03-BUT-32-PM R10.16/32.84 EA: 03-3J410 EFIS: 0322000271

State Route 32 Middle-Mile Broadband **Network Project**

BUTTE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA DISTRICT 3 - BUT - 32 - POST MILE R10.16/32.84

Environmental Assessment

Submitted Pursuant to: (Federal) 42 USC 4332(2)(C) DOI-BLM-CA-N060-2024-0011-EA

FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION ADMINISTRATION

and

Cooperating Agency:

United States Department of Interior Bureau of Land Management

October 2024

Elissa K. Konove Digitally signed by Elissa K. Konove Date: 2024.11.07 17:17:07 -08'00'

11/7/2024

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FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI)

FOR

Butte 32 Middle-Mile Broadband Network Project (EA: 03-3J410)

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) have determined that Alternative 1: Build/Proposed Action, which would install Middle-Mile Broadband Network infrastructure, including conduit, fiber optic cables, vaults, and markers on State Route 32 between post mile 10.2 to post mile 32.8, will have no significant impact on the human and natural environment. This FONSI is based on the attached NEPA document which was determined to be an Environmental Assessment (EA) which has been evaluated by FHWA and determined to adequately and accurately discuss the need, environmental issues, and impacts of the proposed project and appropriate mitigation measures. The attached EA provides sufficient evidence and analysis for determining that an Environmental Impact Statement is not required per 23 CFR 771.119. FHWA takes full responsibility for the accuracy, scope, and content of the attached EA.

Elissa K. Konove Date: 2024.11.07 17:17:31 -08'00'	11/7/2024
Elissa K. Konove	Date:
Division Administrator (HDA-CA)	
Federal Highway Administration	

General Information About This Document

What's in this document:

The California Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, and National Telecommunications and Information Administration, as required by the Bureau of Land Management, have prepared this Environmental Assessment with Finding of No Significant Impact, for the proposed project located in Butte County, California. The document describes why the project is being proposed, how the existing environment could be affected by the project, the potential impacts, and the proposed avoidance, minimization, and/or mitigation measures. The Environmental Assessment circulated to the public for 30 days between September 12, 2024 and October 12, 2024. No comments were received during this period. Additional copies of this document and the related technical studies are available for review by contacting Angelica Flores, Environmental Coordinator at angelica.flores@dot.ca.gov. This document may be downloaded at the following website https://dot.ca.gov/caltrans-near-me/district-3/d3-programs/d3-environmental/d3-environmental-docs/d123-broadband/d3-butte-32-middle-mile-broadband-network-project.

Alternative Formats

For individuals with sensory disabilities, this document can be made available in Braille, in large print, or on computer disk. To obtain a copy in one of these alternate formats, please call or write to Department of Transportation Attn: Megan Reese. Public Information Officer, 703 B Street, Marysville, CA 95901; (530) 682-6145 (Voice) or use the California Relay Service 1 (800) 735-2929 (TTY to Voice), 1 (800) 735-2922 (Voice to TTY), 1 (800) 855-3000 (Spanish TTY to Voice and Voice to TTY), 1-800-854-7784 (Spanish and English Speech-to-Speech) or 711.

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Chapter 1 Proposed Project

1.1 Introduction

In July 2021, Governor Gavin Newsom signed into law Senate Bill (SB) 156 to create an open-access Middle-Mile Broadband Network (MMBN) to bring equitable high-speed broadband service to all Californians. SB 156 provides \$3.25 billion to build the necessary infrastructure to bring internet connectivity to homes, businesses, and community institutions. The "middle mile" is the physical fiber optic infrastructure needed to enable internet connectivity. It is made up of high-capacity fiber lines that carry large amounts of data at high speeds over long distances. An open-access network gives providers and entities access to broadband infrastructure that would allow any networks to connect on equal economic and service terms.

The MMBN initiative aims to bring equitable high-speed broadband service to all Californians by developing the necessary infrastructure to bring internet connectivity to homes, businesses, and community institutions. The "middle mile" is the physical fiber optic infrastructure needed to enable internet connectivity. To achieve the overarching goal of constructing 10,000 miles of middle mile broadband infrastructure, the state of California identified approximately 270 individual broadband installation projects to be implemented through phased planning and construction. Each project would function independently to provide fiber cable infrastructure that serves individual communities, by connecting existing hubs and vaults. Potential users could subsequently connect to middle mile broadband infrastructure by installing "last mile" service, ultimately delivering broadband connectivity to the service area.

1.1.1 Independent Utility and Logical Termini

The lack of available middle-mile broadband infrastructure has been a major issue in connecting California's unserved and underserved communities. This project extends along State Route 32 from post mile (PM) R10.16 to 32.84. Vaults would be located at approximately 2,400 feet intervals. Additional analysis has determined that splice points—where two strands of fiber meet—represent logical termini for projects within the network. The dark

fiber between two adjacent splice points is the most granular portion of the network that can be independently operated; accordingly, any project within the network which is bound by a splice point meets the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) definition for independent utility. Additionally, the deployment of a splice-to-splice segment on the MMBN would not restrict future improvement or expansion of the network. Simply put, any stretch of fiber between two splice points, which occur every 2.5 miles across the MMBN, could be constructed and operated as a standalone project.

1.2 Agency Involvement and Decisions to be Made

1.2.1 Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)

If at any point the FHWA identifies significant impacts, an Environmental Impact Statement would be prepared. If no significant impacts are identified in this Environmental Assessment (EA), the FHWA would issue a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). This NEPA process would help inform FHWA's decision to issue a Right-of-Way Use Agreement allowing the non-highway use of real property interests in accordance with 23 CFR 710.405.

1.2.2 National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA)

The California Department of Technology (CDT) is the recipient of a grant from NTIA under the Middle Mile Grant Program (MMG) (funding opportunity number NTIA-MMG-2022) for the California Middle-Mile Broadband Initiative – Spurs (federal award number 06-40-MM438). Under the grant, CDT would use MMG funds to deploy spurs that interconnect with CDT's MMBN across various locations in California, bringing high-capacity middle-mile broadband infrastructure to unserved and underserved portions of the state. If no significant impacts are identified in this EA, NTIA would issue a FONSI.

1.2.3 Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

A portion of this project, from PM 20.43 to PM 20.71 and from PM 20.85 to PM 21.42, is located within federal lands under BLM authority (Appendix C). Based on the analysis contained in this Environmental Assessment, the BLM responsible official would decide whether to approve, approve with

modifications, or deny the right of way grant application (proposed project) as submitted. An executed grant, if the project is approved or approved with modifications, would be issued stating the terms and conditions that must be adhered to for the authorized use, the duration (term limit) of the authorized use, and the public lands that can be occupied for the use. Rights-of-way grant to the applicant the rights to construct, operate, maintain, and terminate the proposed facilities on public land.

1.3 Purpose and Need

The FHWA, NTIA, and BLM operate under separate legal authorities and have distinct roles and responsibilities related to the Middle-Mile Broadband Initiative, as identified in Section 1.2. Accordingly, each agency has developed its own purpose and need statement to reflect each agency's respective requirements in regulation and policy. The agencies view the statements as separate but complementary objectives, as such the alternatives considered in this EA would respond to the project objectives and the purpose and need statements of agencies involved.

1.3.1 FHWA's Purpose

This Middle-Mile Broadband Network (MMBN) project would install the broadband infrastructure along the State Highway System (SHS) and Interstate System necessary to connect to a third-party operated Last Mile Broadband Network which would bring internet connectivity to homes, businesses, and community institutions.

1.3.2 FHWA's Need

The lack of available middle-mile broadband infrastructure has been a major issue in connecting California's unserved and underserved communities. The statewide open-access middle-mile network included in SB 156 is a foundational investment to ensure every Californian has access to broadband internet service that meets the connectivity needs of today, and well into the future. This project intends to support these communities in providing critical statewide broadband infrastructure to enhance access to and increase the affordability of high-speed internet for all Californians.

1.3.3 NTIA's Purpose and Need

The purpose of the Proposed Action is to provide fast, reliable, and affordable high speed internet connectivity within Butte County, CA. It would enable local networks within Butte County to connect to robust, high-capacity regional networks thereby improving the availability of high-speed internet within the county. This project would help to implement the MMBN by interconnecting spurs and would further the mission of the Internet for All (IFA) initiative.

Approximately 1 in 5 American households are not connected to the internet. Although internet availability in California is high, coverage gaps persist, particularly in rural areas. One of the keys to lowering the cost of high-speed internet is to provide a reliable middle mile network to which local networks can connect. This Proposed Action is intended to address these gaps within Butte County.

1.3.4 BLM's Purpose and Need

In addressing the project goals and objectives and broader needs identified above, the BLM's need is established by the authorities under the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) of 1976, as amended, and associated BLM right-of-way regulations. In accordance with the FLPMA (43 United States Code [USC] Section 1701(a)(7) and Section 1702(c)), public lands and their resources are to be managed for multiple uses that will best meet the present and future needs of the American people, taking into account the long-term needs of future generations for renewable and non-renewable resources, and containing terms and conditions for meeting applicable standards established by law for resources including air and water quality, public health, and safety. The Secretary of the Interior is authorized to grant rights of way on public lands for systems for transmission or reception of radio, television, telephone, telegraph, and other electronic signals, and other means of communication (43 USC Section 1761(a)(5)).

The BLM's purpose is to provide the State of California the opportunity to construct and maintain broadband infrastructure on public lands administered by the BLM in a manner consistent with applicable laws, regulations, and policies, by responding to the right-of-way application.

1.4 Project Description

Pursuant to SB 165, the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), in coordination with the CDT, FHWA, BLM, and NTIA, proposes to install MMBN infrastructure including conduit, fiber optic cable, vaults, cable markers, and maintenance vehicle pull-outs on State Route (SR) 32 between post mile (PM) R10.16 to 32.84 in Butte County (Appendix B). All work would occur within existing Caltrans right of way or easements.

A portion of the proposed project crosses BLM lands located between PM 20.43 to PM 20.71 and PM 20.85 to PM 21.42 (M.D.M., T. 23 N., R. 2 E., Section 24, N½NE¼, SW¼NE¼, and NE¼SW¼). See project layouts MML44 - MML48 (approximate station numbers along Route 32 "A" Line of BLM lands are 649 to 663 and 669 to 700) in Appendix B and maps in Appendix C which depict the portions of the project that cross BLM lands. Within BLM lands, the project proposes to install one 2-inch-diameter conduit utilizing trench-in-pavement and horizontal directional drilling method (see section 1.4.1 for further details on these methods), though other installation methods may be considered if determined more applicable in the field. Two type-3 vaults (Appendix B, MMBND-8) are proposed to be constructed on BLM lands. The first vault on BLM would be located at approximate PM 20.69 (M.D.M., T. 32 N., R. 2 E., Section 24, NE¼SW¼, lat/long: 39.835880, -121.703929) and the second vault would be located at approximate PM 21.16(M.D.M., T. 23 N., R. 2 E., Section 24, NW¼NE¼, lat/long: 39.840576, -121.699043). Vault type and location is subject to change if field conditions demand. Fiber optic cable markers (Appendix B, MMBND-5) would also be installed at approximately 500-foot intervals. Two potential areas for temporary staging during construction are located on BLM lands. The first staging area is located near PM 20.97 (M.D.M. T. 32 N., R. 2 E., Section 24, SW1/4NE1/4 or lat/long: 39.839361, -121.702167) and is approximately 195feet by 45-feet and 0.2-acre in area (Appendix B, MML-46). The second staging area is at PM R21.37 (M.D.M., T. 23 N., R. 2 E., Section 24, NE¼NE¼ or lat/long: 39.843056, -121.696917) and is approximately 200-feet by 85-feet and 0.39-acre in area (Appendix b, MML-47/48). These staging locations may or may not be used as determined in the field by the contractor.

There is an existing Federal Aid Highway right-of-way, issued by the BLM (serialized as CAS 066448) for the portion of the project which crosses BLM

lands. CDT submitted a right-of-way application and plan of development for a new fiber optic right-of-way, serialized by the BLM as CACA 106347848. This right-of-way grant would entail a 20-foot width temporary construction corridor for a term of up to 3 years and a 10-foot width construction corridor for a term up to 30 years. The two temporary staging areas identified above would be included in addition to the 20-foot wide temporary construction corridor.

The Middle-Mile Broadband Initiative involves an accelerated process for moving projects into construction. Due to the varied topography and locations of the 10,000-mile broadband infrastructure across the State of California, the design would be dependent on project site features and different construction methods would be utilized. Listed below are the anticipated design/construction elements.

1.4.1 Design/Construction Elements

Temporary Traffic Control

It is anticipated that one-way-reversing traffic control would be used for the duration of construction. Traffic control would include flaggers, an automated flagger system (e.g., temporary signal with solar or generator backup), and changeable message signs. No full roadway closures or detours are anticipated. To reduce traffic impacts, a Transportation Management Plan (TMP) would be prepared as projects are developed and per Caltrans standards, pedestrians, bicyclists, and emergency service vehicles would be accommodated through the work zone. Based on traffic counts, night work may be required.

Vegetation and Tree Removal

Clearing and grubbing of vegetation (e.g., grasses and shrubs) would be required for installation of conduit outside of the roadway prism where that vegetation exists. In addition, removal of trees up to 8 inches diameter at breast height may be required for conduit placement at select locations. Removal of mature trees or dense stands of trees is not anticipated. No mitigation for tree removal would be necessary as the project is designed to avoid removing trees from natural communities that would require mitigation (e.g., riparian, oak woodland, etc.). No mature trees are anticipated to require removal from BLM lands as a result of the proposed scope.

Underground Conduit Installation

One (1) two-inch diameter high-density polyethylene conduit would be installed underground within the Caltrans right of way (e.g., along right of way fence, next to roadway prism, in pavement, etc.). Installation methods may include one or more of the following:

- Open Trenching approximately 12 inches wide and minimum depth of 42 inches.
- Trench in Pavement (travel lane and/or shoulder) approximately 3 to 6 inches wide and minimum depth of 24 inches.
- Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) approximately 3 to 12 inches diameter and minimum depth of 48 inches.

Installation methods would be chosen to ensure avoidance of sensitive resources within and adjacent the project alignment. On BLM lands, Trench in Pavement and HDD installation methods are proposed but all above methods would be considered if applicable.

Open Trenching

This method of installation uses equipment such as a trencher with rock-wheel blades, excavator, backhoe, or similar equipment, to dig an open trench (Figure 2). This method is most suitable for rural to suburban areas with long and relatively flat terrain and allows for more controlled installations and better depth control.



Figure 1. Open Trenching

Trench in Pavement

Trench in pavement (i.e., micro-trenching) is a construction method to install broadband conduits exclusively under asphalt pavement (Figure 1). This method can be used on most conventional highways with asphalt travel lanes and asphalt shoulders. Equipment consists of a specially designed asphalt-cutting saw blade connected to a vacuum truck/trailer which removes spoils and dust. Once trenching is complete, conduit would be placed into the trench and a colored cementitious slurry would be used as backfill. To restore pavement surface, cold planning and placement of hot mix asphalt would be required.



Figure 2. Micro-Trenching

Horizontal Directional Drilling

HDD allows for the installation of conduit under obstacles that inhibit trench in pavement or open trenching installations such as roadways, railroads, or environmentally sensitive locations. HDD is accomplished by using a steerable drill stem, and the depth and direction of the boring is controlled by the equipment operator.

HDD would be used in various locations along project routes to cross areas where surface disturbance or sensitive resources must be avoided (e.g., streams/rivers, cultural resources, railroad crossings, etc.) (Figure 3). For streams/rivers, drilling would only occur if the conduit cannot be attached to an existing structure.

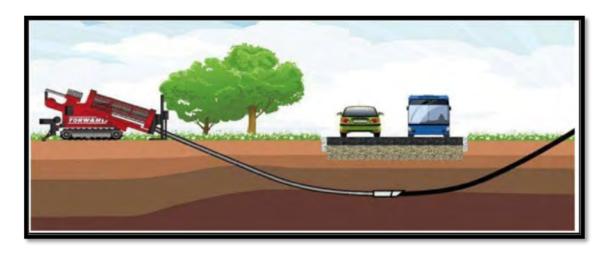


Figure 3. HDD

To complete HDD, an approximately 5-feet-wide by 5-feet-long by 5-feet-deep work area would be excavated on each side of the crossing. One side would contain an entry pit and drilling equipment, while the other side would contain an exit pit. Pits would be positioned approximately 300-feet to 500-feet apart. At the entry pit, a steerable drill stem would be used to bore a pilot hole through the soil to the exit pit. Once the drill stem reaches the exit pit, a reamer (i.e., device used to enlarge the pilot hole) would be attached along with the conduit. The drilling machine would then ream an approximately 12-inch-diameter hole back toward the entry pit while concurrently pulling the conduit. Once the reamer and conduit are fully pulled through the entry pit, both the entry and exit pits would be backfilled and compacted and conduit placement would be complete.

During the drilling process, a bentonite slurry with polymer would be pumped through the bore hole to help lubricate the drill bit, prevent the bore tunnel from collapsing, and carry drill cuttings to the surface. Bentonite is a naturally occurring Wyoming clay known for its hydrophilic characteristics. The slurry would be pumped through the bore hole, collected at the surface, passed through machinery to remove the bore cuttings, and then recirculated through the hole. The slurry would be stored in tanks at the drill site when not in use, and excess slurry remaining after the bore is complete would be removed from the site and either reused by the drilling contractor or disposed of at an appropriate location.

Conduit Installation and Existing Structures

Bridge, Concrete Barriers, and Sound Walls

Bridge, concrete barrier, and sound wall mounted conduits would either be installed in existing unused conduit passage(s) if structures were originally designed to accommodate conduit, directly attached to the structure, or placed in approximately 2- to 8-inch-diameter steel conduit attached to the structure. Bolts, clips, hangers, and/or anchors may be used to attach the conduit. When installing conduit on a bridge structure, an approximately 30-inch-wide by 48-inch-long by 36-inch-deep pit would be excavated at either end of the bridge to allow for pull vault installation (see vault installation below for more details). All conduit installations on structures would be designed to accommodate thermal and/or seismic movement. In some cases, conduit may need to be painted or covered with an approved coating to match the color of the structure.



Figure 4. Conduit Attached to Existing Structure

Culverts

Conduit would be installed under or over culverts or attached to culverts with clamps. For conduit installation in unlined channels and ditches a minimum clearance of 24 inches below the flowline would be maintained. HDD under culverts can be achieved without placing vaults.

Vault Installation

Type 1/Type 3 (30-inch-wide by 48-inch-long by 36-inch-deep) pull vaults would be installed approximately every 2,400-feet (maximum spacing) (Figure 4). Every fifth vault would be a Type 2 (48-inch-wide by 48-inch-long by 48-inch-deep) splice vault. Additional vaults would be added at major intersections and urban centers in anticipation of future broadband connections. If there are known connection points at specific locations that mapping would be reviewed, and vaults would be placed accordingly.



Figure 5. Vault Installation

Vaults may be installed above surrounding grade or flush with surrounding grade. Each vault would contain approximately 100 feet of fiber optic cable to accommodate geological movements, facilitate future repairs, and allow for anticipated last mile connections. As stated above, if conduit is installed along bridge structures, vaults would be installed at both ends of the bridge to aid conduit installation and maintenance access.

Fiber Optic Markers

Fiber optic markers would be installed at every pull vault. Fiber optic markers would also be installed approximately every 500 feet along the conduit path. At curve locations along the conduit path, fiber optic markers would be installed at the beginning, middle and end of the curve. Metallic disk markers would also be installed in the pavement. Caltrans would coordinate with the BLM for marker approval prior to installation.

Staging, Storage, and Access

Staging and storage areas would be selected by the construction contractor before and/or during construction. It is anticipated that staging and storage would occur at existing pullouts throughout the project limits and/or at Caltrans owned facilities (e.g., maintenance areas, parking lots, etc.). If needed, the contractor may temporarily acquire staging and storage areas through agreements with other entities. To ensure ESAs are adequately protected, locations of staging areas would be determined in coordination with the environmental team. Access to project locations would be through existing developed roads, as feasible. However, temporary access roads may be needed for construction and installation of vaults.

Avoidance of Sensitive Resources

Efforts have been made to design the project routes around sensitive resources and place directional drilling points, vaults, and other project features in areas that do not support sensitive resources.

Sensitive resources (i.e., biological resources, cultural resources, waters, etc.) would be avoided to the greatest extent feasible through various means identified during the project design phase and identified in the supporting technical documents developed for this project and discussed in Section 2.1. The proposed project would incorporate Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA) demarcations into the project plan sets to ensure full avoidance of the

resources in project design. Biological and cultural resource ESAs would be delineated in the field with staking and/or flagging and monitored by a qualified biologist, archaeologist, and/or tribal monitor to ensure full avoidance during construction. Sensitive areas would be avoided using either HDD or attaching the conduit to a structure. When HDD is utilized, specialized equipment would bore underneath the feature and the conduit would be pulled back through the bore hole allowing full avoidance. Additionally, due to the ability of HDD equipment to be positioned relatively far away from aquatic features (spaced 300-500 feet apart), any adjacent sensitive habitat (e.g., riparian) would be fully avoided as well. Where practicable, conduit would be attached to an existing structure (e.g., bridge, box culvert that can accommodate conduit). Where existing culvert facilities are located deep enough under the roadway fill prism the conduit would be installed over the culvert, within the existing fill, and avoid any in-water work. See Section 1.7 for specific resource standard measures and best management practices.



Figure 6. Statewide MMBN Project Location Map

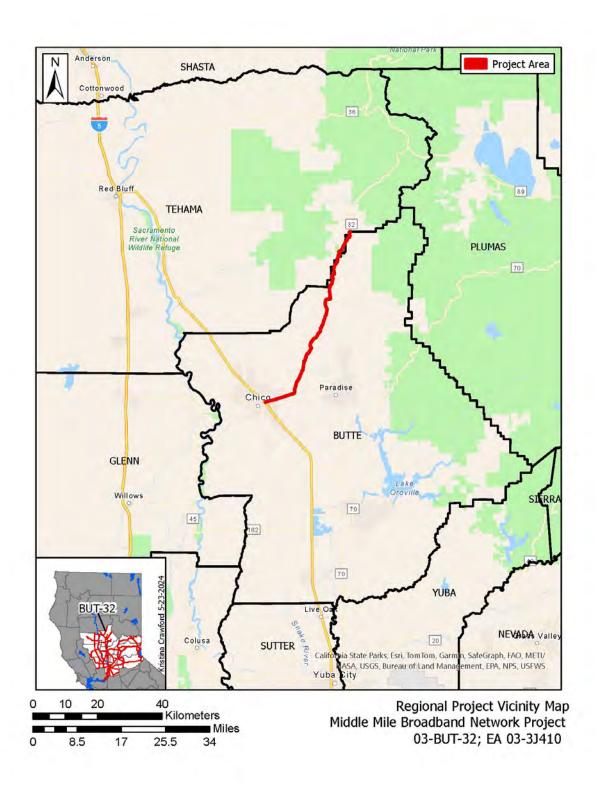


Figure 7. Project Vicinity Map

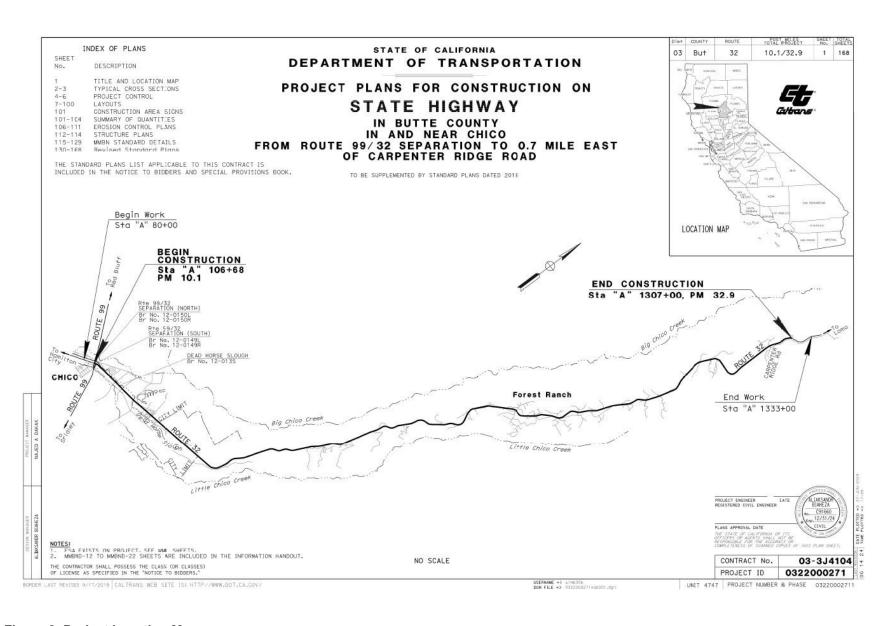


Figure 8. Project Location Map

1.5 Project Alternatives

Below discusses two possible alternatives, Build (Proposed Action) and No-Build (No-Action).

1.5.1 Alternative 1: Build (Proposed Action)

The build (proposed action) alternative would consist of the following which is described above.

- Placement of temporary traffic control devices and signage.
- Removal of minor vegetation.
- Installation of one (1) two-inch diameter high-density polyethylene conduit.
- Installation of fiber optic cable.
- Installation of approximately 30-inch-wide by 48-inch-long by 36-inchdeep pull vaults.
- Installation of approximately 48-inch-wide by 48-inch-long by 48-inch-deep splice vaults.
- Placement of slurry backfill, cold planning to a depth of approximately 0.25 inches, and placement of approximately 48-inch-wide hot mix asphalt overlay.
- Construction of six maintenance vehicle pullouts.
- Installation of metallic disk markers approximately every 500 feet along conduit path in paved areas and installation of flexible post delineators approximately every 500 feet along conduit path in unpaved areas.
- Application of temporary and permanent erosion control.

Construction is anticipated to begin in November 2024 and last for approximately 140 working days.

1.5.2 Alternative 2: No-Build (No-Action)

The no-build (no-action) alternative would maintain existing conditions. Critical statewide broadband infrastructure would not be constructed, and unserved and underserved communities would not receive equitable high-speed broadband service. SB 156 would not be complied with under this alternative.

1.6 BLM Resource Management Plan Conformance

A portion of this project, from PM 20.43 to PM 20.71 and from PM 20.85 to PM 21.42, is located within Federal lands under BLM authority (Appendix C). Work within BLM lands would involve installation of conduit, installation of vaults, installation of fiber optic markers, and temporary staging. Consistent with the BLM's Resource Management Planning regulations at 43 CFR 1610.5(3)(a), all resource management authorizations and actions must conform to the approved Resource Management Plan. All action alternatives considered in this Environmental Assessment conform with the goals, objectives, and management direction identified within the applicable resource management plan, and the 1993 Redding Resources Management Plan.

1.7 Standard Measures and Best Management Practices

The following is a list of Standard Measures and Best Management Practices (BMPs) that would be applicable across alternatives. BMPs that are applicable to the alternative chosen would be carried forward into the right-of-way grant stipulations and/or the approved Plan of Development (an instrument of the right-of-way grant once approved). The appropriate BMPs would become terms and conditions of the grant if the application for the proposed project is approved or approved with modifications.

Air Quality

AQ-1:

- a. The project would comply with air-pollution-control rules, regulations, ordinances, and statutes that apply to work performed under the Contract, including those provided in Govt Code § 11017 (Pub Cont Code § 10231).
- b. A water or dust palliative would be applied to the site and equipment as often as necessary to control fugitive dust emissions.

c. Equipment and materials storage sites would be located as far away from residential, and park uses as practicable. Construction areas would be kept clean and orderly.

Biological Resources

BR-1: Animal Species

a. To protect migratory and nongame birds (occupied nests and eggs), if possible, vegetation removal and bridge work would be limited to the period outside of the bird nesting season (between October 1 and January 31). If vegetation removal or bridge work is required during the nesting season, a nesting bird survey would be conducted by a qualified biologist within five days prior to vegetation removal or bridge work.

BR-2: Environmentally Sensitive Areas

- a. Prior to the start of work flagging or staking would be installed around sensitive natural communities, environmentally sensitive habitat areas, rare plant occurrences, intermittent streams, and wetlands and other waters, where appropriate. No work would occur within fenced/flagged areas.
- All jurisdictional waters, wetlands, and riparian locations would be included in the project plan set and the contractor would be required by contract to avoid all established environmentally sensitive areas (ESAs).

BR-3: Biological Resource Information Program

a. A qualified biologist would prepare and present a biological resource information program to work crews responsible for constructing the project. The program would include information concerning the resources present within the project area and measures used to protect them.

BR-4: Qualified Biological Monitor

 a) A qualified biologist shall monitor work activities that could potentially impact sensitive biological resources.

Cultural Resources

CR-1: Cultural sensitivity training would be given to all personnel at the start of work and at anytime when a new construction crew is introduced to the project. Personnel working on the project must complete the training prior to being authorized to work on the jobsite.

CR-2: ESAs and Archaeological Monitoring Areas would be designated where appropriate within the project area and monitored to ensure full avoidance of Cultural and Tribal Resources.

CR-3: If cultural materials are discovered during construction, work activity within a 60-foot radius of the discovery would be stopped and the area secured until a qualified archaeologist can assess the nature and significance of the find in consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO).

CR-4: If human remains and related items are discovered on private or State land, they would be treated in accordance with State Health and Safety Code § 7050.5. Further disturbances and activities would cease in any area or nearby area suspected to overlie remains, and the County Coroner contacted. Pursuant to California Public Resources Code (PRC) § 5097.98, if the remains are thought to be Native American, the coroner would notify the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) who would then notify the Most Likely Descendent (MLD).

Human remains and related items discovered on federally-owned lands would be treated in accordance with the Native American Graves Repatriation Act of 1990 (NAGPRA) (23 USC 3001). The procedures for dealing with the discovery of human remains, funerary objects, or sacred objects on federal land are described in the regulations that implement NAGPRA 43 CFR Part 10. All work in the vicinity of the discovery shall be halted and the administering agency's archaeologist would be notified immediately. Project activities in the vicinity of the discovery would not resume until the federal agency complies with the 43 CFR Part 10 regulations and provides notification to proceed.

Geology, Seismic/Topography, and Paleontology

GSP-1: In the unlikely event that paleontological resources (fossils) are encountered, all work within a 60-foot radius of the discovery would stop, the area would be secured, and the work would not resume until appropriate measures are taken.

Hazardous Waste and Material

HW-1: Per Caltrans requirements, the contractor(s) would prepare a project-specific Lead Compliance Plan (CCR Title 8, § 1532.1, the "Lead in Construction" standard) to reduce worker exposure to lead-impacted soil. The plan would include protocols for environmental and personnel monitoring, requirements for personal protective equipment, and other health and safety protocols and procedures for the handling of lead-impacted soil.

HW-2: If treated wood waste (such as removal of signposts or guardrail) is generated during this project, it would be disposed of in accordance with Standard Specification "Treated Wood Waste".

Traffic and Transportation

TT-1: A Transportation Management Plan (TMP) would be prepared for the project.

TT-2: The contractor would be required to schedule and conduct work to avoid unnecessary inconvenience to the public and to maintain access to driveways, house, and buildings within the work zones.

TT-3: Pedestrian and bicycle access would be maintained during construction.

Utilities and Emergency Services

UE-1: All emergency response agencies in the project area would be notified of the project construction schedule and would have access to State Route 32 throughout the construction period.

Noise Resources

NR-1: Noise would be controlled and monitored during construction by the not exceeding 86 A-weighted decibels (dBA L) at 50 feet from the job site from 9p.m. to 6.a.m.

NR-2: Residents within 100 feet of the project area would be notified at least two weeks prior to the start of nighttime construction.

Water Quality and Stormwater Runoff

WQ-1: Per the State Water Resources Control Board approved MMBN programmatic process, a Common Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (Common SWPPP) would be prepared as outlined in Section III.B.4 of the 2022 Construction General Permit (2022 CGP), Order No. 2022-0057-DWQ NPDES No. CAS000002.

The SWPPP would identify the sources of pollutants that may affect the quality of stormwater; include construction site Best Management Practices (BMPs) to control sedimentation, erosion, and potential chemical pollutants; provide for construction materials management; include non-stormwater BMPs; and include routine inspections and a monitoring and reporting plan. All construction site BMPs would follow the latest edition of the Caltrans Storm Water Quality Handbooks: Construction Site BMPs Manual to control and reduce the impacts of construction-related activities, materials, and pollutants on the watershed.

The project SWPPP would be continuously updated to adapt to changing site conditions during the construction phase.

- Construction would require one or more of the following temporary construction site BMPs: Any Spills or leaks from construction equipment (i.e., fuel, oil, hydraulic fluid, and grease) would be cleaned up in accordance with applicable local, state, and/or federal regulations.
- Temporary sediment control and soil stabilization devices would be installed.
- Existing vegetated areas would be maintained to the maximum extent possible.

- Vegetation reestablishment or other stabilization measures would be implemented on disturbed soil areas, per the Erosion Control Plan.
- WQ-2: Per contract specifications, a Frac-Out Contingency Plan would be required for all proposed HDD activities under flowing water (e.g., perennial streams or intermittent streams if water is present). The plan would be developed and provided by the contractor responsible for conducting proposed HDD activities.

1.8 Permits and Approvals Needed

As stated above, if approved, the BLM would issue a right-of-way grant to construct, operate, maintain, and terminate the proposed broadband facilities on public land. Outside of BLM lands, the following regulatory permit(s) would be required.

Table 1. Permits and Approvals

Agency	Permits, Licenses, Agreements, and Certifications	Status
Central Valley Flood Protection Board	Full Encroachment/Work Authorization - Dead Horse Slough PM 10.32	Pending Approval. Approval anticipated 9/2024.
Central Valley Flood Protection Board	Full Encroachment/Work Authorization - Dead Horse Slough PM 11.73	Approved. Encroachment #: 19867 Work Authorization #: 19868

Chapter 2 NEPA Evaluation

2.1 Environmental Effects

The following table summarizes potential impacts to various elements of the human environment such as physical, biological, social, and economic factors including the critical elements which are subject to requirements specified in statute, regulation or executive order and must be considered in the Environmental Assessment. This table identifies resources that might be affected by the proposed project. Please see Volume II, Technical Reports, to read more about resources evaluated within the project area. A list of technical reports completed for this project is located on the last page of this document.

A "No Effect" determination for resources absent is based on the scope, description, and location of the proposed project as well as the appropriate technical report and is discussed in Table 2-1 Resource Impacts Summary. For resources absent within the project area, no further discussion is warranted in this Environmental Assessment (column marked "No"). If a resource is present in the project area, it should have a corresponding detailed impact analysis under Section 2.1.

To address potential cumulative impacts at a program level, coordination and data reporting on individual projects is being housed statewide at the Caltrans' Headquarters level. Before issuing a conclusion on cumulative impacts to a resource, Headquarters data would be referenced to ensure the decisions made are correct.

Cumulative impacts are those that result from past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, combined with the potential impacts of the proposed project. A cumulative effect assessment looks at the collective impacts posed by individual land use plans and projects. Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor but collectively substantial impacts taking place over a period of time.

The State Route 32 MMBN Project and other planned developments in the area, have undergone an assessment for their combined impacts. Two Caltrans projects have footprints that either fully or partially overlap with the

proposed State Route 32 MMBN Project. The Butte 32 Soldier Pile Wall Project (PM 30.8 to PM 31.0 – not on BLM land) completed spring 2024 and the Butte 32 Chip-Seal Project (PM 31.6 to PM 37.8 – not on BLM land) is anticipated to commence construction activities summer 2024 and be completed by fall of the same year. One BLM Project; the Big Chico Creek Ecological Reserve and Phoenix Vegetation Management Plan Project, occurred on BLM lands adjacent to the proposed project area and involved various fuels reduction methods to reduce wildfire risk. This assessment has considered potential impacts on various environmental resources, including visual aesthetics, water quality, and biodiversity. Using targeted measures aimed at avoiding and minimizing environmental impacts, the analysis has concluded that the combined effects of these projects would not have a significant effect on the human environment. These measures are designed to comply with regulatory standards and enhance the protection of natural and cultural resources, ensuring that collectively the projects adhere to environmental stewardship and sustainable development principles.

The following definition of cumulative impacts under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) can be found in 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Section 1508.1: Cumulative impact is the impact on the environment which results from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions regardless of what agency (federal or non-federal) or person undertakes such other actions. Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time.

Table 2. Resource Impacts Summary for Build Alternative

Resource Conditions	Resource Impact Anticipated?	For Resource Conditions that are Present, the Following Findings are Made Pursuant to 40 CFR 1508.1(g):	Reference Material Used to Support Finding
Existing and Future Land Use	No	All work would occur within existing Caltrans right of way or easements. There is no built environment within Caltrans right of way other than for a transportation use (i.e., highway and freeway use). The installation of broadband conduit and vaults parallel with the existing state highway system would not impact existing or future land use per a review of the Butte County General Plan 2040 and associated land use maps. Additionally, the proposed projects minimal footprint and lack of significant changes to the SR 32 transportation corridor conforms with the BLM's 2024 Northwest California Integrated Resource Management Plan and would have no impacts to existing and future land use objectives within BLM lands associated with the project. Cumulative impacts to existing and future land use	Butte County General Plan 2040 Updated: October 12, 2023 2024 Northwest California Integrated Resource Management Plan Updated: July 12, 2024
Consistency with State, Regional, and Local Plans and Programs	No	along the entire project length would not occur. All work would occur within existing Caltrans right of way or easements. There is no built environment within Caltrans right of way other than for a transportation use (i.e., highway and freeway use). The installation of broadband conduit and vaults parallel with the existing state highway system is consistent with the objectives outlined in the Butte County General Plan 2040. Additionally, the proposed project conforms with the BLM's 2024 Northwest California Integrated Resource Management Plan objectives for the BLM lands associated with this project. Cumulative impacts to state, regional, and local plans and programs associated with the entire project route would not occur.	Butte County General Plan 2040 Updated: October 12, 2023 2024 Northwest California Integrated Resource Management Plan Updated: July 12, 2024
Coastal Zone	No	The proposed project is not located with the Coastal Zone and proposed activities would not impact the Coastal Zone. Cumulative impacts to the Coastal Zone would not occur.	Caltrans North Region GIS Library Accessed: May 8, 2024 2024 Northwest California Integrated Resource Management Plan Updated: July 12, 2024

Resource Conditions	Resource Impact Anticipated?	For Resource Conditions that are Present, the Following Findings are Made Pursuant to 40 CFR 1508.1(g):	Reference Material Used to Support Finding
Wild and Scenic Rivers	No	All work would occur within existing Caltrans right of way or easements. There are no waterways listed under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act in or adjacent to the project area. BLM lands within the project area do not contain any wild and scenic river eligible segments. Proposed activities would not impact any waterways classified as wild and scenic rivers. Cumulative impacts to wild and scenic rivers would not occur.	Wild and Scenic Rivers Memorandum Prepared: July 30, 2024 2024 Northwest California Integrated Resource Management Plan Updated: July 12, 2024
Parks and Recreational Facilities	No	All work would occur within existing Caltrans right of way or easements. Portions of Upper Bidwell Park can be accessed north of the west bound lane along SR 32 adjacent to the project area within the lower foothills. The Peregrine Point Disc Golf Course is located at PM 16.25 (Appendix B, MML-27) and the Ten Mile House Trailhead is located at PM 18.52 (Appendix B, MML-36). Another recreation location adjacent to the project alignment is Big Chico Creek Ecological Reserve (BCCER) which can be accessed from 14 mile house Road at PM 21.45 (Appendix B, MML-48). Access at these three locations is via the westbound lane of SR 32 and would not be permanently blocked while work to install the MMBN occurs along the eastbound shoulder. Access to all driveways and cross streets would be maintained during construction, in accordance with standard Caltrans traffic control and handling plans. Traffic management may cause temporary delays accessing or departing these locations. The proposed project would not impact any recreation plans or the recreational potential of BLM lands within the project area. Proposed activities would not impact any parks and recreational facilities. Cumulative impact to parks and recreational facilities would not occur.	Butte County Public Works Mapping Accessed: May 13, 2024 Transportation Management Plan Prepared: January 25, 2024 2024 Northwest California Integrated Resource Management Plan Updated: July 12, 2024

Resource Conditions	Resource Impact Anticipated?	For Resource Conditions that are Present, the Following Findings are Made Pursuant to 40 CFR 1508.1(g):	Reference Material Used to Support Finding
Farmlands/ Timberlands	No	Conditional prime farmland; listed as "Prime if irrigated" is mapped at the western limits of the project. However, the western limits of the project are located within a heavily urbanized portion of Chico zoned for residential and commercial use where original soils are unlikely to remain at the surface. Forested lands suitable or already managed for timber can be found adjacent to the project area along its eastern stretch within the foothills. However, the project would be constructed entirely in previously disturbed areas within existing Caltrans right of way or easements. Project activities would be transitory and would be unlikely to block access to any private or public lands managed for timber for longer than is necessary to complete work in particular locations. Within BLM lands, the project conforms the 2024 Northwest California Integrated Resource Management Plan Forest and Woodland Management objectives and Soil Resources objectives as there would be no significant impacts to the natural or human communities within BLM lands and the project scope and location would not permanently impair soil productivity within the existing roadway fill. Due to the limited scope and project location proposed activities would not impact farmlands or timberlands. Cumulative impacts to farmlands and timberlands would not occur.	NRCS Soil Map Prepared: June 4, 2024 CNDDB-BIOS Timberland Viewer Accessed: June 4, 2024 2024 Northwest California Integrated Resource Management Plan Updated: July 12, 2024
Growth/ Community Character and Cohesion	No	The proposed project would be limited to the existing Caltrans right of way and easements, and activities would be transitory in nature. The project scope has no identified adverse impacts on the communities it passes through. The installation of the MMBN would provide essential infrastructure and would benefit affected communities (e.g., Chico and Forest Ranch) increasing advanced connectivity potential. The proposed project would not inhibit growth/community character and cohesion on associated BLM lands and would provide an increase in potential services to be provided on those lands. Therefore, the proposed project would not impact growth or community character and cohesion. Cumulative impacts to growth and community character and cohesion would not occur.	Project Report: Title VI Considerations Prepared: March 2024 2024 Northwest California Integrated 2024 Northwest California Integrated Resource Management Plan Updated: July 12, 2024

Resource Conditions	Resource Impact Anticipated?	For Resource Conditions that are Present, the Following Findings are Made Pursuant to 40 CFR 1508.1(g):	Reference Material Used to Support Finding
Environmental Justice	Justice of way or easements. No communities classified as		Project Report: Title VI Considerations
		The limited scope, footprint, and transitory nature of the proposed project would not cause disproportionately high and adverse effects on any minority or low-income	Prepared: March, 2024
		populations in accordance with provisions of Executive Order 12898. No further environmental justice analysis is required. The project would conform with the BLM's 2024 Northwest California Integrated Resource	Caltrans Non- Discrimination Policy Statement
		Management Plan. Proposed activities would not impact environmental justice interests. Cumulative impacts to environmental justice interests would not occur.	Prepared: September 2022
			Climate and Environmental Justice Screening Tool
			Accessed: August 7, 2024
			2024 Northwest California Integrated Resource Management Plan
			Updated: July 12, 2024
Relocations and Real Property Acquisition	No	The proposed project would occur within existing Caltrans right of way or easements. No businesses or residents would be relocated, and no real property acquisition would be necessary to implement and complete the project as designed. The proposed project would require a grant of right-of-way from the BLM for construction and future maintenance purposes; however, it would not require any permanent relocations or any permanent limitations of BLM lands. The proposed project would not inhibit the goals of the BLM's 2024 Northwest California Integrated Resource Management Plan goals for Lands and Realty. Due to the limited scope and project location, proposed activities would not impact to real property or residents adjacent to the project. Cumulative impacts to real property or residents adjacent to the project area would not occur.	Project Report: Right-of-Way Issues, Title VI Considerations Prepared: March 2024 2024 Northwest California Integrated Resource Management Plan Updated: July 12, 2024

Resource Conditions	Resource Impact Anticipated?	For Resource Conditions that are Present, the Following Findings are Made Pursuant to 40 CFR 1508.1(g):	Reference Material Used to Support Finding
Utilities/Emergency Services	No	The proposed project would occur within existing Caltrans right of way or easements. Access through the project area is expected to remain for the duration of the project as no full closures are anticipated. All emergency response agencies in the project area would be notified of the project construction schedule and would have access to SR 32 throughout the construction period. Additionally, SR 32 would remain a viable evacuation route if necessary. Approximate locations of utilities have been included on the project plans. Conduit is to be installed in a manner which avoids utility conflicts per MMBN standard plans. Utilities would be positively identified during construction to ensure full avoidance. Utilities utilizing BLM lands within the project for transmission or distribution of services are not anticipated to be impacted as a result of the proposed project. The proposed project would not impact emergency or utility services. Cumulative impacts to emergency and utility services would not occur.	Project Report: Utility and Other Owner Involvement Prepared: March 2024 Transportation Management Plan Prepared: January 25, 2024 2024 Northwest California Integrated Resource Management Plan Updated: July 12, 2024
Traffic and Transportation/ Pedestrian and Bicycle Facilities	No	The proposed project would occur within existing Caltrans right of way or easements. SR 32 is a 2-lane, 2-way conventional highway and expressway within the project limits. Pedestrian and bicycle access would be maintained throughout the project limits during construction. Whenever one-way traffic control is maintained, traffic would be stopped for periods not to exceed 20 minutes. No full closures are anticipated. Proposed activities on BLM lands would not permanently alter the transportation corridor within these lands. Proposed project activities and traffic management strategies are not anticipated to impact traffic, transportation, pedestrian, or cycling facilities. Cumulative impacts to traffic, transportation, pedestrian, and cycling facilities would not occur.	Project Report: Transportation Management Plan Prepared: January 25, 2024 Traffic Data and Designation Memorandum 03- 3J410 Prepared: December 26, 2023 2024 Northwest California Integrated Resource Management Plan Updated: July 12, 2024

Resource Conditions	Resource Impact Anticipated?	For Resource Conditions that are Present, the Following Findings are Made Pursuant to 40 CFR 1508.1(g):	Reference Material Used to Support Finding
Visual/Aesthetics	No	The proposed project would occur within existing Caltrans right of way or easements. The proposed activities, by design, would not fundamentally change the view of the foothills from the valley floor after project completion. BLM lands within the project area are classified as Visual Resource Management Class III. The VRM class III objective is to, "Partially retain the existing character of the landscape. Allow a moderate level of change that may attract attention but should not dominate the view of a casual observer." On BLM lands, the vaults, conduit, and other infrastructure would be buried and not noticeable to a casual observer. Markers for the line would be placed every 500 feet and would be a minimal level of change from the existing highway infrastructure and signage in the area. The project would not substantially alter the existing character of the landscape within this land; therefore, it complies with BLM management objectives for Class III. Proposed activities would not impact visual resources within or adjacent to the project. Cumulative impacts to visual resources would not occur.	Landscape Architecture Scoping Questionnaire to Determine Visual Impact Assessment Level Prepared: November 13, 2023 BLM Visual Resource Inventory Mapping Accessed: May, 8, 2024 2024 Northwest California Integrated Resource 2024 Northwest California Integrated Resource Management Plan Updated: July 12, 2024
Cultural Resources, including Tribal interests	No	The proposed project would occur within existing Caltrans right of way or easements. The proposed project would result in No Adverse Effect with Standard Conditions to cultural resources, including Tribal interests. Locations determined to be culturally sensitive or of importance to local Tribal interests would be demarcated as ESAs on project plans and physically delineated in the field with staking and/or flagging to ensure full avoidance of the resource. A qualified Archaeological Monitor would be present to monitor all ground disturbing work activities. A Tribal Monitor would also be present during construction. No cultural or Tribal resources would be impacted on BLM lands within the project area as no cultural or Tribal resources were identified where the project would affect BLM lands. The proposed activities would not impact cultural resources or Tribal interests within or adjacent to the project. Cumulative impacts to the cultural resources or Tribal interests would not occur.	Cultural Studies Office Concurrence Letter Prepared: July 10, 2023 2024 Northwest California Integrated Resource Management Plan Updated: July 12, 2024

Resource Conditions	Resource Impact Anticipated?	For Resource Conditions that are Present, the Following Findings are Made Pursuant to 40 CFR 1508.1(g):	Reference Material Used to Support Finding
Hydrology and Floodplain		The proposed project would occur within existing Caltrans right of way or easements. Reviews of Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) firm panels show the project limits are within areas designated as Zone X - Minimal Flood Hazard. Dead Horse Slough is a Central Valley Flood Protection Board (CVFPB) regulated waterway within the project area and would require an encroachment permits from CVFPB. The proposed project crosses the stream at two locations along SR 32; a concreate pipe at PM 10.32 and concrete box culvert at PM 11.73. Conduit would be installed by either attaching to existing structure or HDD underneath the crossings to fully avoid floodplain impacts. The proposed project is not located within a 100-year base floodplain and would not cause any significant encroachment, or incompatible floodplain development. The project does not encroach on any regulated floodplains within BLM lands. No levees would be affected by the proposed project and no United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) permits	
Water Quality and Storm Water Runoff	No	would be necessary. Proposed activities would not impact floodplains within or adjacent to the project. Cumulative impacts to floodplains would not occur. The proposed project would occur within existing Caltrans right of way or easements. No in-water work is proposed or anticipated. Overall, the project would have greater than one acre of disturbed soil area. The project would prepare and abide by a Common Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) per the State Water Resources Control Bord approved MMBN programmatic process. In addition, the project would implement Caltrans Standard Specifications for Water Quality and Job Site Management would prevent any temporary or permanent impacts to water quality within and adjacent to the project area. The contract would require the Contractor to prepare and implement a frac-out contingency plan should HDD activities occur under flowing streams. Implementation of Caltrans standards, a project specific SWPPP, and Frac-out contingency plan would ensure the proposed project conforms to the water quality management objectives of the BLM's 2024 Northwest California Integrated Resource Management Plan. Cumulative impacts to water quality would not occur.	Water Quality Assessment Exemption Prepared: April 3, 2023 2024 Northwest California Integrated Resource Management Plan Updated: July 12, 2024

Resource Conditions	Resource Impact Anticipated?	For Resource Conditions that are Present, the Following Findings are Made Pursuant to 40 CFR 1508.1(g):	Reference Material Used to Support Finding
Geology/Soils/ Seismic/ Topography	No	The proposed project would occur within existing Caltrans right of way or easements. The installation of broadband conduit, vaults, and hubs parallel with the existing state highway system would have no permanent effect on geology, seismology, or the topography within or adjacent to the project area due to nature of the design, limited depth of excavation, and lack of geologic/soil/seismic/topographic resources with the project footprint. Areas where ground disturbances are necessary for construction would be restored to previous conditions. No geologic/soil/seismic/topography resources were identified where the project would affect BLM lands. The proposed project would confirm with the 2024 Northwest California Integrated Resource Management Plan objectives for Soil Resources as work locations within BLM lands would occur within the existing roadway fill prism and would be designed to minimize the risk of erosion during and after construction. The proposed project activities would not impact geology, soils, seismic or topographic resources. Cumulative impacts to geology, soils, seismic or topographic resources would not occur.	Geotechnical Report Prepared: December 19,2023 Paleontological Resources Assessment Prepared: April 3, 2024 2024 Northwest California Integrated Resource Management Plan Updated: July 12, 2024
Paleontology	No	The proposed project would occur within existing Caltrans right of way or easements. The project location and proposed limited depth of excavation into previously disturbed areas underlain with engineered fill pose low risk of the project activities encountering unique paleontological resources, sites, or unique geologic features. No paleontological resources were identified within portions of BLM lands associated with the proposed project. Proposed activities are not anticipated to impact paleontological resources. Cumulative impacts to the paleontological resources would not occur.	Paleontological Resources Assessment Prepared: April 3, 2024 2024 Northwest California Integrated Resource Management Plan Updated: July 12, 2024

Resource Conditions	Resource Impact Anticipated?	For Resource Conditions that are Present, the Following Findings are Made Pursuant to 40 CFR 1508.1(g):	Reference Material Used to Support Finding
Hazardous Waste/Materials	No	The proposed project would occur within existing Caltrans right of way or easements. No significant hazardous waste or materials were identified as associated with the project location. Minor hazardous waste issues associated with the project area would be addressed with implementation of appropriate Caltrans contract special provisions for lead-based paint, treated wood waste, thermoplastic/paint roadway striping, and aerially deposited lead. The proposed project would conform with the BLM's 2024 Northwest California Integrated Resource Management Plan Hazardous Materials Management goals by implementing Caltrans special provisions during construction. Due to the lack of hazardous waste identified within the project footprint, the proposed project would not cause impacts to hazardous waste. Cumulative impacts to hazardous waste would not occur.	Preliminary Hazardous Waste Assessment Memorandum Prepared: October 30, 2023 2024 Northwest California Integrated Resource Management Plan Updated: July 12, 2024
Air Quality	No	The proposed project would occur within existing Caltrans right of way or easements. The proposed project is exempt from all project-level conformity requirements per Table 2 of the 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 93.126 under project type: Construction or Renovation of Power, Signal, and Communications Systems. The project is not designed to increase long term emissions from normal highway operations. Temporary, localized degradation of airquality may occur due to airborne dust from construction activities and emissions increased due to traffic congestion. The proposed scope conforms with the BLM's 2024 Northwest California Integrated Resource Management Plan management goals of minimizing air quality degradation due to the limited project scope and utilization of standard Caltrans BMPs for air quality. There would be no long-term impact to air quality. Cumulative impacts to the air quality would not occur.	Air Quality and Noise Analysis Memorandum Prepared: December 15, 2023 2024 Northwest California Integrated Resource Management Plan Updated: July 12, 2024

Resource Conditions	Resource Impact Anticipated?	For Resource Conditions that are Present, the Following Findings are Made Pursuant to 40 CFR 1508.1(g):	Reference Material Used to Support Finding
Noise	No	The proposed project would occur within existing Caltrans right of way or easements. The proposed project meets the criteria for a Type III project as defined in 23 CFR 772 and does not require a detailed noise analysis. The proposed project is not designed to fundamentally alter the highway or its operations. Temporary, localized increases in noise conditions may dominate the noise environment in the immediate area of construction. There would be no permanent change to noise conditions within BLM lands affected by the project. There would be no long-term impact to noise conditions. Cumulative impacts to noise would not occur.	Air Quality and Noise Analysis Memorandum Prepared: December 15, 2023 2024 Northwest California Integrated Resource Management Plan Updated: July 12, 2024
Animal Species	No	The proposed project would occur within existing Caltrans right of way or easements. Proposed activities would occur exclusively within managed and previously disturbed areas along the highway shoulders and pavement. No wildlife habitat was identified within the project footprint. Construction activities would not cause direct or indirect impacts to wildlife. The project would not inhibit wildlife connectivity as no barriers would be created. BMPs to avoid migratory and non- game bird impacts would be implemented. The proposed project would not inhibit enhancement or protection of wildlife habitat within associated BLM lands and would conform to the 2024 Northwest California Integrated Resource Management Plan objectives for Wildlife and Fisheries Management. Proposed activities would not impact wildlife species within or adjacent to the project area. Cumulative impacts to wildlife would not occur.	Biological Resources Evaluation Memorandum Prepared: May 22, 2024 2024 Northwest California Integrated Resource Management Plan Updated: July 12, 2024

Resource Conditions	Resource Impact Anticipated?	For Resource Conditions that are Present, the Following Findings are Made Pursuant to 40 CFR 1508.1(g):	Reference Material Used to Support Finding
Plant Species	No	The proposed project would occur within existing Caltrans right of way or easements. Proposed activities would occur exclusively within managed and previously disturbed areas along the highway shoulders and pavement. Plant habitat within the project footprint is isolated to the outer shoulder area and suitable for ruderal roadside vegetation. No special status plant species were observed within the project area during field surveys. Vegetation that may require removal would come from areas routinely managed by Caltrans Maintenance crews. The proposed project does not anticipate tree removal to be necessary on BLM associated lands and conforms with the 2024 Northwest California Integrated Resource Management Plan Vegetation Management objectives. Proposed activities would not impact sensitive plant species within or adjacent to the project area. Cumulative impacts to sensitive plants would not occur.	Biological Resources Evaluation Memorandum Prepared: May 22, 2024 2024 Northwest California Integrated Resource Management Plan Updated: July 12, 2024
Invasive Species	No	The proposed project would occur within existing Caltrans right of way or easements. Proposed activities would occur exclusively within managed and previously disturbed areas along the highway shoulders and pavement. Caltrans Maintenance crews routinely manage vegetation growth with the project footprint through appropriate mechanical and chemical methods. The project would implement Standard Measures and Best Management Practices throughout to avoid the introduction of invasive species within the project area. The project would conform to the BLM's 2024 Northwest California Integrated Resource Management Plan objectives for Vegetation Management. Proposed activities would not impact the project area or adjacent land through introduction of invasive species. Cumulative impacts due to the introduction of invasive species would not occur.	Biological Resources Evaluation Memorandum Prepared: May 22, 2024 2024 Northwest California Integrated Resource Management Plan Updated: July 12, 2024

Resource Conditions	Resource Impact Anticipated?	For Resource Conditions that are Present, the Following Findings are Made Pursuant to 40 CFR 1508.1(g):	Reference Material Used to Support Finding
Natural Communities	No	The proposed project would occur within existing Caltrans right of way or easements. Proposed activities would predominantly be located within previously disturbed areas. Potentially jurisdictional natural communities (i.e., riparian, wetland, vernal pool) were identified at various locations within the project limits and adjacent Caltrans right-of-way during biological resource surveys. The proposed project incorporated ESA demarcations into the project plan sets to ensure full avoidance of the resources in design. Biological resource ESAs would be delineated in the field with staking and/or flagging and monitored by a qualified biologist to ensure full avoidance during construction. Potentially jurisdictional waters and other drainages would be avoided using either HDD or attaching to a structure. When HDD is utilized, specialized equipment would bore underneath the feature and the conduit would be pulled back through the bore hole allowing full avoidance. Additionally, due to the ability of HDD equipment to be positioned relatively far away (spaced 300-500 feet apart) from aquatic features, any adjacent sensitive habitat (e.g., riparian) would be fully avoided as well. Where practicable, conduit would be attached to an existing structure (e.g., bridge, box culvert that can accommodate conduit). Where existing culvert facilities are located deep enough under the roadway fill prism the conduit would be installed over the culvert, within the existing fill, and avoid any in-water work. No natural communities were identified where the project alignment crosses BLM lands. Proposed activities would not impact natural communities within or adjacent to the project area. Cumulative impacts to natural communities would not occur.	Biological Resources Evaluation Memorandum Prepared: May 22, 2024 2024 Northwest California Integrated Resource Management Plan Updated: July 12, 2024

Resource Conditions	Resource Impact Anticipated?	For Resource Conditions that are Present, the Following Findings are Made Pursuant to 40 CFR 1508.1(g):	Reference Material Used to Support Finding
Threatened and Endangered Species	No	Caltrans right of way or easements. A preliminary project review identified several threatened or endangered vernal pool plant and animal species as having potential to occur within the project area. Vernal pools were identified within and adjacent to Caltrans right of way between PM 11.27 to 13.20 within the Chico city limits. However, the vernal pools are located outside of the proposed project action area. The proposed project would incorporate ESA demarcations to ensure full avoidance of direct and indirect impacts to all vernal pool habitat and species. Biological resource ESA's would be delineated in the field with staking and/or flagging and monitored by a qualified Biologist. The project passes through designated critical habitat polygons for several vernal pool invertebrate species, however, there are no Primary Constituent Elements (PCE) of the designated critical habitat found within the proposed action areas. No special status species or their habitat were identified where the proposed project alignment crosses BLM lands, therefore, the project conforms to the BLM's 2024 Northwest California Integrated Resource Management Plan objectives for Special Status Species. Proposed activities would have no effect to threatened and endangered species or any designated critical habitat within or adjacent to the project area. Cumulative impacts to threatened and endangered species or any designated oritical habitat within or adjacent to the project area.	Biological Resources Evaluation Memorandum Prepared: May 22, 2024 2024 Northwest California Integrated Resource Management Plan Updated: July 12, 2024

Resource Conditions	Resource Impact Anticipated?	For Resource Conditions that are Present, the Following Findings are Made Pursuant to 40 CFR 1508.1(g):	Reference Material Used to Support Finding
Wetlands and	No	The proposed project would occur within existing	Biological Resources
other Waters		Caltrans right of way or easements. Proposed activities	Evaluation
		would predominantly be located within previously	Memorandum
		disturbed areas. Potentially jurisdictional aquatic resources were identified at various locations within the project limits and adjacent Caltrans right-of-way during biological resource surveys. The proposed project incorporated ESA demarcations into the project plan sets to ensure full avoidance of the resources in design. Biological resource ESA's would be delineated in the field with staking and/or flagging and monitored by a qualified Biologist to ensure full avoidance during construction. Potentially jurisdictional waters and other	Prepared: May 22, 2024 2024 Northwest California Integrated Resource Management Plan Updated: July 12, 2024
		drainages would be avoided using either HDD or attaching to a structure. When HDD is utilized, specialized equipment would bore underneath the feature and the conduit would be pulled back through the bore hole allowing full avoidance. Additionally, due to the ability of HDD equipment to be positioned relatively far away (spaced 300-500 feet apart) from aquatic features, any adjacent sensitive habitat (e.g., riparian) would be fully avoided as well. Where practicable, conduit would be attached to an existing structure (e.g., bridge, box culvert that can accommodate conduit). Where existing culvert facilities are located deep enough under the roadway fill prism the conduit would be installed over the culvert, within the existing fill, and avoid any in-water work. No wetlands or waters of the US were identified where the project crosses BLM lands. The proposed scope would conform the the BLM's 2024 Northwest California Integrated Resource Management Plan objectives for Water Quality by utilizing construction methods to fully avoid work within aquatic features whether they are wet or dry. No in-water work would be necessary and proposed activities would not impact wetlands or other waters within or adjacent to the project area. Cumulative impacts to wetlands and other waters would not occur. Cumulative impacts to wetlands and other waters would not occur.	

Resource Conditions	Resource Impact Anticipated?	For Resource Conditions that are Present, the Following Findings are Made Pursuant to 40 CFR 1508.1(g):	Reference Material Used to Support Finding
Visual Resources, including Wilderness, WSAs, and LWCs	No	The proposed project would occur within existing Caltrans right of way or easements. No lands classified as Wilderness, Wilderness Study Areas or Lands with Wilderness Characteristics occur within or adjacent to the project area. BLM lands within the project area are classified as Visual Resource Management Class III. The VRM class III objective is to, "Partially retain the existing character of the landscape. Allow a moderate level of change that may attract attention but should not dominate the view of a casual observer." On BLM lands, the vaults, conduit, and other infrastructure would be buried and not noticeable to a casual observer. Markers for the line would be placed every 500 feet but would be a minimal level of change from the other highway infrastructure and signage in the area. The project would not substantially alter the existing character of the landscape within this land; therefore, it complies with the management objectives for Class III. There are no wilderness-related values where the proposed project crosses BLM lands, therefore, the proposed project would conform to the BLM's 2024 Northwest California Integrated Resource Management Plan for Wilderness objectives. Proposed activities would not impact visual resources or wilderness areas within or adjacent to the project. Cumulative impacts to visual resources or wilderness areas would not occur.	Landscape Architecture Scoping Questionnaire to Determine Visual Impact Assessment Level Prepared: November 13, 2023 BLM Visual Resource Inventory Mapping Accessed: May 9, 2024 2024 Northwest California Integrated Resource Management Plan Updated: July 12, 2024

As documented in Table 2-1, there would be no impacts to resources resulting from the Butte 32 MMBN Project. Therefore, no further analysis of resource impacts is necessary.

Chapter 3 Coordination

Early and continuing coordination with the general public, Native American tribes, and state and local agencies is an essential part of the environmental process. It helps the federal lead agency determine the necessary scope of environmental documentation and the level of analysis required, and to identify potential impacts and avoidance, minimization, and/or mitigation measures and related environmental requirements. Agency and tribal consultation and public participation for this project have been accomplished through a variety of formal and informal methods, including interagency coordination meetings, Project Development Team (PDT) meetings, and public access to the environmental assessment. This chapter summarizes the results of the Department's efforts to fully identify, address, and resolve project-related issues through early and continuing coordination.

3.1 Public Coordination

The Middle-Mile Advisory Committee (MMAC) monitors the development and construction of the middle mile broadband project statewide. The MMAC holds public meetings multiple times per year in a hybrid format where project updates are given as well as the opportunity for public comment. Past and upcoming MMAC meetings are outlined below.

Past MMAC Meetings and Resources:

- July 19, 2024 Agenda 7-19-2024 (HTML) | Recording 7-19-2024 | Meeting Minutes 7-19-24 (PDF) | Presentation 7-19-24 (PDF)
- April 19, 2024 Agenda 4-19-2024 (HTML) | Recording 4-19-2024 |
 Meeting Minutes 4-19-24 (PDF) | Presentation 4-19-2024 (PDF)
- January 19, 2024 Agenda 1-19-2024 (HTML) | Recording 1-19-2024 | Meeting Minutes 1-19-2024 | Presentation 1-19-2024 (PDF)
- October 20, 2023 Agenda 10-20-2023 (HTML) | Recording 10-20-2023 | Meeting Minutes 10-20-2023 (PDF) | Presentation 10-20-2023 (PDF)
- July 21, 2023 Agenda 7-21-2023 (HTML) | Recording 7-21-2023 | Meeting Minutes 7-21-2023 (PDF) | Presentation 7-21-2023 (PDF)

- April 21, 2023 <u>Agenda 4-21-2023 (HTML)</u> | <u>Recording 4-21-2023 | Meeting Minutes 4-21-2023 (PDF)</u> | <u>Presentation 4-21-2023 (PDF)</u>
- January 20, 2023 Agenda 1-20-2023 (HTML) | Recording 1-20-23 | Meeting Minutes 1-20-2023 (PDF) | Presentation 1-20-2023 (PDF)
- November 18, 2022 <u>Agenda 11-18-2022 (HTML) | Recording 11-18-2022 | Meeting Minutes 11-18-2022 (PDF) | Presentation 11-18-2022 (PDF)</u>
- October 21, 2022 Agenda 10-21-2022 (HTML) | Recording 10-21-2022 | Meeting Minutes 10-21-2022 (PDF) | Presentation 10-21-2022 (PDF)
- October 13, 2022 Public Groundbreaking for Middle-Mile Network
- September 16, 2022 <u>Agenda 9-16-2022 (HTML)</u> | <u>Recording 9-16-2022 | Meeting Minutes 9-16-2022 (PDF)</u> | <u>Presentation 9-16-2022 (PDF)</u>
- August 19, 2022 <u>Agenda 8-19-2022 (HTML)</u> | <u>Recording 8-19-2022 | Meeting Minutes 8-19-2022 (PDF)</u> | <u>Presentation 8-19-2022 (PDF)</u>
- July 22, 2022 Agenda 7-22-2022 (HTML) | Recording 7-22-2022 | Meeting Minutes 7-22-2022 (PDF) | Presentation 7-22-2022 (PDF)
- June 17, 2022 Agenda 6-17-2022 (HTML) | Recording 6-17-2022 | Meeting Minutes 6-17-2022 (PDF) | Presentation 6-17-2022 (PDF)
- May 20, 2022 Agenda 5-20-2022 (HTML) | Recording 5-20-2022 | Meeting Minutes 5-20-2022 (PDF) | Presentation 5-20-2022 (PDF)
- April 22, 2022 Agenda 4-22-2022 (HTML) | Recording 4-22-2022 | Meeting Minutes 4-22-2022 (PDF) | Presentation 4-22-2022 (PDF)
- March 18, 2022 <u>Agenda 3-18-2022 (HTML) | Recording 3-18-2022 | Meeting Minutes 3-18-2022 (PDF) | Presentation 3-18-2022 (PDF)</u>
- February 18, 2022 Agenda 2-18-2022 (HTML) | Presentation 2-18-2022 (PDF) | Public Comment 2-18-2022 (PDF)

- January 21, 2022 Agenda 1-21-2022 (PDF) | Recording 1-21-2022
 Meeting Minutes 1-21-2022- (PDF) | Presentation 1-21-2022 (PDF)
- December 15, 2021 <u>Agenda 12-15-2021 (PDF) | Recording 12-15-2021 | Meeting Minutes 12-15-2021 (PDF) | Presentations 12-15-2021 (PDF)</u>
- November 17, 2021 <u>Agenda 11-17-2021 (PDF)</u> | <u>Recording 11-17-2021</u> | <u>Meeting Minutes 11-17-2021 (PDF)</u> | <u>Presentation 11-17-2021</u> (PDF)
- October 20, 2021 Agenda 10-20-2021 (PDF) | Recording 10-20-2021 | Meeting Minutes 10-20-2021 (PDF) | Presentation 10-20-2021 (PDF)
- September 15, 2021 Agenda 9-15-2021 (PDF) | Recording 9-15-2021 | Meeting Minutes 9-15-2021 (PDF) | Presentation 9-15-2021 (PDF)
- August 18, 2021 Agenda 8-18-2021 (PDF) | Recording 8-18-2021 | Meeting Minutes 8-18-2021 (PDF) | Presentation 8-18-2021 (PDF)

Upcoming MMBA Meetings:

- July 19, 2024 at 10AM
- October 18, 2024 at 10AM

3.2 Tribal Engagement and Consultation

Tribal engagement is an essential part of the environmental process. Tribal engagement meeting and consultation efforts to date are outlined below.

Middle-Mile Broadband Initiative Regional Tribal Engagement Series

- Session 1: January 11, 2023 Presentation 1-11-2023
 (PDF), Recording 1-11-2023, Transcript 1-11-2023 (PDF)
- Session 2: January 17, 2023 Presentation 1-17-2023
 (PDF), Recording 1-17-2023, Transcript 1-17-2023 (PDF)
- Session 3: February 2, 2023 Presentation 2-2-2023
 (PDF), Recording 2-2-2023, Transcript 2-2-2023 (PDF)

Project Specific Tribal Engagement

Caltrans, on behalf of FHWA, initiated Native American tribal consultation on August 24, 2022 with Mechoopda Indian Tribe of Chico Rancheria, Greenville Rancheria, Estom Yumeka Maidu Tribe of the Enterprise Rancheria, Mooretown Rancheria of Maidu Indians, KonKow Valley Band of Maidu, T'si Akim Maidu. Mechoopda Indian Tribe of Chico Rancheria, responded on August 29, 2022, that the Mechoopda would like to consult on the project. Mechoopda Indian Tribe of Chico Rancheria would monitor the proposed project. Consultation with the tribes is on-going and would continue through the life of the entire project.

3.3 Outside Agency Coordination

<u>FHWA</u>

As the project's NEPA lead, FHWA would review and provide approval for this Environmental Assessment.

BLM

A portion of this project is located within Federal lands under BLM authority. As a cooperating agency, the BLM would review and provide approval for this Environmental Assessment.

NTIA

Supplemental funding was provided by NTIA. As a co-federal lead, the NTIA would review and provide approval for this Environmental Assessment.

Central Valley Flood Protection Board (CVFPB)

The proposed broadband alignment crosses Dead Horse Slough, a CVFPB regulated stream, at two locations within the project limits. Full encroachment and work authorization permit applications have been prepared and submitted for CVFPB approval.

Chapter 4 List of Preparers

The following individuals performed the environmental work on the project:

California Department of Transportation

Dotrik Wilson, Environmental Branch Chief

Angelica Flores, Environmental Coordinator

Trevor Garrison, Environmental Coordinator

Kelli Angell, Biologist

Kristina Crawford, Archaeologist

James Allen, Paleontologist

Mark Melani, Hazardous Waste Specialist

Aaron Bali, Air/Noise Specialist

Sean Cross, Water Quality Specialist

Michael Sterle, Landscape Architecture

Emmanuel Oguike, Hydraulics Specialist

Najed Dakak, Project Manager

Alex Biaheza, Senior Design Engineer

Federal Highway Administration

Sean Oliver

Jeanette Mar

National Telecommunications and Information Administration

Amanda Pereira, Environmental Program Manager

Bureau of Land Management

Jennifer Mata, Field Manager

Laura Brodhead, Assistant Field Manager

Alden Neel, Assistant Field Manager

Chad Endicott, Planning and Environmental Specialist

Katie Allan, Realty Specialist

Sarah Matthews, State Project Manager

Brooke Thompson, Ecologist

Jess Paoli, Forestry

Tobias Felbeck, Wildlife Biologist

Lowell Thomas, Archaeologist

Kody Shellhouse, Geologist

Garrett Dunn, Fire & Fuels Management

Devonie Plumer, Range Specialist

Appendix A Title VI Policy Statement

CALIFORNIA STATE TRANSPORTATION AGENCY

GAVIN NEWSOM GOVERNOR

California Department of Transportation

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
P.O. BOX 942873, MS-49 | SACRAMENTO, CA 94273-0001
[916) 654-6130 | FAX [916) 653-5776 TTY 711
www.dol.ca.gov

Caltrans



September 2022

NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY STATEMENT

The California Department of Transportation, under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, ensures "No person in the United States shall, on the ground of race, color, or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance."

Caltrans will make every effort to ensure nondiscrimination in all of its services, programs and activities, whether they are federally funded or not, and that services and benefits are fairly distributed to all people, regardless of race, color, or national origin. In addition, Caltrans will facilitate meaningful participation in the transportation planning process in a non-discriminatory manner.

Related federal statutes, remedies, and state law further those protections to include sex, disability, religion, sexual orientation, and age.

For information or guidance on how to file a complaint, or obtain more information regarding Title VI, please contact the Title VI Branch Manager at (916) 639-6392 or visit the following web page: https://dot.ca.gov/programs/civil-rights/title-vi.

To obtain this information in an alternate format such as Braille or in a language other than English, please contact the California Department of Transportation, Office of Civil Rights, at PO Box 942874, MS-79, Sacramento, CA 94274-0001; (916) 879-6768 (TTY 711); or at Title.VI@dot.ca.gov.

TONY TAVARES Director

"Provide a safe and reliable transportation network that serves all people and respects the environment"

Appendix B Preliminary Project Layouts and Construction Details



- 1. FOR ACCURATE RIGHT OF WAY DATA, CONTACT RIGHT OF WAY ENGINEERING AT THE DISTRICT OFFICE.
- UTILITY INFORMATION SHOWN IS INCOMPLETE, ALL EXISTING HIGH PRIORIT UTILITIES AND OTHER UTILITIES HAVE NOT BEEN POSITIVE Y LOCATED.
- 3. EXACT LOCATION OF VAULT AND CONDUIT TO BE DETERMINED BY ENGINEER.
- 4. THE ALIGNMENT SHOWN IS A LAYOUT LINE, NOT AN ENGINEERED ALIGNMENT.

LEGEND: UNDERGROUND CONDUIT INSTALLATION METHODS

INSTALL FIBER OPTIC CABLE 288 STRAND (TYPE 1)

INSTALL CONDUIT HORIZONTAL DIRECTIONAL DRILLING METHOD (1-2" HOPE) [SOIL], SEE SHEET MMBND-1B, DETAIL "E"



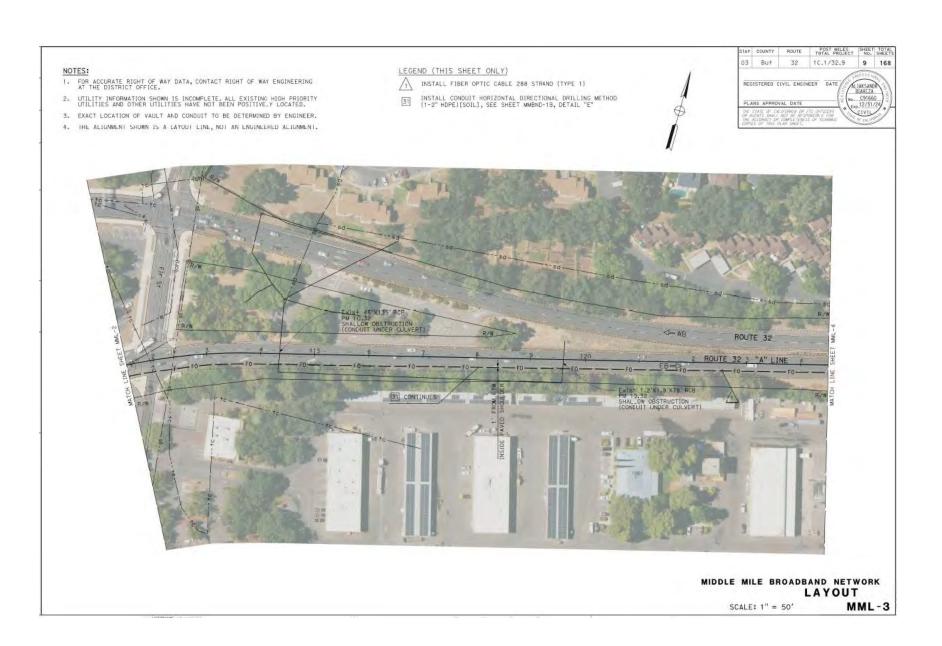
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MIDDLE MILE BROADBAND NETWORK LAYOUT

SCALE: 1" = 50'

MML-2

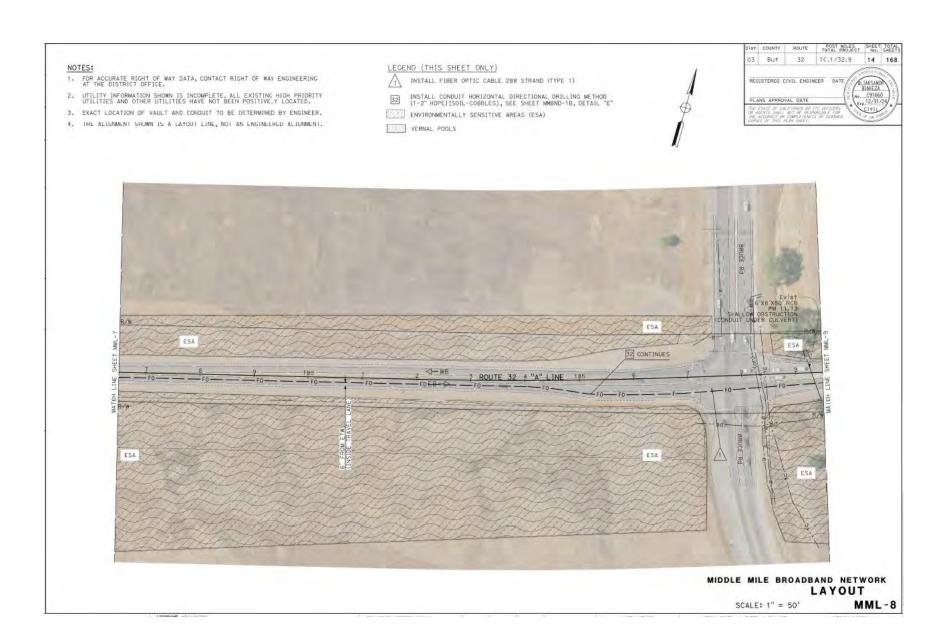








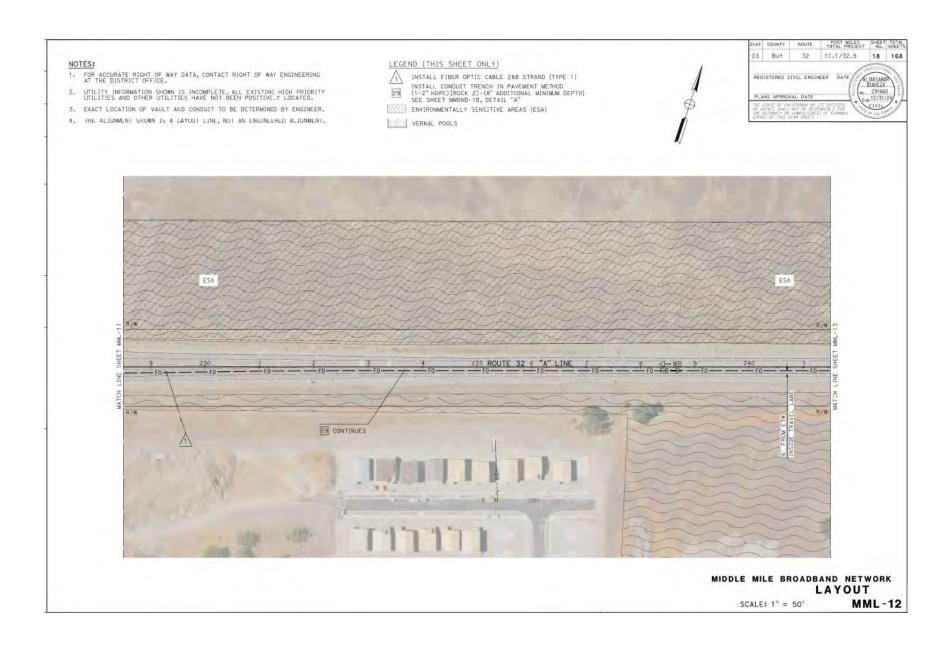


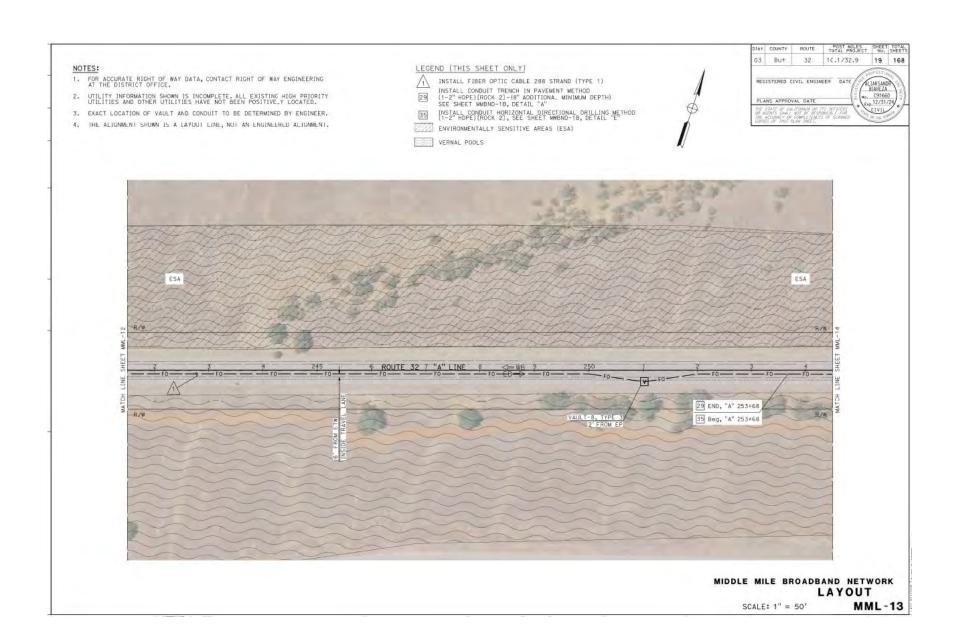


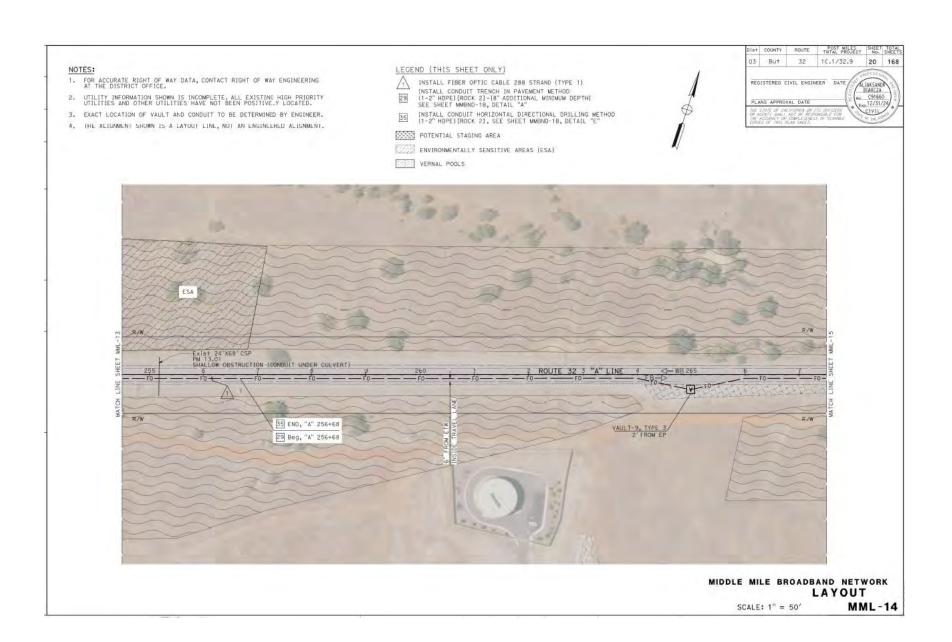


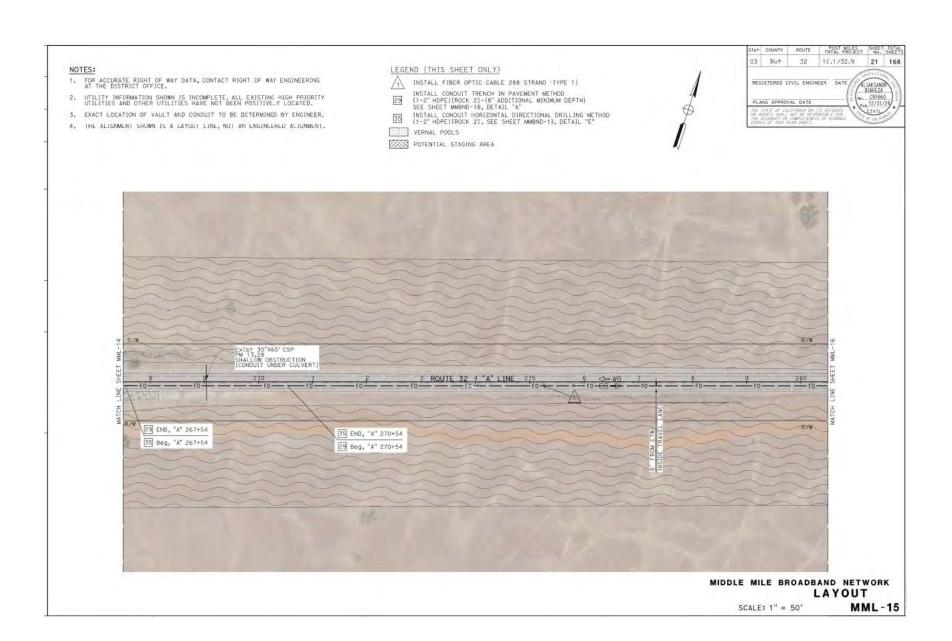


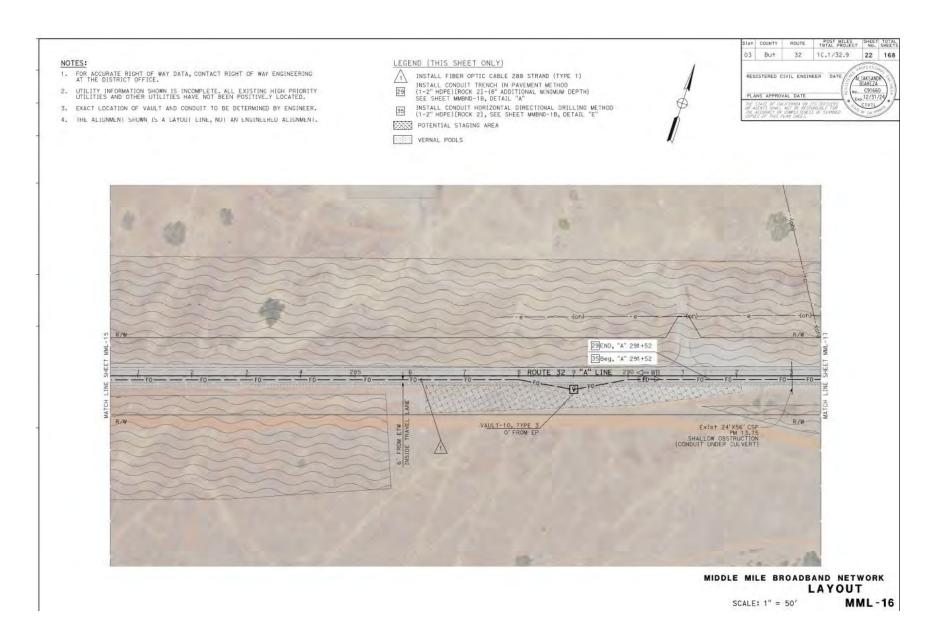


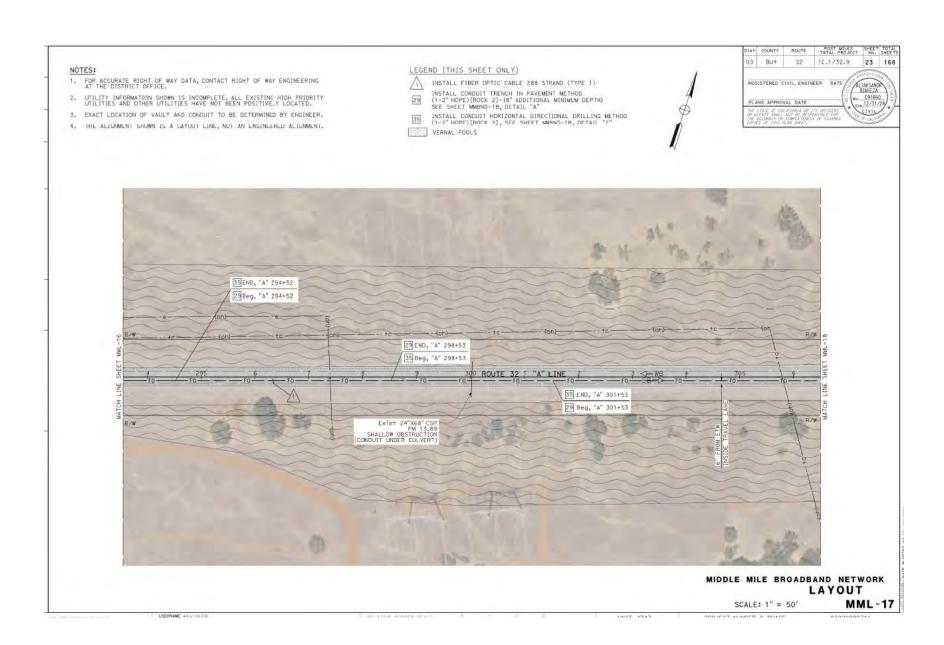


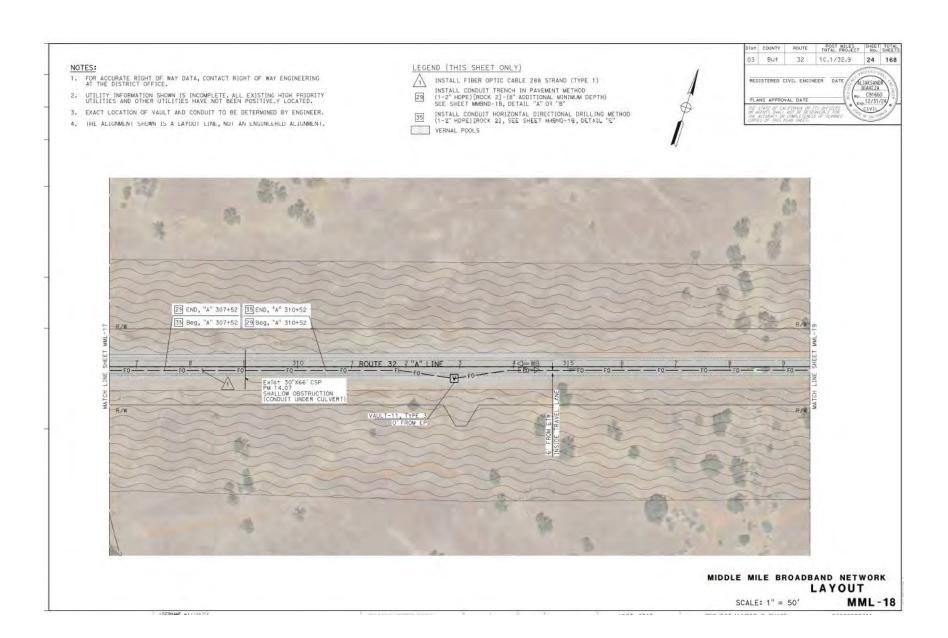


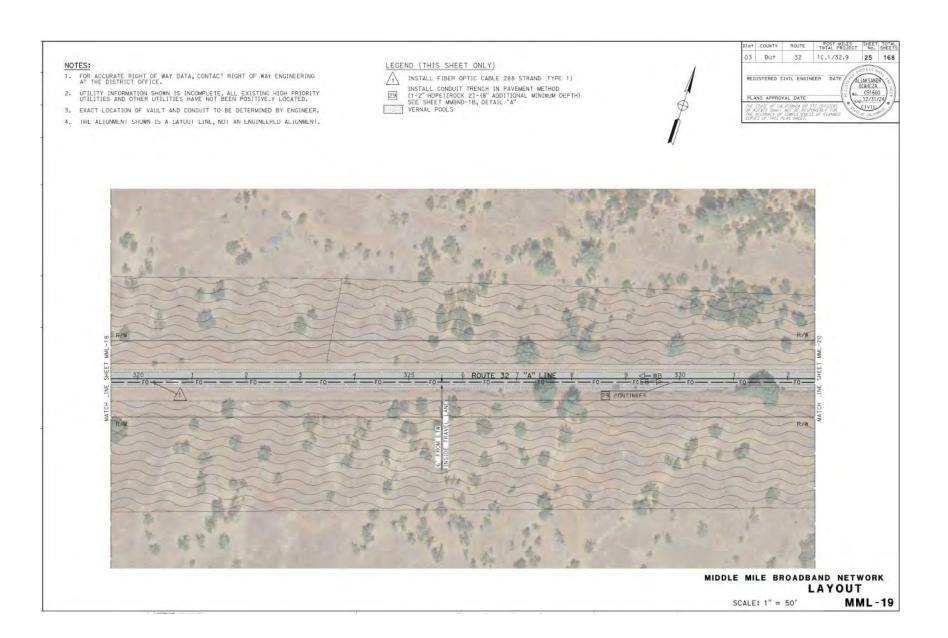


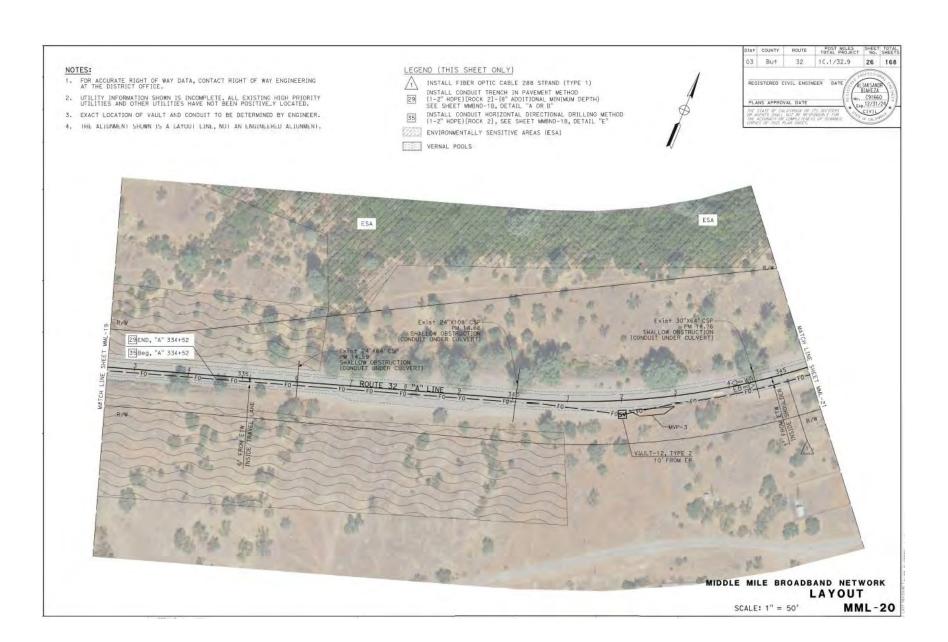


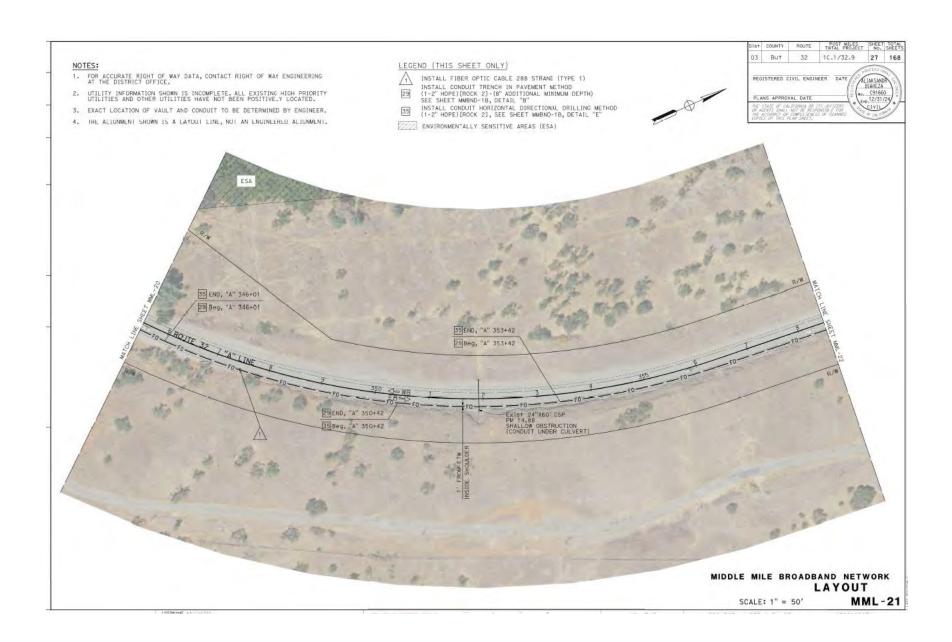


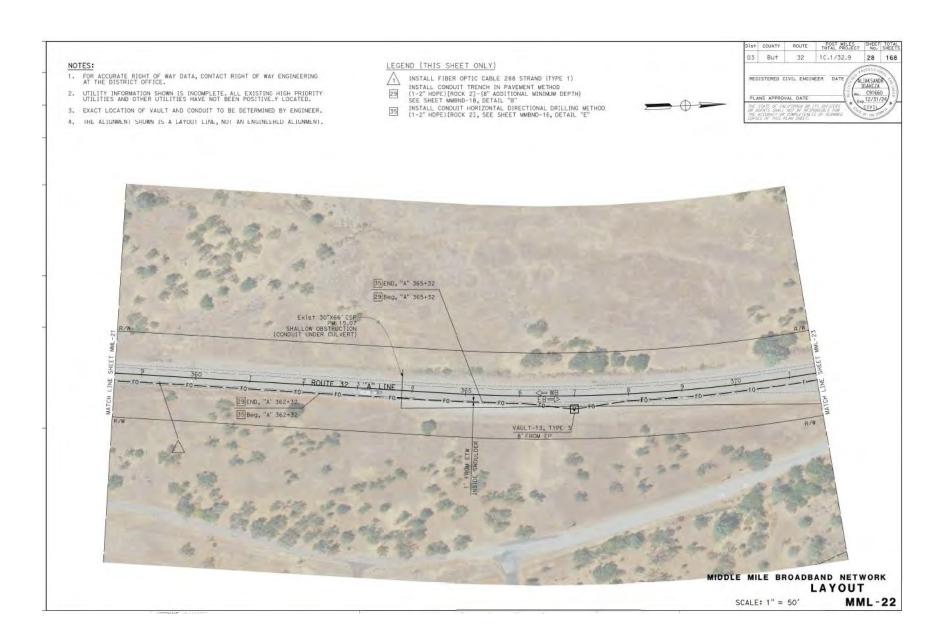


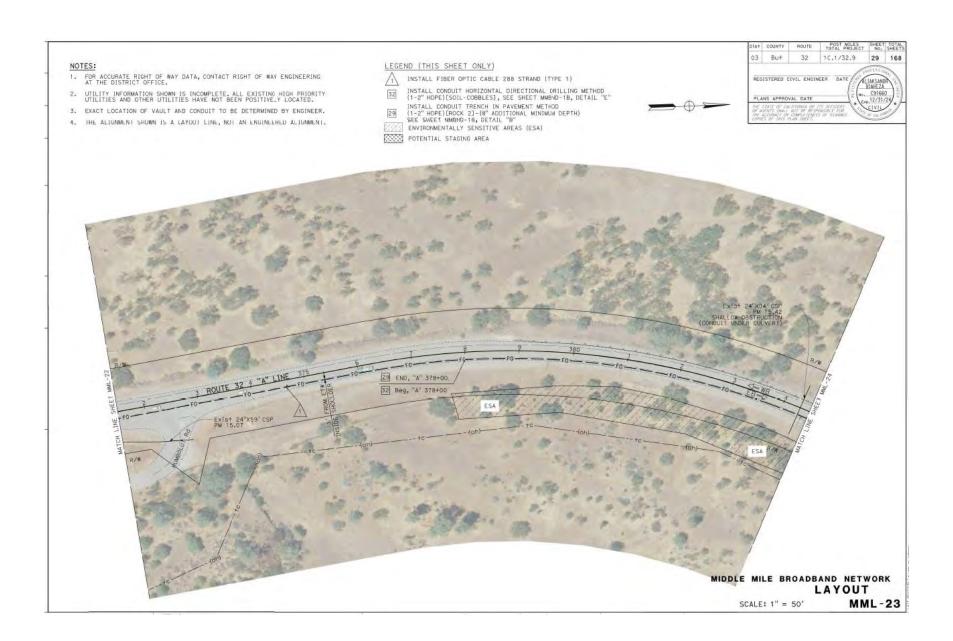


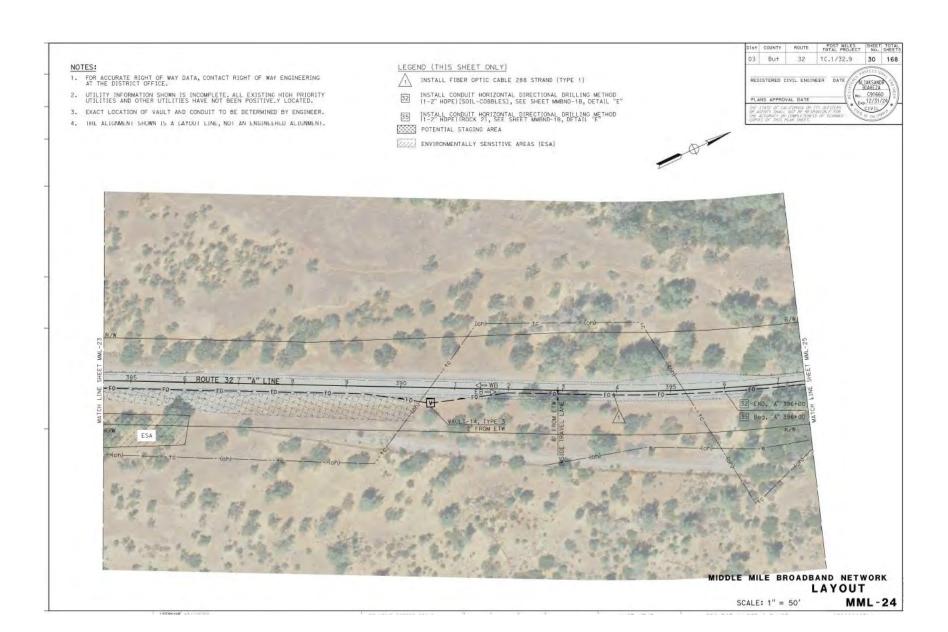


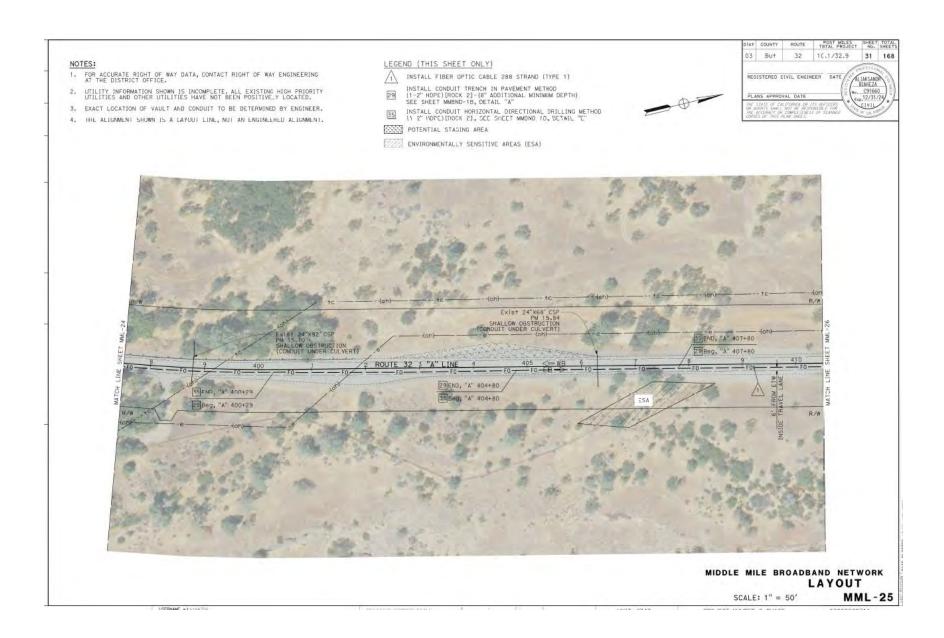


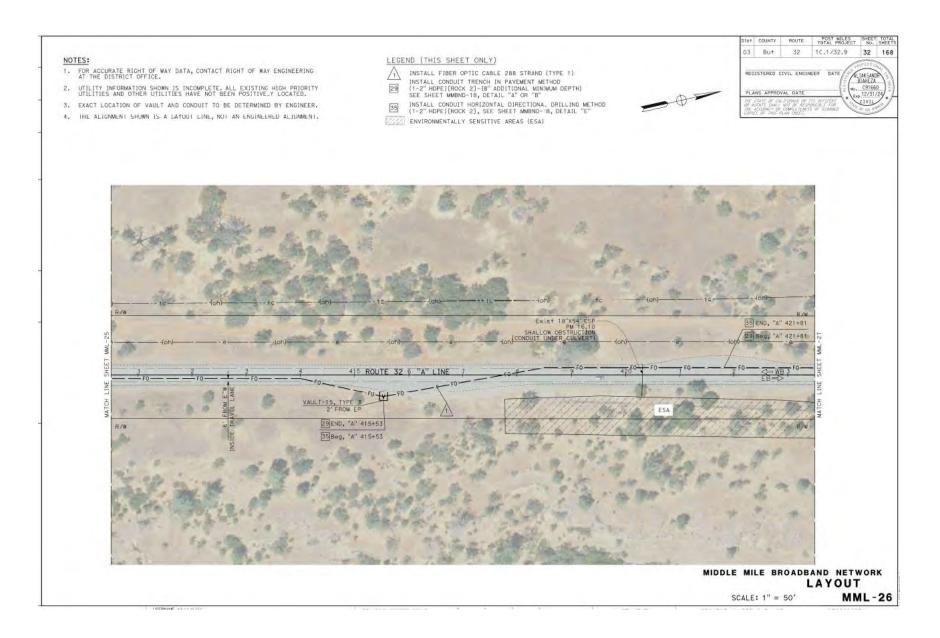


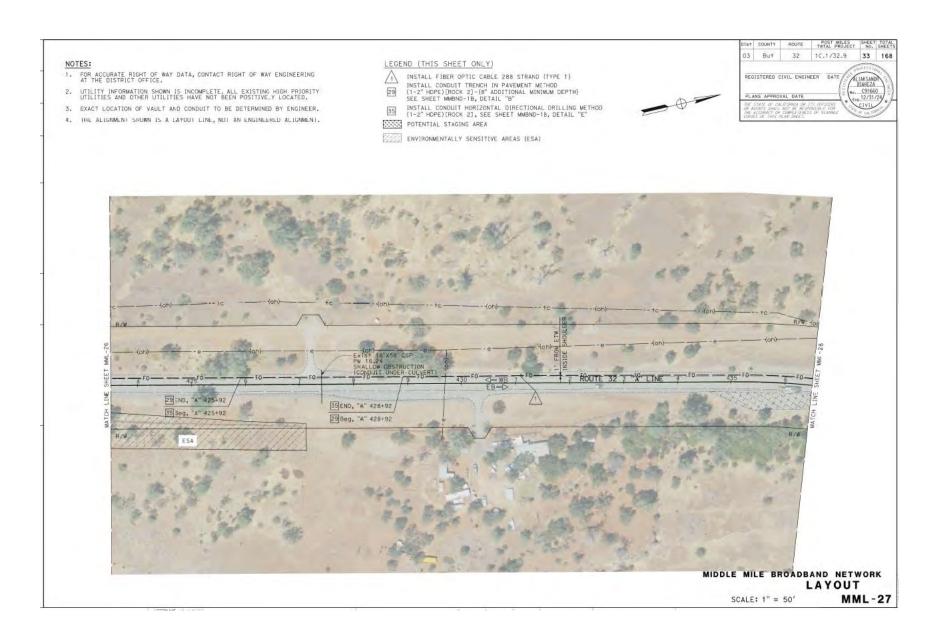


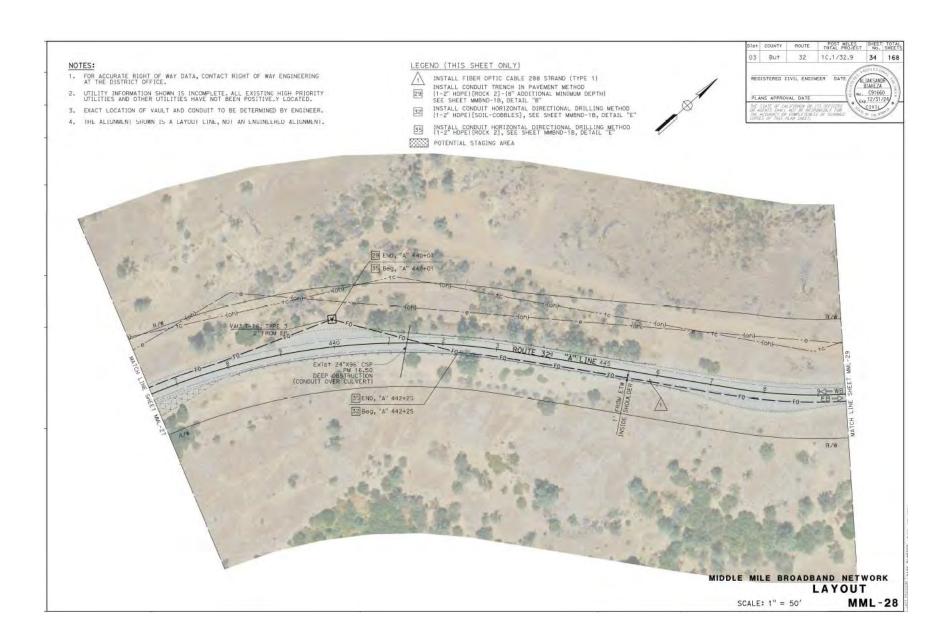


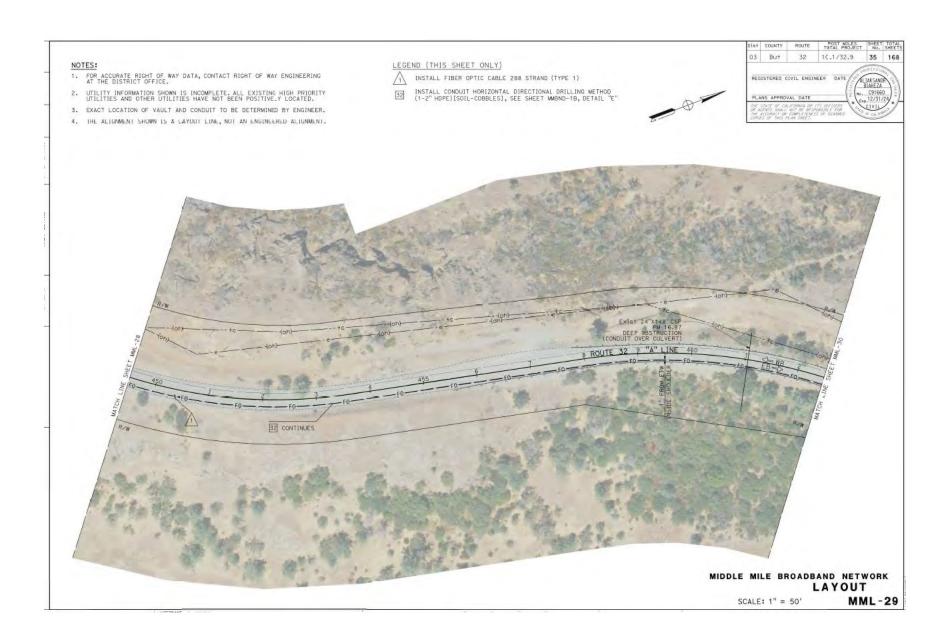


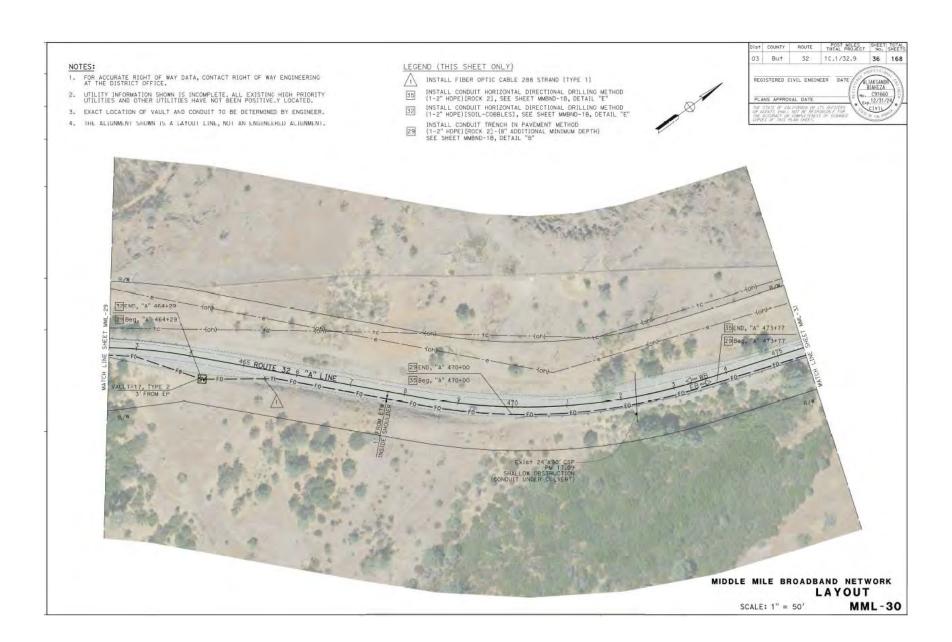






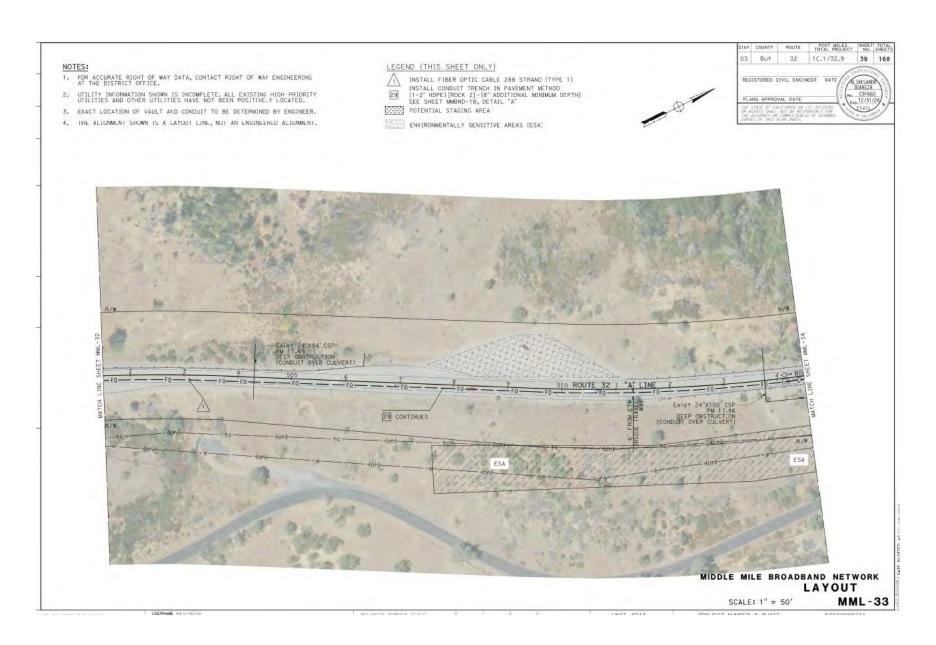


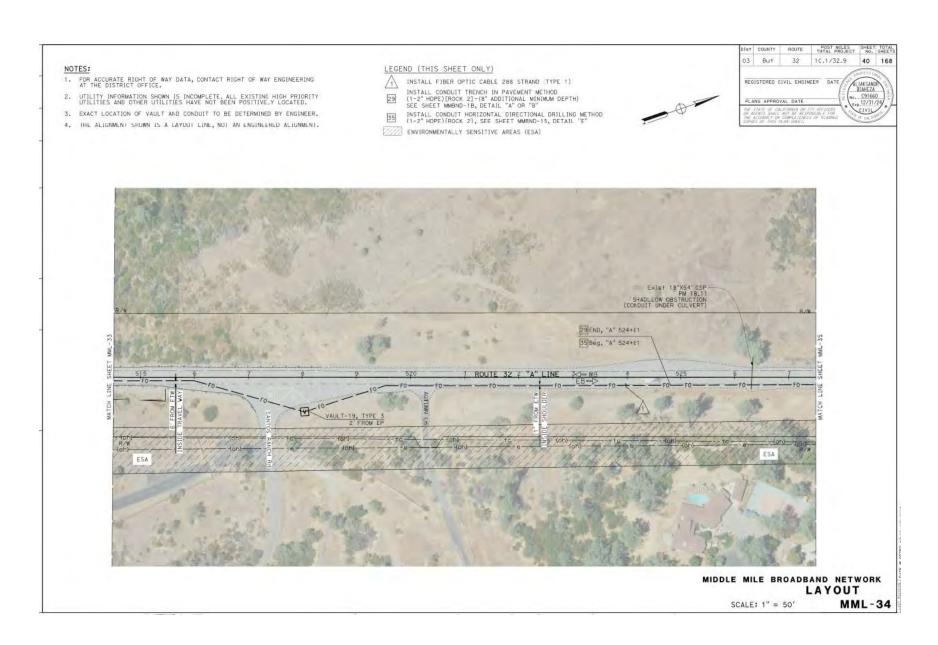


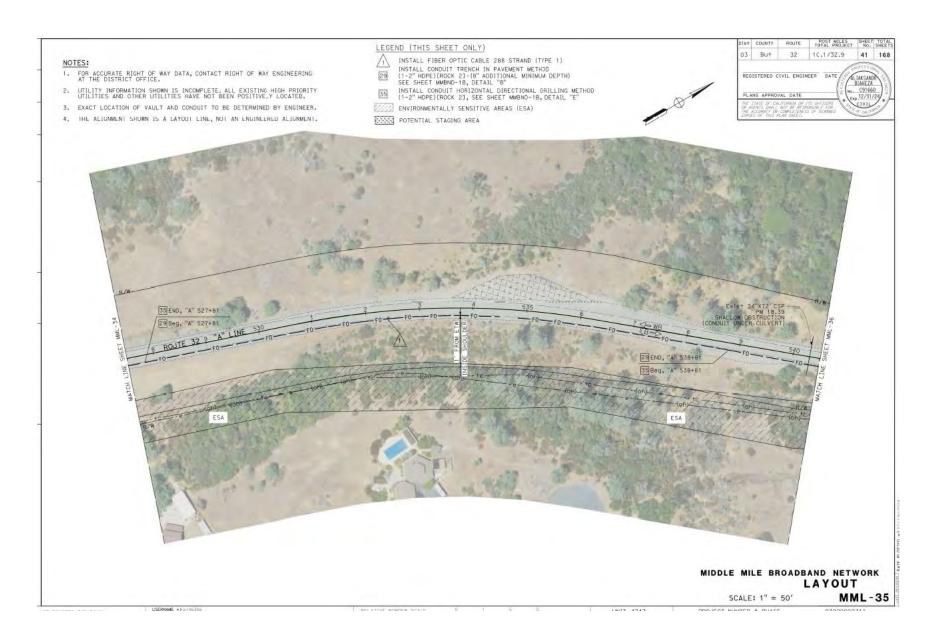


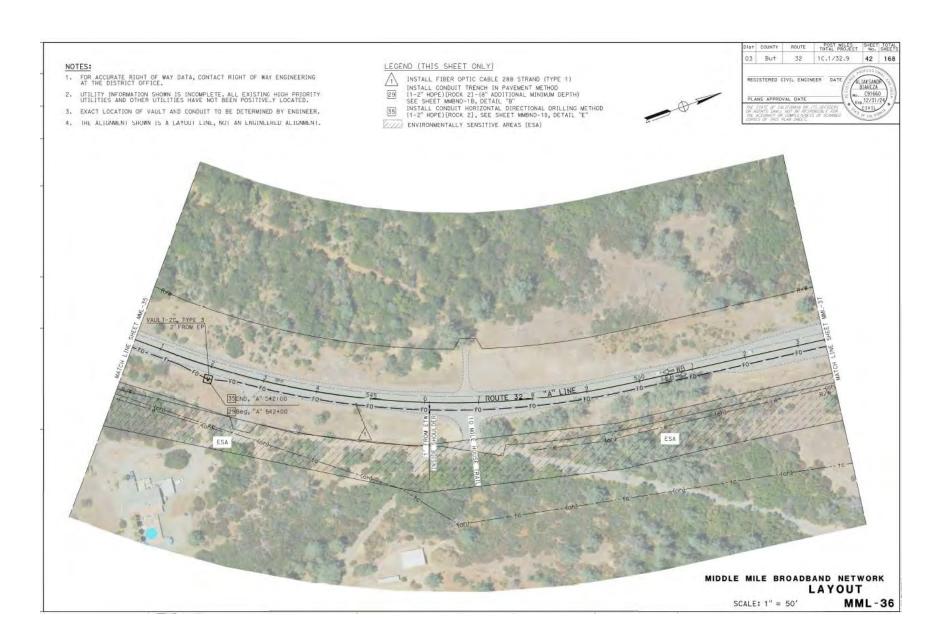








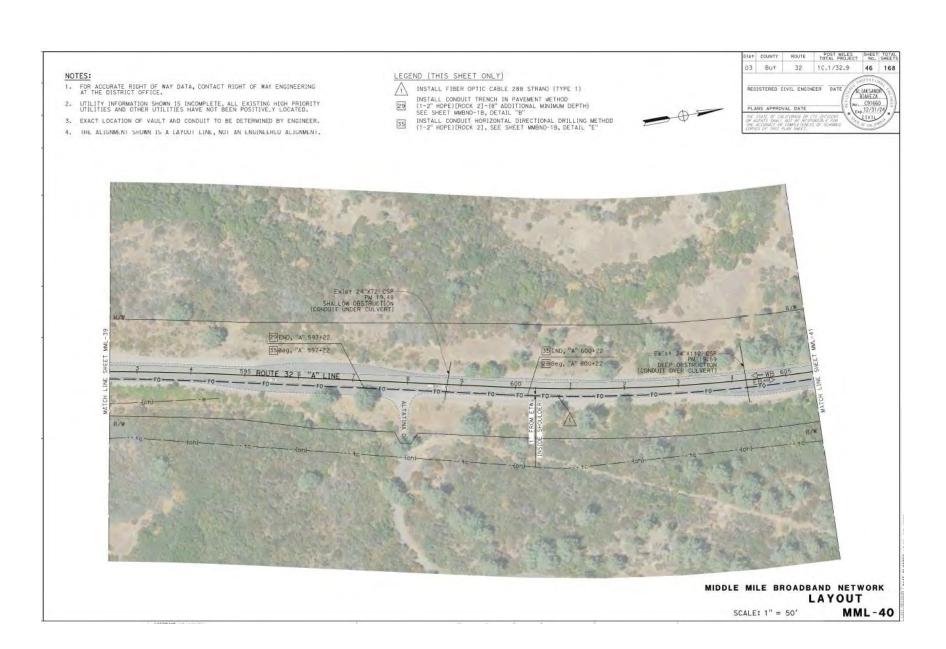


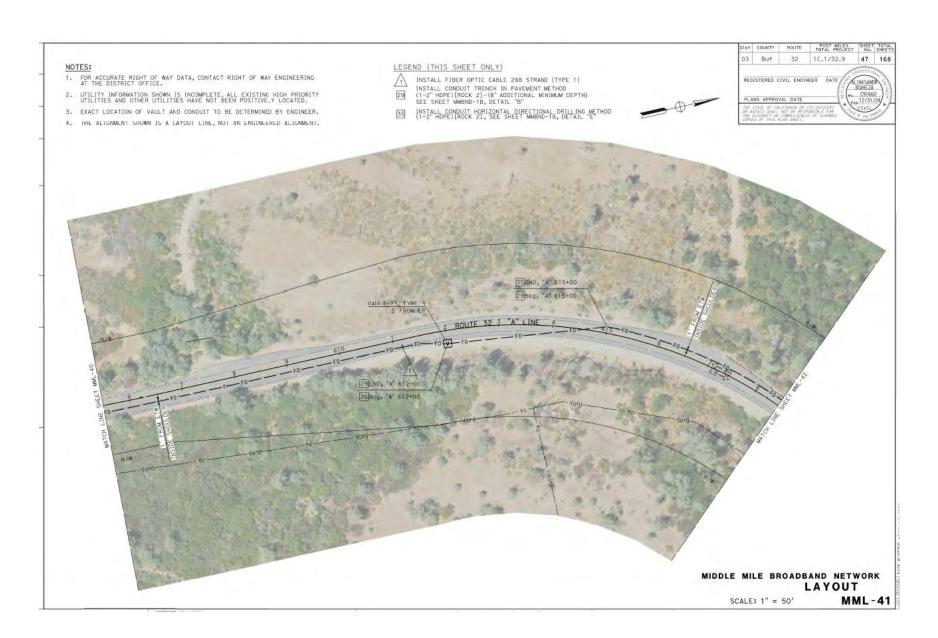


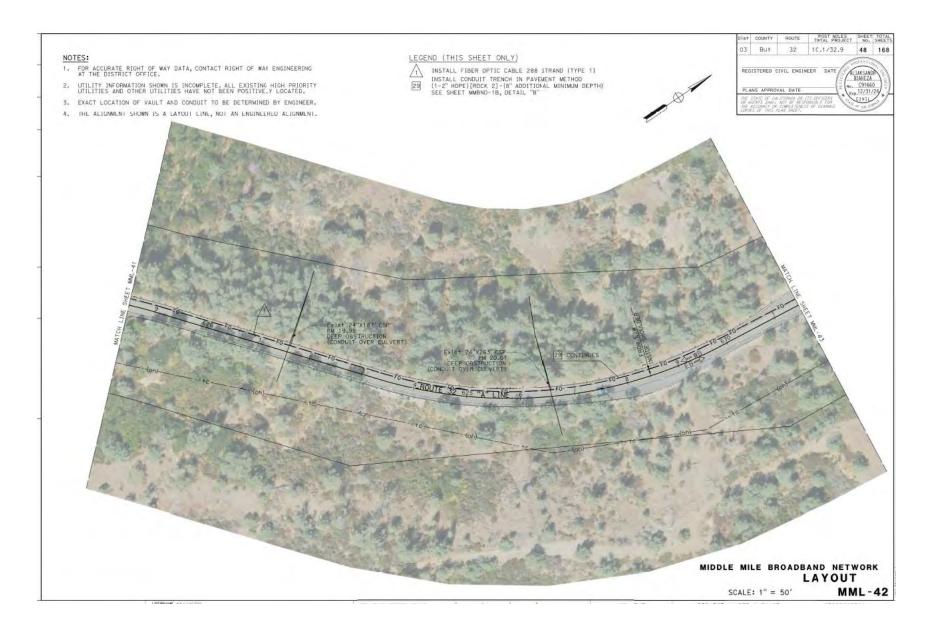


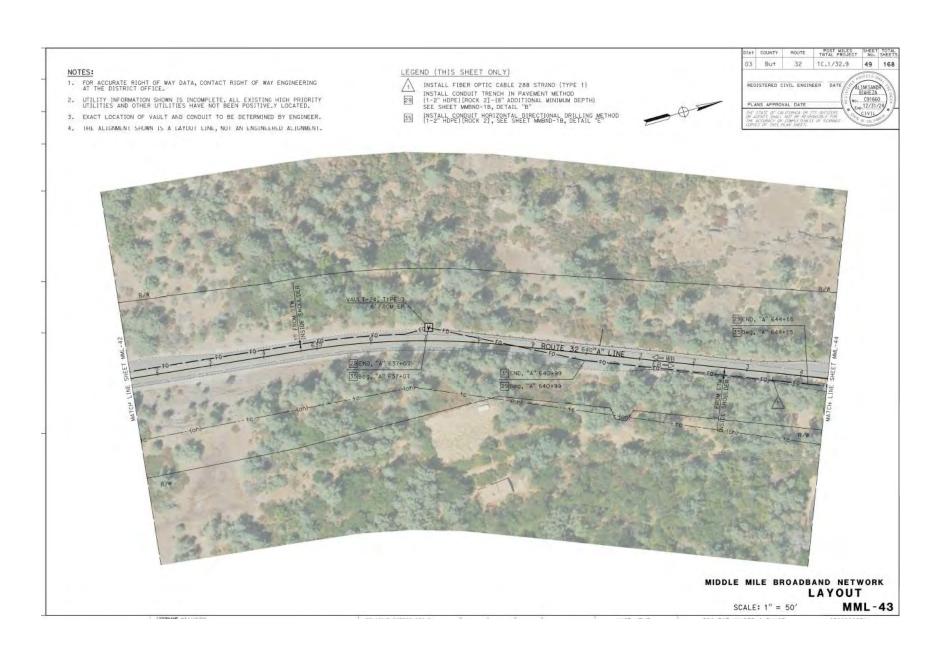


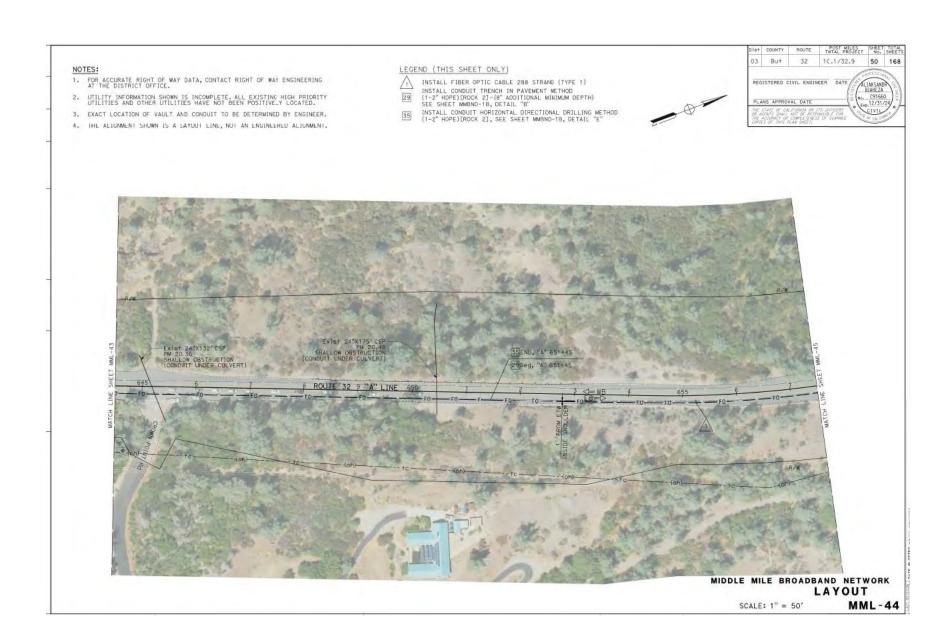


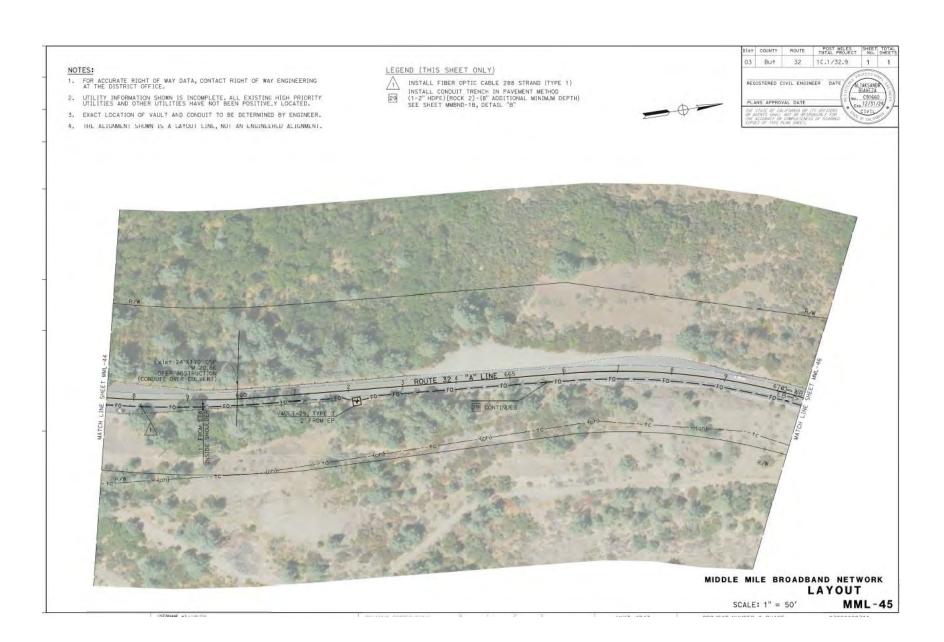


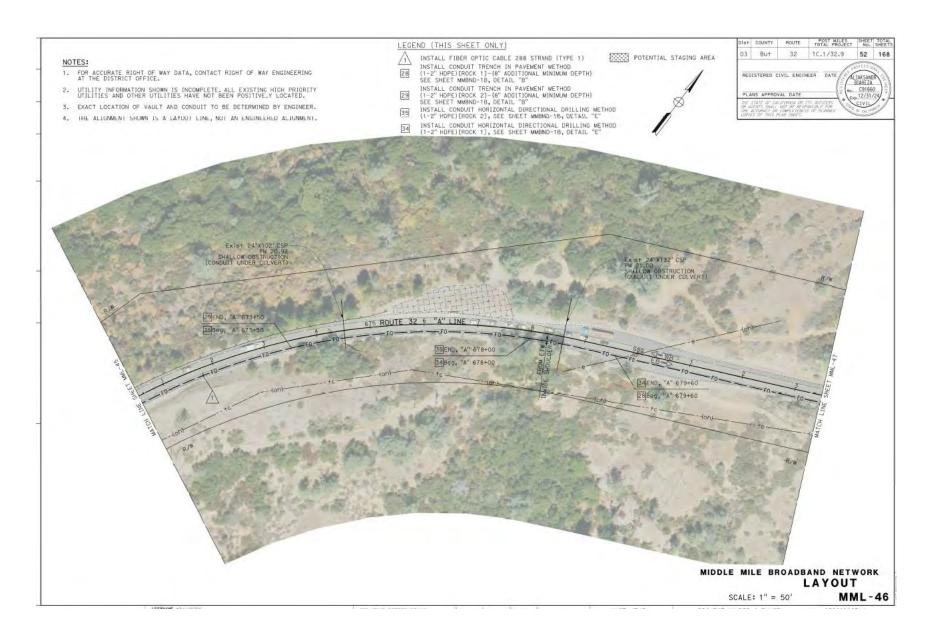


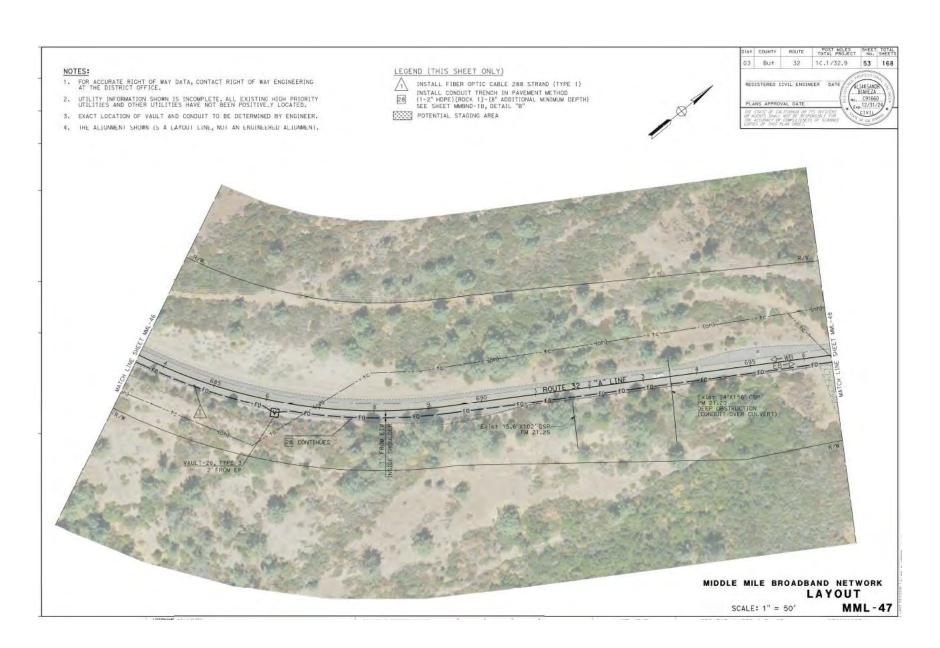




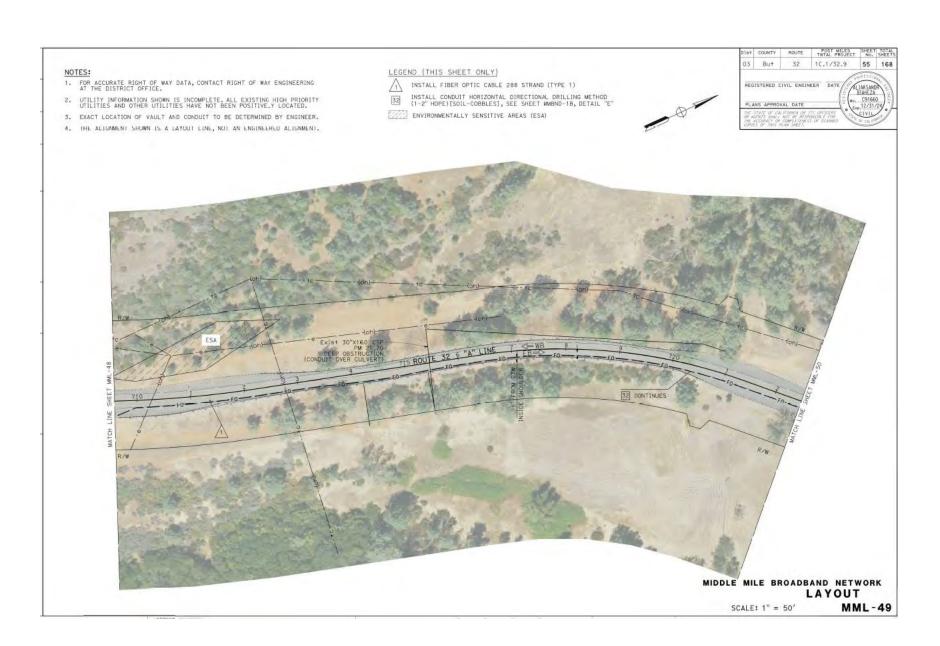


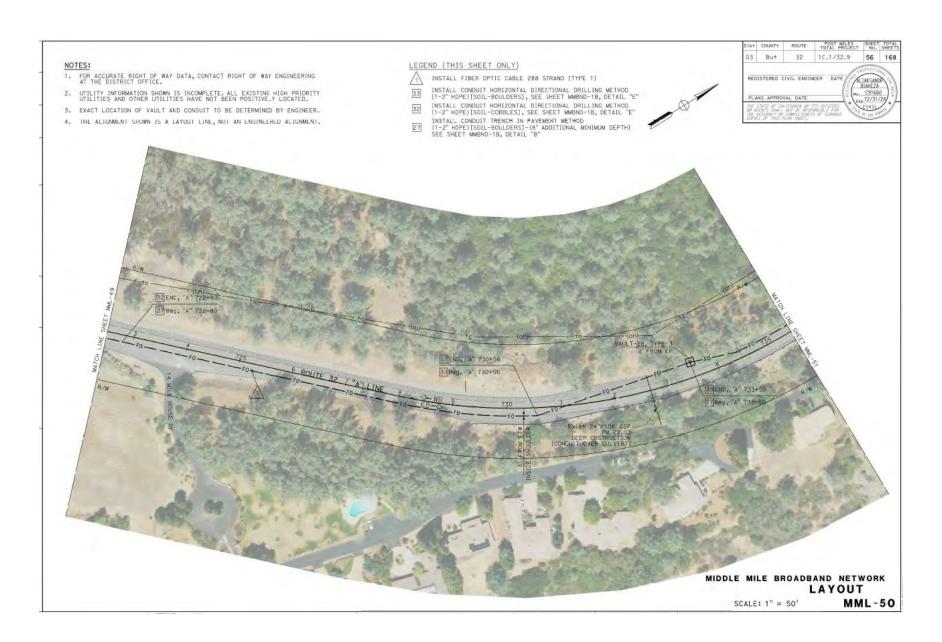


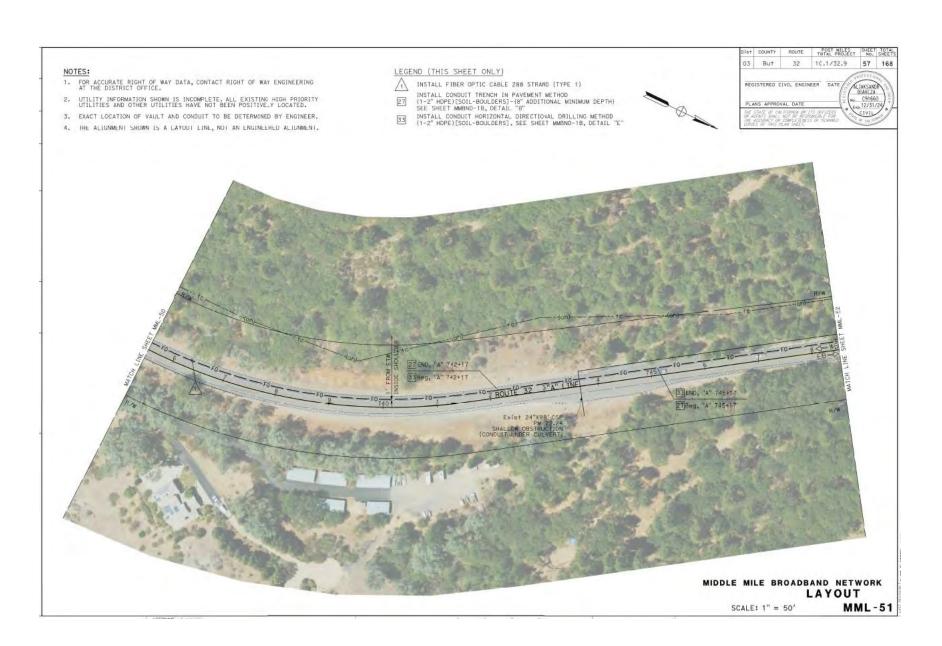
















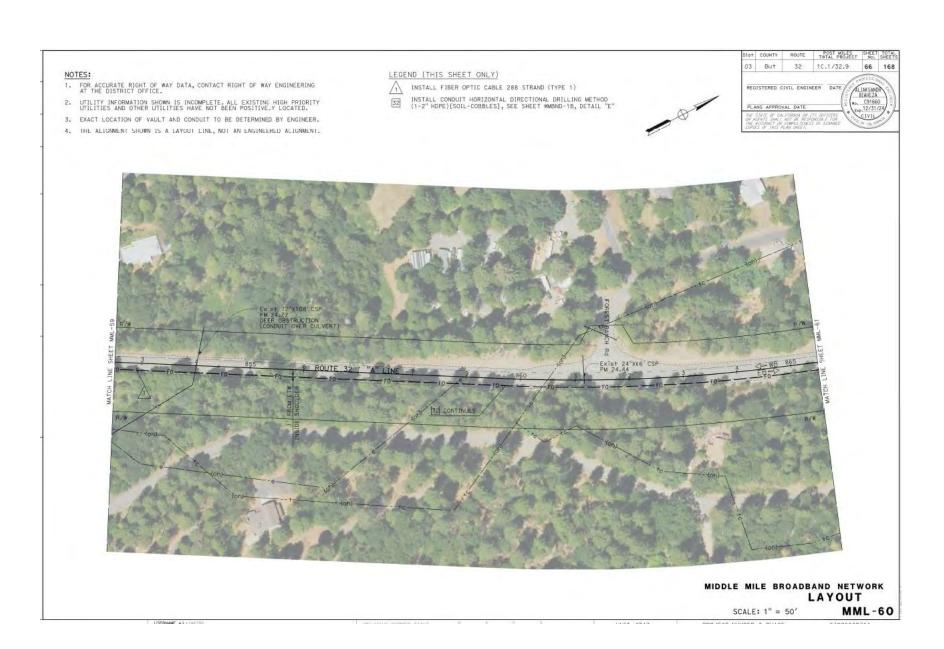


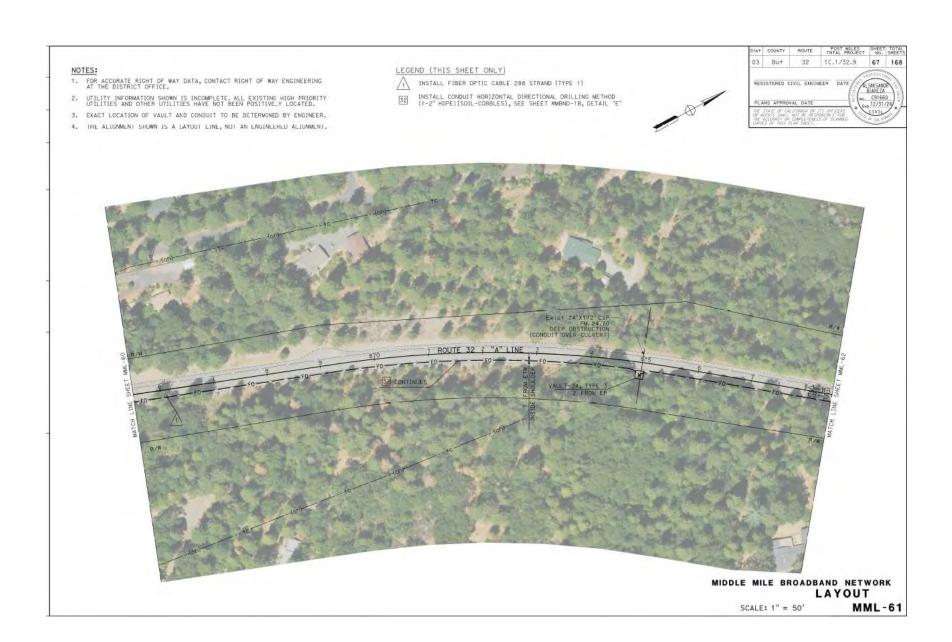




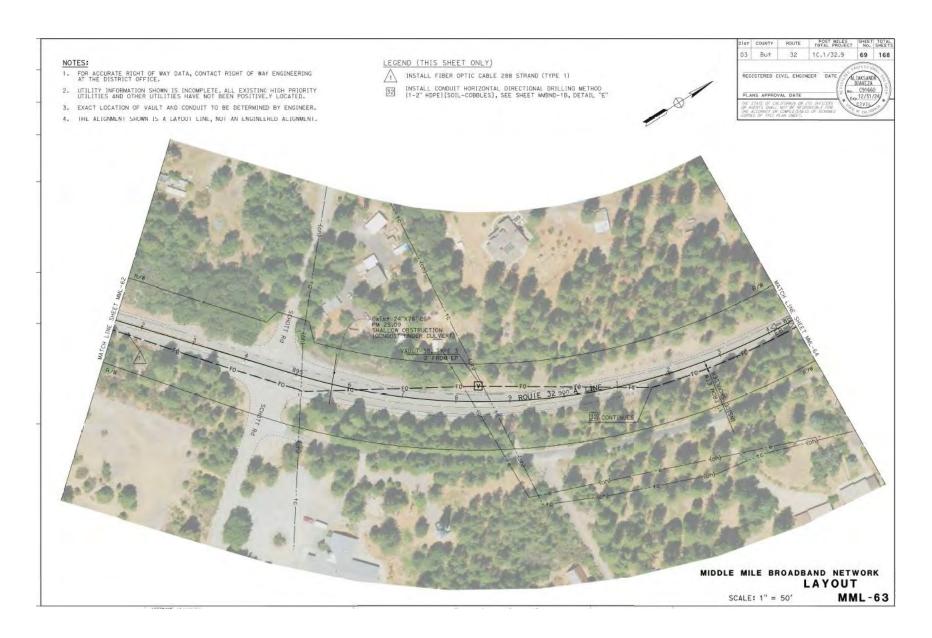












NOTES:

- 1. FOR ACCURATE RIGHT OF WAY DATA, CONTACT RIGHT OF WAY ENGINEERING AT THE DISTRICT OFFICE.
- UTILITY INFORMATION SHOWN IS INCOMPLETE. ALL EXISTING HIGH PRIORITY UTILITIES AND OTHER UTILITIES HAVE NOT BEEN POSITIVE_Y LOCATED.
- 3. EXACT LOCATION OF VAULT AND CONDUIT TO BE DETERMINED BY ENGINEER.
- 4. THE ALIGNMENT SHOWN IS A LAYOUT LINE, NOT AN ENGINEERED ALIGNMENT.

LEGEND (THIS SHEET ONLY)

1 INSTALL FIBER OPTIC CABLE 288 STRAND (TYPE 1)

32 INSTALL CONDUIT HORIZONTAL DIRECTIONAL DRILLING METHOD (1-2" HDPE)[SOIL-COBBLES], SEE SHEET MMBND-18, DETAIL "E"

POTENTIAL STAGING AREA



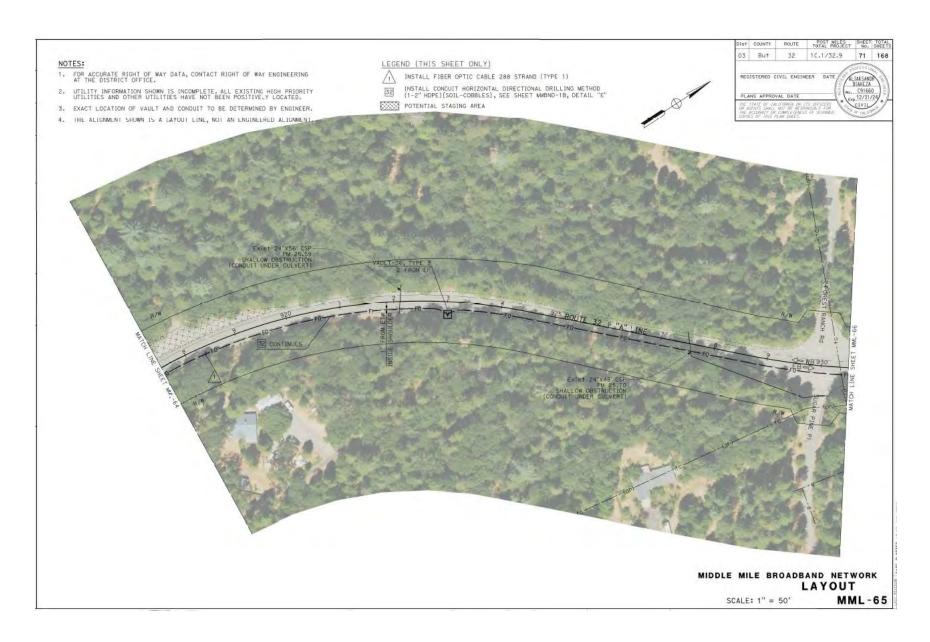
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MIDDLE MILE BROADBAND NETWORK LAYOUT

SCALE: 1" = 50'

MML-64

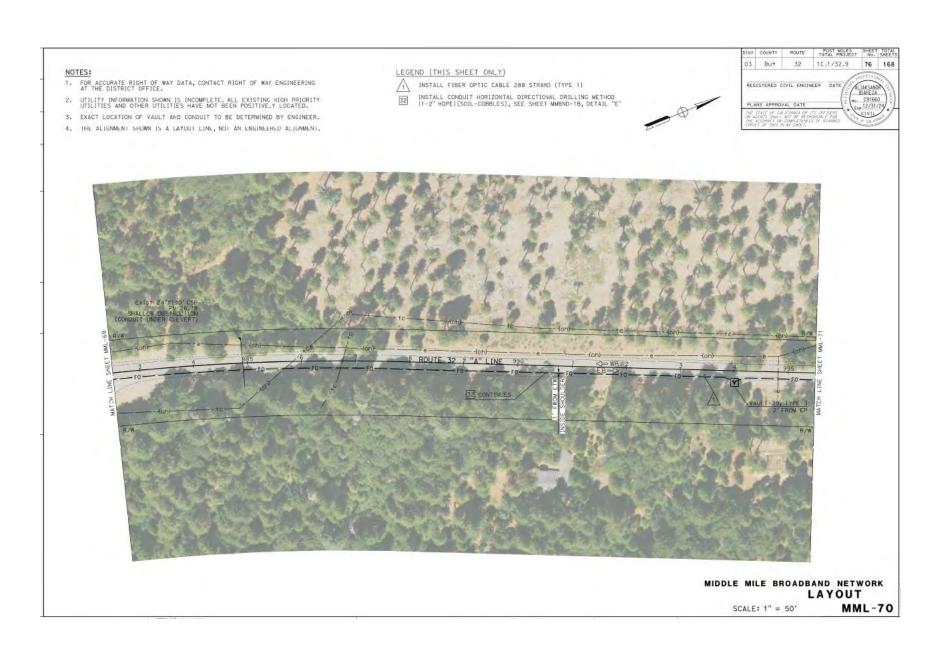




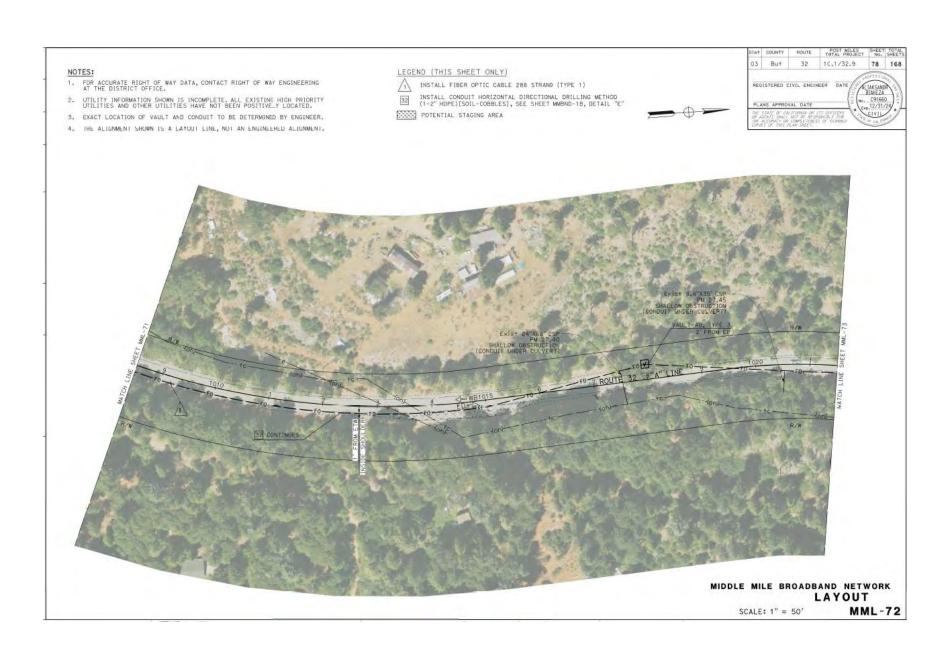












NOTES:

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- 4. THE ACTORMENT SHOWN IS A CAYOUT LINE, NOT AN ENGINEERED ACTORMENT.

LEGEND (THIS SHEET ONLY)

1 INSTALL FIBER OPTIC CABLE 288 STRAND (TYPE 1)

32 INSTALL CONDUIT HORIZONTAL DIRECTIONAL DRILLING METHOD (1-2" HDPE)[SOIL-COBBLES], SEE SHEET MMBND-1B, DETAIL "E"

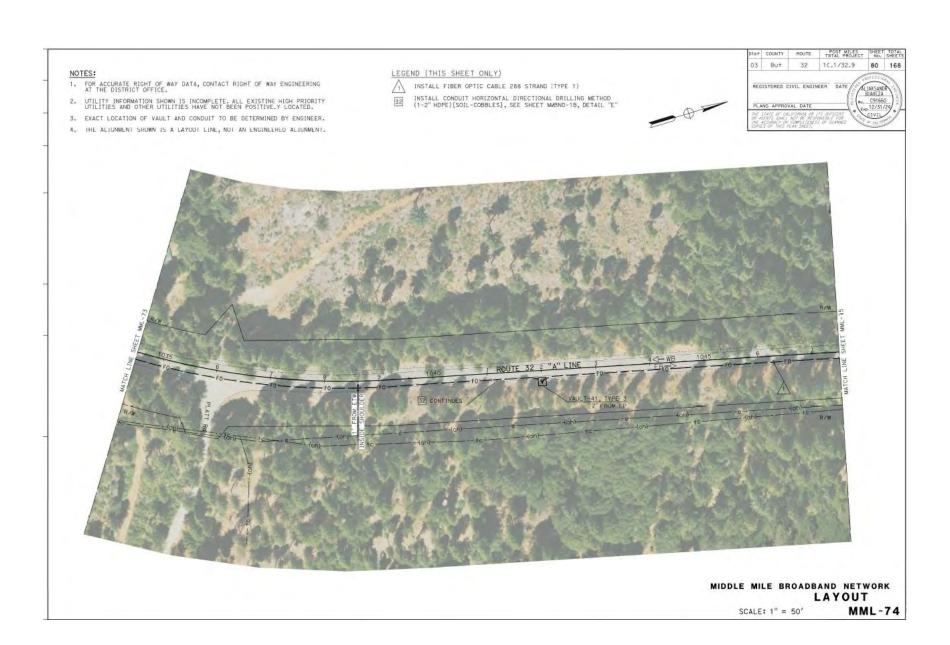


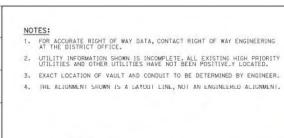


MIDDLE MILE BROADBAND NETWORK LAYOUT

SCALE: 1" = 50'

MML-73





LEGEND (THIS SHEET ONLY)

INSTALL FIBER OPTIC CABLE 288 STRAND (TYPE 1)

INSTALL CONDUIT HORIZONTAL DIRECTIONAL DRILLING METHOD (1-2" HDPE)[SOIL-COBBLES], SEE SHEET MMBND-18, DETAIL "E"





MIDDLE MILE BROADBAND NETWORK LAYOUT

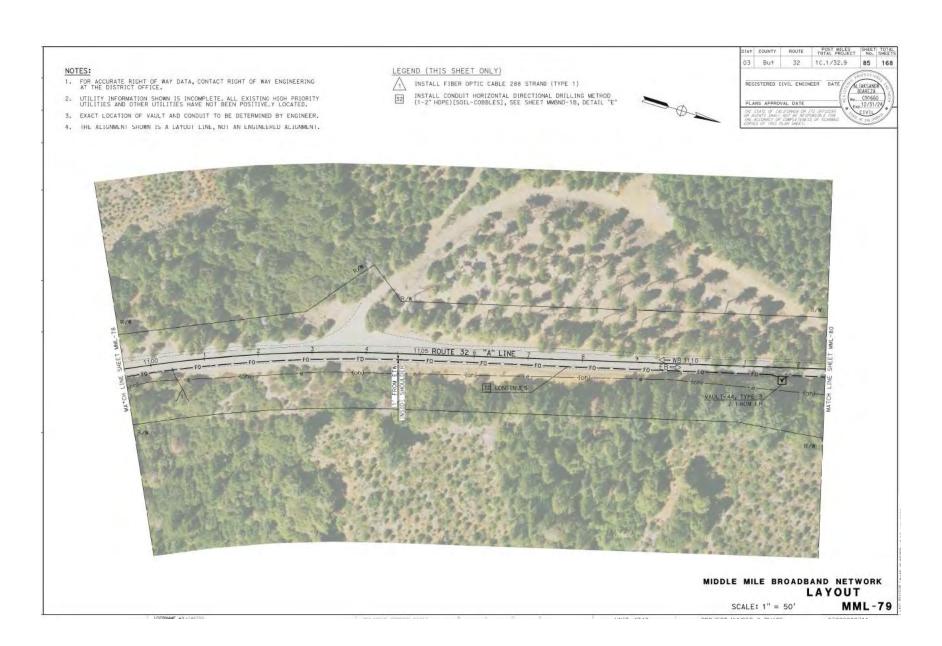
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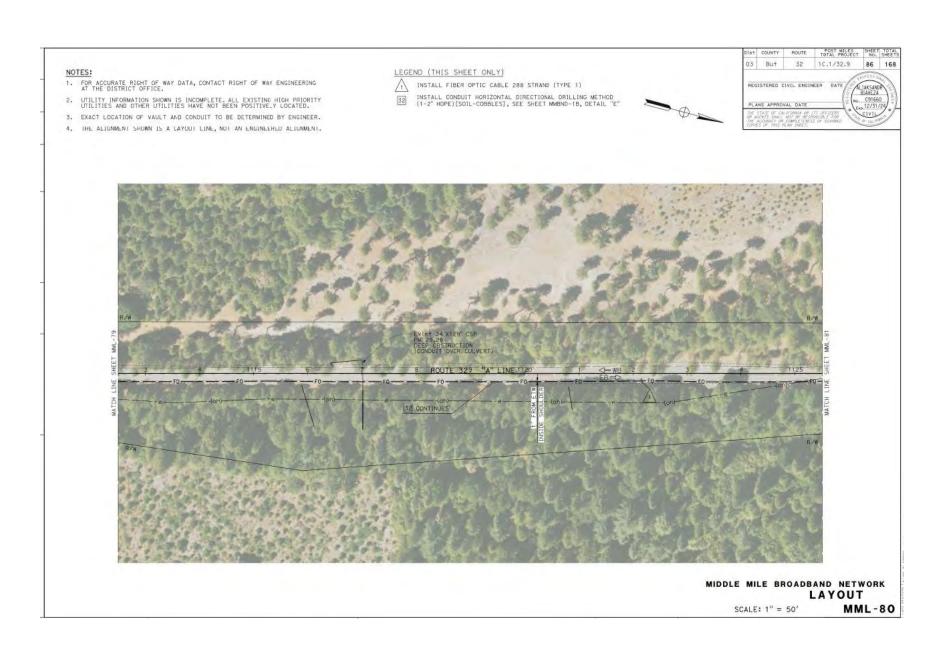
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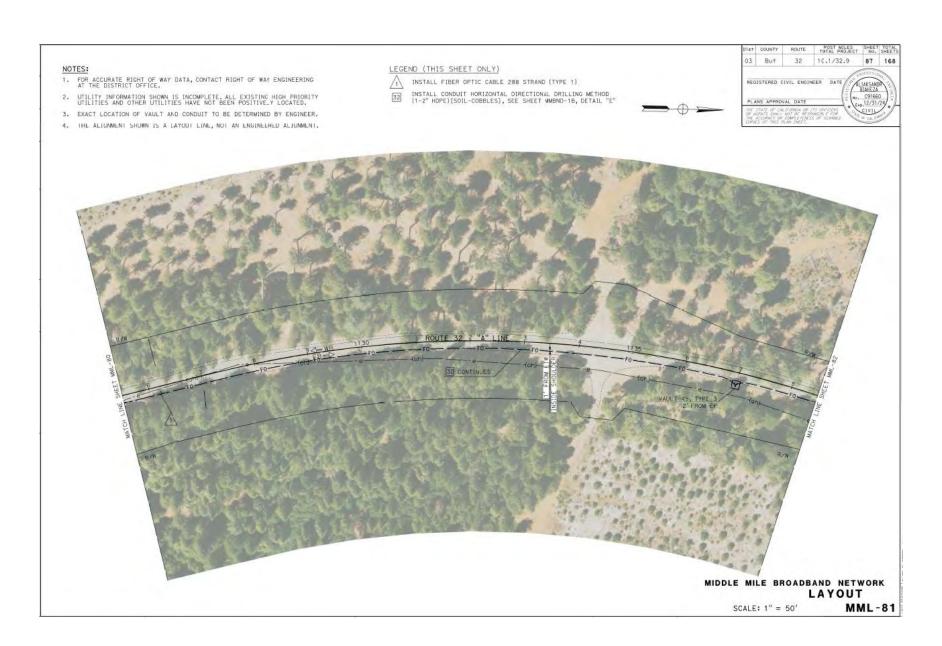




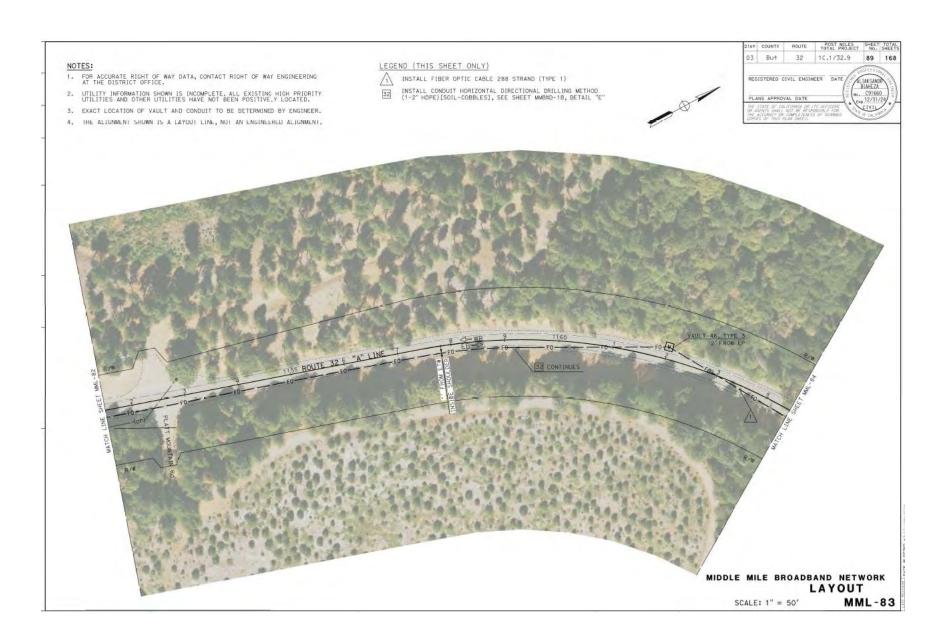


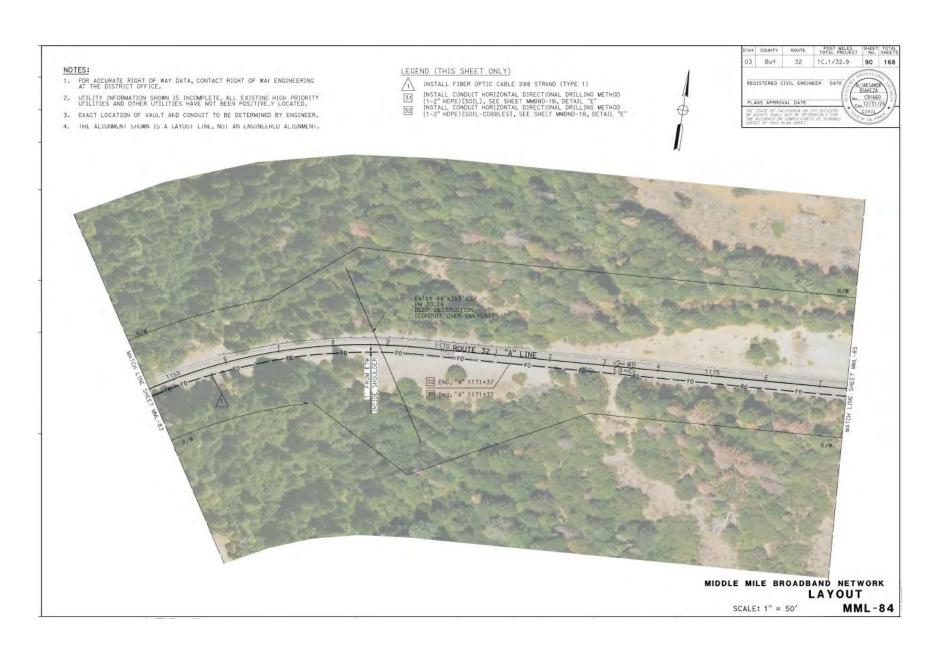


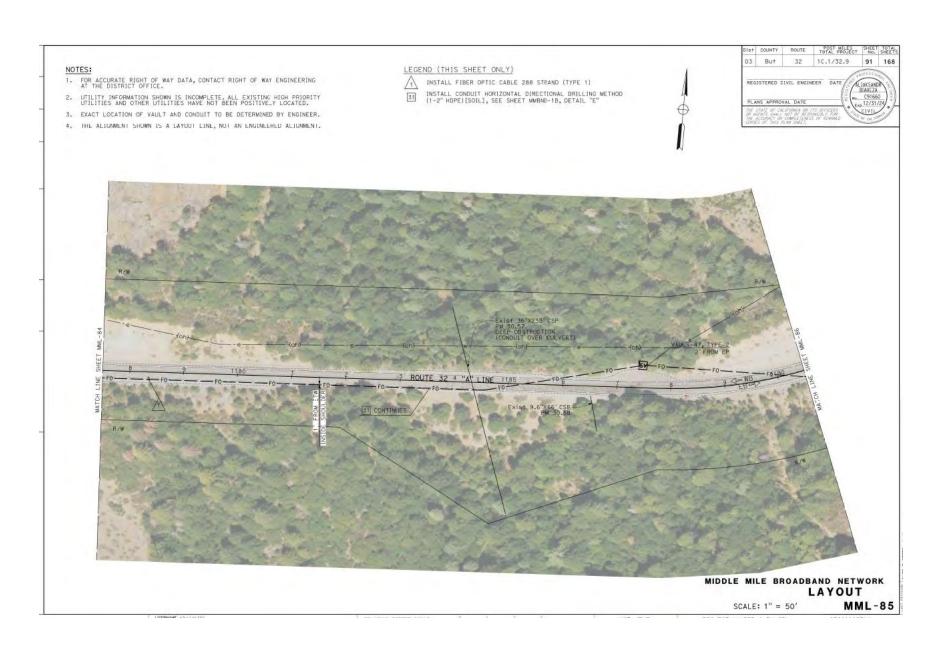


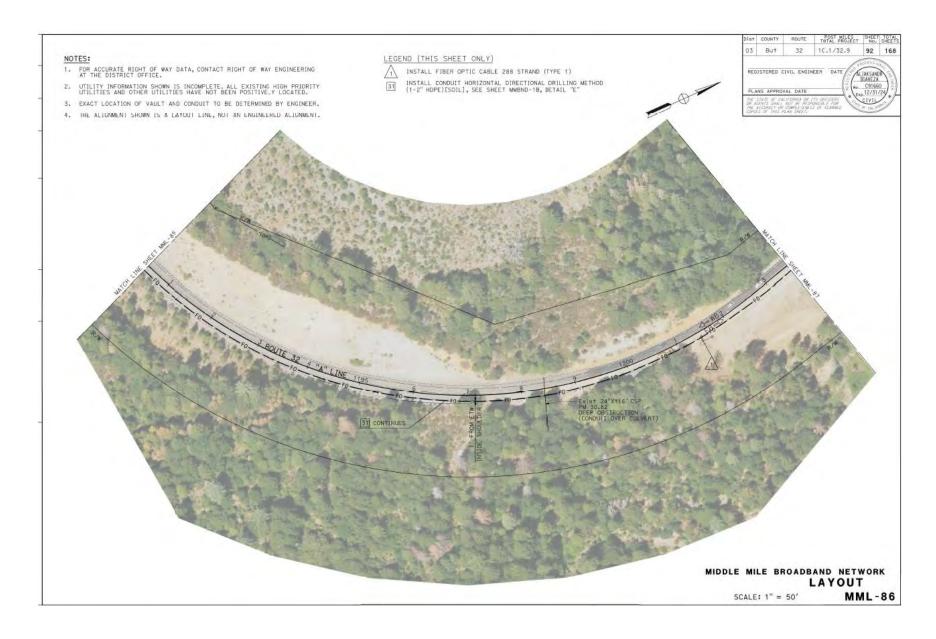


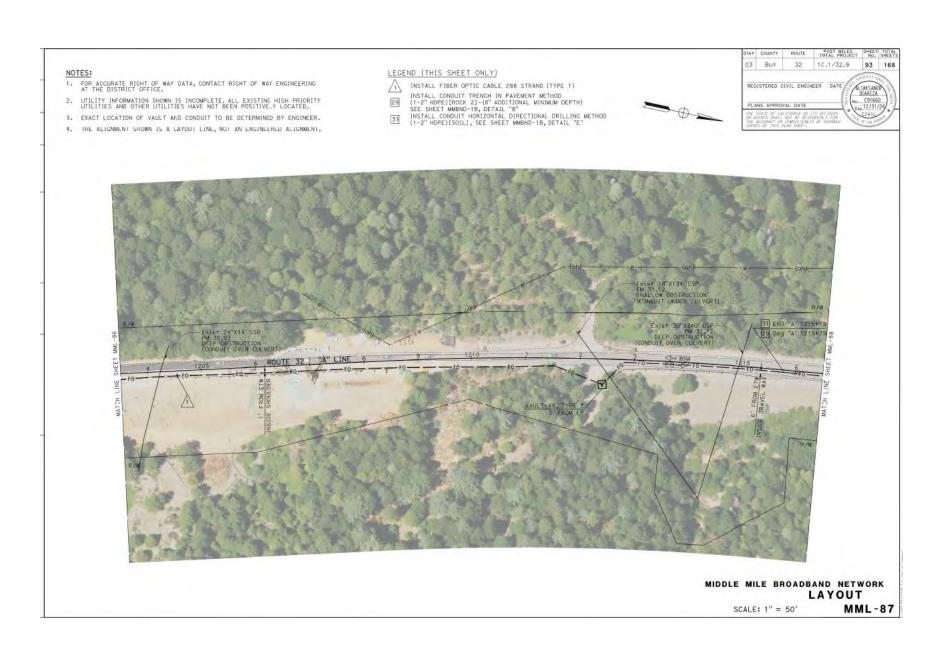






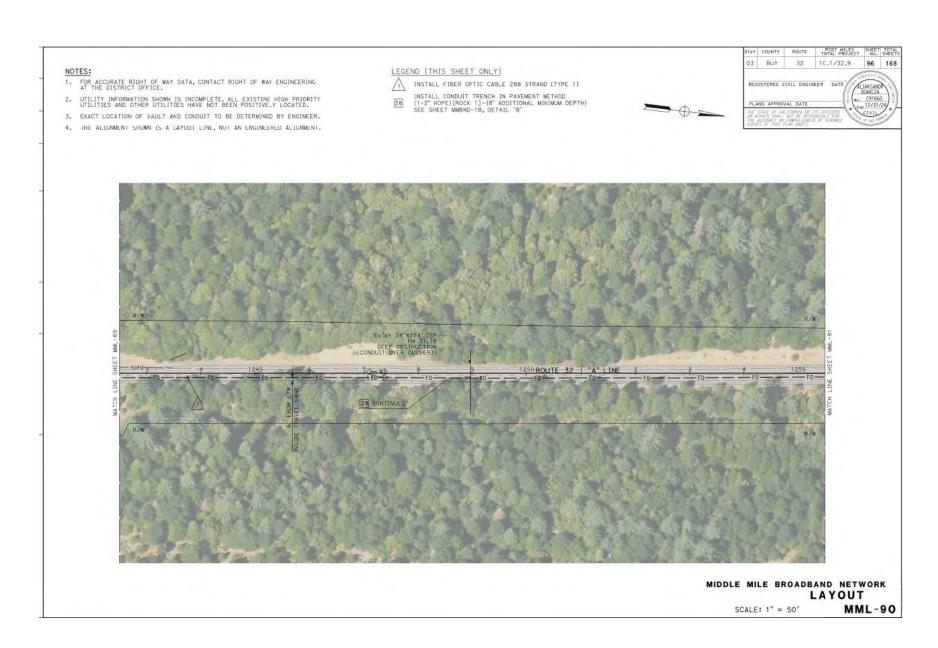


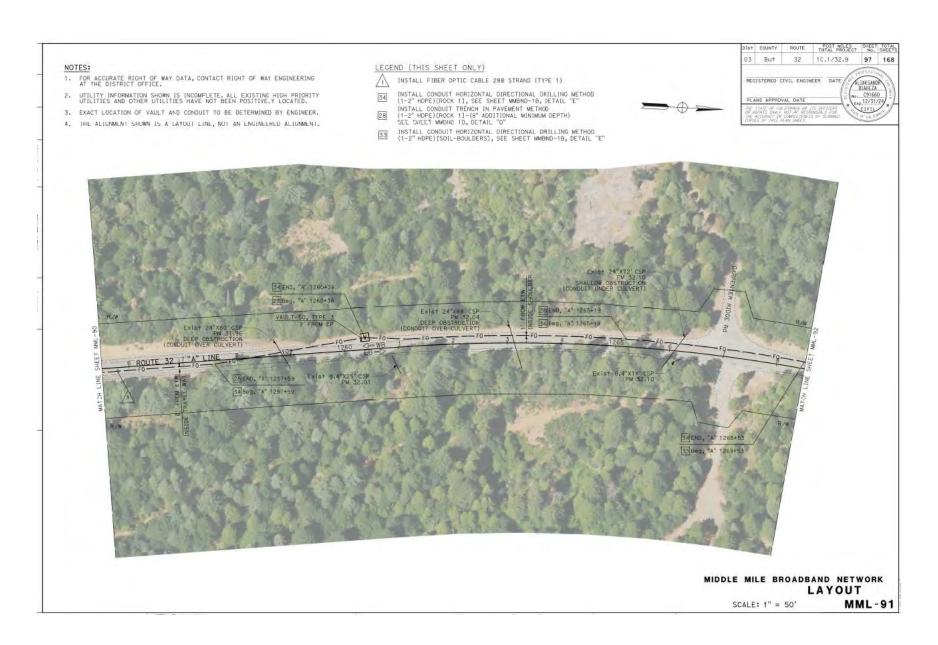




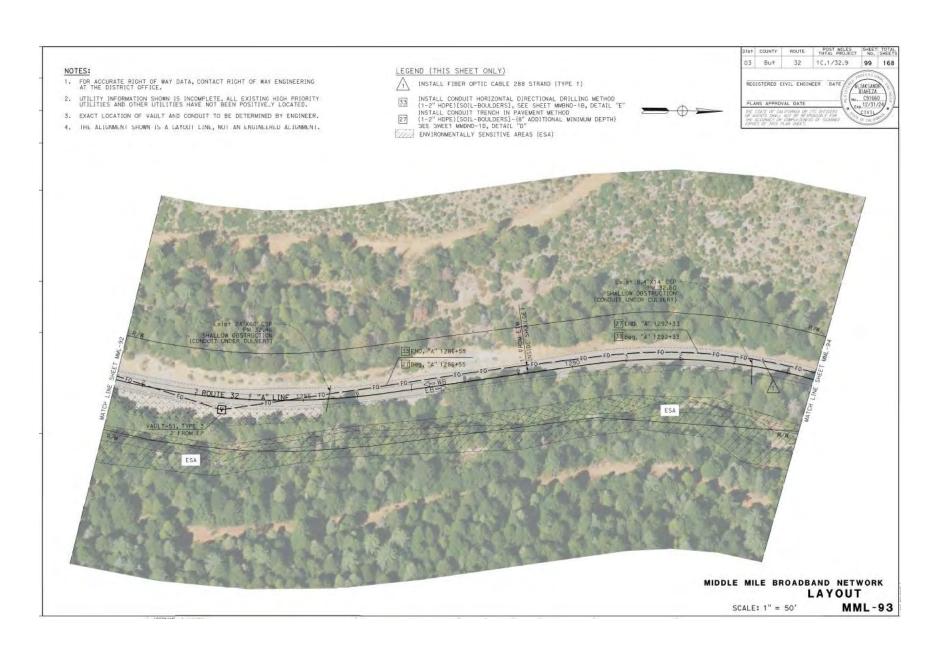


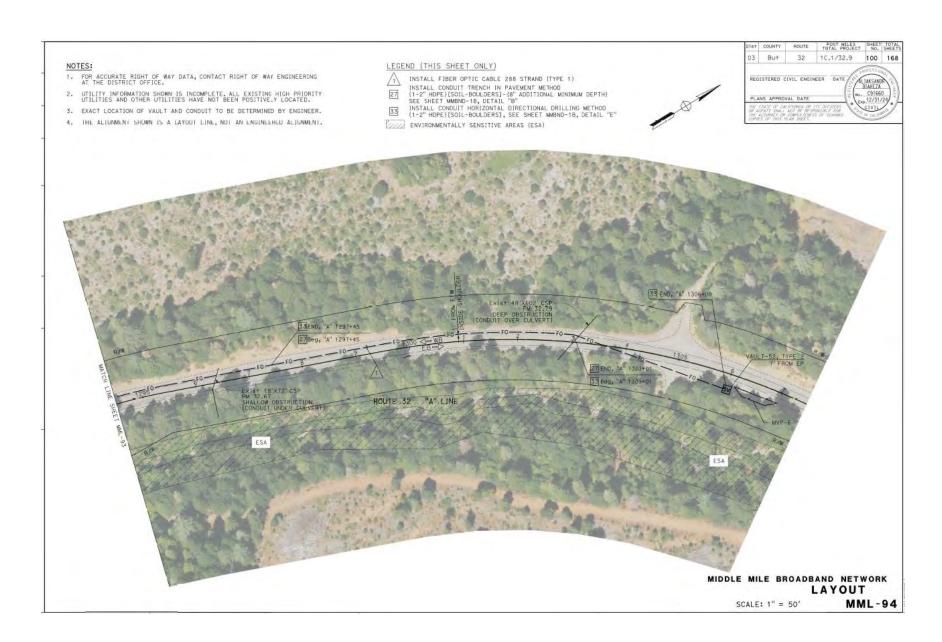


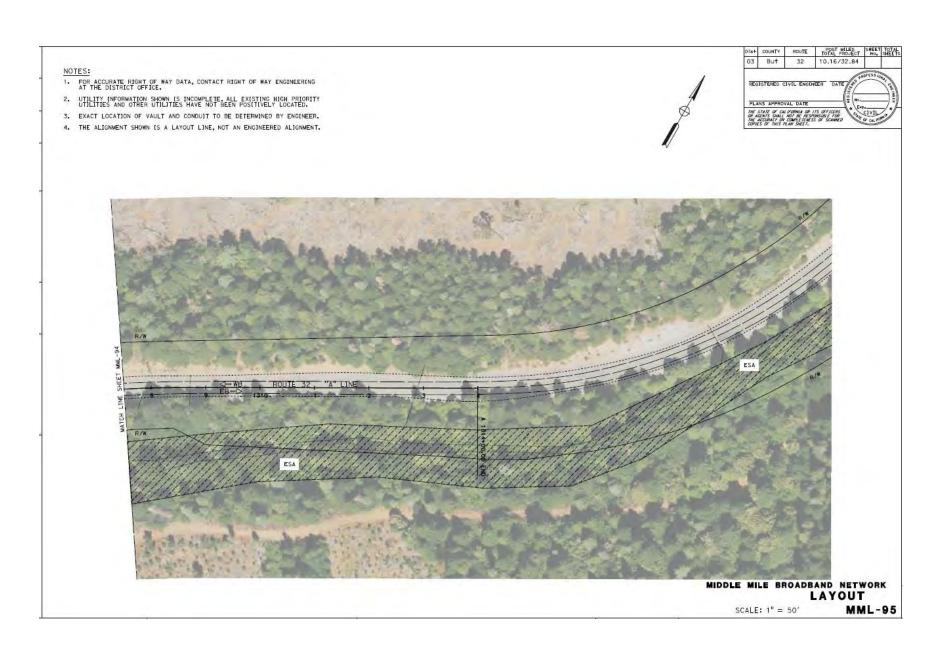


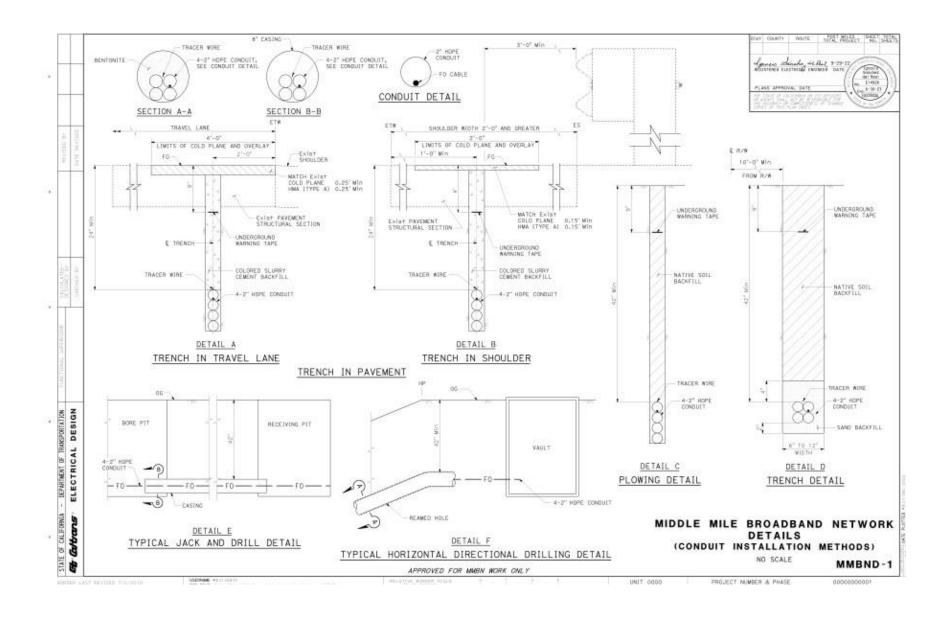


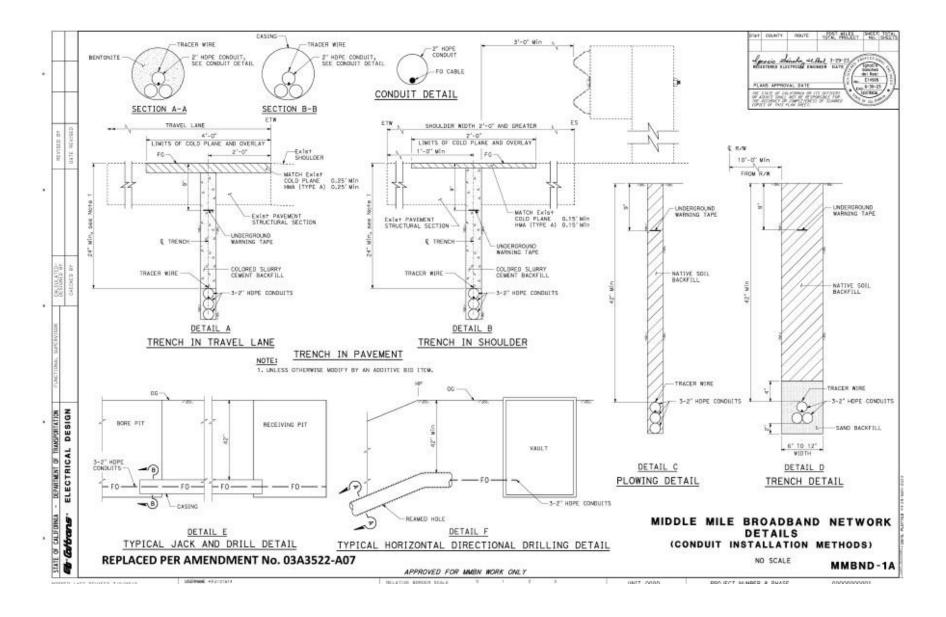


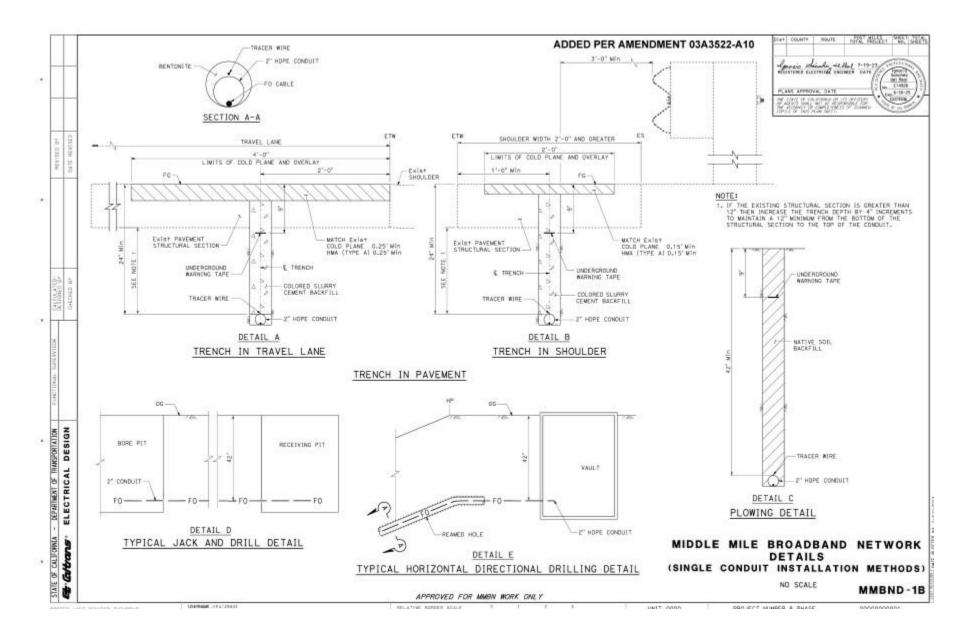


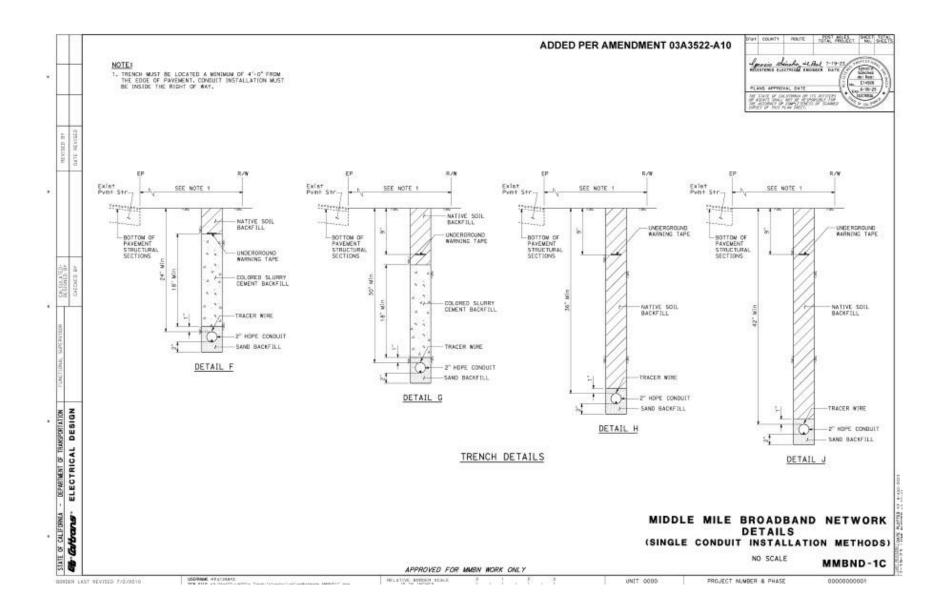


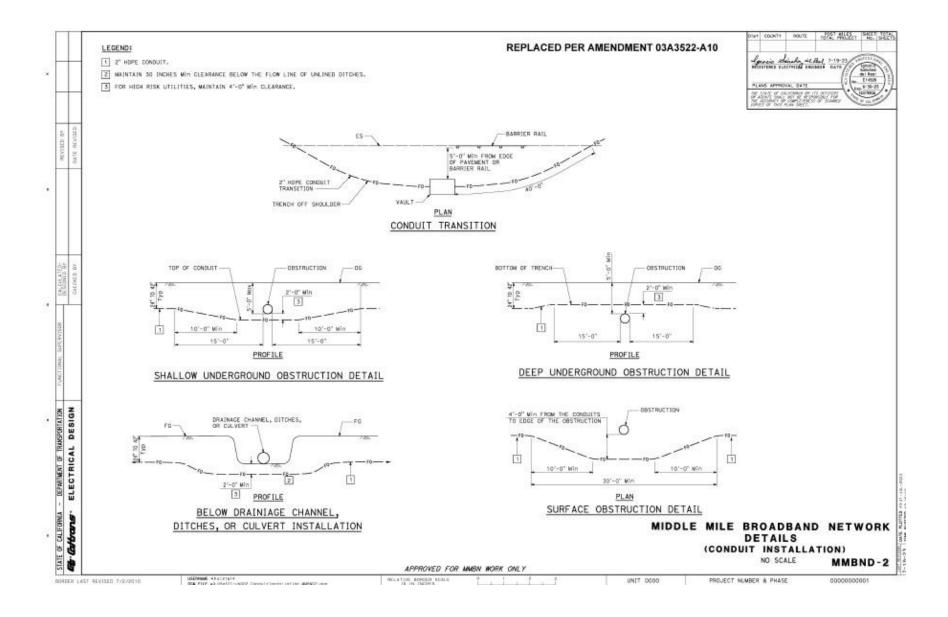


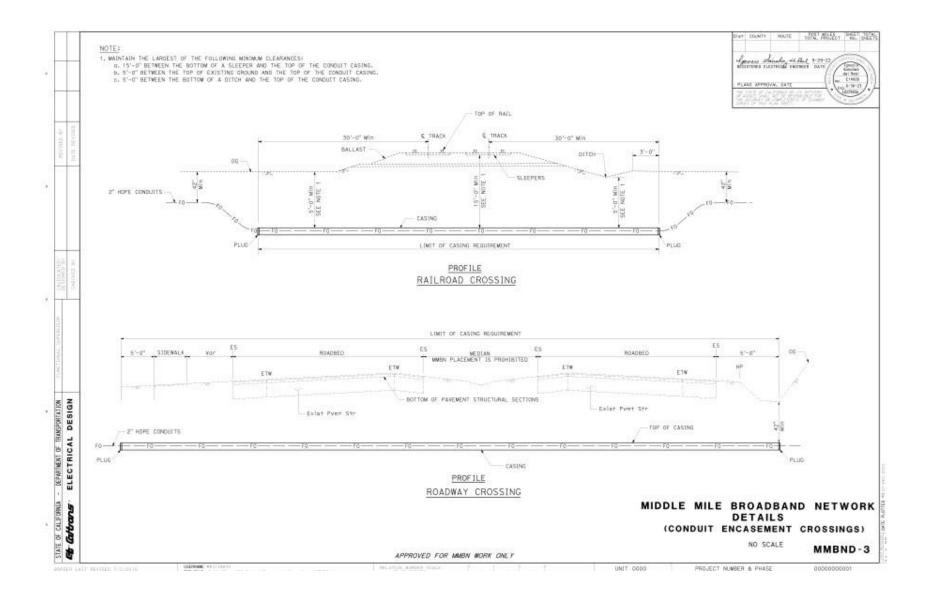


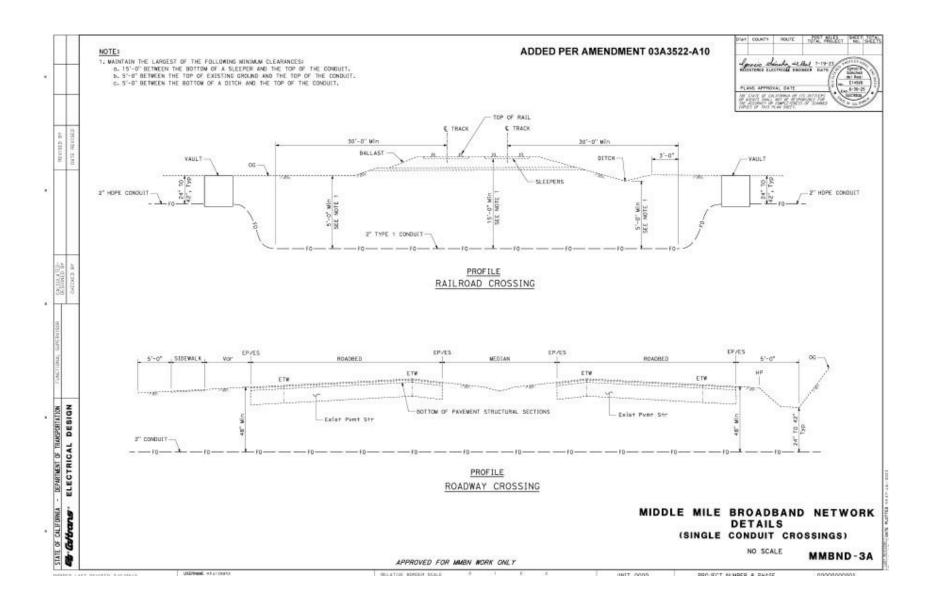


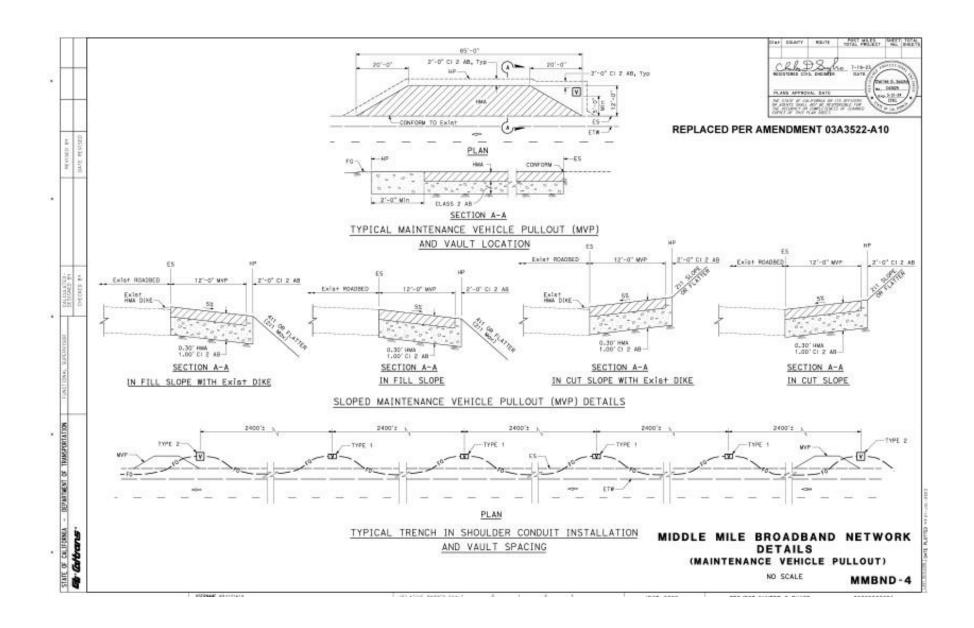


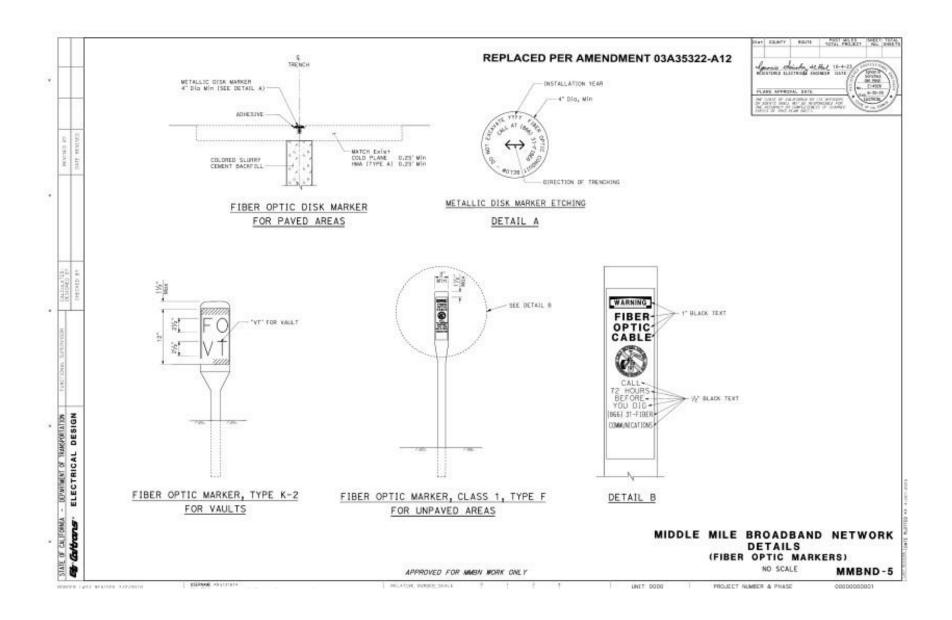


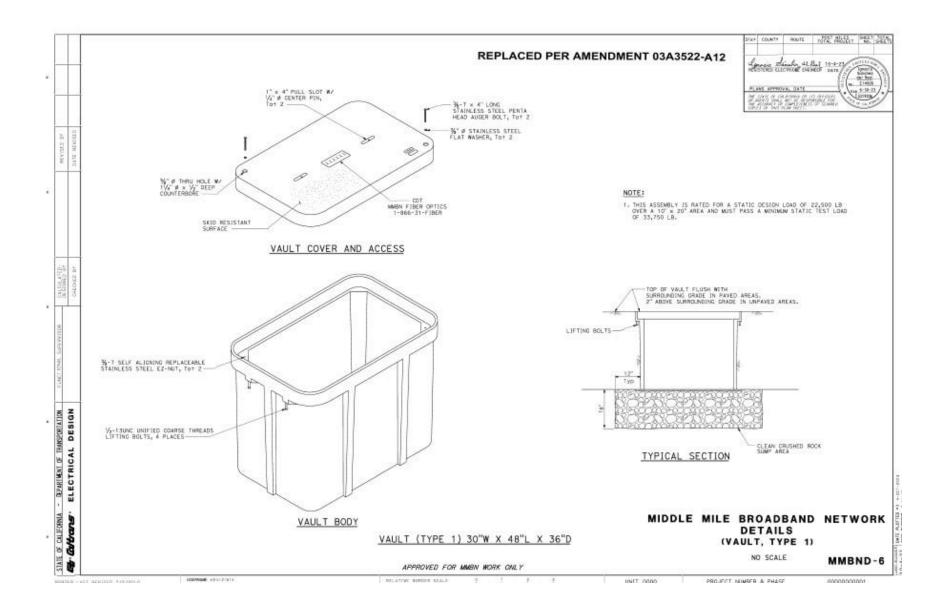


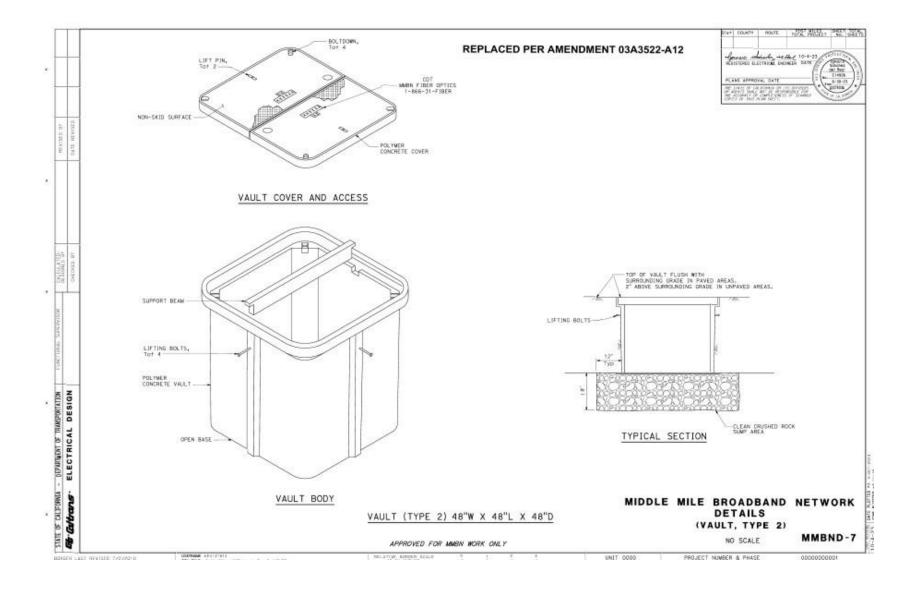


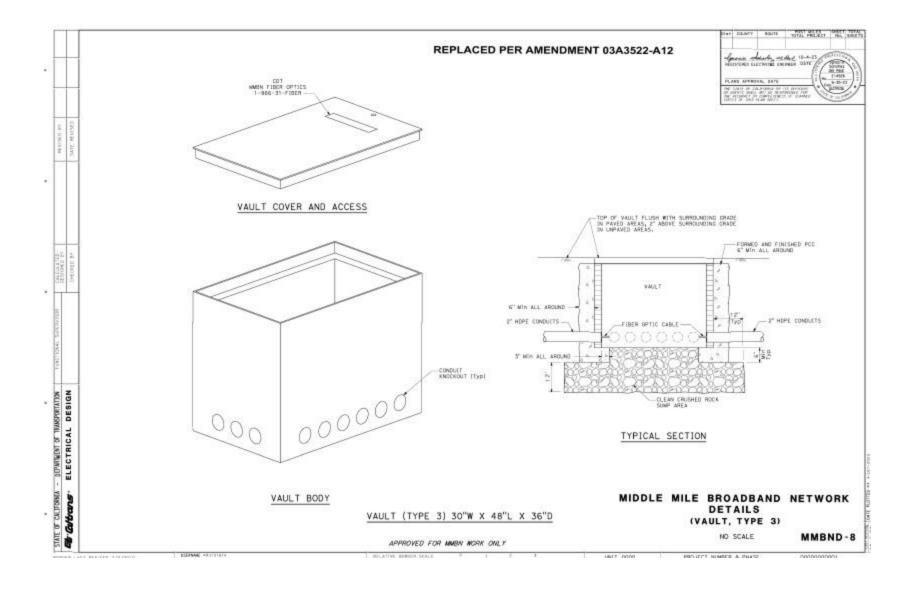




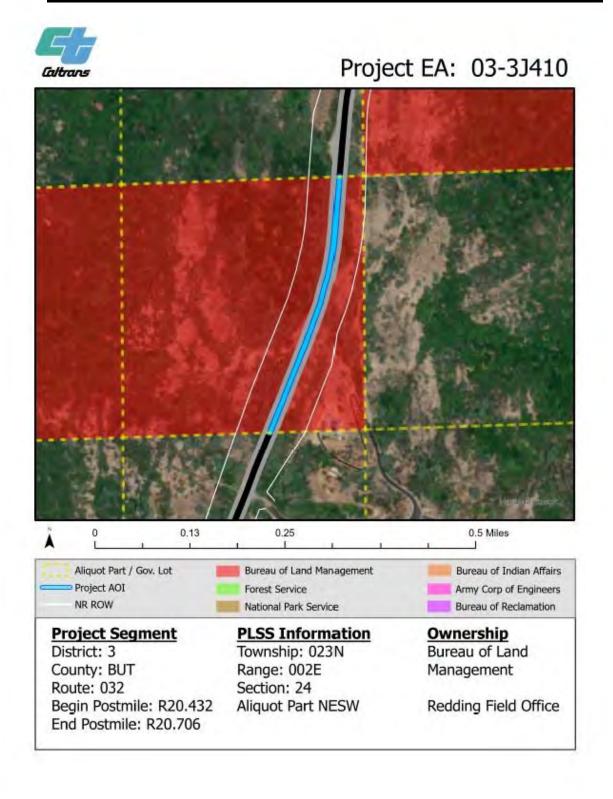




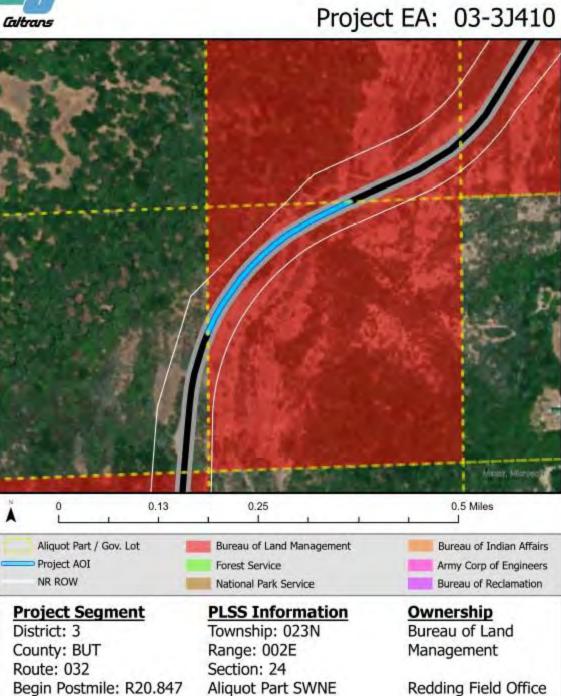




Appendix C BLM Land Ownership Information



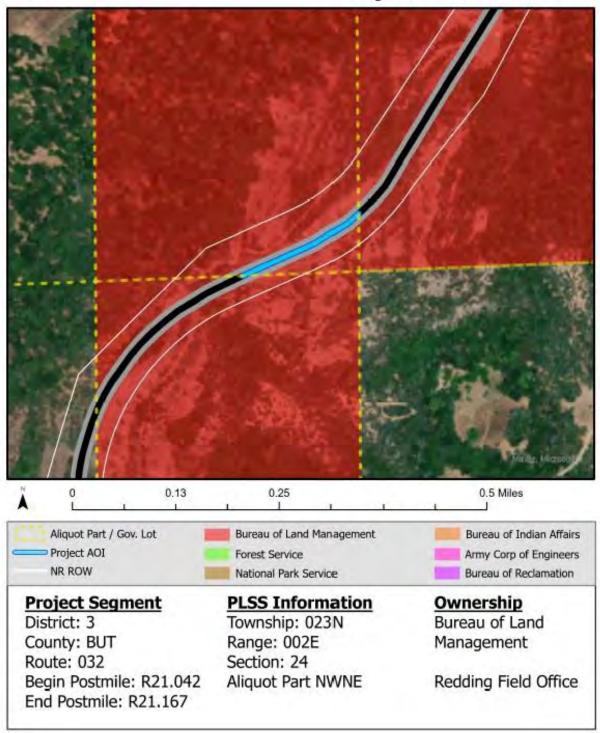




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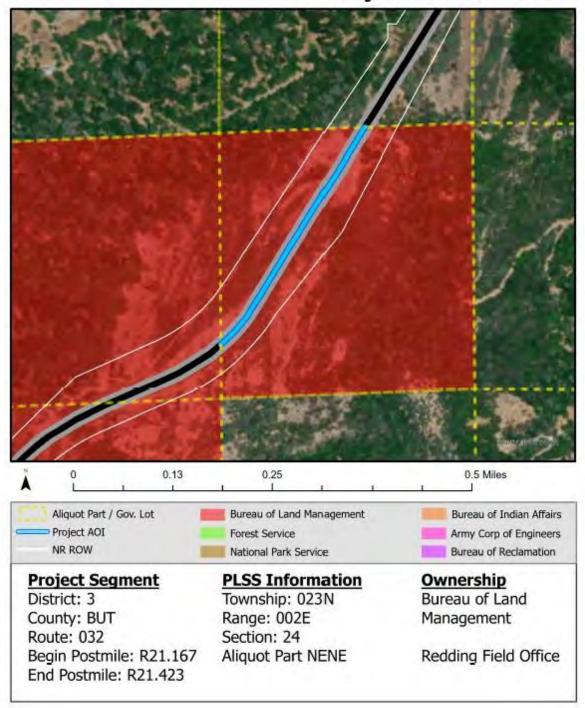


Project EA: 03-3J410





Project EA: 03-3J410



 From:
 James, Brian@DOT

 To:
 Crawford, Kristina@DOT

 Subject:
 RE: 03-3J410 BUT 32 MMBN project

Date: Monday, July 10, 2023 11:21:55 AM

Good Morning,

Upon review of the provided documents, the Cultural Studies Office has no objection to the proposed Finding of No Adverse Effect with Standard Conditions- ESA. Please ensure that the PS&E package for this project is reviewed for consistency prior to circulating the project for biding.

Please keep a copy of this approval for the project file.

Thank you-

Brian N. James, M.A.
Acting Section 106 Coordinator
Cultural Studies Office
Caltrans Division of Environmental Analysis
1120 N Street, MS 27, Sacramento, CA 95814
W: (916)-995-0186

From: Crawford, Kristina@DOT <Kristina.Crawford@dot.ca.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, June 27, 2023 2:24 PM

To: James, Brian@DOT <Brian.James@dot.ca.gov>; Hupp, Jill L@DOT <jill.hupp@dot.ca.gov>

Subject: 03-3J410 BUT 32 MMBN project

Hi Brian and Jill,

Please find attached the cover letter for the Middle Mile Broadband Network Project on BUT-32 between PM 10.2 to 37.749 and 2.7 to 4.7 in Butte County, and on TEH-32 between PM 0 to 2.7 in Tehama County. I am submitting an HPSR with attached ESA plan to CSO for review. Because of the file size I am transmitting it through the filr system. You should have already received a link to the folder.

Thank you,

Kristina Crawford, Ph.D, RPA (she/her) Environmental Scientist (Archaeology) Caltrans North Region Broadband 703 B St., Marysville, CA 95901 Cell (530) 720-9967

Appendix DCultural Studies Office Concurrence Letter

Historic Property Survey Report For the State Route 32 Middle Mile Broadband Network Project, Butte and Tehama Counties, California

3-BUT-32 PM 10.2 to 37.749 and 2.7 to 4.7 3-TEH PM 0 to 2.7 EA: 03-3J410; E-FIS: 0322000271

PREPARED BY:

Kristina Crawford

Environmental Scientist (Archaeology)

PQS –PI Prehistoric and Historical Archaeology Environmental Management, Cultural Resources

North Region Broadband

REVIEWED BY:

Catherine Davis

Associate Environmental Planner (Archaeology)

PQS -PI Historical Archaeology

Environmental Management, Cultural Resources

South, District 3

APPROVED BY:

on behalf of Erin Dwyer

Erin Dwyer, Senior Environmental Scientist

Branch Chief

Environmental Management, Cultural Resources

North Region Broadband

Chico, Richardson Springs, Paradise West, Cohasset, Devil's Parade Ground, and Butte Meadows 7.5' USGS Quadrangles Approximately 770 Acres

June 2023

ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE AREA (ESA) ACTION PLAN

For the State Route 32 Middle Mile Broadband Network Project, Butte and Tehama Counties, California

3-BUT-32 PM 10.2 to 37.749 and 2.7 to 4.7 3-TEH PM 0 to 2.7 EA: 03-3J410; E-FIS: 0322000271

PREPARED BY:

Kristina Crawford

Environmental Scientist (Archaeology)

PQS –PI Prehistoric and Historical Archaeology Environmental Management, Cultural Resources

North Region Broadband

REVIEWED BY:

Catherine Davis

Associate Environmental Planner (Archaeology)

PQS -PI Historical Archaeology

Environmental Management, Cultural Resources - South

District 3

APPROVED BY:

on behalf of Erin Dwyer

Erin Dwyer, Senior Environmental Scientist

Branch Chief

Environmental Management, Cultural Resources

North Region Broadband

Chico, Richardson Springs, Paradise West, Cohasset, Devil's Parade Ground, and Butte Meadows 7.5' USGS Quadrangles Approximately 770 Acres

June 2023

Appendix E USFWS and NMFS Species Lists



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE Sacramento Fish And Wildlife Office

Federal Building 2800 Cottage Way, Room W-2605 Sacramento, CA 95825-1846 Phone: (916) 414-6600 Fax: (916) 414-6713

In Reply Refer To:

Project Code: 2023-0109507

08/12/2024 22:36:55 UTC

Project Name: EA: 03-3J410 - Middle-Mile Broadband Network 03/BUT/32/PM 10.2-32.84

Subject: List of threatened and endangered species that may occur in your proposed project location or may be affected by your proposed project

To Whom It May Concern:

The enclosed species list identifies threatened, endangered, proposed, and candidate species, as well as proposed and final designated critical habitat, that may occur within the boundary of your proposed project and/or may be affected by your proposed project. The species list fulfills the requirements of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) under section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act (Act) of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.).

New information based on updated surveys, changes in the abundance and distribution of species, changed habitat conditions, or other factors could change this list. Please feel free to contact us if you need more current information or assistance regarding the potential impacts to federally proposed, listed, and candidate species and federally designated and proposed critical habitat. Please note that under 50 CFR 402.12(e) of the regulations implementing section 7 of the Act, the accuracy of this species list should be verified after 90 days. This verification can be completed formally or informally as desired. The Service recommends that verification be completed by visiting the IPaC website at regular intervals during project planning and implementation for updates to species lists and information. An updated list may be requested through IPaC by completing the same process used to receive the enclosed list.

The purpose of the Act is to provide a means whereby threatened and endangered species and the ecosystems upon which they depend may be conserved. Under sections 7(a)(1) and 7(a)(2) of the Act and its implementing regulations (50 CFR 402 et seq.), Federal agencies are required to utilize their authorities to carry out programs for the conservation of threatened and endangered species and to determine whether projects may affect threatened and endangered species and/or designated critical habitat.

A Biological Assessment is required for construction projects (or other undertakings having similar physical impacts) that are major Federal actions significantly affecting the quality of the human environment as defined in the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4332(2))

(c)). For projects other than major construction activities, the Service suggests that a biological evaluation similar to a Biological Assessment be prepared to determine whether the project may affect listed or proposed species and/or designated or proposed critical habitat. Recommended contents of a Biological Assessment are described at 50 CFR 402.12.

If a Federal agency determines, based on the Biological Assessment or biological evaluation, that listed species and/or designated critical habitat may be affected by the proposed project, the agency is required to consult with the Service pursuant to 50 CFR 402. In addition, the Service recommends that candidate species, proposed species and proposed critical habitat be addressed within the consultation. More information on the regulations and procedures for section 7 consultation, including the role of permit or license applicants, can be found in the "Endangered Species Consultation Handbook" at: https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/endangered-species-consultation-handbook.pdf

Migratory Birds: In addition to responsibilities to protect threatened and endangered species under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), there are additional responsibilities under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGEPA) to protect native birds from project-related impacts. Any activity, intentional or unintentional, resulting in take of migratory birds, including eagles, is prohibited unless otherwise permitted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (50 C.F.R. Sec. 10.12 and 16 U.S.C. Sec. 668(a)). For more information regarding these Acts, see Migratory Bird Permit | What We Do | U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (fws.gov).

The MBTA has no provision for allowing take of migratory birds that may be unintentionally killed or injured by otherwise lawful activities. It is the responsibility of the project proponent to comply with these Acts by identifying potential impacts to migratory birds and eagles within applicable NEPA documents (when there is a federal nexus) or a Bird/Eagle Conservation Plan (when there is no federal nexus). Proponents should implement conservation measures to avoid or minimize the production of project-related stressors or minimize the exposure of birds and their resources to the project-related stressors. For more information on avian stressors and recommended conservation measures, see https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/threats-birds.

In addition to MBTA and BGEPA, Executive Order 13186: Responsibilities of Federal Agencies to Protect Migratory Birds, obligates all Federal agencies that engage in or authorize activities that might affect migratory birds, to minimize those effects and encourage conservation measures that will improve bird populations. Executive Order 13186 provides for the protection of both migratory birds and migratory bird habitat. For information regarding the implementation of Executive Order 13186, please visit https://www.fws.gov/partner/council-conservation-migratory-birds.

We appreciate your concern for threatened and endangered species. The Service encourages Federal agencies to include conservation of threatened and endangered species into their project planning to further the purposes of the Act. Please include the Consultation Code in the header of this letter with any request for consultation or correspondence about your project that you submit to our office.

Attachment(s):

· Official Species List

OFFICIAL SPECIES LIST

This list is provided pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, and fulfills the requirement for Federal agencies to "request of the Secretary of the Interior information whether any species which is listed or proposed to be listed may be present in the area of a proposed action".

This species list is provided by:

Sacramento Fish And Wildlife Office Federal Building 2800 Cottage Way, Room W-2605 Sacramento, CA 95825-1846 (916) 414-6600

3018

PROJECT SUMMARY

Project Code: 20%

2023-0109507

Project Name:

EA: 03-3J410 - Middle-Mile Broadband Network 03/BUT/32/PM

10.2-32.84

Project Type:

Road/Hwy - New Construction

Project Description: Middle-Mile Broadband Network - fiber optic cable

Project Location:

The approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: https://www.google.com/maps/@39.8198588, -121.70598776622208, 14z



Counties: Butte and Tehama counties, California

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT SPECIES

There is a total of 15 threatened, endangered, or candidate species on this species list.

Species on this list should be considered in an effects analysis for your project and could include species that exist in another geographic area. For example, certain fish may appear on the species list because a project could affect downstream species.

IPaC does not display listed species or critical habitats under the sole jurisdiction of NOAA Fisheries¹, as USFWS does not have the authority to speak on behalf of NOAA and the Department of Commerce.

See the "Critical habitats" section below for those critical habitats that lie wholly or partially within your project area under this office's jurisdiction. Please contact the designated FWS office if you have questions.

NOAA Fisheries, also known as the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), is an
office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration within the Department of
Commerce.

5 of 8

BIRDS NAME	STATUS
California Spotted Owl Strix occidentalis occidentalis Population: Sierra Nevada No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecus.fws.gov/ecp/species/7266	Proposed Threatened
REPTILES NAME	STATUS
Northwestern Pond Turtle Actinemys marmorata No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1111	Proposed Threatened
AMPHIBIANS NAME	STATUS
California Red-legged Frog Rana draytonii There is final critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/2891	Threatened
Foothill Yellow-legged Frog Rana boylii Population: North Feather Distinct Population Segment (North Feather DPS) No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5133	Threatened
Western Spadefoot Spea hammondii No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5425	Proposed Threatened
INSECTS	STATUS
Monarch Butterfly Danaus plexippus No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9743	Candidate
Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle Desmocerus californicus dimorphus There is final critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/7850	Threatened

CRUSTACEANS

NAME	STATUS
Conservancy Fairy Shrimp Branchinecta conservatio	Endangered
There is final critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat	
Species profile: https://ecos.bus.am/aen/aperios/8946	

Projes		

NAME	STATUS
Vernal Pool Fairy Shrimp Branchinecta lynchi There is final critical habitat for this species. Your location overlaps the critical habitat. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/498	Threatened
Vernal Pool Tadpole Shrimp Lepidurus packardi There is final critical habitat for this species. Your location overlaps the critical habitat. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/2246	Endangered
FLOWERING PLANTS NAME	STATUS
Butte County Meadowfoam Limnanthes floccosa ssp. californica There is final critical habitat for this species. Your location overlaps the critical habitat. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/4223	Endangered
Greene's Tuctoria Tuctoria greenei There is final critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1573	Endangered
Hairy Orcutt Grass Orcuttia pilosa There is final critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/2262	Endangered
Hoover's Spurge Chamaesyce hooveri There is final critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat.	Threatened

Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3019

Threatened

Slender Orcutt Grass Orcuttia tenuis

There is final critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1063

CRITICAL HABITATS

There are 3 critical habitats wholly or partially within your project area under this office's jurisdiction.

NAME	STATUS
Butte County Meadowfoam Limnanthes floccosa ssp. californica https://ecus.fws.gov/ecp/species/4223#crithab	Final
Vernal Pool Fairy Shrimp Branchinecta lynchi https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/498#crithab	Final
Vernal Pool Tadpole Shrimp Lepidurus packardi https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/2246#crithab	Final

03-3J410 BUT 32

Angell, Kelli@DOT <kelli.angell@dot.ca.gov> Wed 5/22/2024 12:49 PM

To:nmfs species list address <nmfs.wcrca.specieslist@noaa.gov> Department of Transportation Caltrans 703 B Street Marysville, CA 95901

Middle Mile Broadband Network 03-3J410

Kelli Angell kelli.angell@dot.ca.gov (530) 812-4305

Quad Name Chico Quad Number 39121-F7 ESA Anadromous Fish

SONCC Coho ESU (T) CCC Coho ESU (E) CC Chinook Salmon ESU (T) CVSR Chinook Salmon ESU (T) - X
SRWR Chinook Salmon ESU (E) - X
NC Steelhead DPS (T) CCC Steelhead DPS (T) SCCC Steelhead DPS (T) SC Steelhead DPS (E) CCV Steelhead DPS (T) - X
Eulachon (T) sDPS Green Sturgeon (T) ESA Anadromous Fish Critical Habitat

SONCC Coho Critical Habitat CCC Coho Critical Habitat CC Chinook Salmon Critical Habitat CVSR Chinook Salmon Critical Habitat SRWR Chinook Salmon Critical Habitat NC Steelhead Critical Habitat CCC Steelhead Critical Habitat SCCC Steelhead Critical Habitat SC Steelhead C

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03-3J410 BUT 32 - Angell, Kellig DOT - Outlook

Range Black Abalone (E) -Range White Abalone (E) -ESA Marine Invertebrates Critical Habitat

Black Abalone Critical Habitat -ESA Sea Turtles

East Pacific Green Sea Turtle (T) -Olive Ridley Sea Turtle (T/E) -Leatherback Sea Turtle (E) -North Pacific Loggerhead Sea Turtle (E) -ESA Whales

Blue Whale (E) -Fin Whale (E) -Humpback Whale (E) -Southern Resident Killer Whale (E) -North Pacific Right Whale (E) -Sei Whale (E) -Sperm Whale (E) -ESA Pinnipeds

Guadalupe Fur Seal (T) -Steller Sea Lion Critical Habitat -Essential Fish Habitat

Coho EFH Chinook Salmon EFH - X
Groundfish EFH Coastal Pelagics EFH Highly Migratory Species EFH MMPA Species (See list at left)

ESA and MMPA Cetaceans/Pinnipeds See list at left and consult the NMFS Long Beach office 562-980-4000

MMPA Cetaceans -MMPA Pinnipeds -

Quad Name Paradise West Quad Number 39121-G6 ESA Anadromous Fish

SONCC Coho ESU (T) CCC Coho ESU (E) CC Chinook Salmon ESU (T) CVSR Chinook Salmon ESU (T) - X
SRWR Chinook Salmon ESU (E) - X
NC Steelhead DPS (T) CCC Steelhead DPS (T) -

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                                                  03-3J410 BUT 32 - Angell, Kelli@DOT - Outlook
     SCCC Steelhead DPS (T) -
     SC Steelhead DPS (E) -
     CCV Steelhead DPS (T) - X
     Eulachon (T) -
     sDPS Green Sturgeon (T) -
     ESA Anadromous Fish Critical Habitat
     SONCC Coho Critical Habitat -
     CCC Coho Critical Habitat -
     CC Chinook Salmon Critical Habitat -
     CVSR Chinook Salmon Critical Habitat - X
     SRWR Chinook Salmon Critical Habitat -
     NC Steelhead Critical Habitat -
     CCC Steelhead Critical Habitat -
     SCCC Steelhead Critical Habitat -
     SC Steelhead Critical Habitat -
     CCV Steelhead Critical Habitat -
     Eulachon Critical Habitat -
     sDPS Green Sturgeon Critical Habitat -
     ESA Marine Invertebrates
     Range Black Abalone (E) -
     Range White Abalone (E) -
     ESA Marine Invertebrates Critical Habitat
     Black Abalone Critical Habitat -
     ESA Sea Turtles
     East Pacific Green Sea Turtle (T) -
     Olive Ridley Sea Turtle (T/E) -
     Leatherback Sea Turtle (E) -
     North Pacific Loggerhead Sea Turtle (E) -
     ESA Whales
     Blue Whale (E) -
     Fin Whale (E) -
     Humpback Whale (E) -
     Southern Resident Killer Whale (E) -
     North Pacific Right Whale (E) -
     Sei Whale (E) -
     Sperm Whale (E) -
     ESA Pinnipeds
     Guadalupe Fur Seal (T) -
     Steller Sea Lion Critical Habitat -
     Essential Fish Habitat
     Coho EFH -
     Chinook Salmon EFH -
     Groundfish EFH -
     Coastal Pelagics EFH -
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03-3J410 BUT 32 - Angell, Kelli@DOT - Outlook

Highly Migratory Species EFH -MMPA Species (See list at left)

ESA and MMPA Cetaceans/Pinnipeds See list at left and consult the NMFS Long Beach office 562-980-4000

MMPA Cetaceans -MMPA Pinnipeds -

Quad Name Richardson Springs Quad Number 39121-G7 ESA Anadromous Fish

SONCC Coho ESU (T) CCC Coho ESU (E) CC Chinook Salmon ESU (T) CVSR Chinook Salmon ESU (T) - X
SRWR Chinook Salmon ESU (E) - X
NC Steelhead DPS (T) CCC Steelhead DPS (T) SCCC Steelhead DPS (T) SC Steelhead DPS (E) CCV Steelhead DPS (T) - X
Eulachon (T) SDPS Green Sturgeon (T) ESA Anadromous Fish Critical Habitat

SONCC Coho Critical Habitat CCC Coho Critical Habitat CC Chinook Salmon Critical Habitat CVSR Chinook Salmon Critical Habitat X SRWR Chinook Salmon Critical Habitat NC Steelhead Critical Habitat CCC Steelhead Critical Habitat SCCC Steelhead Critical Habitat SC Steelhead Critical Habitat SC Steelhead Critical Habitat SC Steelhead Critical Habitat SC Steelhead Critical Habitat SCS STEELHEAD CRITICAL HABI

Range Black Abalone (E) -Range White Abalone (E) -ESA Marine Invertebrates Critical Habitat

Black Abalone Critical Habitat -ESA Sea Turtles

East Pacific Green Sea Turtle (T) -Olive Ridley Sea Turtle (T/E) -

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03-3J410 BUT 32 - Angell, Kelli@DOT - Outlook

Leatherback Sea Turtle (E) -North Pacific Loggerhead Sea Turtle (E) -ESA Whales

Blue Whale (E) -Fin Whale (E) -Humpback Whale (E) -Southern Resident Killer Whale (E) -North Pacific Right Whale (E) -Sei Whale (E) -Sperm Whale (E) -ESA Pinnipeds

Guadalupe Fur Seal (T) -Steller Sea Lion Critical Habitat -Essential Fish Habitat

Coho EFH Chinook Salmon EFH - X
Groundfish EFH Coastal Pelagics EFH Highly Migratory Species EFH MMPA Species (See list at left)

ESA and MMPA Cetaceans/Pinnipeds See list at left and consult the NMFS Long Beach office 562-980-4000

MMPA Cetaceans -MMPA Pinnipeds -

Quad Name Cohasset Quad Number 39121-H6 ESA Anadromous Fish

SONCC Coho ESU (T) CCC Coho ESU (E) CC Chinook Salmon ESU (T) CVSR Chinook Salmon ESU (T) - X
SRWR Chinook Salmon ESU (E) - X
NC Steelhead DPS (T) CCC Steelhead DPS (T) SCCC Steelhead DPS (T) SC Steelhead DPS (E) CCV Steelhead DPS (E) CCV Steelhead DPS (T) - X
Eulachon (T) sDPS Green Sturgeon (T) ESA Anadromous Fish Critical Habitat

SONCC Coho Critical Habitat -CCC Coho Critical Habitat -

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CC Chinook Salmon Critical Habitat CVSR Chinook Salmon Critical Habitat SRWR Chinook Salmon Critical Habitat NC Steelhead Critical Habitat CCC Steelhead Critical Habitat SCCC Steelhead Critical Habitat SC Steelhead Critical Habitat CCV Steelhead Critical Habitat CCV Steelhead Critical Habitat SCS Steelhead Crit

Range Black Abalone (E) -Range White Abalone (E) -ESA Marine Invertebrates Critical Habitat

Black Abalone Critical Habitat -ESA Sea Turtles

East Pacific Green Sea Turtle (T) -Olive Ridley Sea Turtle (T/E) -Leatherback Sea Turtle (E) -North Pacific Loggerhead Sea Turtle (E) -ESA Whales

Blue Whale (E) -Fin Whale (E) -Humpback Whale (E) -Southern Resident Killer Whale (E) -North Pacific Right Whale (E) -Sei Whale (E) -Sperm Whale (E) -ESA Pinnipeds

Guadalupe Fur Seal (T) -Steller Sea Lion Critical Habitat -Essential Fish Habitat

Coho EFH Chinook Salmon EFH - X
Groundfish EFH Coastal Pelagics EFH Highly Migratory Species EFH MMPA Species (See list at left)

ESA and MMPA Cetaceans/Pinnipeds See list at left and consult the NMFS Long Beach office 562-980-4000

MMPA Cetaceans -MMPA Pinnipeds -

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Federal ESA - - NOAA Fisheries Species List Re: 03-3J410 BUT 32

NMFS SpeciesList - NOAA Service Account <nmfs.wcrca.specieslist@noaa.gov> Wed 5/22/2024 12:51 PM

To:Angell, Kelli@DOT <kelli.angell@dot.ca.gov>

EXTERNAL EMAIL. Links/attachments may not be safe.

Please retain a copy of each email request that you send to NOAA at mmfs.wcrca.specieslist@noaa.gov as proof of your official Endangered Species Act SPECIES LIST. The email you send to NOAA should include the following information: your first and last name; email address; phone number; federal agency name (or delegated state agency such as Caltrans); mailing address; project title; brief description of the project; and a copy of a list of threatened or endangered species identified within specified geographic areas derived from the NOAA Fisheries, West Coast Region, California Species List Tool. You may only receive this instruction once per week. If you have questions, contact your local NOAA Fisheries liaison.

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Appendix F List of Technical Studies

The following technical studies have been prepared and are incorporated by reference into this Environmental Assessment.

Air Quality and Noise Memorandum – prepared December 15, 2023.

Biological Resources Evaluation Memorandum – prepared May 22, 2024.

Floodplain Encroachment Report – prepared December 7, 2023.

Geotechnical Report - prepared December 19, 2023.

Hazardous Waste Initial Site Assessment – prepared October 30, 2023.

Historical Property Survey Report (Confidential – Not for public distribution) - prepared August 29, 2023.

Please note, many state and federal laws limit the disclosure of sensitive cultural and tribal resource information to the public. Additional information regarding confidentiality of these resources can be found in the <u>Standard Environmental Reference Volume 2</u> in Section 3.4.13 and Section 5.3.6.

NRCS Farmland Map – prepared June 4, 2024.

Paleontological Resources Assessment— prepared April 3, 2024.

BUT 32 Recreation Access Point Map – prepared August 5, 2024.

Traffic Data and Designation Memorandum – prepared December 26, 2023.

Transportation Management Plan – prepared January 25, 2024.

Visual Impact Assessment prepared – prepared November 13, 2023.

Water Quality Assessment Exemption – prepared April 3, 2023.

Wild and Scenic River Memorandum – prepared July 30, 2024.

To obtain a copy of one or more of these technical studies or the Environmental Assessment, please send your request to:
California Department of Transportation- District 3 Environmental Attn: Trevor Garrison
703 B Street
Marysville, CA 95901

Or send your request via email to: trevor.garrison@dot.ca.gov.

Or call: (530) 812-6924

Please reference both project name and EA.

Appendix Comment Letters and Responses G

The State Route 162 Middle-Mile Broadband Network Project Environmental Assessment was circulated to the public for 30 days between July 16, 2024 and August 16, 2024 at the following website https://dot.ca.gov/caltrans-near-me/district-3/d3-programs/d3-environmental-docs/d123-broadband/d3-butte-32-middle-mile-broadband-network-project. No comments were received during the public circulation period.