



Klamath River Rural Broadband Initiative CPUC Minor Project Refinement Form

Minor project refinements are strictly limited to changes that will not trigger an additional permit requirement (except local government ministerial permits and associated requirements), do not substantially increase the severity of a previously identified significant impact based on criteria used in the IS/MND, create a new significant impact, are located within the geographic boundary of the study area of the IS/MND, and that don't conflict with any mitigation measure or applicable law or policy.

Date Requested: March 21, 2026

Report No.: 1

Date Approved: April 15, 2026

Approval Agency: CPUC

Property Owner(s): Multiple, including federal, state, county, and private land managers/owners and road managers.

Location/Milepost: Along State Highways 96 and 101, along Humboldt County roads in Orleans, Orick, Fieldbrook, and McKinleyville, including Bald Hills Road, and within existing PG&E ROW from Orick to Fieldbrook.

Land Use/Vegetative Cover: all within either existing disturbance footprint of roads or of PG&E transmission line rights of way.

Sensitive Resources: No increase in impact to biological or cultural resources, some impacts eliminated.

**Modification
From:**

Permit

Plan/Procedure

Specification

Drawing

Mitigation
Measure

Other: _____

Introduction

This project refinement covers an important change in the Klamath River Rural Broadband Initiative (KRRBI) made since the KRRBI IS/MND was approved in December 2022. This change reduces the impact on the environment from KRRBI.

KRRBI was revised to remove all portions of the originally analyzed, reviewed, and approved project that involve construction within the Yurok Indian Reservation. That portion is being constructed by the Yurok Tribe through the tribally-owned Yurok Telecom (Y-Tel) company. This reduces the disturbance footprint of KRRBI by about 30 miles.

Original Project, Revised Project, and Justification for Change.

Route Change: Figure 1 shows the revised Project area in northern California and the Project routes that the Karuk Tribe will construct and operate. The fiber optic cable was originally planned in five segments totaling about 104.3 miles. At the request of the Yurok Tribe, which withdrew from the initial partnership, the two Tribes decided that the Yurok Tribe would perform all construction within the boundaries of the Yurok Reservation, while the Karuk Tribe would perform all construction outside of the Yurok reservation. The area removed from KRRBI's construction and left to the Yurok Tribe includes a short portion of Segment 1 along Highway 96 into Weitchpec, all of Segment 2, and the portion of Segment 3 between Martins Ferry Bridge and the western boundary of the Yurok Reservation (30.8 miles). The remaining distance, about 75.6 miles, will be constructed and owned by the Karuk Tribe.

Segment 1 originally stretched from Orleans to the turnoff from Hwy 96 to the Weitchpec School Road, a distance of 15.2 miles. It has been shortened to end at the boundary of the Yurok Reservation, just downriver of Ross Ranch Road at PM 25.05 on Hwy 96, a distance of 13.6 miles.

Segment 2 originally stretched from the end of Segment 1 underground and overhead to follow first Weitchpec School Road to Hwy 169 and then to follow and utilize the existing PG&E distribution line to Martin's Ferry. There a branch crossed the Klamath River just below the Humboldt County Martin's Ferry Bridge, then used the Tulley Creek Road to access several areas where internet was needed. The other branch of Segment 2 continued down Hwy 169 and county and tribal roads, following the Klamath River to the community of Wautec (Johnsons) at the end of Hwy 169. All of Segment 2 will now be constructed by Y-Tel and is no longer part of KRRBI.

Segment 3 originally 21.9 miles, began at the beginning of Bald Hills Road at Martin's Ferry Bridge and followed that road underground to the CalFire fire station at Elk Camp on Bald Hills Road. That segment has been shortened to begin at the western boundary of the Yurok Reservation just above the existing Wiregrass Internet Tower above the Yurok Veterans' Cemetery. Segment 3 now stretches from that boundary to the CalFire fire station at Elk Camp on Bald Hills Road, a distance of 16.6 miles.

Segment 4 is unchanged in route. It starts at the CalFire fire station at Elk Camp on Bald Hills Road and continues to Hwy 101, then following that highway to the town of Orick and the

Orick internet tower proposed for construction at the Caltrans Maintenance Storage Yard in Orick, a distance of 12 miles.

Segment 5 is also unchanged. It starts at the Orick Tower and continues southwest of Orick to the PG&E transmission line that runs from Orick to Fieldbrook. Segment 5 then goes underground from Fieldbrook 2.5 miles along Murray Road, then emerges from the forest and goes overhead on existing PG&E and communications poles to Central Avenue, then south on Central Avenue to end on Railroad Drive at the AT&T central office in McKinleyville, a distance of 31.3 miles.

Justification for change:

The Yurok Tribe decided to unilaterally withdraw from the original KRRBI partnership and to construct the portions of KRRBI that cross the Yurok Reservation themselves. The Karuk Tribe honors and respects tribal sovereignty and agreed to the change in 2022. Subsequent negotiations between the tribes resulted in an IRU that specifies the financial contributions KRRBI will make to the construction across the Yurok Reservation and the commitment the Yurok Tribe, through its wholly-owned tribal business entity, Yurok Telecom (Y-Tel), has made to providing dark fiber to KRRBI to complete its connection between Orleans and McKinleyville.

CPUC staff contacted the Bureau of Indian Affairs, former Environmental Protection Specialist Chad Broussard and forwarded the changes regarding the withdrawal of segments. He stated that he had no comments or questions.

Attachment:

- Figure 1, revised project footprint, showing portions to be constructed by KRRBI and those that have become the responsibility of the Yurok Tribe's Y-Tel.

Resources:

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

Previous Biological Survey Report Reference:

https://ia.cpuc.ca.gov/environment/info/esa/klamath/pdfs/Amended_PEA_App_BIO_report_redline.pdf

This change will eliminate the impact of KRRBI on biological resources, including wetland resources, within the Yurok Reservation.

Agency Consultation?	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N	

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

Previous Cultural Survey Report Reference:

This report is confidential and can be obtained by a qualified archaeologist with a reason to review from the CPUC. The information was used to prepare the cultural resources section of the amended Proponent's PEA: Direct APE was defined as 10' during construction, buffered to 30', surveyed by W. Rich & Associates and the Karuk Tribe (Rich & Watts-Tobin, 2021). The information was used to prepare the cultural resources section of the amended Proponent's PEA:

https://ia.cpuc.ca.gov/environment/info/esa/klamath/pdfs/KRRBI_PEA_2020_REV_11MAY2020-reduced.pdf

This change will eliminate the impact of KRRBI on cultural resources, including tribal cultural resources, within the Yurok Reservation.

Disturbance Acreage Changes: Yes No

Disturbance acres, estimated, for KRRBI

Segment	Miles		Est. Disturbance Acres			
	Original	Revised	Original		Revised	
			temp	perm	temp	perm
1	15.2	13.6	6.0	1.8	5.4	1.6
2	24.2	0.0	0.5	0.2	0.0	0.0
3	21.9	16.6	15.3	5.1	11.6	3.9
4	12.0	12.0	7.3	3.0	7.3	3.0
5	31.3	31.3	2.3	0.9	2.3	0.9
Project	104.6	73.5	31.4	11.0	26.6	9.4

Agency Consultation?	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N	

CEQA Section	Applicable	(Y) Define potential impact or (N) briefly explain why CEQA/NEPA resource section isn't applicable. If (Y), describe original and new level of impact, and avoidance/minimization measures to be taken.
Geology, Soils, Seismicity, Paleontological Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N	Reduced risk of impacts to geology, soils, and seismic resources due to reduced ground disturbance.
Agency Consultation?	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N	
Hazardous Materials and Waste	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N	Reduced quantity of hazardous materials or waste produced by proposed change due to reduced project distance.
Agency Consultation?	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N	
Hydrology/ Water Quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N	Reduced risk of impacts to hydrology and water quality due to reduced ground disturbance.
Agency Consultation?	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N	
Cultural Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N	Reduced impact to cultural resources due to removal of work inside the Yurok Reservation.
Agency Consultation?	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N	
Tribal Cultural Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N	Reduced impact to tribal cultural resources due to removal of work inside the Yurok Reservation.
Agency Consultation?	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N	
Traffic and Circulation	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N	Reduced impact to traffic and circulation due to removal of work inside the Yurok Reservation.
Agency Consultation?	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N	
Air Quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N	Reduced impact on air quality due to reduction in size of overall project.
Agency Consultation?	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N	



Karuk Tribe Klamath River Rural Broadband Initiative Fiber Route

