 days of Project activities.	
	If species are detected during pre-construction surveys or other biological monitoring efforts, a qualified biologist shall record all locations pursuant to federal and state requirements, establish, and clearly delineate (e.g., flagging) a 50-foot no-work buffer.	
Barefoot Banded Gecko (ST)	Ground disturbing activities (e.g., micro tunneling) within suitable habitat for barefoot banded gecko (Figure 8) shall be monitored by a qualified biologist.	Borrego Springs
	Project activities shall occur during daytime hours.	
	Project activities, including staging, shall occur on paved surfaces to the extent feasible to minimize crushing of potential burrowed individuals.	
	All excavations shall be covered at the end of each day.	
	If species are detected during monitoring, a qualified biologist shall record all locations pursuant to federal and state requirements, establish, and clearly delineate (e.g., flagging) a 50-foot no-work buffer.	
Special-Status Plant Species (CRPR 1B-2B)	If Project activities involve impacting vegetation within suitable habitat for a special-status plant, as identified by studies or reports prepared for the Project, a pre-construction survey shall be conducted by a qualified biologist. Surveys shall occur within 30 feet of the proposed work and/or staging area. Surveys shall occur within the appropriate identification window, as established by the California Native Plant Society, for each species with a high potential-to-occur.	Santa Ysabel
	If a Project activities and/or staging area require access along an unimproved or over open land route with no access road, the access route and a 50-foot buffer shall be surveyed prior to establishment of an access road or construction.	
	If special-status plant species are identified within or adjacent to the Project area, species specific avoidance and minimization measures shall be developed by the Project's designated biologist to avoid impacts to special-status plant species.	

	Plant populations shall be recorded with a GPS-enabled device pursuant to federal and state requirements, and an appropriate no-work buffer established with flagging around perennial or tree species or population(s) for avoidance.	
	Seasonal work windows periods may be established to avoid the blooming periods of certain species, if feasible.	

Resource	Project Best Management Practices	Segment
Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) and Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act	If Project activities are occurring during the bird breeding season (January 15–August 31), pre-construction surveys at these areas of construction shall occur within 48 hours prior to Project activities.	Project wide
	If a nesting bird is detected during pre-construction surveys or other biological monitoring efforts, a qualified biologist shall record all locations and contact the Project's designated lead biologist, and establish, and clearly delineate (e.g., flagging) an appropriate no-work buffer.	
Potentially Jurisdictional Waters and Wetlands	Potentially jurisdictional waters and wetlands (e.g., creeks, ponds and lakes, ephemeral wetlands) shall be avoided during the wet season (October–March) to the extent feasible. This includes direct impacts, such as trenching, within potentially jurisdictional aquatic resources (**Figures 11 and 12**).	Project wide
	Staging will occur at least 50 feet from potentially jurisdictional waters and wetlands (i.e., creeks, ponds and lakes, ephemeral wetlands).	
	Existing access routes shall be used to the extent feasible to reduce impacts to waters, wetlands, banks, and riparian vegetation.	
	Directional drilling under concrete-lined irrigation channels shall be accompanied by a frac-out plan.	
	Standard BMPs shall apply whenever working within or near aquatic resources, including the following: • Minimizing impacts on vegetation. • Not operating within surface water and saturated soils. • Avoiding damaging creek beds and banks. • Avoiding refueling within 100 feet of creek banks. • Avoiding discharging materials (e.g., soils, vegetation, and non-natural contaminants) within creek banks.	
Sensitive Vegetation Communities	Project activities shall avoid impacts (e.g., vegetation trimming, plant or tree removal) to sensitive vegetation communities including but not limited to coast live oak woodland, Engelmann oak woodland, southern riparian forest, freshwater marsh, desert dunes, and desert wash (Figure 12) to the extent feasible.	Project wide
	For sensitive woodland habitats, Project activities shall be design to avoid impacting sensitive root systems, to the extent feasible, by avoiding ground disturbing activities, placing, and staging equipment within the tree drip line zone.	
Incidental Special Status Species Detection General Protocol	If a special-status species is detected during any pre-construction surveys or other biological monitoring efforts pursuant to any other Project BMP, a qualified biologist shall record all locations pursuant to federal and state requirements, establish and clearly delineate (e.g., flagging) an appropriate no-work buffer.	Project wide
	If the special status species is federally or state listed as rare, threatened, endangered, or proposed for listing, monitoring of these resources cannot occur within the proposed avoidance buffer without approval by the wildlife agencies, which shall be sought if the qualified biological monitor determines that additional monitoring is required. If, however, the special status species is not federally or state listed as rare, threatened, endangered, or proposed for listing,	

	monitoring of Project activities may occur within the proposed avoidance buffer if warranted.	

Appendix D

CPUC Minor Project Refinement Form

Project Name CPUC Minor Project Refinement Form

Minor project refinements *are strictly limited to changes that will not trigger an additional permit requirement, do not substantially increase the severity of a previously identified significant impact, create a new significant impact, would clearly and strictly comply with the intent of the IS/MND mitigation measures, and that don't conflict with any applicable law or policy.*

Date Requested: Month XX, XXXX

Report No.: X

Date Approved: TBD

Approval Agency: California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC).

Property Owner(s): X

Location/Milepost: X

Land Use/Vegetative Cover: X

Sensitive Resources: X

Modification From: ☐ **Permit** ☐ **Plan/Procedure** ☐ **Specification** ☐ **Drawing** ☐ **Mitigation Measure** ☐ **Other:**

Proposed Action(s):

Describe how project refinement deviates from current project. Include photos:

Original Condition:

Justification for Change:

Maps & Figures:

Environmental Impact:

Concurrence (if appropriate):

Resources:

Biological	☐ No Resources Present	☐ Resources Present	☐ N/A, Change would not affect resources

Previous Biological Survey Report Reference:

Cultural	☐ No Resources Present	☐ Resources Present	☐ N/A, changes would not affect resources

Previous Cultural Survey Report Reference:

Paleontological	☐ No Resources Present	☐ Resources Present	☐ N/A, Change would not affect resources

Previous Paleontological Survey Report Reference:

Disturbance Acreage Changes: ☐ Yes ☐ No

The following table includes environmental analysis representative of the CEQA Appendix G Checklist Sections addressed in the Final IS/MND as it relates to MPR-X. MPR-X would have no potential to impact the following environmental resource areas and therefore are not included in the table below: Aesthetics, Agriculture and Forestry Resources, Energy, Land Use and Planning, Mineral Resources, Population and Housing, Public Services, and Recreation.

CEQA Section	Applicable	(Y) Define potential impact or (N) briefly explain why CEQA section isn't applicable. If (Y), describe original and new level of impact, and avoidance/minimization measures to be taken.
Air Quality	☐ Y ☐ N	
Agency Consultation?	☐ Y ☐ N	
Biological Resources	☐ Y ☐ N	
Agency Consultation?	☐ Y ☐ N	
Cultural and Tribal Cultural Resources	☐ Y ☐ N	
Agency Consultation?	☐ Y ☐ N	
Geology and Soils	☐ Y ☐ N	
Agency Consultation?	☐ Y ☐ N	
Greenhouse Gas Emissions	☐ Y ☐ N	
Agency Consultation?	☐ Y ☐ N	
Hazards and	☐ Y	

Hazardous Materials	☐ N
Agency Consultation?	☐ Y
	☐ N
Hydrology and Water Quality	☐ Y
	☐ N
Agency Consultation?	☐ Y
	☐ N
Noise and Vibration	☐ Y
	☐ N
Agency Consultation?	☐ Y
	☐ N
Transportation	☐ Y
	☐ N
Agency Consultation?	☐ Y
	☐ N
Utilities and Service Systems	☐ Y
	☐ N
Agency Consultation?	☐ Y
	☐ N
Wildfire	☐ Y
	☐ N
Agency Consultation?	☐ Y
	☐ N