

# Digital 299 Broadband Project

## Project Information

Inyo Networks, a certificated telecommunications service provider, is proposing to install fiber optic cable in northern California extending from Eureka to Cottonwood. The proposed alignment will generally follow California State Route 299 (SR-299). The Project is funded in part by a grant from the California Public Utility Commission (CPUC).

Due to its long, linear nature, this Project will involve multiple federal and state agencies. The CPUC is the lead state agency under CEQA. Involved federal agencies include the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), National Park Service (NPS), and United States Forest Service (USFS) Shasta-Trinity and Six Rivers National Forests; Caltrans Districts 1 and 2 are also cooperating on the Project. Other agencies have been invited as cooperators or reviewers as appropriate.

## Project Location & Facilities

While the Project alignment generally follows the SR-299 route, it is sited mostly along and within the shoulders of County and USFS roads. In total, approximately 280 miles of fiber optic line will be installed in buried underground conduit. The proposed alignment follows from Eureka through Willow Creek, Weaverville, and Redding, terminating in Cottonwood; the Project includes connection lines spurring off the backbone to serve nearby communities. A Project Overview map is enclosed.

As this broadband network is developed in the future, cell towers will be constructed to allow mobile connectivity. These towers are not included as part of this Project; however, existing zones of poor cellular coverage have been identified along the route and are depicted on the enclosed map. Inyo Networks is interested in collecting feedback from you on these or other areas of poor coverage so that future cell towers can be sited to provide full coverage in the area.

## Need For The Project

Inyo Networks is proposing to develop a fiber optic network in the northern California region to provide rural connectivity and redundancy across the region, improve safety for travelers and first responders, and stimulate economic development. The proposed Project would support long-term connectivity for rural communities in the area, which have been identified by CPUC as unserved or under-served.

## Environmental Analysis

Because the Project requires federal actions (e.g., grant of right-of-way from BLM, special use permits from USFS, etc.), it must be in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and other relevant regulations.

Transcon Environmental, an environmental consulting firm, has been retained to perform NEPA and CEQA compliance activities, including resource studies and the preparation of a joint NEPA/CEQA document. The NEPA/CEQA document will consider potential effects of the Project on the environment, including physical, biological, social, economic, and cultural resources.

## Project Timeline

Data collection and technical studies will take place through fall 2019. Public comments will be accepted through the scoping period, which is open until August 12, 2019. Open-house style scoping meetings will be held along the route; meeting details are included below. There will be a second opportunity to provide comment on the draft NEPA/CEQA document, expected to be published late-2019.

### Getting Involved or Making Comments

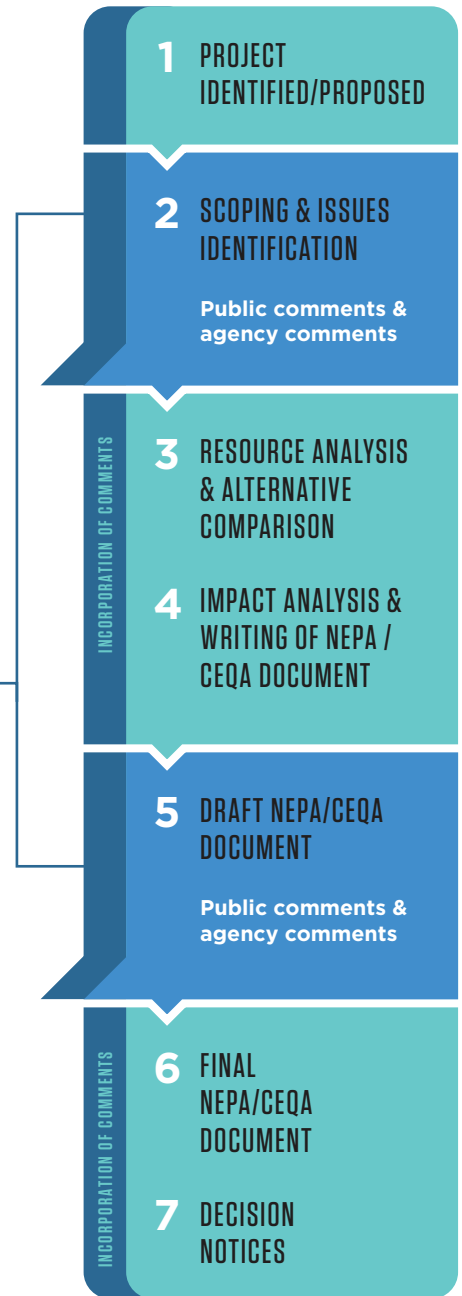
#### How to Comment

At this time CPUC is requesting comments on the Project to identify issues or resource sensitivities. Your comments are welcome and important to establish the level and scope of analysis. Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, be advised that your entire comment--including your personal identifying information--may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold from public review your personal identifying information, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

You can submit a comment by completing and mailing the enclosed pre-addressed comment form. Comments will also be accepted during the scoping meetings, by email at [ndunlap@transcon.com](mailto:ndunlap@transcon.com), or you can leave a voice message at the Project phone number: 855-339-6889.

*Comments are due by August 12, 2019.*

## PROJECT PROCESS



## Digital 299 Scoping Meetings

### Redding Area

Redding City Hall  
777 Cypress Avenue  
Redding, CA 96001  
**Mon. 7/22 5:30-8pm**

### Lewiston Area

Lewiston Community Cen.  
130 Texas Avenue  
Lewiston, CA 96052  
**Tues. 7/23 5:30-8pm**

### Weaverville Area

Trinity County Library  
351 Main Street  
Weaverville, CA 96093  
**Wed. 7/24 5:30-8pm**

### Eureka Area

Humboldt Bay Aquatic Cen.  
921 Waterfront Drive  
Eureka, CA 95501  
**Thurs. 7/25 5:30-8pm**

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

For project information and updates, please visit the Project webpage at:

[www.cpuc.ca.gov/environment/info/transcon/Digital\\_299\\_Project](http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/environment/info/transcon/Digital_299_Project)

### Enclosed:

Project Overview Map  
Comment Form