

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY LAST-MILE BROADBAND PROGRAM

Program Environmental Impact Report

Prepared for
Santa Barbara County Association of Governments

November 2024



SANTA BARBARA COUNTY LAST-MILE BROADBAND PROGRAM

Program Environmental Impact Report

Prepared for
Santa Barbara County Association of Governments

November 2024

633 West 5th Street
Suite 830
Los Angeles, CA 90071
213.599.4300
esassoc.com



Atlanta	Pasadena	San Francisco
Bend	Pensacola	San Jose
Irvine	Petaluma	Santa Barbara
Los Angeles	Portland	Sarasota
Mobile	Rancho Cucamonga	Seattle
Oakland	Sacramento	Tampa
Orlando	San Diego	Thousand Oaks
Palm Beach County		

OUR COMMITMENT TO SUSTAINABILITY | ESA helps a variety of public and private sector clients plan and prepare for climate change and emerging regulations that limit GHG emissions. ESA is a registered assessor with the California Climate Action Registry, a Climate Leader, and founding reporter for the Climate Registry. ESA is also a corporate member of the U.S. Green Building Council and the Business Council on Climate Change (BC3). Internally, ESA has adopted a Sustainability Vision and Policy Statement and a plan to reduce waste and energy within our operations. This document was produced using recycled paper.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY LAST-MILE BROADBAND PROGRAM: PROGRAM ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

	<u>Page</u>
Executive Summary.....	ES-1
ES.1 Introduction	ES-1
ES.2 Environmental Procedures.....	ES-1
ES.6 Project Location	ES-5
ES.3 Project Summary.....	ES-5
ES.4 Summary of Project Alternatives	ES-6
ES.5 Issues to Be Resolved	ES-7
ES.7 Areas of Controversy	ES-8
ES.8 Summary of Environmental Impacts, Mitigation Measures, and Levels of Significance After Mitigation.....	ES-8
Chapter 1: Introduction	1-1
1.1 Project Requiring Environmental Analysis.....	1-1
1.2 Purpose and Intended Uses of this PEIR	1-1
1.3 Scope of this Draft PEIR	1-2
1.4 Public Review Process	1-2
1.5 PEIR Organization	1-3
1.6 Standard Terminology Used in the PEIR.....	1-4
Chapter 2: Project Description	2-1
2.1 Project Location	2-1
2.2 Project Background and Need.....	2-4
2.3 Broadband Strategic Plan.....	2-5
2.4 Project Objectives	2-6
2.5 Proposed Project Components.....	2-7
2.6 Construction Schedule and Assumptions.....	2-17
2.7 Potential Permits and Approvals Required.....	2-24
Chapter 3: Environmental Setting.....	3-1
3.1 Approach to the Environmental Analysis	3-1
Chapter 4: Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures.....	4.1-1
4.1 Air Quality.....	4.1-1
4.2 Biological Resources	4.2-1
4.3 Cultural Resources.....	4.3-1
4.4 Energy	4.4-1
4.5 Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Global Climate Change	4.5-1
4.6 Noise and Vibration.....	4.6-1
4.7 Tribal Cultural Resources	4.7-1
4.8 Utilities and Service Systems – Telecommunication Facilities.....	4.8-1

	<u>Page</u>
Chapter 5: Alternatives	5-1
5.1 Overview	5-1
5.2 Factors in the Selection of Alternatives	5-2
5.3 Alternatives Considered but Dismissed from Further Evaluation	5-3
5.4 Analysis Format	5-4
5.5 Alternatives Selected for Further Consideration	5-5
5.6 Environmentally Superior Alternative	5-14
Chapter 6: Other CEQA Considerations	6-1
6.1 Introduction	6-1
6.2 Significant and Unavoidable Adverse Impacts	6-1
6.3 Significant and Irreversible Environmental Changes	6-1
6.4 Growth-Inducing Effects	6-3
6.5 Potential Secondary Effects of Mitigation Measures	6-5
6.6 Effects Found Not to Be Significant	6-6
Chapter 7: References	7-1
Chapter 8: List of Preparers and Persons Consulted	8-1

Appendices

- Appendix A: NOP/Comments
- Appendix B: Air Quality
- Appendix C: Biological Resources
- Appendix D: Cultural Resources
- Appendix E: Energy
- Appendix F: Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Appendix G: Noise
- Appendix H: Tribal Consultation

List of Figures

Figure 2-1	Regional Location	2-2
Figure 2-2	Broadband Facility Locations	2-3
Figure 2-3	Priority Area Site Plan – Guadalupe	2-8
Figure 2-4	Priority Area Site Plan – Casmalia	2-9
Figure 2-5	Priority Area Site Plan – Los Alamos	2-10
Figure 2-6	Priority Area Site Plan – Cuyama and New Cuyama	2-11
Figure 2-7	Priority Area Site Plan – East of Santa Maria	2-12
Figure 2-8	Highway 246 Corridor	2-13
Figure 2-9	Priority Area Site Plan – Jonata Park	2-14
Figure 2-10	Priority Area Site Plan – Los Olivos	2-15
Figure 2-11	Priority Area Site Plan – Refugio Canyon	2-16
Figure 3-1	Cumulative Project Map	3-6
Figure 4.1-1	Santa Barbara County Air Quality Monitoring Stations (2022)	4.1-4
Figure 4.1-2	Historical Santa Barbara County Ozone Exceedances (2001-2021)	4.1-5
Figure 4.1-3	Historical Santa Barbara County Particular Matter (PM) Exceedances (2006-2021)	4.1-6
Figure 4.2-1	Vegetation Cover	4.2-5
Figure 4.2-1A	Vegetation Cover, Guadalupe	4.2-6

	<u>Page</u>
Figure 4.2-1B	Vegetation Cover, Casmalia..... 4.2-7
Figure 4.2-1C	Vegetation Cover, East of Santa Maria 4.2-8
Figure 4.2-1D	Vegetation Cover, Cuyama and New Cuyama 4.2-9
Figure 4.2-1E	Vegetation Cover, Los Alamos 4.2-10
Figure 4.2-1F	Vegetation Cover, Los Olivos E 154..... 4.2-11
Figure 4.2-1G	Vegetation Cover, Jonata Park W 101 4.2-12
Figure 4.2-1H	Vegetation Cover, Highway 246 Corridor..... 4.2-13
Figure 4.2-1I	Vegetation Cover, Refugio Canyon..... 4.2-14
Figure 4.2-2	CNDDDB Occurrences..... 4.2-19
Figure 4.2-2A	CNDDDB Occurrences, Guadalupe..... 4.2-20
Figure 4.2-2B	CNDDDB Occurrences, Casmalia 4.2-21
Figure 4.2-2C	CNDDDB Occurrences, East of Santa Maria..... 4.2-22
Figure 4.2-2D	CNDDDB Occurrences, Cuyama and New Cuyama 4.2-23
Figure 4.2-2E	CNDDDB Occurrences, Los Alamos..... 4.2-24
Figure 4.2-2F	CNDDDB Occurrences, Los Olivos E 154 4.2-25
Figure 4.2-2G	CNDDDB Occurrences, Jonata Park W 101..... 4.2-26
Figure 4.2-2H	CNDDDB Occurrences, Highway 246 Corridor 4.2-27
Figure 4.2-2I	CNDDDB Occurrences, Refugio Canyon 4.2-28
Figure 4.2-3	Critical Habitat..... 4.2-31
Figure 4.2-3A	Critical Habitat, Guadalupe..... 4.2-32
Figure 4.2-3B	Critical Habitat, Casmalia 4.2-33
Figure 4.2-3C	Critical Habitat, East of Santa Maria..... 4.2-34
Figure 4.2-3D	Critical Habitat, Cuyama and New Cuyama 4.2-35
Figure 4.2-3E	Critical Habitat, Los Alamos..... 4.2-36
Figure 4.2-3F	Critical Habitat, Los Olivos E 154 4.2-37
Figure 4.2-3G	Critical Habitat, Jonata Park W 101..... 4.2-38
Figure 4.2-3H	Critical Habitat, Highway 246 Corridor 4.2-39
Figure 4.2-3I	Critical Habitat, Refugio Canyon 4.2-40
Figure 4.2-4	Waters, Waters Overview 1 4.2-41
Figure 4.2-4	Waters, Waters Overview 2 4.2-42
Figure 4.2-4	Waters, Waters Overview 3..... 4.2-43
Figure 4.2-4	Waters, Waters Overview 4..... 4.2-44
Figure 4.2-4A	Waters, Guadalupe 4.2-45
Figure 4.2-4B	Waters, Casmalia..... 4.2-46
Figure 4.2-4C	Waters, East of Santa Maria..... 4.2-47
Figure 4.2-4D	Waters, Cuyama and New Cuyama 4.2-48
Figure 4.2-4E	Waters, Los Alamos..... 4.2-49
Figure 4.2-4F	Waters, Los Olivos E 154 4.2-50
Figure 4.2-4G	Waters, Jonata Park W 101..... 4.2-51
Figure 4.2-4H	Waters, Highway 246 Corridor 4.2-52
Figure 4.2-4I	Waters, Refugio Canyon..... 4.2-53
Figure 4.2-5	Wildlife Movement 4.2-57
Figure 4.2-5A	Wildlife Movement, Guadalupe..... 4.2-58
Figure 4.2-5B	Wildlife Movement, Casmalia 4.2-59
Figure 4.2-5C	Wildlife Movement, East of Santa Maria 4.2-60
Figure 4.2-5D	Wildlife Movement, Cuyama and New Cuyama 4.2-61
Figure 4.2-5E	Wildlife Movement, Los Alamos 4.2-62
Figure 4.2-5F	Wildlife Movement, Los Olivos E 154..... 4.2-63
Figure 4.2-5G	Wildlife Movement, Jonata Park W 101 4.2-64
Figure 4.2-5H	Wildlife Movement, Highway 246 Corridor 4.2-65
Figure 4.2-5I	Wildlife Movement, Refugio Canyon 4.2-66

List of Tables

Table ES-1	Summary of Environmental Impacts, Mitigation Measures, and Level of Significance After Mitigation	ES-9
Table 3-1	Geographic Scope of Cumulative Impacts	3-3
Table 3-2	Cumulative Project List.....	3-4
Table 4.1-1	Santa Barbara County Climate Conditions.....	4.1-2
Table 4.1-2	Current Federal and State Ambient Air Quality Standards	4.1-11
Table 4.1-3	Maximum Regional Construction Emissions for Broadband Program (Tons per Year).....	4.1-24
Table 4.2-2	Special-Status Plant Species with Potential to Occur in Priority Areas ..	4.2-84
Table 4.2-3	Special-Status Wildlife Species with Potential to Occur in Priority Areas.....	4.2-89
Table 4.2-4	CALVEG Vegetation Types within Priority Areas that May Support Sensitive Natural Communities	4.2-110
Table 4.5-1	Description of Identified GHGs	4.5-2
Table 4.5-2	Atmospheric Lifetimes and GWPs.....	4.5-3
Table 4.5-3	Estimated Statewide Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reductions in the 2022 Scoping Plan.....	4.5-13
Table 4.5-4	Major Climate Legislation and Executive Orders Enacted Since the 2017 Scoping Plan.....	4.5-14
Table 4.5-5	Construction GHG Emissions for the Five Near-Term Priority Area Projects	4.5-32
Table 4.5-6	Consistency Analysis with Applicable 2022 Scoping Plan Actions and Strategies	4.5-36
Table 4.6-1	Noise Abatement Criteria (NAC)	4.6-5
Table 4.6-2	Construction Vibration Damage Criteria.....	4.6-7
Table 4.6-3	Noise and Land Use Compatibility Matrix - California.....	4.6-8
Table 4.6-4	Construction Equipment Noise Levels	4.6-14
Table 4.6-5	Estimated Construction Noise Levels at Existing Off-Site Sensitive Receptors.....	4.6-15
Table 4.6-6	Vibration Source Levels for Construction Equipment.....	4.6-18
Table 5-1	Comparison of Impacts Associated with the Alternatives and the Project.....	5-15