

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

Mandatory Findings of Significance

5.21 MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

This section discusses mandatory findings of significance related to the project.

5.21.1 Impact Questions

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less-than-Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-than-Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Does the project have the potential to substantially degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? (“Cumulatively considerable” means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

5.21.2 Impact Analysis

a) Does the project have the potential to substantially degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?

Less Than Significant Impact. The project would not substantially degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, or substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of an endangered, rare, or threatened species.

As summarized in Section 5.4, Biological Resources, numerous wildlife species are known to occur within the project area, including reptiles, amphibians, birds, and mammal species. Construction work



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associated with the project could directly or indirectly affect sensitive wildlife and fish species (through habitat modification) but would not have a substantial direct or indirect adverse effect on such species. The majority of project impacts on biological resources would be temporary and associated with site preparation and construction activities.

While the project would avoid impacts on the majority of the wetlands, sensitive natural communities, and special status plant populations through micrositing and directional boring efforts, some indirect impacts on these resources may be unavoidable. The project design would avoid direct impacts on wetlands, sensitive natural communities, and special status plant populations as much as possible, and site restoration would help minimize any long-term temporary impacts after construction is complete. Additional construction-related factors could result in habitat loss or modification. Sensory disturbances associated with equipment noise and the increased presence of personnel could cause displacement or avoidance of wildlife species. During operation, habitat removal or modification would be unnecessary, except in the unlikely event that repairs are required, and conduit must be excavated. As discussed in Section 5.4, Biological Resources, all potential impacts related to biological resources would be reduced to a less than significant impact with implementation of APMs.

As detailed in Section 5.5, Cultural Resources, many cultural resources have been identified in the project survey area. It is Zayo's aim to avoid cultural resources to the greatest extent possible. If necessary, additional avoidance measures would be implemented to either reroute the alignment in or near the US 395 road shoulder in areas of fill or prior disturbance or directionally bore and place the fiber optic line conduit under archaeological sites to a minimum depth of 2 meters or 1 meter below known maximum depth of cultural resources. However, where avoidance measures are not feasible, archeological test excavations may be required to obtain information sufficient to evaluate the eligibility of sites for inclusion in the NRHP and the CRHR.

As a result, with implementation of biological resources and cultural resources APMs, the project would have a less-than-significant impact.

b) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? (“Cumulatively considerable” means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)?

No Impact. The project would not achieve short-term environmental goals to the disadvantage of long-term environmental goals. The project would result in either no impact or less than significant impacts in both the short- and long-term. The project would be compatible with local environmental goals and would not conflict with federal or state environmental policies and regulations. Therefore, no impact would occur.

The project would not have possible environmental effects that are individually limited but cumulatively considerable. A cumulative impact analysis for each resource area is presented in Section 7.0, Cumulative Impacts. The project would contribute incrementally to cumulative impacts in the project area related to aesthetics, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, tribal cultural resources, energy resources, geology, soils, and paleontological resources, GHG, hazards and hazardous materials,



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hydrology and water quality, noise, recreation, transportation, utilities, and wildfire; however, the project would not contribute substantially to those cumulative impacts. The project, in combination with other reasonably foreseeable projects, would not have environmental effects that are individually limited but cumulatively considerable. The impact would be less than significant.

c) Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?

No Impact. The project would not adversely affect human beings either directly or indirectly. Potential construction impacts associated with human health include the presence of hazards, hazardous materials use, and temporary air quality impacts. As discussed previously, construction impacts associated with air quality and with hazards and hazardous materials would be less than significant. APMs would further reduce the potential for adverse effects. Therefore, there would be no impact.

5.21.3 Draft Environmental Measures

There are no applicable environmental measures for the mandatory findings of significance.



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