

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

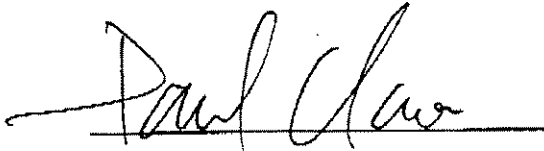
**Final Initial Study  
And  
Mitigated Negative Declaration  
(SCH#2001102054)**

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.

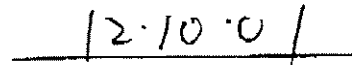
As lead CEQA agency, the CPUC prepared a response to written comments received during the public review period on the Draft IS/MND. Volume III, Comments and Responses to Comments, is incorporated with Volumes I and II to complete this Final Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration.

**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

**CEQA Guidelines (Appendix G)**

<b>PROJECT:</b> Northern California Interconnection Projects	<b>DATE:</b> December 10, 2001
<b>LEAD AGENCY:</b> California Public Utility Commission Headquarters Office 505 Van Ness Avenue San Francisco, CA 94102 Contact: Nicolas Procos Tel: (415) 703-5289	<b>PROJECT APPLICANT:</b> Broadwing Communications Services, Inc. 1835B Kramer Lane Austin, Texas 78758  Contact: Richard LeSassier Tel: (512) 742-1564
<b>PROJECT DESCRIPTION:</b> The project involves the construction and operation of underground fiber optic facilities in the cities of Brisbane, Hayward, Modesto, San Francisco, Sacramento, San Jose, Santa Clara, and Stockton, California. The construction projects consist of small segments that are generally short in length and serve to interconnect existing facilities. The fiber optic facilities will be installed at an average depth of 42 inches primarily by trenching within paved rights-of-way and directional boring where required. Street crossings, sensitive environmental resources, and other utilities will be avoided using directional boring where necessary. No OP-AMP stations are proposed for construction.	

**ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED:**

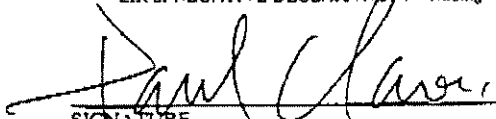
The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project, involving at least one impact that is a "Potentially Significant Impact" as indicated by the checklist on the following pages.

- |  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aesthetics                      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hazards & Hazardous Materials | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Services                               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural Resources          | <input type="checkbox"/> Hydrology/Water Quality                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Recreation                                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Air Quality          | <input type="checkbox"/> Land Use/Planning                        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation/Traffic             |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Biological Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Mineral Resources                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Utilities/Service Systems                     |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cultural Resources   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Noise                         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mandatory Findings of Significance |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Geology/Soils                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Population/Housing                       |  |

**DETERMINATION (To be completed by Lead Agency)**

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

- I find that the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- 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 MITIGATED 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.
- I 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 on the environment, because all potentially significant effect (a) have 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 imposed upon the proposed project, nothing further is required.

  
SIGNATURE

12-10-01  
DATE

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

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

<b>PROJECT:</b> Los Angeles to Ontario Longhaul Route	<b>DATE:</b> December 10, 2001
<b>LEAD AGENCY:</b> California Public Utility Commission Headquarters Office 505 Van Ness Avenue San Francisco, CA 94102 Contact: Nicolas Procos Tel: (415) 703-5289	<b>PROJECT APPLICANT:</b> Broadwing Communications Services, Inc. 1835B Kramer Lane Austin, Texas 78758  Contact: Richard LeSassier Tel: (512) 742-1564
<b>PROJECT DESCRIPTION:</b> 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 through the use of 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.	

**ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED:**

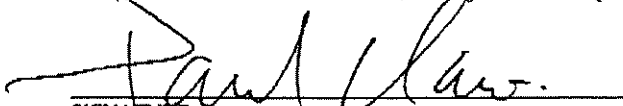
The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project, involving at least one impact that is a "Potentially Significant Impact" as indicated by the checklist on the following pages.

- |  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aesthetics                      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hazards & Hazardous Materials | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Services                               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural Resources          | <input type="checkbox"/> Hydrology/Water Quality                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Recreation                                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Air Quality          | <input type="checkbox"/> Land Use/Planning                        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation/Traffic             |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Biological Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Mineral Resources                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Utilities/Service Systems                     |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cultural Resources   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Noise                         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mandatory Findings of Significance |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Geology/Soils                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Population/Housing                       |  |

**DETERMINATION (To be completed by Lead Agency)**

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

- I find that the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- 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 MITIGATED 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.
- I 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 on the environment, because all potentially significant effect (a) have 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 imposed upon the proposed project, nothing further is required.

  
SIGNATURE

12-10-01  
DATE

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ANALYSIS BRANCH  
ENERGY DIVISION  
CALIFORNIA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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

<b>PROJECT:</b> Ontario to San Diego Longhaul Route	<b>DATE:</b> December 10, 2001
<b>LEAD AGENCY:</b> California Public Utility Commission Headquarters Office 505 Van Ness Avenue San Francisco, CA 94102 Contact: Nicolas Procos Tel: (415) 703-5289	<b>PROJECT APPLICANT:</b> Broadwing Communications Services, Inc. 1835B Kramer Lane Austin, Texas 78758  Contact: Richard LeSassier Tel: (512) 742-1564
<b>PROJECT DESCRIPTION:</b> The project involves the construction and operation of an underground fiber optic telecommunication system between Ontario and San Diego, California. The proposed project would involve the placement of fiber optic conduit and cable within previously disturbed areas within existing public road and utility corridor rights-of-way, and construction of two OP-AMP stations. The route is approximately 114 miles in length. The fiber optic facilities will be installed at an average depth of 42 inches primarily by trenching within paved rights-of-way, plowing in road shoulders, and directional boring where required. Street 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.

- |  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aesthetics                        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hazards & Hazardous Materials | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Services                               |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agricultural Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Hydrology/Water Quality                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Recreation                                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Air Quality            | <input type="checkbox"/> Land Use/Planning                        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation/Traffic             |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Biological Resources   | <input type="checkbox"/> Mineral Resources                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Utilities/Service Systems                     |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cultural Resources     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Noise                         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mandatory Findings of Significance |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Geology/Soils                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Population/Housing                       |  |

**DETERMINATION (To be completed by Lead Agency)**

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

- I find that the proposed project **COULD NOT** have a significant effect on the environment, and a **NEGATIVE DECLARATION** will be prepared.
- 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 **MITIGATED 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.
- I 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 on the environment, because all potentially significant effect (a) have 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 imposed upon the proposed project, nothing further is required.

  
SIGNATURE

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