

El Dorado County Broadband Fiber Project

El Dorado County Board of Supervisors
Hearing to Consider Certification of the
Final Program Environmental Impact Report

June 10, 2025



CEQA and Its Purpose

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) is a State law or statute that requires State and local agencies to identify the significant environmental impacts of their actions and to avoid or mitigate those impacts, if feasible.

The purpose of CEQA is to:

- ▶ **Inform** decision makers and the public about effects of proposed project.
- ▶ **Identify** ways to avoid or significantly reduce environmental impacts.
- ▶ **Prevent** significant, avoidable environmental impacts by requiring changes in the project.
- ▶ **Disclose** reasons why project was approved if significant impacts are involved.

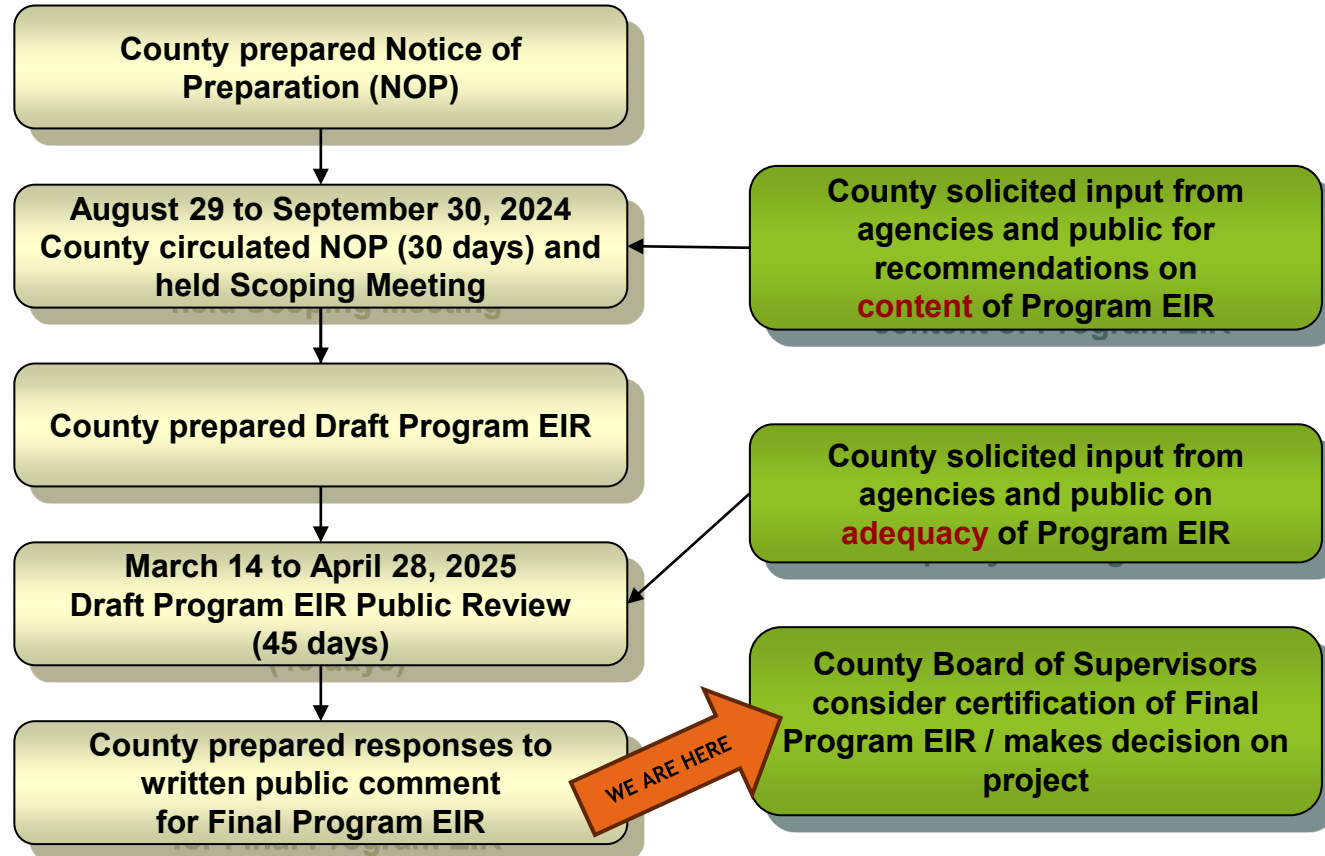
Project Overview

- ▶ The Project would allow for the installation of fiber optic lines either underground in buried conduits, overhead on existing or newly constructed utility poles, or a combination of both.
- ▶ The majority of future fiber optic broadband infrastructure is anticipated to be built within:
 - ▶ Unincorporated areas of the County;
 - ▶ Incorporated cities of Placerville and South Lake Tahoe;
 - ▶ California Department of Transportation's (Caltrans') public rights-of-way (ROW);
 - ▶ Private disturbed land; or
 - ▶ Federal land.

Program Environmental Impact Report

- ▶ This Program Environmental Impact Report (EIR) provides a regional scale analysis and a framework of mitigation measures for subsequent, site-specific environmental review documents (individual fiber projects).
- ▶ If individual fiber projects are within the scope of the Program EIR, a consistency checklist will be prepared and applicable mitigation measures from the Program EIR will be identified.
- ▶ This Program EIR will streamline approval of individual fiber projects throughout the County while protecting vital environmental resources.

CEQA Timeline



Notice of Preparation

- ▶ NOP Public Scoping Period:
August 29, 2024 to September 30, 2024 (30 days)
 - ▶ Virtual Public Scoping Meeting held September 25, 2024
 - ▶ Three written comments were received:
 - ▶ Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) on August 30, 2024
 - ▶ Caltrans District 3 on September 25, 2024
 - ▶ Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (CVRWQCB) on September 30, 2024



Public Review Draft Program EIR

- ▶ Draft Program EIR Public Review Period:
March 14, 2025 to April 28, 2025 (45 days)
- ▶ One comment was received on the Draft EIR from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) on April 28, 2025
 - ▶ CDFW provided helpful recommendations to assist the County in identifying and mitigating the Project's potentially significant impacts on biological resources.
 - ▶ Revisions to the biological resource's mitigation measures in the Draft EIR were made, as needed, and additional biological resources mitigation measures were added.
 - ▶ With implementation of the revised and additional mitigation measures, as outlined in the Final EIR, the impact to biological resources would remain **less than significant**.

Draft Program EIR Findings

- ▶ The following environmental resource areas were determined to have less than significant impacts with implementation of mitigation measures (MMs), as outlined in the next slides:
 - ▶ Aesthetics (MM AES-1)
 - ▶ Air Quality (MMs AQ-1 and AQ-2)
 - ▶ Biological Resources (MMs BIO-1 through BIO-10)
 - ▶ Cultural Resources (MMs CUL-1 and CUL-2)
 - ▶ Hazards and Hazardous Materials (MM AQ-2 and MM TRA-1)
 - ▶ Noise (MMs NOI-1 through NOI-3)
 - ▶ Transportation (MM TRA-1)
 - ▶ Tribal Cultural Resources (MMs TCR-1 and TCR-2)
 - ▶ Wildfire (MM TRA-1)
- ▶ **No significant and unavoidable impacts were identified in the Draft Program EIR.**

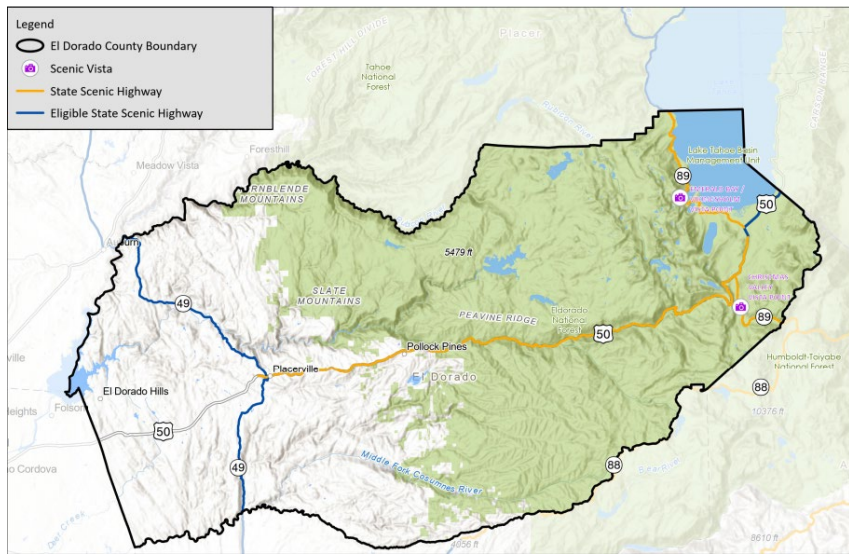
Aesthetics (AES)

▶ MM AES-1: Visual Impact Assessment

Requires preparation of a Visual Impact Assessment prior to construction of aboveground fiber projects within a designated scenic vista or eligible/designated State Scenic Highway

▶ DETERMINATION:

Impacts would be reduced to **Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated**



Air Quality (AQ)

▶ MM AQ-1: Prepare a Fugitive Dust Mitigation Plan

Requires the project applicant to submit a Fugitive Dust Control Plan that implements Best Management Practices prior to construction

▶ MM AQ-2: Prepare an Asbestos Dust Mitigation Plan

Requires the owner/operator to submit an Asbestos Dust Mitigation Plan if, prior to and during construction, Naturally Occurring Asbestos (NOA) is discovered

▶ DETERMINATION:

Impacts would be reduced to **Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated**

▶ Note: The Hazards and Hazardous Materials Section of the Program EIR incorporated MM AQ-2 to minimize impacts related hazardous emissions to **Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated**

Biological Resources (BIO)

- ▶ **MM BIO-1: Prepare a Site-Specific Biological Resources Assessment**

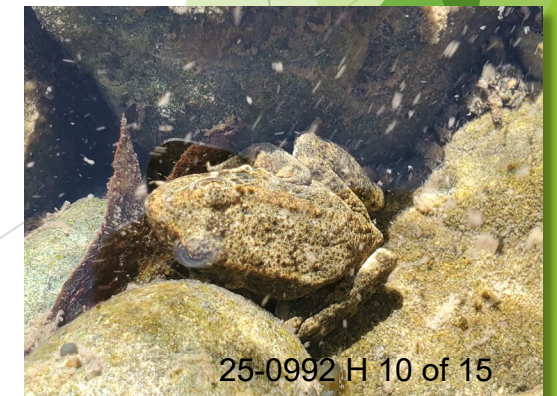
Requires implementation of MM BIO-2 through MM BIO-7, as applicable

- ▶ **MM BIO-2: Conduct Worker Awareness Training for Applicable Special-Status Species**

- ▶ **MM BIO-3: Implement Mitigation Measures for Special-Status Plant Species**

- ▶ **MM BIO-4: Implement Mitigation Measures for Special-Status Aquatic Species**

- ▶ **MM BIO-5: Implement Mitigation Measures for Coast Horned Lizard**



Biological Resources (BIO) Continued

- ▶ **MM BIO-6: Implement Mitigation Measures for Special-Status Bird Species and Other Nesting Birds**
- ▶ **MM BIO-7: Implement Mitigation Measures for Special-Status Bat Species**
- ▶ **MM BIO-8: Implement Mitigation Measures for Other Special-Status Mammal Species**
- ▶ **MM BIO-9: Jurisdictional Delineation and Regulatory Permitting**
- ▶ **MM BIO-10: Oak Resources Inventory**
- ▶ **DETERMINATION:**
Impacts would be reduced to **Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated**



Cultural Resources (CUL)

- ▶ **MM CUL-1: Archaeological Cultural Resources Investigations**

Requires preconstruction screening, a records search, and archeological resource investigations

- ▶ **MM CUL-2: Inadvertent Discovery of Archaeological Cultural Resources**

Requires construction activities to be halted if cultural resources are discovered; a qualified archaeologist shall provide management recommendations

- ▶ **DETERMINATION:**

Impacts would be reduced to **Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated**

Tribal Cultural Resources (TCR)

- ▶ **MM TCR-1: Tribal Cultural Resources**

Requires the County conduct tribal consultation outreach for all individual fiber projects prior to project approval

- ▶ **MM TCR-2: Tribal Treatment and Tribal Consultation**

Requires that construction be halted if tribal cultural resources are discovered; if the discovery is determined to be a tribal cultural resource, additional work and mitigation measures shall be required, such as those listed in PRC §21084.3, as deemed appropriate by the tribal organization consulting on the find.

- ▶ **DETERMINATION:**

Impacts would be reduced to **Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated**

Hazards and Hazardous Materials (HAZ), Transportation (TRA), Wildfire (FIRE)

- ▶ **MM TRA-1: Traffic Control and Detour Plan**

Requires the project applicant to submit a Traffic Control and Detour Plan for individual fiber projects requiring encroachment permits, and requires consultation with the County and/or Caltrans prior to construction

- ▶ **DETERMINATION:**

Impacts would be reduced to **Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated**

- ▶ **Note:** The Hazards and Hazardous Materials Section and Wildfire Section of the Program EIR incorporated MM TRA-1 to minimize impacts related to emergency response and evacuation plans to **Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated**

Noise (NOI)

▶ MM NOI-1: Construction Hours

Requires construction to be limited to the hours of 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. during weekdays and 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on weekends

▶ MM NOI-2: Backup Generator Noise Control

Requires the County to verify that project plans show that emergency backup generators are installed a minimum of 105 feet from noise sensitive land uses or that noise attenuating features are incorporated

▶ MM NOI-3: Vibratory Roller Use

Requires the County to verify that construction documents include restrictions on vibratory roller use

▶ DETERMINATION:

Impacts would be reduced to **Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated**



Requested Board Actions

- ▶ The County Board of Supervisors have received and reviewed the entire Project record and will consider the following actions:
 - ▶ Certification of the Final Program EIR
 - ▶ Adoption of the CEQA Findings of Fact
 - ▶ Adoption of the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program
 - ▶ Approval of the El Dorado County Broadband Fiber Project