## Broadwing Communications Services, Inc. California Fiber Optic Cable Projects

# Final Initial Study And Mitigated Negative Declaration (SCH#2001102054)

The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) completed a Draft Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) for the Broadwing Communications Services, Inc. California Fiber Optic Cable Projects. CPUC Notices of Availability were mailed to property owners whose properties were crossed or adjacent to rights-of-way (including roads, railroads, and highways) crossed by a project route. A Public Notice was published in general circulation newspapers also announcing the availability of the documents for public review in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Copies of the document (Volumes I and II) were submitted to the State Clearinghouse, main county and other libraries and county planning departments in project counties, and other appropriate state, county and city agencies. The 30-day review period began on October 9, 2001 and closed on November 9, 2001 at 5 PM.

As lead CEQA agency, the CPUC prepared a response to written comments received during the public review period on the Draft IS/MND. Volume III, Comments and Responses to Comments, is incorporated with Volumes I and II to complete this Final Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration.

#### **FINDINGS**

Based on the analysis in the Initial Study and the Mitigation Measures identified in the Initial Study and listed in the Mitigated Negative Declaration, the CPUC finds that the Broadwing Communications Services, Inc. California Fiber Optic Cable Projects will not have a significant effect on the environment.

Paul Clanon, Director

Analysis Branch

**Energy Division** 

California Public Utilities Commission

Date

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### CEQA Guidelines (Appendix G)

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PAUL CLANON, DIRECTOR ANALYSIS BRANCH ENERGY DIVISION CALIFORNIA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

#### CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST **CEQA Guidelines (Appendix G)**

PROJECT:	DATE:								
Los Angeles to Ontario Longhaul Route	December 10, 2001								
LEAD AGENCY:	PROJECT APPLICANT:								
California Public Utility Commission	Broadwing Communications Services, Inc.								
Headquarters Office	1835B Kramer Lane								
505 Van Ness Avenue	Austin, Texas 78758								
San Francisco, CA 94102	Contact: Richard LeSassier								
Contact: Nicolas Procos	Tel: (512) 742-1564								
Tel: (415) 703-5289									
PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The project involves the construction and operation of an underground fiber optic telecommunication system between Los Angeles and Ontario, California. The proposed project would involve the									
placement of fiber optic conduit and cable within previously disturbed areas within existing railroad and public road									
rights-of-way. The route is approximately 45.6 miles long, the majority of which (42.3 miles) is within railroad									
right-of-way. The fiber optic facilities will be installed	at an average depth of 42 inches primarily throu	gh the use of							
a rail plow or tractor plow supplemented by treuching	ng and directional boring where required. Stre	et crossings,							
a rail plow or tractor plow, supplemented by trenching and directional boring where required. Street crossings, waterway crossings, rail facilities, and other utilities will be avoided using directional boring.									
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ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED:									
The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project, involving at least one impact that is a									
"Potentially Significant Impact" as indicated by the checklist	on the following pages.								
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☐ Aesthetics ☑ Hazards & Hazards									
☐ Agricultural Resources ☐ Hydrology/Water C	Quality								
☐ Air Quality ☐ Land Use/Planning	Transportation/Traffic								
☑ Biological Resources ☐ Mineral Resources	☐ Utilities/Service System	s							
☑ Cultural Resources ☑ Noise		Significance							
Geology/Soils Population/Housing	g								
□ DETERMINATION (To be completed by Lead Ag     □	ency)								
On the basis of this initial evaluation:	CIRCY)								
I find that the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on	the continuous and a NECATIVE DECLARATION will be represent	,							
I find that the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on	the environment and a decourt of pechanism with a highing								
I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect	on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case	because revisions							
on the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent.	A MITAGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.								
I find the proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.									
t find the proposed project MAY have a "potentially significant" or "potentially significant unless mitigated" impact on the environment, but at least one effect  1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and 2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on									
earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. An ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be									
addressed.									
I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect	t on the environment, because all potentially significant effect (a) has	ve been analyzed							
adequately in an earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION, including revisions or mitigation measures that are impused upon the proposed project, nothing further is required.									
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SIGNATURE									

PAUL CLANON, DIRECTOR ANALYSIS BRANCH ENERGY DIVISION

CALIFORNIA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

#### CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST CEQA Guidelines (Appendix G)

DD/	VIECT.			DATE:						
PROJECT: Ontario to San Diego Longhaul Route				December 10, 2001						
	D AGENCY:			PROJECT APPLICANT:						
California Public Utility Commission				Broadwing Communications Services, Inc.						
Headquarters Office			1835B Kramer Lane							
505 Van Ness Avenue			Austin, Texas 78758							
San Francisco, CA 94102										
Contact: Nicolas Procos				Contact: Richard LeSassier						
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of way plowing in road shoulders, and directional bonng where required. Since crossings, sensitive environmental										
resources, rail facilities, and other utilities will be avoided using directional boring.										
ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED:										
The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project, involving at least one impact that is a										
"Potentially Significant Impact" as indicated by the checklist on the following pages.										
	Digital Digita		•							
П	Aesthetics	X	Hazards & Hazard	ous Materials		Public Services				
	Agricultural Resources		Hydrology/Water	Quality		Recreation				
			Land Use/Planning		$\boxtimes$	Transportation/Traffic				
	Air Quality		Mineral Resources		П	Utilities/Service Systems				
⊠	Biological Resources	=		•	×	Mandatory Findings of Significance				
M	Cultural Resources		Noise		K38					
	Geology/Soils	Ц	Population/Housir							
<b>~</b>	DETERMINATION (To be co	mpl	eted by Lead Ag	gency)						
On t	he basis of this initial evaluation:	·								
	I find that the proposed project COULD NO	T hav	e a significant effect or	the environment, and a NEGATIVE	DEC	CLARATION will be prepared.				
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$\times$	I find that although the proposed project co on the project have been made by or agreed	uld h	ive a significant effect	on the environment, there will not a MITAGATED NEGATIVE DEC	oc a s LAR/	significant effect in this case because revisions.				
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	EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION. incli	ding:	evisions or militarion	measures that are imposed upon the t	ropo	sed project, nothing further is required.				
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