

**PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

505 VAN NESS AVENUE  
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298



To: Interested Parties

From: Connie Chen, CPUC Project Manager

Subject: **NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION** – TDS Telecom’s Olinda Last Mile Underserved Broadband Project (Commission Resolutions T-17411 and T-17517)

Date: April 30, 2019

In response to TDS Telecom’s application for a Permit to Construct (PTC) the Olinda Last Mile Underserved Broadband Project (Commission Resolutions T-17411 and T-17517), the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) has prepared a Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration and supporting Initial Study (IS/MND) in accordance with the CPUC’s Rules of Practice and Procedure, Rule 2.4, and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The Draft IS/MND describes the project, evaluates potential environmental impacts, identifies impacts that could be significant, and presents mitigation measures that would avoid or reduce potential impacts to less-than-significant levels.

**Location, Description, and Purpose of the Proposed Project**

The proposed project is located approximately 11 miles south of the City of Redding in Shasta County, California, and is linear in nature. The proposed project area includes components throughout the unincorporated communities of Olinda, Igo, and Happy Valley, all located west of the City of Anderson and the Sacramento River.

The proposed project involves the construction of a second-generation fiber-optic network capable of 25 Mps/5 Mps (megabit-per-second download/upload) speed. Approximately 24.6 km (15.3 miles) of new fiber-optic cable would be buried within protective conduit along existing County roads in the project area.

The proposed project’s objective is to make affordable broadband Internet services available to currently underserved areas in Shasta County to help meet customer demands. TDS Telecom currently provides voice and limited broadband services within the project area. Proposed project construction and implementation would expand these services by providing high-speed internet service to an estimated 1,908 households and additional anchor institutions (schools) across the project area. With the assistance of a CASF grant of \$1,833,689.00 (60 percent of the project costs) to match TDS’s funding of \$1,222,459.00, TDS Telecom has identified the proposed project as economically feasible.

## **Draft IS/MND Public Review Period**

The circulation of the Draft IS/MND opens up a public comment period that will extend from April 30, 2019 to May 31, 2019. Written comments must be postmarked or received by mail, fax, or email no later than May 31, 2019. Please be sure to include your name, address, and telephone number in the correspondence. Send written comments to:

Olinda Last Mile Underserved Broadband Project  
c/o Ecology and Environment, Inc.  
Attn: Silvia Yanez, Project Manager  
One Embarcadero Center, Suite 500  
San Francisco, CA 94111

Email: [Olinda.CPUC@ene.com](mailto:Olinda.CPUC@ene.com)  
Telephone (Toll-Free Voicemail): (415) 398-5326  
Fax: (415) 796-0846

## **Availability of Draft IS/MND**

Copies of the Draft IS/MND will be available for review at the public access locations indicated below:

**Shasta Public Library: Anderson Branch**  
3200 West Center Street  
Anderson, CA 96007  
Phone: (530) 365-7685

**Shasta Public Library: Redding Branch**  
1100 Parkview Avenue  
Redding, CA 96001  
Phone: (530) 245-7250

**Shasta County Department of Resource Management**  
Planning Division  
1855 Placer Street, Suite 103  
Redding, CA 96001  
Phone: (530) 225-5532

For electronic access to the Draft IS/MND and additional project information, please refer to the public project website:

**Olinda Last Mile Underserved Broadband Project Public Website**  
<http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/environment/info/ene/olinda/olinda.html>

If you would like to request a hard copy of the Draft IS/MND, please call: 1 (844) 422-9692, or email: [Olinda.CPUC@ene.com](mailto:Olinda.CPUC@ene.com).