



February 22, 2021

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Subject: City of Anacortes Optic Fiber Expansion Project

Dear Tribal Members:

In accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and its implementing regulations, 36 CFR Part 800, we are providing for your review and concurrence, information regarding the City of Anacortes's project described as expanding optical fiber to pass approximately 1,815 residences with optical fiber

February 22, 2021

Page 2

infrastructure in the area extending eastward from approximately A Avenue to the shoreline from approximately 41st Street northward.

The activities associated with the Proposed Action is (i) placement of new aerial fiber upon existing utility poles within existing transportation rights-of-way (ROW), (ii) placing approximately eight new underground vaults, (iii) placing a new fiber distribution cabinet enclosure on top of each underground vault, (iv) placing several dozen new, medium underground vaults and small underground handholes within existing transportation ROW, (v) placing new multi-port service terminals aerially and in the medium underground vaults, and (vi) placing new underground conduit and fiber within existing transportation ROW as well as private property. Based on initial site reviews, it is anticipated that no new poles would be necessary; however, in the event of such activities, potential impacts are assessed in this Environmental Assessment.

Where fiber is to be installed aerially, the project would result in a single additional cable added to the communication space on existing utility poles along existing transportation ROW. The cable that encloses the fiber is less than an inch in diameter (between 0.51 and 0.73 inches), and it is black so that it is similar in appearance to the utility lines and equipment that are already present on the existing utility poles. No repeater cabinets or similar equipment enclosures would be mounted to any pole or support structure. In underground installations, the aerial fiber runs down the pole and then routes inside underground conduit that is located next to the pole. See attached drawing for complete description of installation area. Ground disturbance will be minimal and in areas previously disturbed when sidewalks, roadway and median were installed. See attached EZ-1 with location description.

Based on available research, we have determined that there are no archaeological or historical aspects to this property. We have submitted an EZ-1 form and are waiting for concurrence from Washington State DHAP. We have included an Inadvertent Discovery Plan in the project file if any cultural materials are discovered.

In accordance with Section 800.4(d)(1)(i), your office has thirty days to provide comments. If your comments are not received by March 26, 2021, we will assume you concur with our findings. Should you concur, please sign on the line below and return a copy of this letter via e-mail to joanns@cityofanacortes.org or USPS.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

CITY OF ANACORTES

Joann K. Stewart
Administrative Assistant, Planning, Community, & Economic Development

cc. Emily Schuh, Admin Services Director, City of Anacortes

Concurrence: _____ Date: _____
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer