

# **Appendix G**

## **Scoping Report**

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# **Winterhaven Last Mile Underserved Broadband Project**

## **Scoping Report**

October 2015



**California Public Utilities Commission**  
505 Van Ness Avenue  
San Francisco, CA 94102

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## **1.0 Introduction**

On October 3, 2013, the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) approved Resolution T-17410 to award a California Advanced Services Fund (CASF) grant for the Winterhaven Last Mile Broadband Project (the proposed project) to TDS Telecommunications Corporation's the Winterhaven Telephone Company doing business as TDS Telecom, Inc. (TDS or the applicant). The purpose of the project is to provide high-speed internet service to a 15.67-square-mile area (proposed project area) that includes the Winterhaven, California community, other unincorporated areas of Imperial County, and areas within the Fort Yuma Indian Reservation, which is home to the Quechan Indian tribe. As defined by CPUC Decision 12-02-015, the need of the proposed project is predicated on the fact that these areas are underserved—broadband is available, but no facilities-based provider offers service at speeds of at least 3 megabits per second for downloads and 1 megabits per second for uploads. The purpose and need of the proposed project aligns with Senate Bill 1193 (approved in 2008 and codified in PUC Section 281) to approve funding for infrastructure projects that will provide broadband access to 98 percent or more of California households.

CPUC Resolution T-17410 found that proposed project is subject to review pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Due to the proposed construction of facilities on the Fort Yuma Indian Reservation, the project is also subject to review pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The CPUC will serve as the lead agency under CEQA, and the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) will serve as the federal lead agency under NEPA.

To comply with the requirements of CEQA and NEPA, an Initial Study/Environmental Assessment (IS/EA) is being prepared. CEQA and NEPA both encourage public participation throughout the environmental review process. Scoping is a means of soliciting input, early in the environmental review process, concerning the project purpose and need, the range of alternatives to be analyzed, and the scope of the analysis to be included in the environmental document. This Scoping Report has been prepared to document the scoping activities conducted to solicit input from the public and government agencies, to identify public and agency concerns and to define the environmental issues and alternatives to be examined in the IS/EA. This report covers outreach conducted during the formal scoping period of August 27, 2015, through October 2, 2015. Public and agency outreach efforts will continue throughout the project development process.

## **2.0 Scoping Activities**

The scoping activities conducted for the proposed project are described below.

### ***2.1 Notice of Preparation (NOP)***

A Notice of Preparation (NOP), explaining that an IS/EA will be prepared for the proposed project, and requesting comments on the scope and content of the environmental information to be addressed, was submitted to the State Clearinghouse on September 1, 2015. The NOP was circulated to responsible, trustee, and federal agencies. The distribution list for the NOP is provided in the Notice of Completion in Appendix A.

### ***2.2 Notice of Public Scoping***

A public scoping notice was published in the newspaper, the *Yuma Sun*, on August 23 and August 24, 2015. The text of the public scoping notice was also provided for distribution to a representative of the Quechan tribe. Copies of these notices are provided in Appendix B.

### **2.3 Project Website and Multimedia Opportunities to Submit Comments**

CPUC maintains a website for the project, providing various documents and information regarding the project, at [www.cpuc.ca.gov/Environment/info/horizonh2o/winterhaven/index.html](http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/Environment/info/horizonh2o/winterhaven/index.html). The website provided information on how to submit comments during the scoping period. A screenshot of the website is provided in Appendix C. An email address, fax machine, and a telephone line with a recorded outgoing message inviting comments on the scoping of the environmental document were also available. The email address, telephone number and fax number were publicized on the project website and at the public meeting, to facilitate the submission of comments.

### **2.4 Public Scoping Meeting**

A public scoping meeting was held at the Paradise Casino, at 450 Quechan Drive, Yuma, AZ, on Thursday, August 26, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Five members of public attended. A CPUC staff member and an environmental consultant for CPUC gave presentations on the proposed project and the environmental resource topic areas that are anticipated to be studied during environmental review. Representatives of the applicant were present and assisted in answering questions regarding the proposed project. Members of the public in attendance were encouraged to provide information that they may have regarding environmental resources that may occur in the proposed project area, concerns they may have regarding the potential for environmental impacts to result from the project, and suggestions they may have regarding the scope of environmental technical studies to be conducted for the project. Members of the public provided oral comments, which were noted on a flipchart by a consultant to CPUC. Comment cards were also available at the meeting for attendees to complete and submit to the CPUC. The meeting sign-in sheet, meeting handouts, and the PowerPoint slides shown during the meeting are provided in Appendix D.

## **3.0 Comments**

Comments were provided orally at the public meeting and summarized on a flipchart. Appendix E presents copies a transcription of the notes from the flipchart. Topics raised included the following:

- Groundwater resources
- Cultural resources
- Potential seismic impacts
- Potential land use impacts
- Existing condition of internet access
- Questions regarding the project
- Questions regarding the grant funding

# **Appendix A**

## **Notice of Completion**



**Notice of Completion & Environmental Document Transmittal**

Mail to: State Clearinghouse, P.O. Box 3044, Sacramento, CA 95812-3044 (916) 445-0613  
 For Hand Delivery/Street Address: 1400 Tenth Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

SCH #

**Project Title:** Winterhaven Last Mile Underserved Broadband ProjectLead Agency: California Public Utilities CommissionContact Person: Rob PetersonMailing Address: 505 Van Ness AvenuePhone: (415) 703-2820City: San FranciscoZip: 94102County: San Francisco**Project Location:** County: Imperial City/Nearest Community: WinterhavenCross Streets: Various Zip Code: 92283Longitude/Latitude (degrees, minutes and seconds): \_\_\_\_\_ ° \_\_\_\_\_ ' \_\_\_\_\_ " N / \_\_\_\_\_ ° \_\_\_\_\_ ' \_\_\_\_\_ " W Total Acres: N/AAssessor's Parcel No.: N/A

Section: \_\_\_\_\_ Twp.: \_\_\_\_\_ Range: \_\_\_\_\_ Base: \_\_\_\_\_

Within 2 Miles: State Hwy #: \_\_\_\_\_

Waterways: Various

Airports: \_\_\_\_\_

Railways: Union PacificSchools: Various**Document Type:**CEQA:  NOP Draft EIRNEPA:  NOIOther:  Joint Document Early Cons Supplement/Subsequent EIR EA Final Document Neg Dec

(Prior SCH No.) \_\_\_\_\_

 Draft EIS Other: \_\_\_\_\_ Mit Neg Dec

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

 FONSI**Local Action Type:** General Plan Update Specific Plan Rezone Annexation General Plan Amendment Master Plan Prezone Redevelopment General Plan Element Planned Unit Development Use Permit Coastal Permit Community Plan Site Plan Land Division (Subdivision, etc.) Other: N/A**Development Type:** Residential: Units \_\_\_\_\_ Acres \_\_\_\_\_ Office: Sq.ft. \_\_\_\_\_ Acres \_\_\_\_\_ Employees \_\_\_\_\_ Transportation: Type \_\_\_\_\_ Commercial: Sq.ft. \_\_\_\_\_ Acres \_\_\_\_\_ Employees \_\_\_\_\_ Mining: Mineral \_\_\_\_\_ Industrial: Sq.ft. \_\_\_\_\_ Acres \_\_\_\_\_ Employees \_\_\_\_\_ Power: Type \_\_\_\_\_ MW \_\_\_\_\_ Educational: \_\_\_\_\_ Waste Treatment: Type \_\_\_\_\_ MGD \_\_\_\_\_ Recreational: \_\_\_\_\_ Hazardous Waste: Type \_\_\_\_\_ Water Facilities: Type \_\_\_\_\_ MGD \_\_\_\_\_ Other: Fiber Optic Cable Laydown**Project Issues Discussed in Document:** Aesthetic/Visual Fiscal Recreation/Parks Vegetation Agricultural Land Flood Plain/Flooding Schools/Universities Water Quality Air Quality Forest Land/Fire Hazard Septic Systems Water Supply/Groundwater Archeological/Historical Geologic/Seismic Sewer Capacity Wetland/Riparian Biological Resources Minerals Soil Erosion/Compaction/Grading Growth Inducement Coastal Zone Noise Solid Waste Land Use Drainage/Absorption Population/Housing Balance Toxic/Hazardous Cumulative Effects Economic/Jobs Public Services/Facilities Traffic/Circulation Other: \_\_\_\_\_**Present Land Use/Zoning/General Plan Designation:**Various**Project Description:** *(please use a separate page if necessary)*

The Proposed Project would extend high-speed internet service to an approximately 15.67 square mile area, including the community of Winterhaven, a portion of the Fort Yuma-Quechan Indian Reservation, and other areas of unincorporated Imperial County in southeastern California.

**Reviewing Agencies Checklist**

Lead Agencies may recommend State Clearinghouse distribution by marking agencies below with an "X".  
 If you have already sent your document to the agency please denote that with an "S".

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Air Resources Board                         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Office of Historic Preservation          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Boating & Waterways, Department of                     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Office of Public School Construction     |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> California Emergency Management Agency      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Parks & Recreation, Department of        |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> California Highway Patrol                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Pesticide Regulation, Department of                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Caltrans District # _____                              | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Utilities Commission                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Caltrans Division of Aeronautics                       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Regional WQCB # <u>7</u>                 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Caltrans Planning                           | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resources Agency                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Central Valley Flood Protection Board                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Resources Recycling and Recovery, Department of     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Coachella Valley Mtns. Conservancy                     | <input type="checkbox"/> S.F. Bay Conservation & Development Comm.           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Coastal Commission                                     | <input type="checkbox"/> San Gabriel & Lower L.A. Rivers & Mtns. Conservancy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Colorado River Board                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> San Joaquin River Conservancy                       |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conservation, Department of                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Santa Monica Mtns. Conservancy                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Corrections, Department of                             | <input type="checkbox"/> State Lands Commission                              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Delta Protection Commission                            | <input type="checkbox"/> SWRCB: Clean Water Grants                           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Education, Department of                               | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SWRCB: Water Quality                     |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Energy Commission                           | <input type="checkbox"/> SWRCB: Water Rights                                 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fish & Game Region # <u>6</u>               | <input type="checkbox"/> Tahoe Regional Planning Agency                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Food & Agriculture, Department of                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Toxic Substances Control, Department of             |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Forestry and Fire Protection, Department of | <input type="checkbox"/> Water Resources, Department of                      |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> General Services, Department of             | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Health Services, Department of                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Housing & Community Development             |  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Native American Heritage Commission         |  |

**Local Public Review Period (to be filled in by lead agency)**

Starting Date August 27, 2015 Ending Date October 2, 2015

**Lead Agency (Complete if applicable):**

Consulting Firm: <u>Horizon Water and Environment, LLC</u>	Applicant: _____
Address: <u>180 Grand Avenue, Suite 1405</u>	Address: _____
City/State/Zip: <u>Oakland, CA 94612</u>	City/State/Zip: _____
Contact: <u>Tom Engels</u>	Phone: _____
Phone: <u>(916) 790-8548</u>	

Signature of Lead Agency Representative:  **Robert Peterson, CPUC, Energy Division** Date: Sept 1, 2015

Authority cited: Section 21083, Public Resources Code. Reference: Section 21161, Public Resources Code.

## Appendix B

# Notice of Public Scoping

### Appendix B Contents:

- Meeting announcement in the August 23, 2015, *Yuma Sun*
- Meeting announcement in the August 24, 2015, *Yuma Sun*
- Meeting notice provided to a member of the Quechan tribe, to distribute to other tribe members



# County growers lead in efficient, earth-friendly methods of growing produce

The sights and sounds of Yuma County agriculture in August! Looking at the fields, there is a lot more brown than green at this time of year. Growers are in the midst of harvesting Sudan hay, Sudan seed, dried beans and peas, alfalfa hay, Bermuda grass hay and seed, and other specialty seed crops. Cotton growers will probably start early picking in late August. The weather has been tough with all the extreme heat and humidity. Wheat fields have been harvested, stalks baled and the remaining organic matter turned into the soil. Now is the time that the heavy tillage is done, while the soil profile to a depth of 3 feet or more is very dry and rippers can break up compacted layers and facilitate the soil structure. The soil structure determines how much air and water will get to the root zones of the coming produce crops. This year, there seem to be many fields being bedded and then the beds covered with sheets of plastic. This process is called solarization, a method of weed control. The heat builds up under the plastic to temperatures that will kill many weed seeds, reducing the need to use tillage and herbicides later in the year. Solarization may also help with insect and disease problems.

Along Highway 95, there are fields that are being continuously flooded for days at a time. The practice of keeping a field saturated with water is thought to help to control the lettuce disease Sclerotinia sclerotiorum. The sclerotia, or the fungal 'seed,' become hard and black when they mature. The sclerotia act like seeds and allow the fungus to survive for several years in the soil. Control of Sclerotinia diseases must be accomplished by using a combination of cultural and chemical means. Presently, resistant lettuce varieties have not been successfully developed with enough resistance to make this a feasible means of control. Activity of this pathogen favors high soil moisture, high air humidity and cool temperatures. Research has shown that the use of drip irrigation can dramatically reduce both factors near the soil surface and reduce the incidence of Sclerotinia diseases. Crop rotation is another important tool in reducing the disease population in the soil. Planting non-host crops as corn, small grains and grasses are suggested rotation crops.

It should be mentioned that a non-crop fallow period does little to reduce the disease population. The wetting and drying of soil that occurs during a cropping cycle is much more effective in

Yuma Ag & You  
Bobbi Stevenson-McDermott



reducing the number of active sclerotia in the soil. Deep plowing has been recommended to help reduce Sclerotinia diseases, but recent research does not support this practice. There are a number of fungicides that have excellent activity against Sclerotinia.

Avoiding overly wet soils by keeping the lettuce bed surface as dry as possible with careful irrigation is important as is irrigation water management and good soil drainage.

There are continual improvements to the technology used in the produce industry. One of the newest is a plant tape. Most folks understand what a seed tape is, some type of material with seeds imbedded in it that is merely planted, watered and then the seed grows. One of the problems with planting vegetable seed is that it is extremely expensive, from hundreds to thousands of dollars per pound. While everyone uses precision seeders, most crops grown from seed must be thinned so the heads develop uniformly. While mechanical thinners were demonstrated at the Yuma Ag Summit in February 2015, the technology still is in the development stage. Also with the planting of seed, there is a percentage of the seed that do not germinate, leaving gaps in the crop line, something no grower wants to see. A YouTube video I recently saw shows little germinated lettuce on a tape. A machine then installs the tape with the plants on the field rows. Plants are spaced on the tape at the optimum distance for head development. If this technology becomes commercially successful, it will greatly reduce the labor needed early in the crops growing season.

In a visit last year to a transplant-growing facility, I was surprised to learn that some growers are already transplanting some lettuces. In addition, watermelons, cantaloupes, herbs and many other crops are being transplanted because a viable plant is going into the field.

All these changes in the early stages of produce production may in the long run reduce the production costs for these crops. Yuma County growers continue to be leaders in the development of more efficient and environmentally sound methods of growing produce worthy of the winter produce capital!

Bobbi Stevenson-McDermott is a soil and water conservationist. She can be reached at rjsm09@msn.com.

**YUMA GROWERS HAVE** gotten better at growing crops in an efficient and environmentally sustaining method.



PHOTOSPIN.COM

## CROP OF THE WEEK: SORREL

- Young sorrel may be harvested to use in salads, soups or stews. If using sorrel in salads, it's a good idea to stick with small tender leaves that have a fruitier and less acidic taste. Young sorrel leaves are also excellent when lightly cooked, similar to the taste of cooked chard or spinach. For soups and stews, older sorrel can be used because it adds tang and flavor to the dish.

- The sorrel herb grows as a perennial, however, the male and female parts of the sorrel grow on separate plants. The leaves of a sorrel plant are sometimes used to treat fevers, itchy skin and ringworm. When dried or fresh, the leaves can clear the system by serving as a diuretic or laxative. The juice from the leaf can be applied directly to the skin to calm rashes. Liquid from the root can be infused into one's body in order to treat jaundice, gravel and kidney stones.

- Sorrel may be a little challenging to find in your local grocery store, the best place to look for sorrel is in specialty food stores, where it may be available fresh, or in pureed or canned varieties. For sorrel fans, fresh sorrel is most preferable, though the pureed version may add a nice flavor to creamy soups.

- From a nutritional standpoint, sorrel can be an excellent food for many. It has high levels of vitamins A and C. It also has moderate levels of potassium, calcium, and magnesium. Because of the oxalic acid in sorrel, it is not good for everyone. Oxalic acid may aggravate the conditions of people with rheumatism, kidney or bladder stones. If you love sorrel when you first try it, learn to love it in small doses in the beginning.

- Common sorrel, also known as spinach dock, is a perennial herb that is cultivated as a garden herb or leaf vegetable.



PHOTO BY KURT NOLTE/YUMA COUNTY COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

**IN THE YUMA AREA,** sorrel is grown exclusively as an annual crop. Sorrel may be a little challenging to find in your local grocery store, the best place to look for sorrel is in specialty food stores, where it may be available fresh, or in pureed or canned varieties.

It is a slender plant that is deep rooted and grows to almost 2 feet high. It has juicy stems and edible oblong leaves and grows up to 6 inches in length. Its lower leaves are arrow-shaped at the base and have whorled spikes of reddish-green flowers. It will supply growers with a crop from early spring to late fall as a "cut-and-come-again" crop. Once established, the plant should produce greens for 8-10 years, but in the Yuma area, sorrel is grown exclusively as an annual.

- Traditionally, sorrel is cooked like spinach and vine leaves. Its sharp, fresh taste makes it a good foil for dolmades and an excellent ingredient for pies, omelets, etc. In past, when lemons were very

expensive, the lemon flavor of sorrel was a good substitute for lemon juice. People kept sorrel leaves out of season, pressing them tightly with salt in sealed bottles or air drying them. Though they are very popular in rural Greek cooking.

- Some in the Caribbean use sorrel for jams, chutneys and make a popular sorrel drink that is served at Christmas time. Sorrel is also used as a colorant for some foods and beverages.

Kurt Nolte is an agriculture agent and Yuma County Cooperative Extension director. He can be reached at knolte@calz.arizona.edu or 726-3904.

## Poll: Majority in U.S. wants gov't to curb prescription costs

ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Move over, "Obamacare." A new poll finds Americans worried about medication costs and broadly supporting government action to curb drug prescription prices.

Overall, 72 percent said the cost of prescription medications is unreasonable, according to Thursday's poll from the nonpartisan Kaiser Family Foundation.

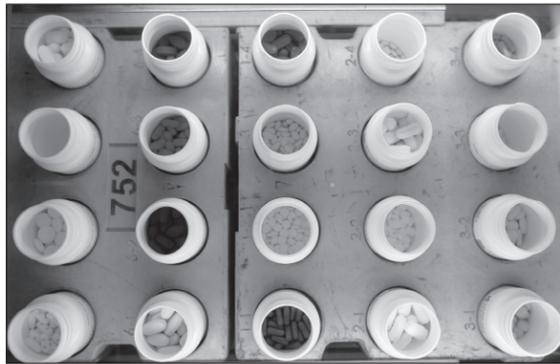
Regardless of party affiliation, large majorities support requiring pharmaceutical companies to disclose how they set prices (86 percent); allowing Medicare to negotiate drug prices on behalf of beneficiaries (83 percent); limiting what drug companies can charge for medications to treat serious illnesses (76 percent); and allowing consumers to get prescriptions filled by pharmacies in Canada (72 percent).

The 2016 presidential candidates continue to debate President Barack Obama's 5-year-old law expanding coverage for the uninsured, but the survey suggests the public has other priorities.

"The public is more focused on consumer issues like the price of drugs and out-of-pocket costs than the continuing political battles over the health care law," said Drew Altman, president of the foundation, a clearinghouse for information on the health care system.

The Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America argues that government price controls would stifle an innovative industry that is delivering cures for life-threatening illnesses and allowing many people with chronic disease to lead productive lives.

But high-priced new drugs, including a \$1,000 pill for hepatitis C, have alarmed the public. Insurers are complaining, and so are state Medicaid programs and the Department of Veterans Af-



ASSOCIATED PRESS

**VARIOUS PRESCRIPTION DRUGS** on the automated pharmacy assembly line at Medco Health Solutions are displayed in Willingboro, N.J. A new poll out Thursday finds that Americans strongly support government action to control prescription drug costs, regardless of their political affiliation.

fairs, which are legally entitled to lower prices.

Insurers and employers often require patients with private coverage to pay a bigger share of the cost of new drugs. At the same time, prices for some of the old generic stand-by medications have soared.

As a result, the drug industry seems to be taking a beating when it comes to public opinion. Only about 4 in 10 in the poll viewed pharmaceutical companies favorably, about the same share that holds a positive opinion of oil companies. Even airlines, the target of consumer complaints about bag fees and on-time performance, were viewed favorably by 55 percent.

Overall, 73 percent said drug companies make too much profit.

"It's clear that drug companies have overreached and their pricing is not sustainable," said Tophir Spiro, the top health policy expert at the Center for American Progress, a think tank often aligned with the White House.

But it won't be easy to translate

public sentiment into government policies that don't spawn new problems.

"To arbitrarily limit the price of drugs without regard to benefit or value would not be wise," said Spiro. More transparency is needed about how pharmaceutical companies price their products, and more research is needed to establish which drugs work best, he added.

Although the public says it wants action, the poll also found an undercurrent of skepticism about government.

As a general proposition, Americans prefer marketplace competition over government regulation to keep drug prices in check, by 51 percent to 40 percent.

The poll found that about half of Americans take a prescription medication, and of those, 7 in 10 said their prescriptions are easy to afford. But one-quarter have difficulty paying for their drugs, including 43 percent of those who are in poor health, and 33 percent of those with low incomes.

### Join us for a Public Consultation Meeting for the Winterhaven Last Mile Underserved Broadband Project on August 26th

The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) invites you to attend a public meeting on the Winterhaven Last Mile Underserved Broadband Project (Proposed Project). The Proposed Project, being proposed by the Winterhaven Telephone Company TDS Telecom, Inc., would extend high-speed internet service to an area approximately 15.67 square miles in size, including the community of Winterhaven, a portion of the Fort Yuma-Quechan Indian Reservation, and other areas of unincorporated Imperial County in southeastern California. The Proposed Project would involve installation of approximately 15.31 miles of new fiber optic cable underground within protective conduit, as well as buried vaults, equipment cabinets, and splice boxes along existing roads in the project area. The CPUC is the lead state agency, and the Bureau of Indian Affairs is the lead federal agency, for preparation and review of an initial study/environmental assessment (IS/EA), pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The purpose of the meeting is to provide information about the project and to solicit input on the scope and content of the environmental information to be included in the IS/EA. The date, time, and location of the public scoping meeting will be as follows:

**Wednesday, August 26th, 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm**  
**Paradise Event Center, Paradise Casino**  
**450 Quechan Drive, Yuma, AZ 85364**

Will you need an accommodation in order to attend and/or participate in this event? If so, please contact Tom Engels, Horizon Water and Environment at (916) 790-8548. Auxiliary aides and services are available to individuals with disabilities upon request.

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ISSA MEMBER

## BUSINESS GLANCE

### Chamber mixer

The Yuma County Chamber of Commerce's monthly mixer will be 5:30 to 8 p.m. Friday at the Yuma Civic Center, 1440 W. Desert Hills Drive.

This mega-mixer is sponsored by the 65 members who have booths and exhibits for members to visit and enjoy. There will be food, a no-host bar and door prizes.

Admission is \$5 at the door. For more information, call the chamber at 782-2567.

### Super manager training

Four flexible and interactive modules will prepare supervisors and potential supervisors to become more effective in a diverse and ever-changing environment offered by Arizona Western College Continuing Education Division.

- Modern supervision challenges
- Functions of the supervisor
- Skills of the supervisor
- Supervision and human resources

Students can complete all four modules or select only those most applicable to their goals. Course out-

lines are available upon request. The first course begins Sept. 8 at the AWC Entrepreneurial Center, 1351 S. Redondo Center Drive. Cost is \$129 per module.

For more information, call 317-7674 or visit [www.azwestern.edu/](http://www.azwestern.edu/) continuing.

### Basic training course

Yuma County Community Emergency Response Team will hold a basic training class over a two weekend period at the Yuma County Public Works facility, 4343 S. Avenue 5-1/2E.

The first session will be 6 to 9 p.m. Sept. 18 and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sept. 19. The next session will be 6 to 9 p.m. Sept. 25 and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sept. 26.

Class is limited to 15 participants. Another class can be arranged to accommodate overflow.

To sign up, send an email to [tony.badilla@yumacountyaz.gov](mailto:tony.badilla@yumacountyaz.gov) or [yumacertrudy@gmail.com](mailto:yumacertrudy@gmail.com) or call 317-4681. Study material will be delivered during the first or second week prior to class. All training is free.

To submit business items, email Arlene Fornoff at [afornoff@YumaSun.com](mailto:afornoff@YumaSun.com)

Darin Fenger's recent story in the Yuma Sun about the new owners of El Charro Cafe brought back fond memories of Yuma three decades ago, when I got



**First Take** By John Vaughn, Bajo El Sol editor

to town. I know there were other Mexican restaurants besides, but the ones back then that I vividly recall were El Charro, Chretien's, La Casa Gutierrez and La Fonda. Of course, along with El Charro, La Fonda and Chretien's remain in business, although the

latter moved to a new location. All my acquaintances back then had their decided preferences among the four, and every so often we engaged in debate about which was best. Truth be told, any one of us would gladly eat at any one of the four. I'm sure the same

argument played out all over town. Congratulations are due Pauline Villa and Anna Martinez, who become the third generation of the Gutierrez family to operate El Charro. And I also tip my hat to all the other great restaurants in the area.

**Lotteries**

Winning numbers selected Sunday, Aug. 23.

**CALIFORNIA**

Fantasy 5 - 3,7,31,35,39  
Afternoon Daily 3 - 6,8,8  
Evening Daily 3 - 7,7,2

For more information or past winning numbers, visit the Arizona or California lottery websites.

**Page**

**3**

# Grant funds to be used for data sharing

BY RACHEL TWOGUNS @RTWOGUNS

## Money will help public safety in Yuma

U.S. Attorney for the District of Arizona John S. Leonardo announced Tuesday that the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) awarded the City of Yuma \$42,924 in grant funds, according to a City of Yuma press release. The Yuma Police Department will use the money for its part in the participation of mobile data sharing between members of the Yuma Regional Communications System (YRCS). Kitzya Leal Quintero, grant

writer for the City of Yuma, explained in the news release that the goal of the project is to "tie all county agencies together in order to share information between them as needed." Quintero noted that without the funding it would be difficult for the Yuma County law enforcement agencies to complete this project. YRCS is an award-winning collaboration of almost all local,

tribal and federal public safety agencies in the region surrounding Yuma. It was created in the aftermath of the 9/11 terrorist attacks and it began as a way for various public safety agencies to be able to contact one another via radio while also maintaining secure connections to their respective home bases. In more recent times YRCS has added a joint computer-aided dispatch and a records management

system allowing interagency sharing of real-time data. For instance, if the U.S. Border Patrol is chasing a vehicle and it travels into the Yuma city limits, YPD officers can already have information such as to whom the suspect vehicle is registered and the exact locations of the Border Patrol vehicle and other officers and agents in the area. The funding was requested by the Yuma Police Department to

aid in paying for air card airtime charges and Internet access for virtual private network communications with mobile data computers. This permits YPD and the other county-area public safety agencies the sharing of information. The main objective of the District of Arizona's office is to support local law enforcement agencies, said Leonardo in a news release. "We encourage all agencies to be proactive and apply for future grant funding through our Office of Justice Program."

## Walk a Mile for Ashlly



Lutes Casino manager Laurie Nautocci (left in photo above) and servers Christy McMaster (center) and Carla Holmes check out the special T-shirts worn by workers at Lutes Casino, Pint House and Prison Hill Brewery during Friday night's special Walk A Mile For Ashlly fundraiser, benefiting Ashlly Montes, who was injured in the recent alleged kidnapping of her roommate. Proceeds from the event are to be used to help Montes with her medical expenses. Servers at the three downtown eateries wore pedometers and collected pledges for how many miles they walked during the event, which lasted from 5 p.m. until closing. Montes was a server at Lutes Casino. Holmes, wearing a special Walk A Mile For Ashlly T-shirt, explains the fundraiser to three Lutes Casino patrons.



Buy these photos at YumaSun.com

PHOTOS BY RANDY HOEFT/YUMA SUN

## 1st public hearings on Medicaid changes find wide opposition

ASSOCIATED PRESS

PHOENIX — Arizona Gov. Doug Ducey wants able-bodied Arizonans on the state's Medicaid program for the poor to pay into health savings accounts and be charged co-pays for some services, but those proposals and others he's touting got a tough reception at the first meeting where the public was allowed to weigh in.

Health care providers and patients said the governor's proposals would likely end up costing the state more money by discouraging people from getting treatment until they are far sicker. And their blunt assessment will be passed on to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, which must approve a waiver to allow them to go into force.

The most concerning proposals to those who attended the first of five planned public hearing were the co-pays and mandatory premiums Ducey wants the able-bodied to pay and a five-year cap on enrollment.

"Our office has tried (co-pays) and they really just don't work. The effect they have is people just don't come," said Dr. Tim Jordan, a Phoenix pediatrician who specializes in developmental disabilities. "The short-term effect is you'll save money because people just won't participate in the program. And it seems like the purpose of this is to get people not to participate."

Jordan's comments were echoed by several speakers at a meeting organized by the Arizona Health Care

Cost Containment System, the state's Medicaid plan.

But Ducey is set on what he calls a modernization of the health care insurance plan for poor Arizonans. In addition to "strategic co-pays" for some services limited to 3 percent of a recipient's income, his plan uses the 2 percent of income premium to fund an account an insured person can use to pay for non-covered services. Patients can tap the account once they meet "wellness" steps and keep unused cash when they move off the program. Only about 350,000 people of 1.7 million now on the plan would be affected. The elderly, disabled and those caring for young children would be exempt.

Co-pays and premiums, however, have been shown in studies to keep people from getting care and to actually drive up the ultimate cost because of delays in seeking treatment, said Dee Mahan, Medicaid program director for Families USA, a nonpartisan group that pushes for increased access to health care.

"What ends up happening is a lot of times people can't make those payments — when you're very, very low income 2 percent is a lot — and that means people drop coverage or they don't sign up for the program," Mahan said.

## STATE GLANCE

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**9-month-old girl pulled from bathtub in critical condition**  
PHOENIX — A 9-month-old girl has been hospitalized after being pulled from a bathtub in a Phoenix home.

Phoenix firefighters say they were called to the home near Cactus Road and 42nd Street Sunday morning after a family member found the girl in the tub.

Fire spokesman Larry Subervi says the child suffered full cardiac and respiratory arrest.

She is currently listed in extremely critical condition at Phoenix Children's Hospital. It is unknown how long she was submerged.

**Phoenix police officer shot at during traffic stop**  
PHOENIX — Phoenix police say an officer narrowly escaped getting hit by gunfire during a random traffic stop.

Police spokesman Vince Lewis says the officer tried to pull over a vehicle for speeding Sunday around 3 a.m. near 67th Avenue and

Hazelwood Street. Lewis says the car came to a stop but then the occupants opened fire. According to Lewis, the officer was not injured by several rounds hit his police vehicle. The suspects fled in a white sedan.

**Designated drivers in Tucson rewarded with free gas**  
TUCSON — Drivers carrying impaired passengers in Tucson are being rewarded.

KVOA-TV in Tucson reports that Pima County sheriff's deputies gave out gas cards to sober drivers

with intoxicated passengers at a DUI checkpoint on Saturday.

The department timed the checkpoint on the city's south side to coincide with students going back to school.

Each gas card was worth \$25.

### Join us for a Public Consultation Meeting for the Winterhaven Last Mile Underserved Broadband Project on August 26th

The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) invites you to attend a public meeting on the Winterhaven Last Mile Underserved Broadband Project (Proposed Project). The Proposed Project, being proposed by the Winterhaven Telephone Company TDS Telecom, Inc., would extend high-speed internet service to an area approximately 15.67 square miles in size, including the community of Winterhaven, a portion of the Fort Yuma-Quechan Indian Reservation, and other areas of unincorporated Imperial County in southeastern California. The Proposed Project would involve installation of approximately 15.31 miles of new fiber optic cable underground within protective conduit, as well as buried vaults, equipment cabinets, and splice boxes along existing roads in the project area. The CPUC is the lead state agency, and the Bureau of Indian Affairs is the lead federal agency, for preparation and review of an initial study/environmental assessment (IS/EA), pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The purpose of the meeting is to provide information about the project and to solicit input on the scope and content of the environmental information to be included in the IS/EA. The date, time, and location of the public scoping meeting will be as follows:

**Wednesday, August 26th, 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm**  
Paradise Event Center, Paradise Casino  
450 Quechan Drive, Yuma, AZ 85364

Will you need an accommodation in order to attend and/or participate in this event? If so, please contact Tom Engels, Horizon Water and Environment at (916) 790-8548. Auxiliary aides and services are available to individuals with disabilities upon request.

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**Yuma Sun**

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*Join us for a*  
***Public Consultation Meeting***  
for the  
**Winterhaven Last Mile Underserved  
Broadband Project on August 26<sup>th</sup>**

The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) invites you to attend a public meeting on the Winterhaven Last Mile Underserved Broadband Project (Proposed Project). The Proposed Project, being proposed by the Winterhaven Telephone Company TDS Telecom, Inc., would extend high-speed internet service to an area approximately 15.67 square miles in size, including the community of Winterhaven, a portion of the Fort Yuma-Quechan Indian Reservation, and other areas of unincorporated Imperial County in southeastern California. The Proposed Project would involve installation of approximately 15.31 miles of new fiber optic cable underground within protective conduit, as well as buried vaults, equipment cabinets, and splice boxes along existing roads in the project area. The CPUC is the lead state agency, and the Bureau of Indian Affairs is the lead federal agency, for preparation and review of an initial study/environmental assessment (IS/EA), pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The purpose of the meeting is to provide information about the project and to solicit input on the scope and content of the environmental information to be included in the IS/EA. The date, time, and location of the public scoping meeting will be as follows:

**Wednesday, August 26th, 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm**  
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**450 Quechan Drive**  
**Yuma, AZ 85364**

Will you need an accommodation in order to attend and/or participate in this event? If so, please contact Tom Engels, Horizon Water and Environment at (916) 790-8548. Auxiliary aides and services are available to individuals with disabilities upon request.

NOTE: This notice was provided to a representative of the Quechan tribe, to distribute to other members of the tribe.



## **Appendix C**

### **Screenshot of Project Webpage**





# STATE OF CALIFORNIA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

## TDS Telecom Winterhaven Last Mile Underserved Broadband Project

### Commission Resolution T-17410



Files linked on this page are in Portable Document Format (PDF). To view them, you will need to download the free [Adobe Acrobat Reader](#) if it is not already installed on your computer.

Welcome to the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) website for the environmental review of the proposed TDS Telecom (TDS) Winterhaven Last Mile Underserved Broadband Project (Project). The proposed Project includes construction and installation of a fiber-optic network that would extend high-speed internet service to the community of Winterhaven, to a portion of the Fort Yuma-Quechan Indian Reservation, and to other areas of unincorporated Imperial County in southeastern California.

The objective of the proposed Project is to make available affordable broadband internet services to currently underserved areas in Imperial County, including a portion of the Fort Yuma-Quechan Reservation.

The proposed Project is subject to review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), and the CPUC is the CEQA Lead Agency. The proposed Project is also subject to review under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) is the NEPA Lead Agency. A CEQA/NEPA review is being performed to evaluate the potential environmental impacts associated with the Project. This website provides access to public documents and information relevant to the CEQA and NEPA review process.

### Quick Links

- [Resolution T-17410](#), dated October 4, 2013, approving funding of the TDS grant application for the Project
- Proponent's Environmental Assessment (PEA), dated April 21, 2015
  - [Entire PEA, Including Appendices](#) (55.6 MB)

- o [PEA Only](#) (5.5 MB)
- o [PEA Appendices Only](#) (49.3 MB)
- o [PEA Appendix A - Project Plans](#) (6.7 MB)
- o [PEA Appendix B - CalEEMod Results](#) (190 KB)
- o [PEA Appendix C - Biological Resources Evaluation](#) (8.8 MB)
- o [PEA Appendix D - Waterway Delineation and Assessment Report](#) (7.4 MB)
- o [PEA Appendix E - Class III Cultural Resources Survey Report and Cultural Resources Correspondence](#) (23.9 MB)
- o [PEA Appendix F - Allands Data and Research, Inc., Report](#) (3.4 MB)
- o [PEA Project Maps](#) (5.1 MB)
- [Deficiency Letter](#), dated May 28, 2015, from CPUC regarding review of PEA
- [TDS Response to Deficiency Items](#), dated June 17, 2015
- [Letter Deeming PEA Complete](#), dated June 24, 2015, from CPUC

## Project Description

The proposed Project involves the construction of a second-generation, very-high-bit-rate digital subscriber line (VDSL2) fiber-optic network capable of 25 Mbps/5 Mbps (megabit-per-second download/upload) speeds. In total, approximately 24.65 km (15.31 miles) of new fiber-optic cable would be buried within protective conduit along existing roads in the project area, and approximately 2.25 km (1.40 miles) of existing buried copper line would be used in the new system.

The proposed Project is funded in part by the California Advanced Service Fund (CASF). On December 20, 2007, the CPUC in Decision 07-12-054 established the CASF program as a two-year program to provide funds for the deployment of broadband infrastructure in unserved and underserved areas in California. CPUC Resolution T-17410 approved funding in the amount of \$2,063,967 from the CASF for the proposed Project. A link to Resolution T-17410 is provided above.

## Environmental Review

The TDS PEA was deemed complete by the CPUC on June 24, 2015. The CPUC subsequently determined that an Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) was the appropriate CEQA document to evaluate potential environmental issues associated with this project. Based on discussions with BIA, preparation of an Environmental Assessment (EA) is anticipated to be the appropriate level of review for NEPA compliance. Therefore, the CPUC is coordinating with BIA to prepare a joint IS/EA.

## Scoping Meeting and Public Comment Period

CPCU conducted a public scoping meeting from 6-8 p.m. on Wednesday, August 26, 2015. The meeting was held at the Paradise

Event Center, Paradise Casino, 450 Quechan Drive, Yuma, AZ 85364.

The initial public comment period begins on August 26, 2015, and ends at **5 p.m. on Monday, September 28, 2015**. Members of the public, interested parties and governmental agencies may provide comments about the proposed Project via the contact information listed below.

## Draft Initial Study/Environmental Assessment

CPUC is currently preparing the draft joint IS/EA. Please check this webpage for updates about when the draft joint IS/EA will be available for public review.

## For Additional Information

The CPUC, through its Environmental Review Team, manages the environmental evaluation of the proposed project. To request additional information or to be added to the mailing list for project updates, please contact us by email, fax, phone or mail, as follows:

**Email:** [winterhavenproject@horizonh2o.com](mailto:winterhavenproject@horizonh2o.com)

**Fax:** (510) 350-3592

**Toll-free voicemail:** (844) 211-7510

**Mail:** Rob Peterson, CPUC  
c/o Tom Engels  
Horizon Water and Environment, LLC  
180 Grand Avenue, Suite 1405  
Oakland, CA 94612

The CPUC's Project Manager is:

Rob Peterson  
Energy Division  
Infrastructure Permitting and CEQA  
505 Van Ness Avenue  
San Francisco, CA 94102

### WEBSITE INFO

This page contains tables and is best viewed with Firefox or Internet Explorer. Please report any problems to the [Energy Division web coordinator](#).

Project Home Page - [CPUC Environmental Information](#) - [CPUC Home](#)



## **Appendix D**

# **Meeting Materials for August 26 Public Meeting**

### **Appendix D Contents:**

- Meeting sign-in sheet
- Project flyer: Winterhaven Broadband Project (TDS Telecom)
- Comment card
- PowerPoint handout of slides shown at the public meeting



**CPUC Winterhaven Broadband Project (TDS Telecom)**  
**Public Scoping Meeting Sign-In Sheet**  
**August 26, 2015 – Yuma, AZ**

Name	Address	Email Address	Organization <i>(optional)</i>	Phone Number <i>(optional)</i>
Nate Stanislawski	525 JUNCTION RD MADISON WI 53717	nate.stanislawski@tdstelecom.com	TDS	608-664-5642
Olivia T. José	1860 W. Diamond Winterhaven, CA 92283			928 446-3086

*Disclaimer: Before including your name, address, email address or other personal identifying information, please be aware that your name and contact information will be added to the project mailing list and your personal identifying information may be made publicly available at any time. While you may request that your personal identifying information be withheld from public review, CPUC cannot guarantee that this will be possible.*

**CPUC Winterhaven Broadband Project (TDS Telecom)**  
**Public Scoping Meeting Sign-In Sheet**  
**August 26, 2015 – Yuma, AZ**

Name	Address	Email Address	Organization (optional)	Phone Number (optional)
JOE KIRK	PO Box 216	joseph.kirk@tds telecom.com	TDS	608-664-4900
Brian Golding Sr.	PO Box 1899, Yuma AZ 85366-1899	b.golding@ quechantribe.com	Quechan EDA	760/572-5270
Vernon Smith	PO Box 04 92283 Winterhaven, CA	SMITHVrn@aol.com	Quechan	(760) 572-5242
Lucinda E. Polk	Box 783 Winterhaven, CA 92283		Quechan	760-572-5242
Carlotta O'Brien Sestiaga	PO Box 117 Winterhaven CA 92283	C.Sestiaga1@yahoo.com	Quechan	928503-9170

Disclaimer: Before including your name, address, email address or other personal identifying information, please be aware that your name and contact information will be added to the project mailing list and your personal identifying information may be made publicly available at any time. While you may request that your personal identifying information be withheld from public review, CPUC cannot guarantee that this will be possible.

# CALIFORNIA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

## WINTERHAVEN BROADBAND PROJECT (TDS TELECOM)

### *Public Scoping*

#### **PROJECT OVERVIEW**

The objective of the TDS Telecom Winterhaven Broadband Project is to make affordable high-speed internet services available to currently underserved areas in Imperial County, including the community of Winterhaven and a portion of the Fort Yuma-Quechan Indian Reservation.

The proposed project involves the construction of a second-generation, very-high-bit-rate digital subscriber line (VDSL2) fiber-optic network capable of 25 Mbps/5 Mbps (megabits-per-second download/upload) speeds. In total, approximately 24.65 km (15.31 miles) of new fiber-optic cable would be buried within protective conduit along existing roads in the project area, and approximately 2.25 km (1.40 miles) of existing buried copper line would be used in the new system.

The proposed project is funded in part by the California Advanced Service Fund (CASF). On December 20, 2007, the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) in Decision 07-12-054 established the CASF program as a two-year program to provide funds for the deployment of broadband infrastructure in unserved and underserved areas in California. CPUC Resolution T-17410 approved funding in the amount of \$2,063,967 from the CASF for the Winterhaven Broadband Project.

The proposed project is subject to review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), with the CPUC as the CEQA Lead Agency. The proposed project is also subject to review under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), with the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) as the NEPA Lead Agency. A CEQA/NEPA review is being performed to evaluate the potential environmental impacts associated with this project.

A Proponent's Environmental Assessment (PEA) for the project was prepared in April 2015 by TDS Telecom and deemed complete by the CPUC on June 24, 2015. The CPUC subsequently determined that an Initial Study (IS)/Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) was the appropriate CEQA document to evaluate the project's potential environmental issues. Based on discussions with BIA, preparation of an Environmental Assessment (EA) is anticipated to be the appropriate level of review for NEPA compliance. Therefore, the CPUC is coordinating with BIA to prepare a joint IS/EA.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

Public input is a valued and important component of the joint IS/EA development process. We invite members of the public, interested parties, and governmental agencies to provide comments about the content of the PEA prepared for this project. **The deadline for comments is 5 p.m. on Monday, September 28, 2015.** All comments received will be considered during the CPUC's preparation of the draft joint IS/EA, which is anticipated to be available for public review in January 2016.

## COMMENT SUBMISSION

Per the guidance provided by CEQA/NEPA, comments should focus on the sufficiency of the PEA document in identifying and analyzing the project's possible impacts on the environment and ways in which any significant effects might be avoided or mitigated. Comments are most helpful when they suggest additional specific alternatives or mitigation measures that would provide better ways to avoid or mitigate significant environmental effects. The basis for your comments should be explained, including relevant data or references.

### SUBMIT COMMENTS TO:

<i>Mail</i>	<i>Voicemail/Fax</i>	<i>Email</i>
Rob Peterson, CPUC c/o Tom Engels Horizon Water and Environment 180 Grand Avenue, Suite 1405 Oakland, CA 94612	<b>Voicemail (Toll-Free)</b> (844) 211-7510 <b>Fax</b> (510) 350-3592	winterhavenproject@horizonh2o.com

### COMMENTS DUE:

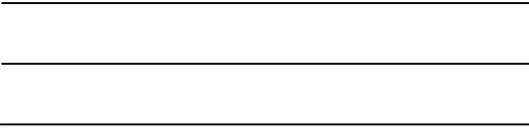
**5 p.m. on Monday, September 28, 2015**

Please include your name, address, contact number, and email address for future correspondence related to this CEQA/NEPA process.

***Further information about the Winterhaven Broadband Project (TDS Telecom)  
may be found at the project website:***

<http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/environment/info/horizonh2o/winterhaven/index.html>





Place  
Stamp  
Here

**Rob Peterson, CPUC Project Manager  
c/o Tom Engels  
Horizon Water and Environment, LLC  
180 Grand Avenue, Suite 1405  
Oakland, CA 94612**

(fold here)

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Tape  
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Do not  
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**Winterhaven Broadband Project  
(TDS Telecom)**

Public Scoping Meeting  
August 26, 2015

California Public Utilities Commission



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**Introductions**

**Rob Peterson**  
California Public Utilities Commission

**Tom Engels**  
Horizon Water and Environment



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**Meeting Agenda**

- Purpose of Scoping
- California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Review Process
- Project Overview
- Receipt of Public Comment



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## Purpose of Scoping

To provide the public and agencies with the opportunity to comment on the scope and content of the environmental assessment.

Scoping comments may include information on:

- Potential environmental issues
- Potential mitigation measures
- Potential project alternatives
- Characteristics of the existing environment



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## Grant Funding, CEQA/NEPA and Construction Processes

CASF Grant Award from CPUC	CEQA/NEPA PROCESS (CPUC & BIA)	Start of Construction Approved by CPUC
✓ TDS Telecom submits application for California Advanced Services Fund (CASF) Grant February 1, 2013	✓ PEA reviewed and deemed complete June 24, 2015	TDS receives authorization to start construction from CPUC (Spring 2016 anticipated)
✓ CASF Grant approved by CPUC Resolution T-17410 October 4, 2013	Public scoping meeting held	TDS submits Notice to Proceed to CPUC
✓ TDS Telecom files Proponent's Environmental Assessment (PEA) April 20, 2015	Draft Initial Study / Environmental Assessment	CPUC reviews and approves Notice to Proceed
	Comments on Draft IS/EA (30 days)	CPUC monitors construction (about 2 months) in coordination with TDS to ensure it occurs as approved in the IS/EA document
	Final IS/EA and Mitigated Negative Declaration certified by CPUC	
	BIA Issues Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) based on final IS/EA	



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## CEQA/NEPA Review Process

- California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)
- Determines whether project would have any significant effects on the quality of the human and natural environment
- Identifies proposed mitigation measures for any potentially significant impacts to the environment
- Prevents significant avoidable damage to the environment by requiring changes in projects when governmental agency finds such changes to be feasible
- Discloses to public the reasons why a governmental agency approved the project
- Next steps: CEQA/NEPA document under preparation: Initial Study/Environmental Assessment



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### CEQA/NEPA Topics Anticipated

- Aesthetics
- Agricultural Resources
- Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Environmental Justice
- Geology, Soils and Seismic Potential
- Hazards and Hazardous Materials
- Hydrology and Water Quality
- Land Use and Planning
- Mineral Resources
- Noise
- Population and Housing
- Public Services/Utilities and Service Systems
- Recreation
- Socioeconomics
- Transportation/Traffic
- Growth-Inducing and Cumulative Impacts



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### Project Objective

To make affordable broadband internet services available to currently underserved areas in Imperial County, including a portion of the Fort Yuma-Quechan Reservation



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### Project Background and Purpose

- Winterhaven and other areas of unincorporated Imperial County, including a portion of the Fort Yuma-Quechan Indian Reservation, currently do not have high-speed ("broadband") access to the internet
- TDS granted \$2,063,967 from CPUC for project, to match TDS funding of \$1,375,978
- In addition to residences, other institutions will benefit—San Pasqual Valley High School, San Pasqual Valley Elementary School, Bill M. Manes High School, San Pasqual Middle School, and San Pasqual Vocational Academy



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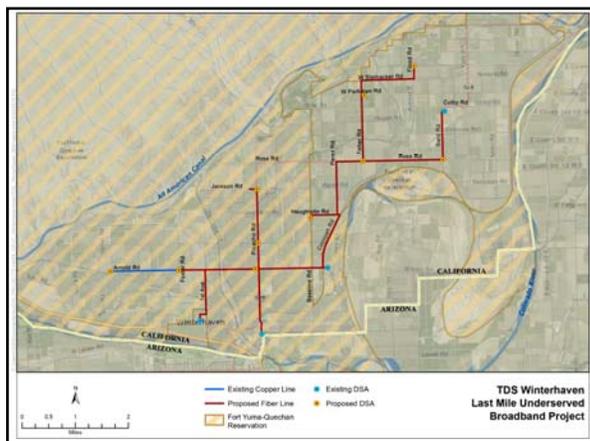
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### Project Components

- 9.01 miles (47,595 feet) of cable installed outside the Fort Yuma-Quechan Reservation
- 6.3 miles (33,264 feet) of cable installed inside the Fort Yuma-Quechan Reservation
- Installation sites along existing roadways with right-of-use and encroachment authorizations—no land acquisitions
- Fiber-optic telecommunications cable and protective 1.25-inch-diameter high-density polyethylene (HDPE) standard dimension ratio (SDR)-11 conduits
- 10 equipment cabinets (each 2' x 3' x 4') installed atop buried epoxy composite vaults, each within 20-square-foot area



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### Construction Overview

- Estimated total construction time: two months
- Total ground disturbance not to exceed 12.5 acres
- No staging of equipment or materials in project areas
- Prompt site clean-up and surface restoration following construction
- Once installed, infrastructure essentially maintenance-free



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### Construction Details

- Plow-type construction (68,101 feet of conduit):
  - Bulldozer with single ripper to loosen soil along installation path
  - Conduit installed at depth of 3.3 feet
  - Ground disturbance limited to 8-foot-wide corridor
- Bore-type construction (12,758 feet of conduit)
  - Horizontal drilling rig with steerable drill bit lubricated with sodium bentonite "mud"
  - Conduit installed at depth of 5 feet
  - Ground disturbance limited to two 8-foot boring pits for each canal/road crossing installation
- Pits for node vaults (3' x 4' x 6') excavated with backhoe



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### How to Comment

- Ask your questions or give comments orally tonight.
- Fill out a comment card to submit written comments and questions.
- Submit comments after tonight's meeting by mail, phone or email:

Mail	Voicemail/Fax	Email
Rob Peterson, CPUC c/o Tom Engels Horizon Water and Environment 180 Grand Avenue, Suite 1405 Oakland, CA 94612	<b>Voicemail (Toll-Free)</b> (844) 211-7510  <b>Fax</b> (510) 350-3592	winterhavenproject@ horizonh2o.com

- Comments due by **5 p.m. on Monday, September 28, 2015.**
- For more information, visit the project website:  
[www.cpuc.ca.gov/environment/info/horizonh2o/winterhaven/index.html](http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/environment/info/horizonh2o/winterhaven/index.html)



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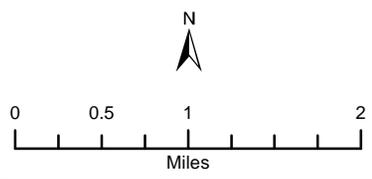
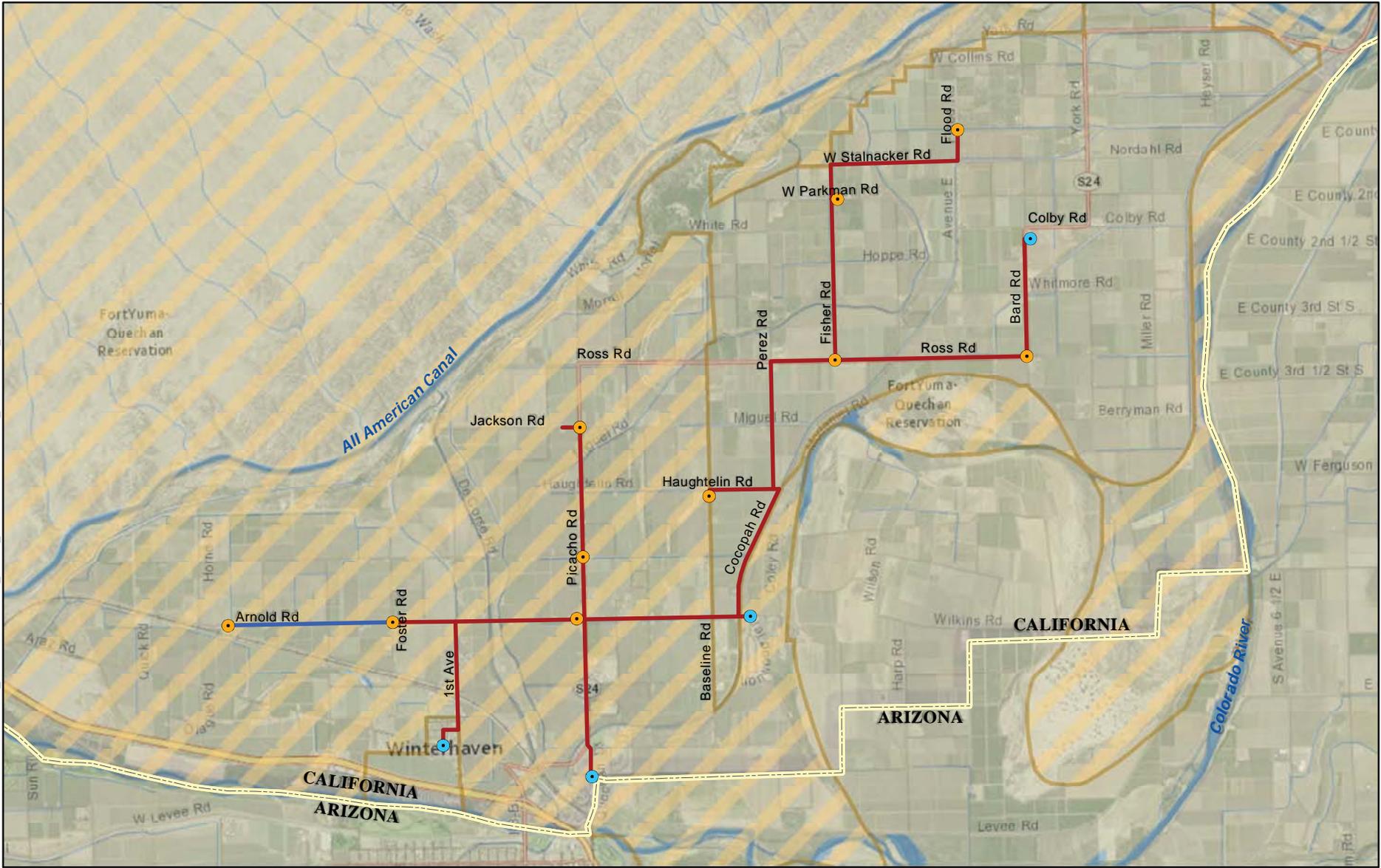
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- Existing Copper Line
- Proposed Fiber Line
- Fort Yuma-Quechan Reservation
- Existing DSA
- Proposed DSA

### TDS Winterhaven Broadband Project

# Appendix E

## Comments



**CALIFORNIA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION  
WINTERHAVEN BROADBAND PROJECT (TDS TELECOM)**

***Comments Provided During August 26, 2015, Public Meeting***

*(transcribed from flipchart)*

The following comments were offered by attendees of the public meeting held at the Paradise Casino, in Yuma, Arizona, on Wednesday, August 26, 2015, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. This is a transcription of comments that were noted on flipchart by a member of the consulting team, recording comments made during the public meeting. The comments were given in response to a request for comments on potential environmental issues to study in during environmental review under the National Environmental Policy Act and California Environmental Qua

- There is potential for cable damage from farm activities.
- High groundwater table – potential impacts
- Where is the fiber optic cable coming from?
- There was a previous installation of a communication cable along the railroad tracks, around 2005. [TDS staff in attendance noted that this cable is for a different system.]
- Will you hire monitors for cultural impacts? There is potential for burial sites.
- At the last meeting for this project some property owners objected to the use of their land. [TDS staff in attendance noted that the route has been changed to avoid those properties.]
- The map of the proposed project does not show which side of road the cable will be on. [TDS noted that the cable would be on the north side of Arnold Road and added that they will contact property owners and cannot cross a property without owner’s approval.]
- How will the project affect phone service? [TDS noted that the new service includes phone service.]
- It is very difficult to get internet service now.
- Get signatures from the majority of land owners.
- People may not have shown up at this meeting if they thought it was a done deal.
- People who said no to the project may feel there is no more to say, and therefore may not have seen a need to attend the meeting.
- Can’t you get internet access from satellite without having to put cable in the land? [TDS staff noted the satellite service is more expensive.]

- Earthquake faults could affect the fiber optic cable.
- Disabled and sick people need landline for emergency calls.
- Farm ditches could affect the project, there are farming activities right up to the road.
- Lots of rutted roads, not much road improvement by the county.
- Can the cable withstand heat? [TDS staff noted that the cable will be put in a housing/encasement and be buried for protection.]
- Rainstorms cause electric outages [TDS staff noted that rain may affect service if a cable is damaged, in which case repairs are made.
- When I call the phone company regarding service problems, they ask me to check the connection inside the house. [TDS staff noted that problems inside the house are the owner's responsibility.]
- Would there be new fees to keep the fiber optic line in service?
- For the previous fiber optic project, there was digging along the tracks done without public notice, tribal council didn't know about it, and landowners did not receive payment.
- Is the project funded by a state grant?
- How many projects are funded by those grants besides this one?
- How much of the project costs are administrative, and how much are project costs?
- Is this the only grant-funded project on tribal land?
- How will landowners be compensated for allowing installation of broadband line on their property?