

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

NORTH COAST DISTRICT OFFICE
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F8b

1-20-0455 (Vero Fiber Networks, LLC)

March 12, 2021

EXHIBITS

[Exhibit 1: Regional Location Map](#)

[Exhibit 2: Project Vicinity Map](#)

[Exhibit 3: Applicant's Project Description](#)

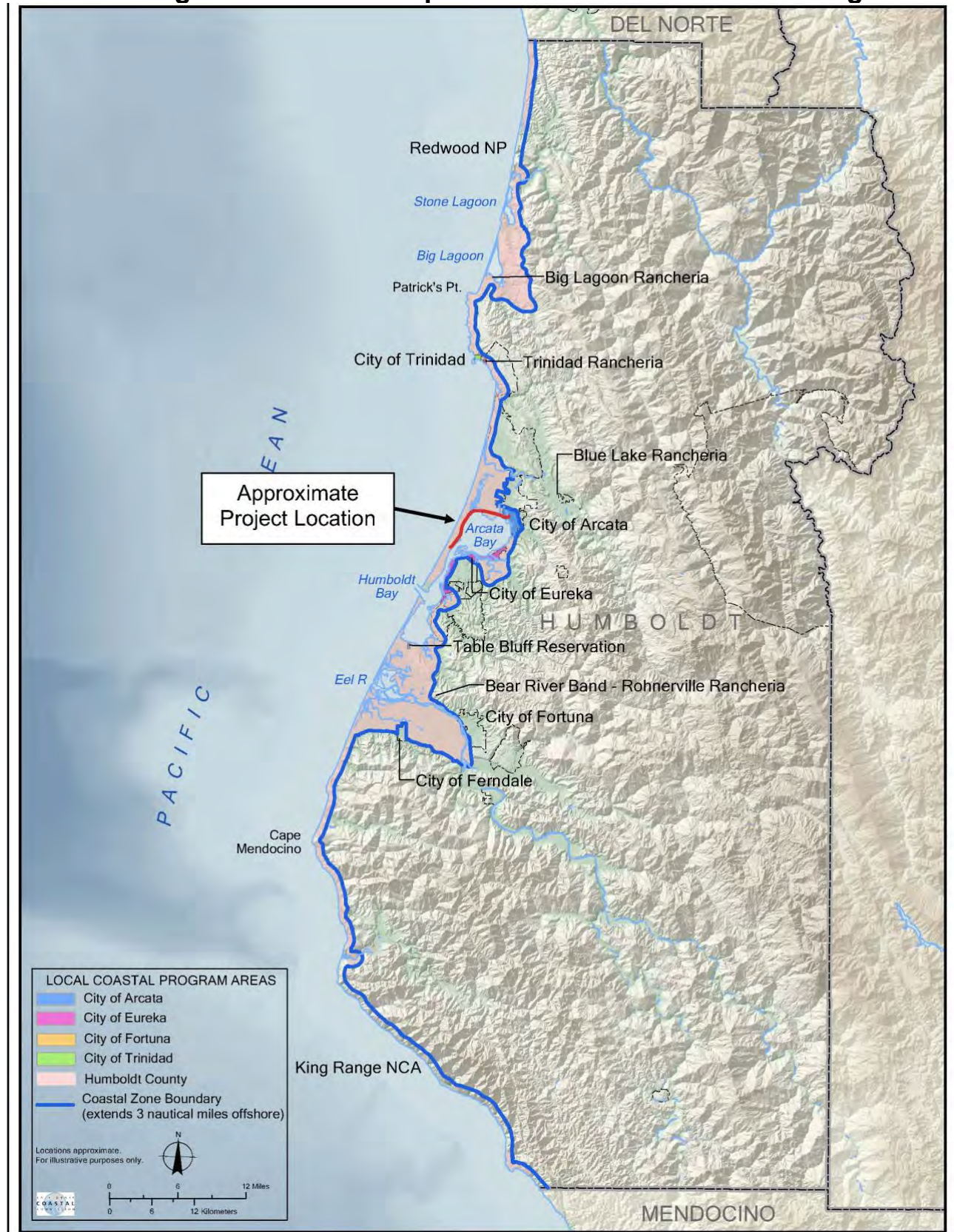
[Exhibit 4: Proposed Project Phasing Plan](#)

[Exhibit 5: Proposed Project Plans](#)

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[Exhibit 8: Excerpt of Proposed Cultural Resources Testing Plan](#)





INTRODUCTION

Vero Fiber Networks, LLC (California Public Utilities Commission [CPUC] Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity #U7344C) proposes to install conduit in approximately 18 miles of public right-of-way (ROW) along the Pacific Coast in the Arcata area in Humboldt County. The Arcata-Samoa Beach Fiber Project (Project) follows the Samoa Peninsula north to Arcata (**Figure 1**). The entire Project will be constructed underground using trenchless methods such as the horizontal direction drilling (HDD) construction method.

The Project consists of two parallel bore paths, referenced as FH1 and FH2, following either side of State Route 255 (SR-255) and curving east around Humboldt Bay and into Arcata, where it follows approximately 1.1 miles of city streets to connect to an existing facility. The Project would be entirely bored, including under bridges and under water bodies.

1.1 Areas of Disturbance

The Project would include installation of approximately 9 linear miles of underground parallel conduit (i.e., about 18 total miles of conduit) and up to 188 manholes and 31 handholes. Permanent disturbance includes the underground conduit as well as the manholes and handholes. Temporary disturbance resulting from construction (equipment staging/laydown) is expected to be limited to a 25-foot-wide corridor along the Project at select locations. Temporary and permanent disturbances per land jurisdiction are calculated in **Table 1**. Note that since the conduit is installed by trenchless methods, the actual disturbance area is only at bore and receive pits.

TABLE 1 TEMPORARY AND PERMANENT DISTURBANCE ACREAGES			
Jurisdiction	Distance (miles of conduit)	Temporary Disturbance (25-foot-wide Construction Corridor)	Permanent Disturbance (manhole and handholes)*
Public ROW	18	54.5 acres	1,249 square feet
*Combined area of surface disturbance for the manholes and handholes (i.e., 3 foot diameter lid per manhole and 3 feet by 4 feet per handhole)			

DESCRIPTION OF THE UNDERTAKING

The Project comprises buried conduit and associated manholes and handholes. A description of these facilities and how they would be constructed is below.

2.1 Facilities and Construction

2.1.1 Buried Conduit

From the Samoa Peninsula north to Arcata, two high-density polyethylene conduits are proposed; the conduit for the FH1 bore would be 6 inches in diameter, and the conduit for the FH2 bore would be 8 inches in diameter. Both conduits would be bored separately to a depth of at least 10 feet parallel to each side of SR-255. Once in Arcata, the bores follow approximately 1.1 miles of city streets to connect to an existing facility.

Both conduits would be constructed using the HDD construction method. HDD is a steerable, trenchless method of installing underground conduits along a prescribed bore path by using a surface drilling rig (**Figure 2**). HDD causes minimal impacts; ground disturbance occurs only at each entry/exit point, or "bore pit." HDD can avoid surface disruption by going beneath roadways, waterways, or environmentally sensitive areas.

The HDD process involves drilling a hole with guidance equipment and continuous drill bit position monitoring. Once drilling is complete, the conduit is pulled through the bore hole and spliced together through manhole/handhole locations. HDD uses a clay/water mixture that is pumped down the drill stem to lubricate the drill head and drill pipe, maintain the bore hole opening, and remove bore cuttings.

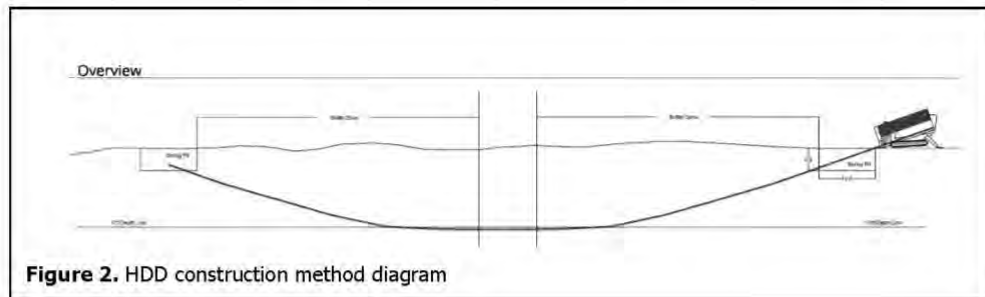


Figure 2. HDD construction method diagram

2.1.2 Manholes and Handholes

A total of 188 manholes would be required (placed approximately every 800 feet per conduit/bore operation) to facilitate the bore operation and provide access to the conduit. The relatively short distance between manholes is due to conduit configuration, weight, and discrete lengths of pre-manufactured conduit. Manholes are made from concrete and rebar with an outside diameter of 5 by 5 by 7 feet and require an excavation of about 1 foot greater than the manhole. In addition to the manholes, a total of 32 handholes would be required along the FH2 path (placed approximately every 1,600 feet). Handholes are made from a hybrid polymer concrete composite sized 3 by 4 feet and require an excavation of about 1 foot greater than the handhole; handholes would be placed alongside manholes.

2.1.3 Cable Placement

After installation, the first conduit is tested, and the cable is placed by either pulling cable using Kevlar tape or using compressed air to "blow" the cable through the conduit. In the future, additional cables may be installed within empty conduits installed as part of this Project. Each conduit would be accessed via manholes and handholes; the installation of additional cables would not require future new disturbance.

2.1.4 Construction Operations

Equipment required to construct the Project includes two directional bore rigs Vermeer 24/40 Tier 3 to Tier 4, two Kubota mini excavators Tier 3, an Ingersoll Rand 185 Air Compressor Tier 3 and Walk Behind Saw, two Ford 5-yard dump trucks, three F550 utility trucks equipped with tools, arrow boards, equipment trailers, reel trailers, a fusion welder, wackers, a vacuum trailer, and a vac truck. The directional bore would require two drill rigs, one vac trailer, one mini excavator, one air compressor, one 5-yard dump truck, and three F550 1-ton trucks, all operating in unison. Conduit and manhole placement would require one mini excavator, one concrete saw, one air compressor, two 5-yard dump trucks, and two F550 1-ton trucks. Work zones would be delineated by cones and/or barricades.

2.1.4.1 Dewatering

If necessary, dewatering would occur at manhole and at some handhole locations. Where the ground is fine sand, the excavation pits would be dug through a steel shoring box; the water would only be contained and pumped from this small area. Once pumped out, water would be stored in two 7,000-gallon poly tanks at a construction vendor yard; the water would then be tested, a discharge permit would be obtained if necessary, and the water would be discharged into either a sanitary sewer or designated discharge area. There would also be a washout for the vacs and a recycler to separate out the mud, silt, and water. Dewatering would take 4-6 hours per manhole and 2-3 hours per handhole.

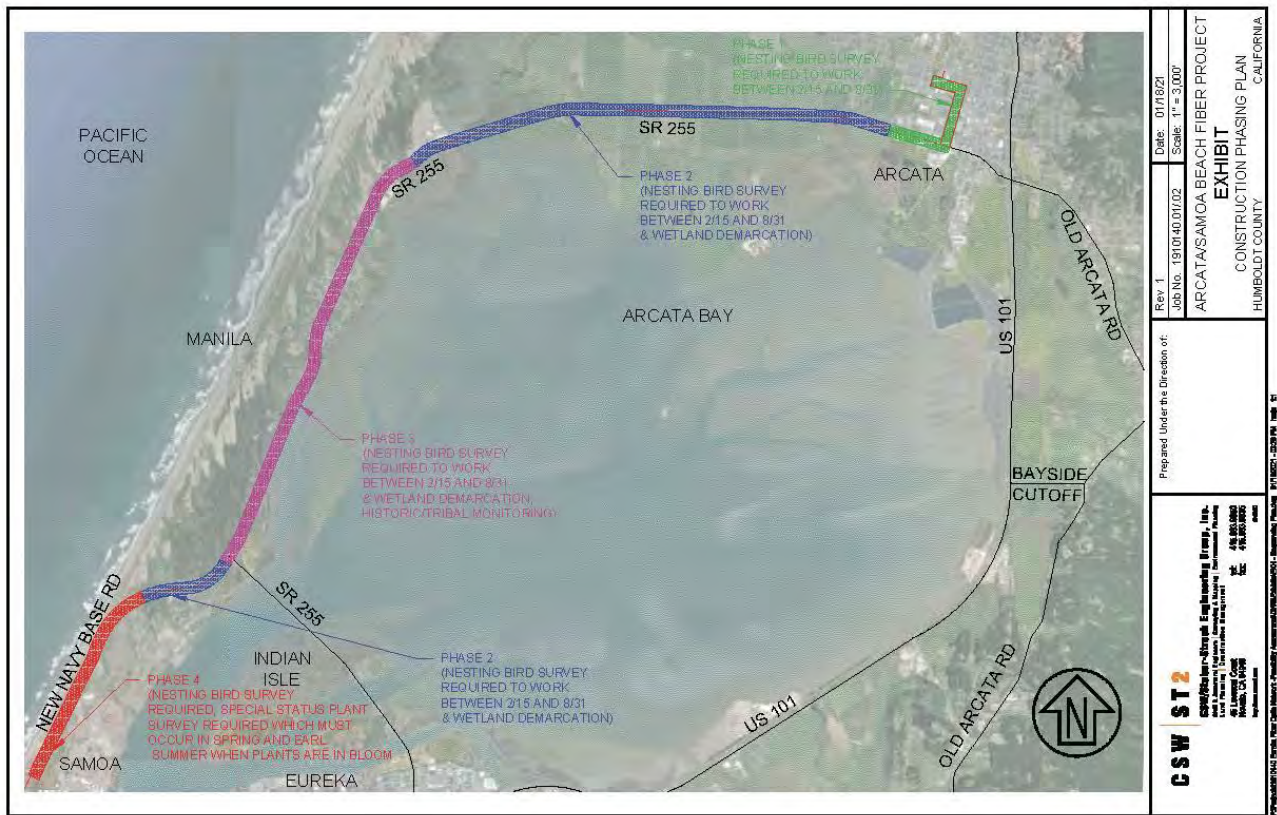
2.1.4.2 Equipment Storage and Staging

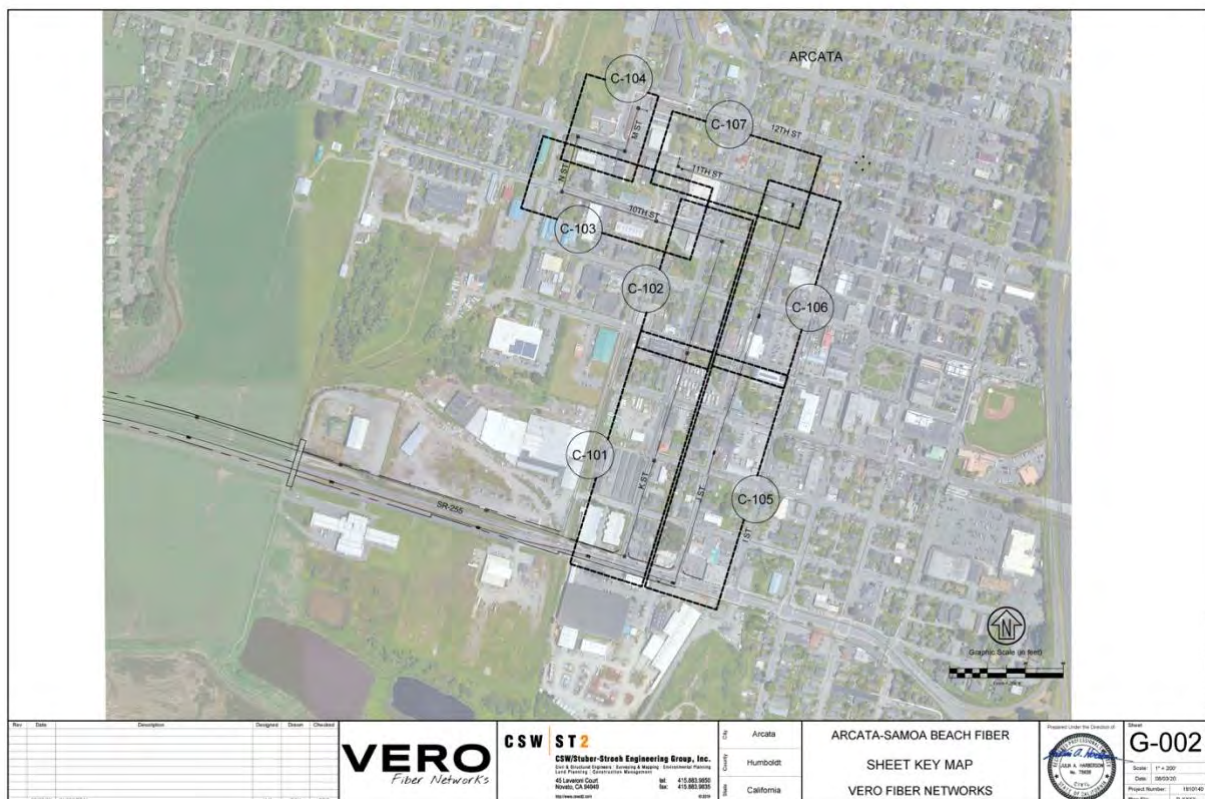
Staging and laydown for the Project construction would be along the ROW in the dirt and paved areas within the 25-foot-wide Construction Corridor. Equipment would be stored at a to be determined location within Humboldt County. Equipment would not be left within the ROW overnight.

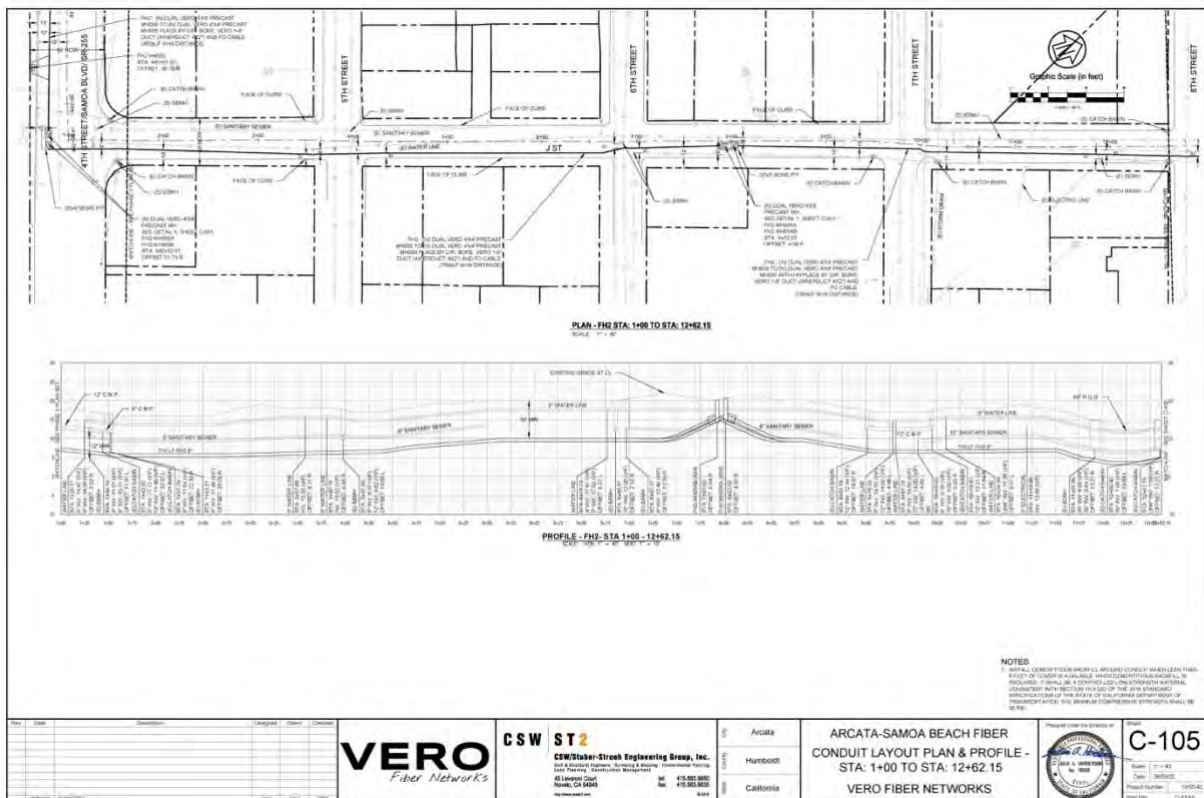
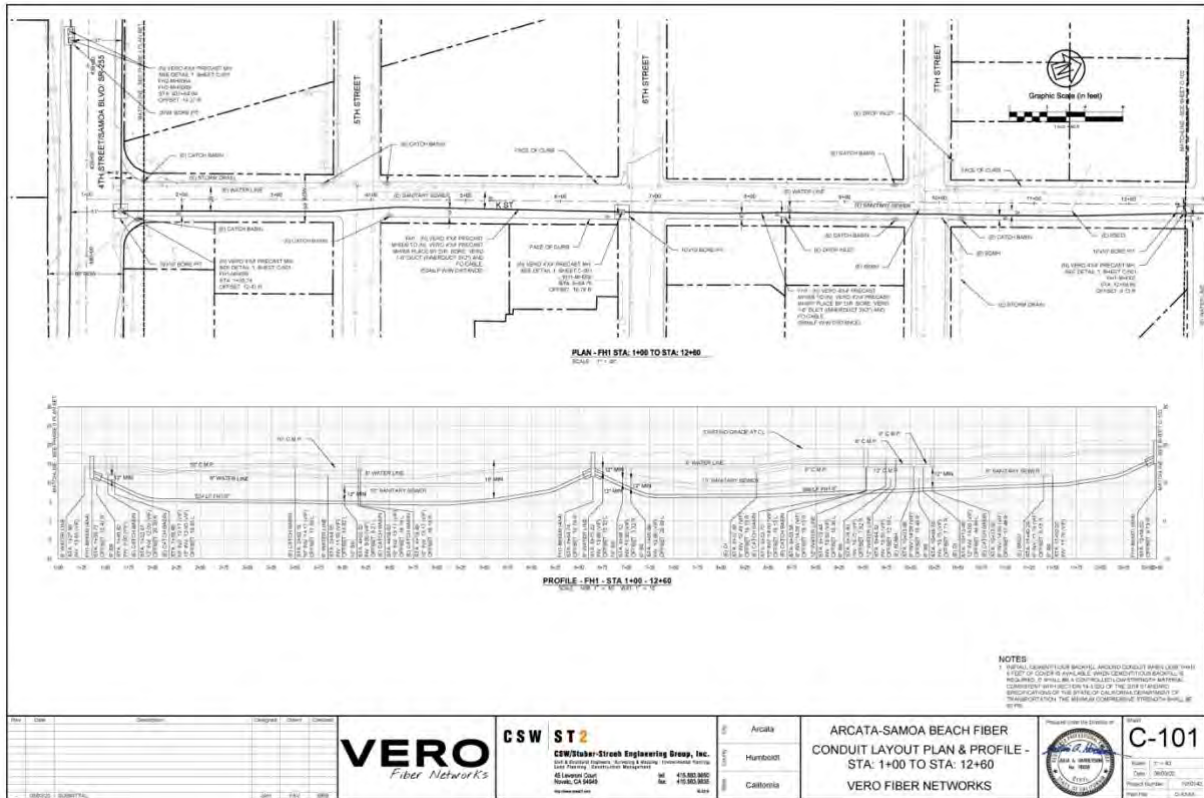
Dry spoils would be placed directly into a dump truck and hauled to a construction vendor yard. When the stockpile reaches 100 yards, end dumps would transport the material to the nearest landfill. Wet spoils and vac mud would be run through a reclaimer to separate, the water which would be reused in the bore machines, and the wet tailing would be dried in a pond lined with plastic sheeting before being hauled off.

2.1.5 Construction Schedule

The duration of construction for the Project would be approximately 10 months (400-600 feet per day); construction is planned to begin March 2021 and extend to October 2021. Construction operations would last 8 to 10 hours per day and would be performed 5 days per week. Some work may begin before sunrise or end after sunset.







VERO

Fiber Networks

ARCATA/SAMOA BEACH FIBER PROJECT - PHASE II

STA: 108+03.24 TO STA: 443+00

CALTRANS

AUGUST 2020

CONTACT LIST:	OVERALL LOCATION MAP	LOCATION MAP	SHEET INDEX																																										
VERO FIBER NETWORKS 10000 10th Street, Suite 100 Arcata, CA 95521 Phone: (707) 825-4300 Fax: (707) 825-4301 Email: info@vero-fiber.com Website: www.vero-fiber.com CSW ST2 CSW/Stecher-Streich Engineering Group, Inc. 4000 University Avenue, Suite 200 Arcata, CA 95521 Phone: (707) 825-4300 Fax: (707) 825-4301 Email: info@cswst2.com Website: www.cswst2.com	 <p>OVERALL LOCATION MAP Scale: 1" = 1/2 Mile</p>	 <p>LOCATION MAP Scale: 1" = 1/4 Mile</p>	SHEET INDEX <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th>Sheet No.</th> <th>Description</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>G-001</td><td>COVER SHEET</td></tr> <tr><td>G-002</td><td>SHEET KEY MAP</td></tr> <tr><td>G-003</td><td>NOTES, LEGENDS AND QUANTITIES</td></tr> <tr><td>G-004</td><td>CONSTRUCTION DETAILS</td></tr> <tr><td>G-005</td><td>CONSTRUCTION DETAILS</td></tr> <tr><td>G-006</td><td>CONSTRUCTION DETAILS</td></tr> <tr><td>G-007</td><td>CONSTRUCTION DETAILS</td></tr> <tr><td>G-008</td><td>CONSTRUCTION DETAILS</td></tr> <tr><td>G-009</td><td>CONSTRUCTION DETAILS</td></tr> <tr><td>G-010</td><td>CONSTRUCTION DETAILS</td></tr> <tr><td>G-011</td><td>CONSTRUCTION DETAILS</td></tr> <tr><td>G-012</td><td>CONSTRUCTION DETAILS</td></tr> <tr><td>G-013</td><td>CONSTRUCTION DETAILS</td></tr> <tr><td>G-014</td><td>CONSTRUCTION DETAILS</td></tr> <tr><td>G-015</td><td>CONSTRUCTION DETAILS</td></tr> <tr><td>G-016</td><td>CONSTRUCTION DETAILS</td></tr> <tr><td>G-017</td><td>CONSTRUCTION DETAILS</td></tr> <tr><td>G-018</td><td>CONSTRUCTION DETAILS</td></tr> <tr><td>G-019</td><td>CONSTRUCTION DETAILS</td></tr> <tr><td>G-020</td><td>CONSTRUCTION DETAILS</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Sheet No.	Description	G-001	COVER SHEET	G-002	SHEET KEY MAP	G-003	NOTES, LEGENDS AND QUANTITIES	G-004	CONSTRUCTION DETAILS	G-005	CONSTRUCTION DETAILS	G-006	CONSTRUCTION DETAILS	G-007	CONSTRUCTION DETAILS	G-008	CONSTRUCTION DETAILS	G-009	CONSTRUCTION DETAILS	G-010	CONSTRUCTION DETAILS	G-011	CONSTRUCTION DETAILS	G-012	CONSTRUCTION DETAILS	G-013	CONSTRUCTION DETAILS	G-014	CONSTRUCTION DETAILS	G-015	CONSTRUCTION DETAILS	G-016	CONSTRUCTION DETAILS	G-017	CONSTRUCTION DETAILS	G-018	CONSTRUCTION DETAILS	G-019	CONSTRUCTION DETAILS	G-020	CONSTRUCTION DETAILS
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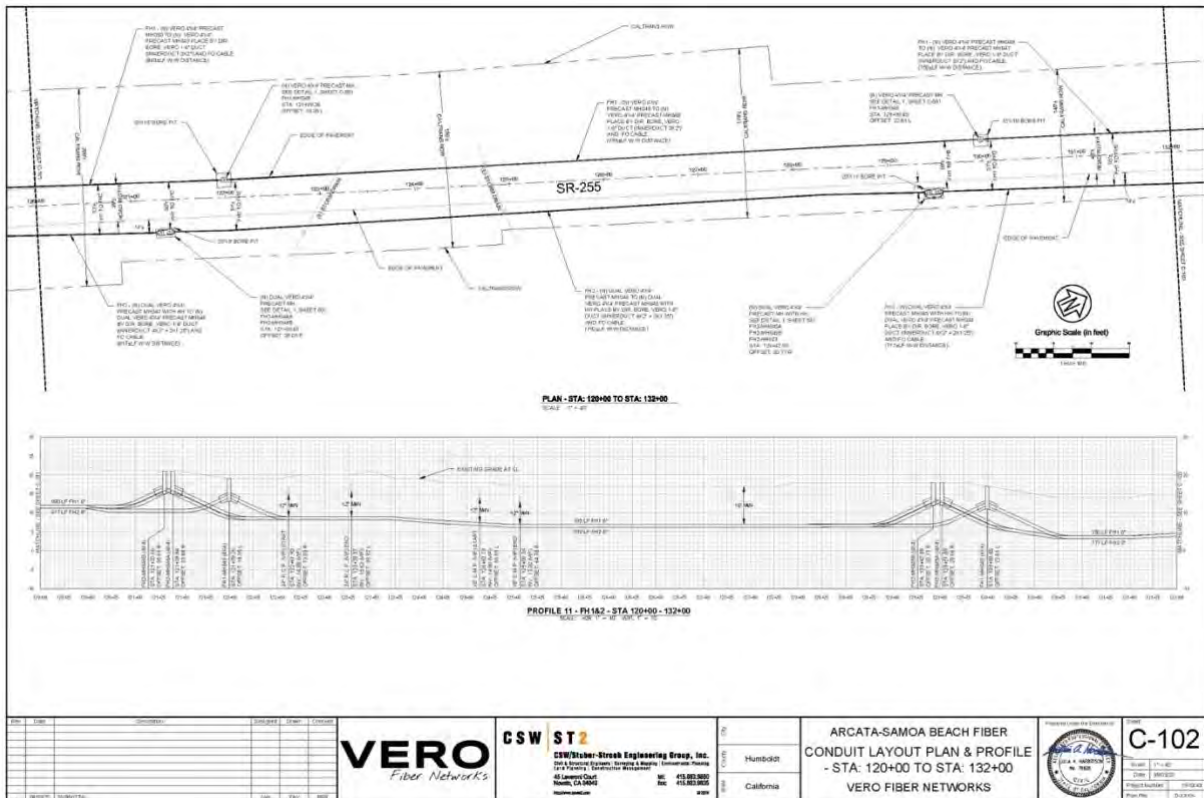
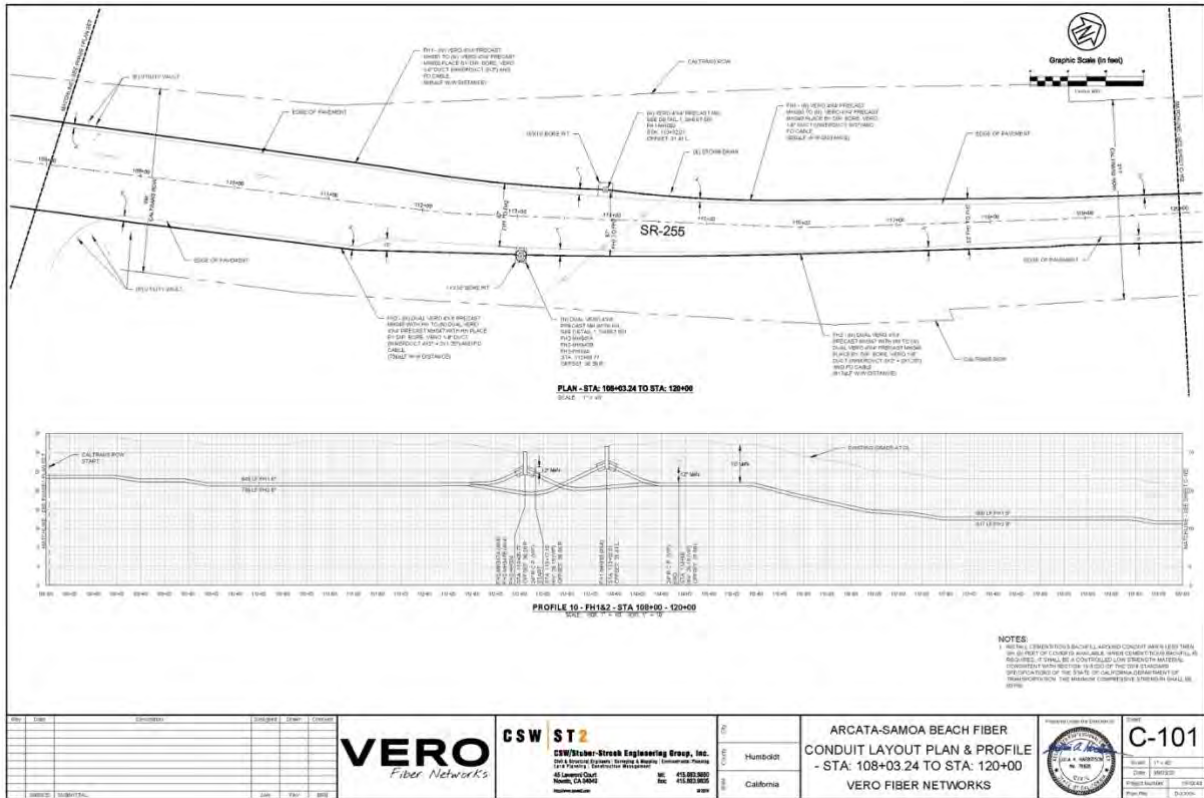


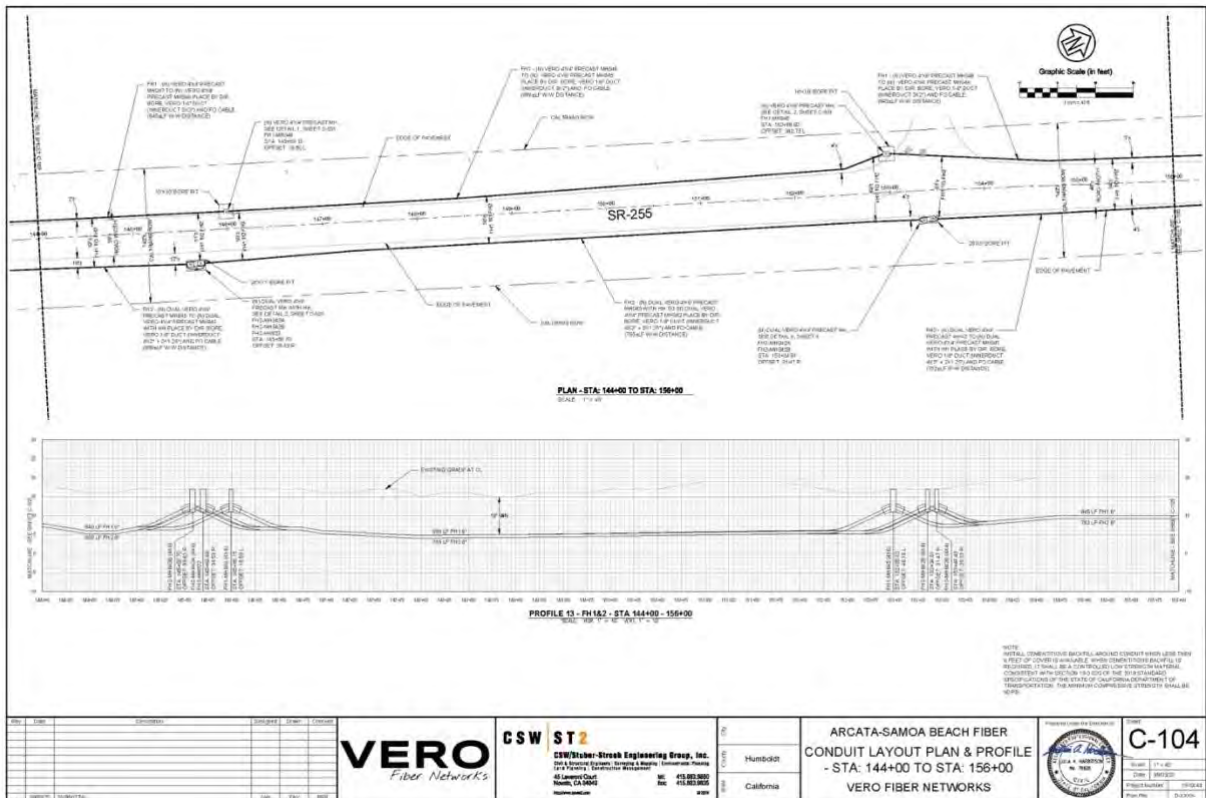
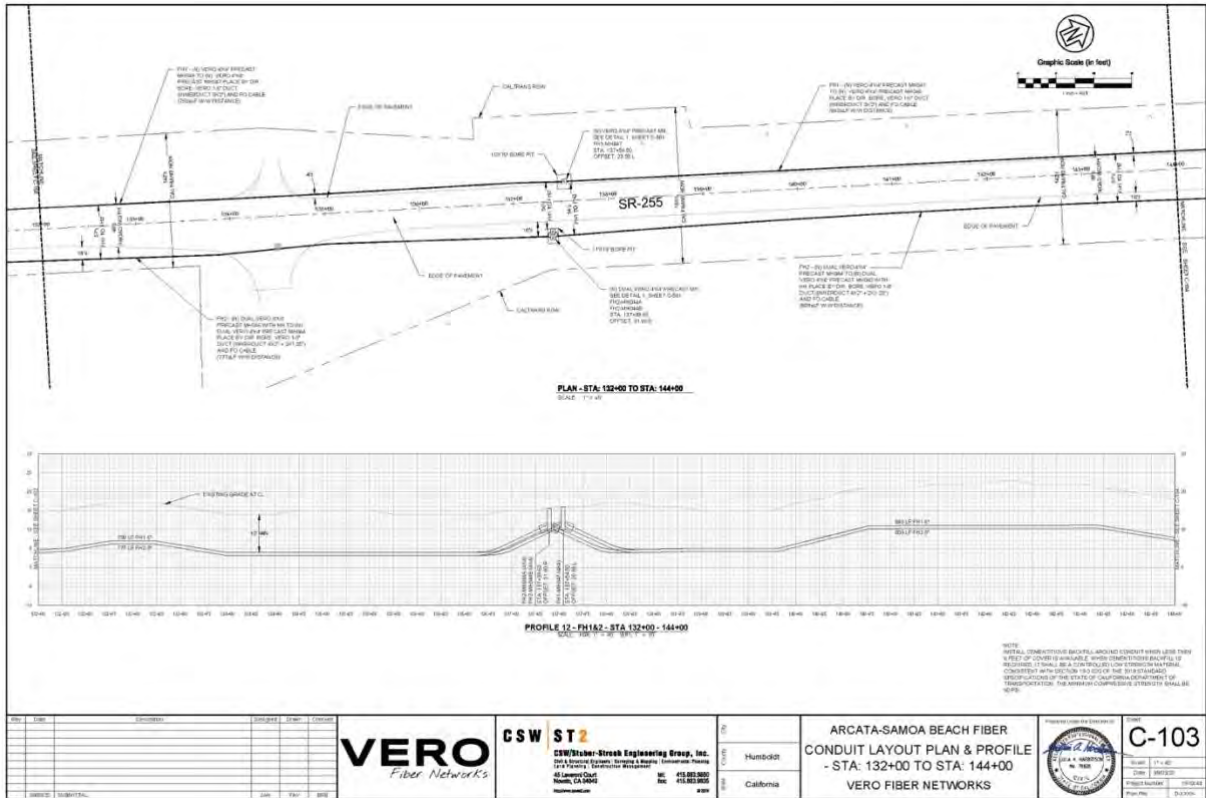


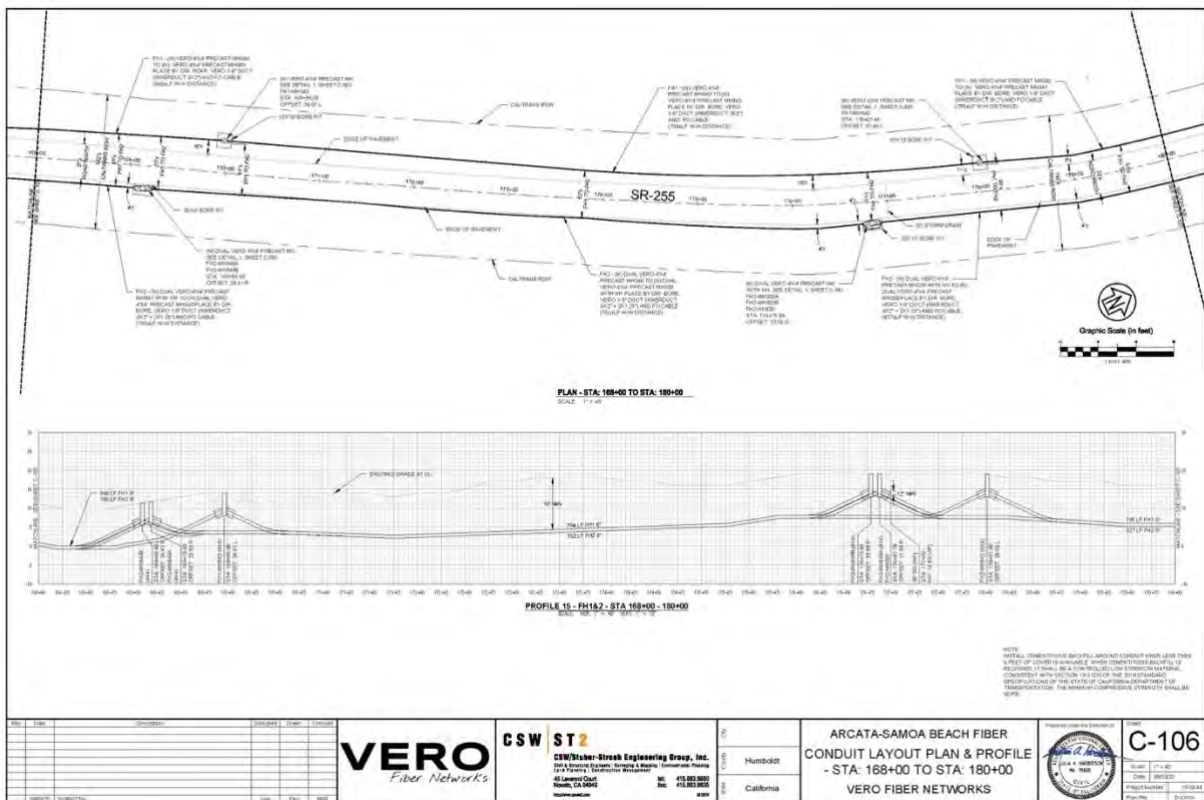
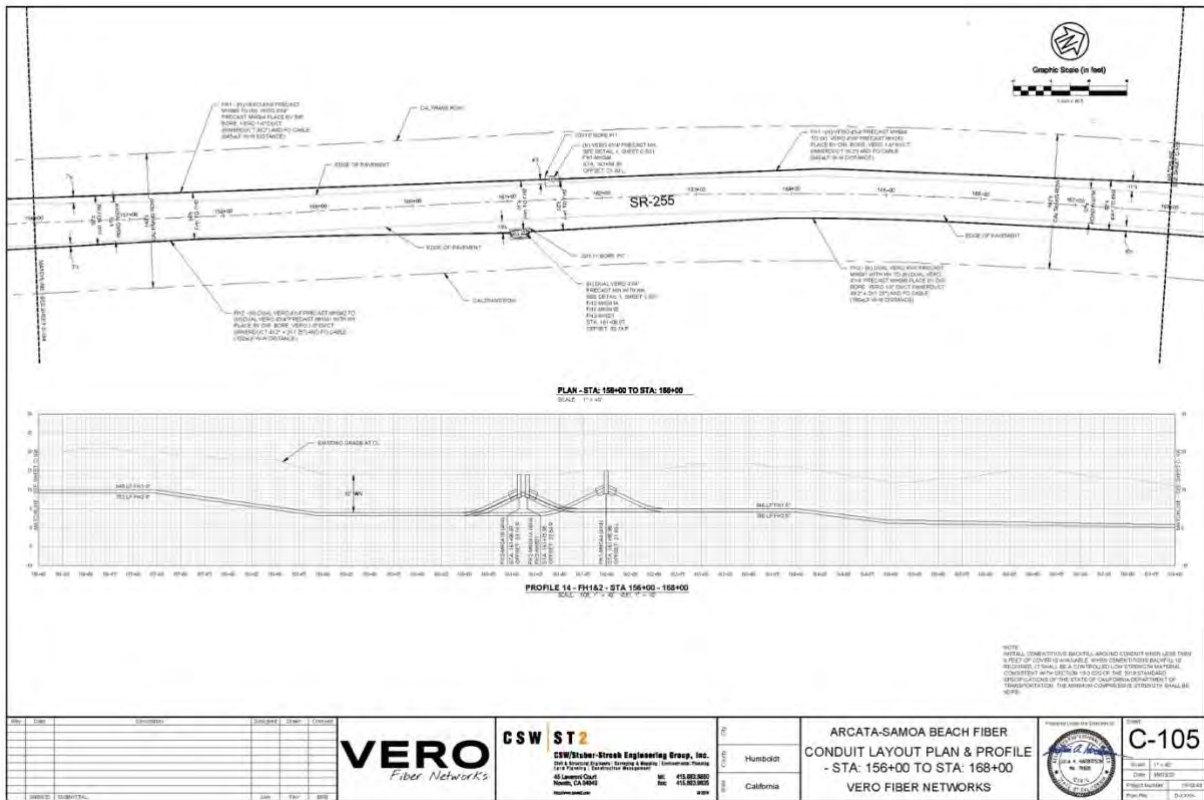
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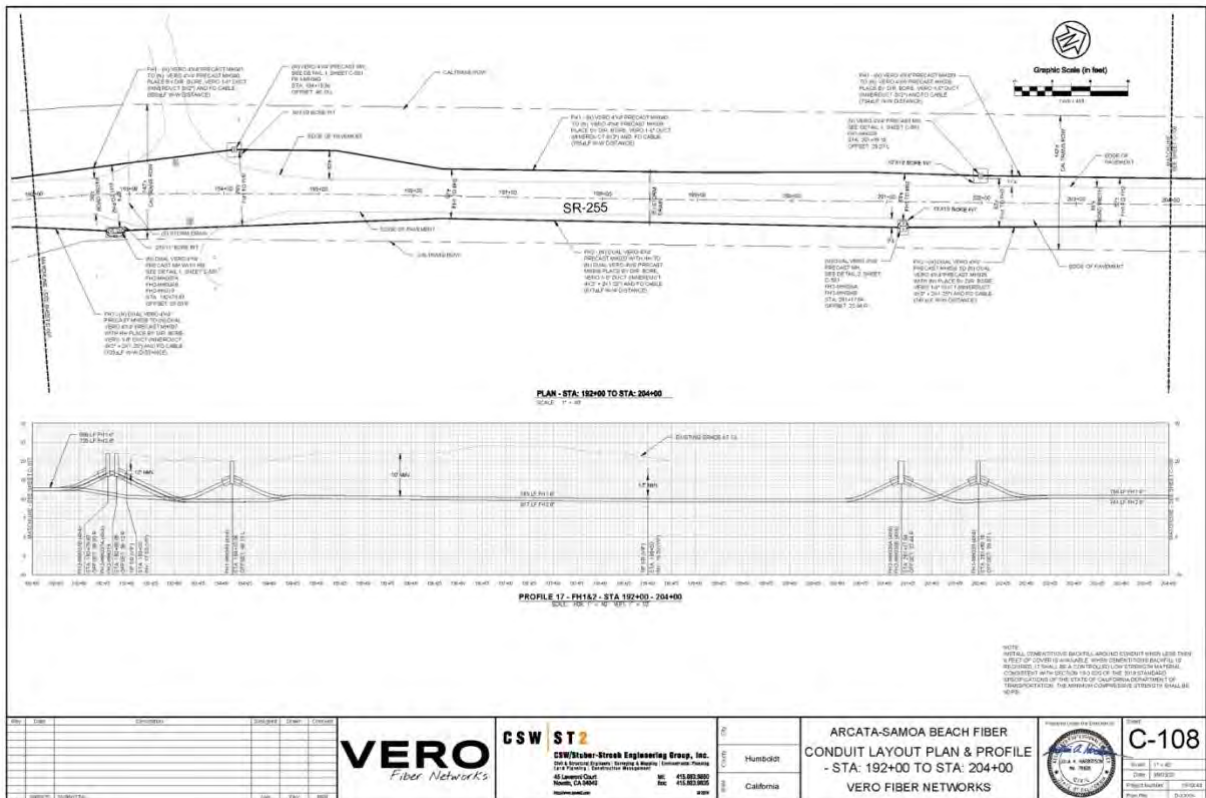
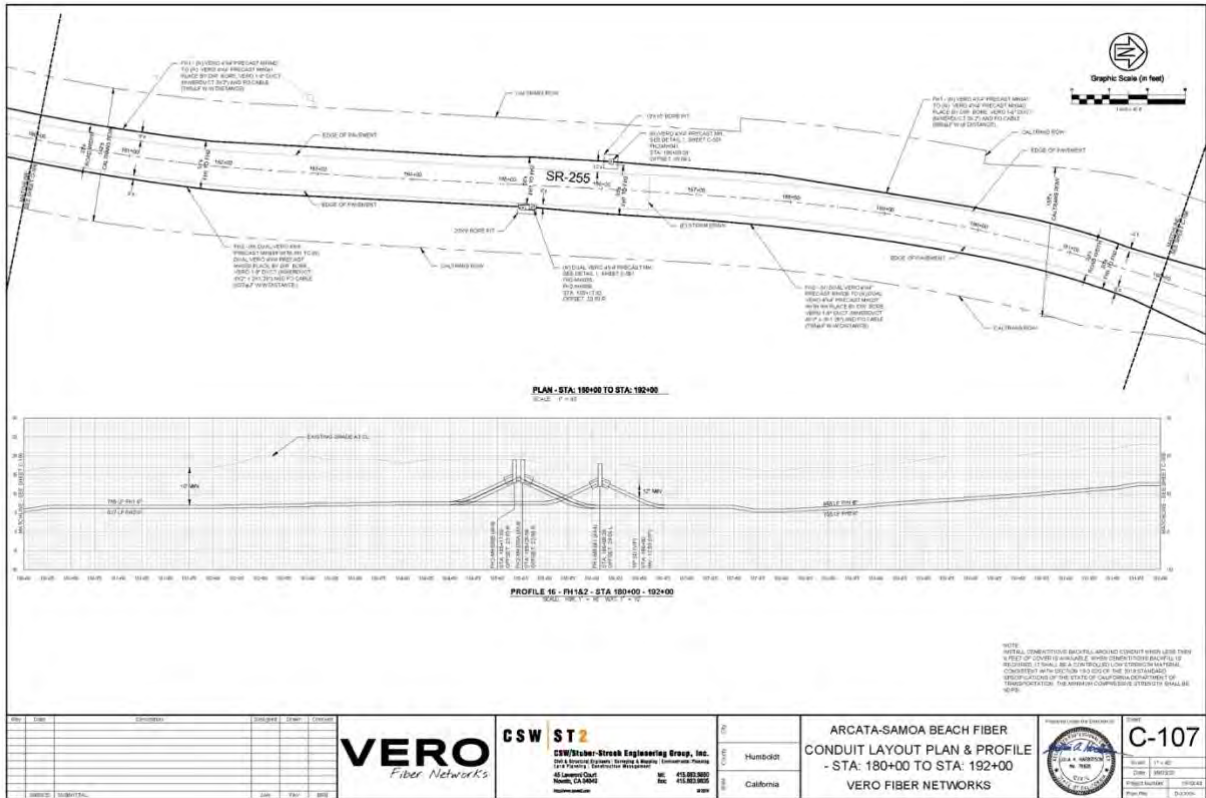


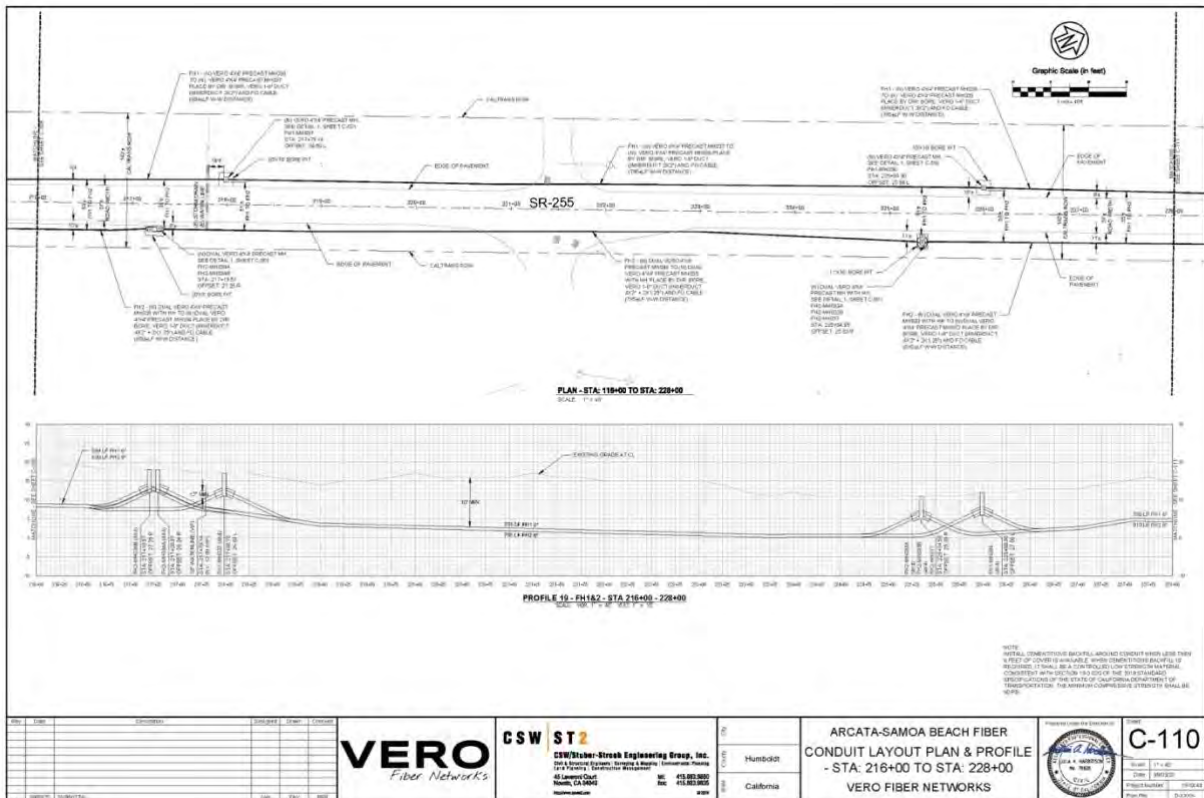
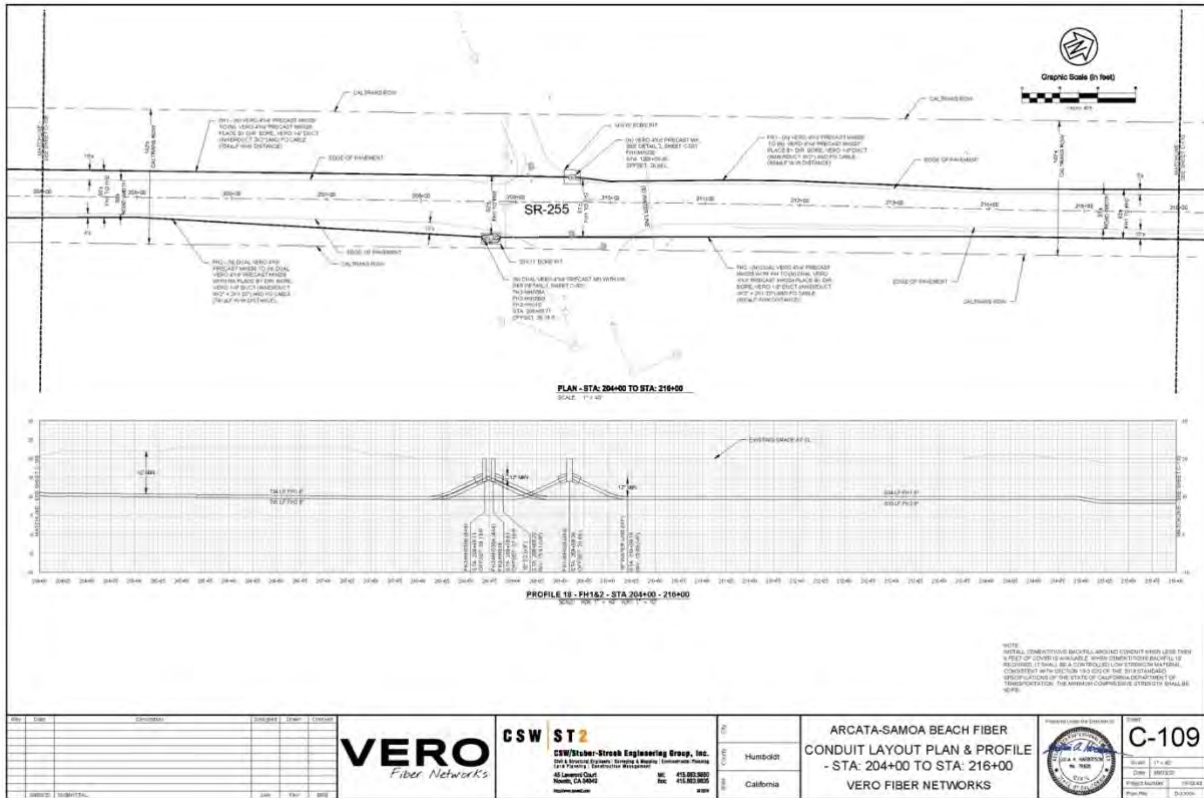


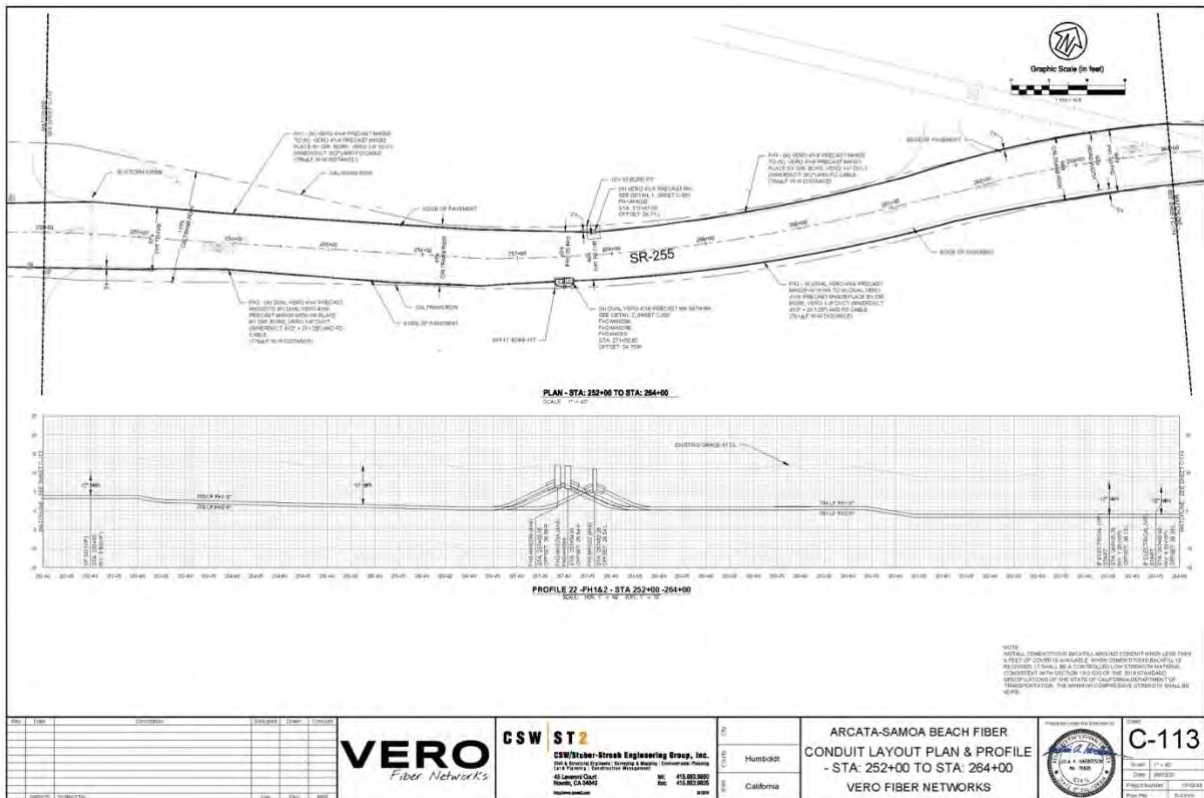
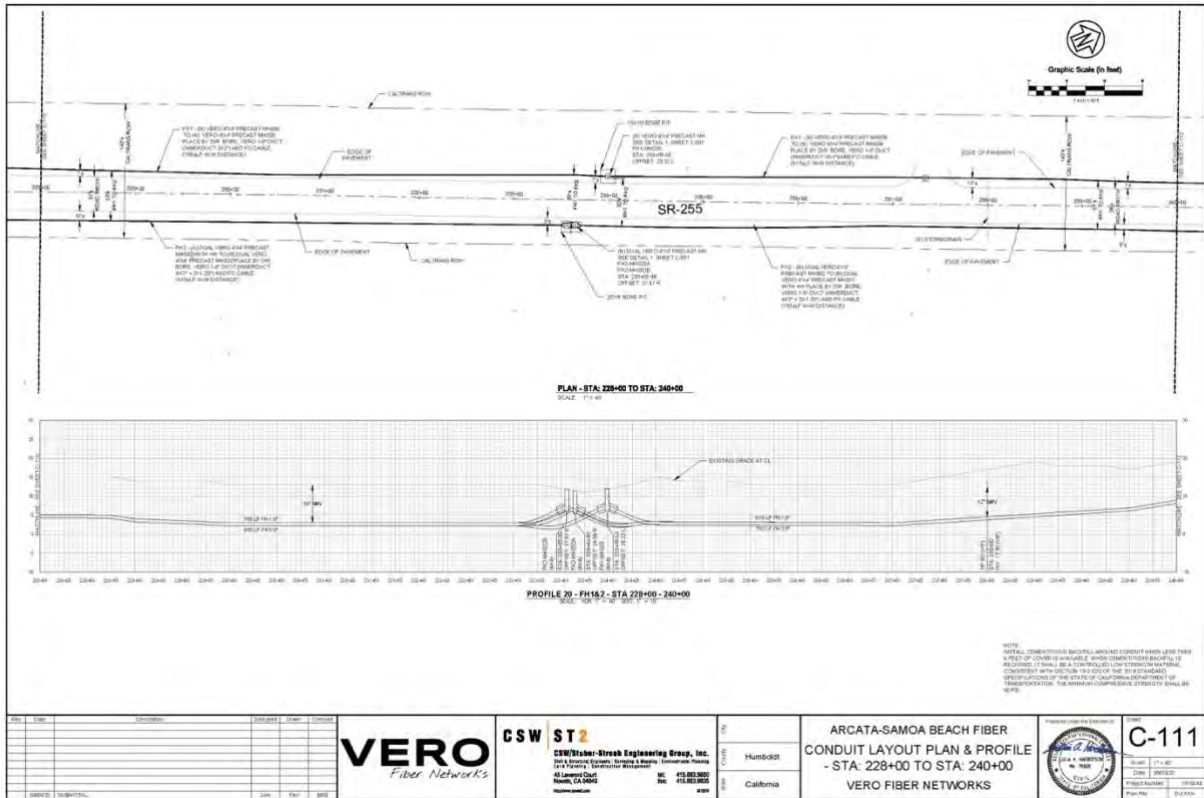


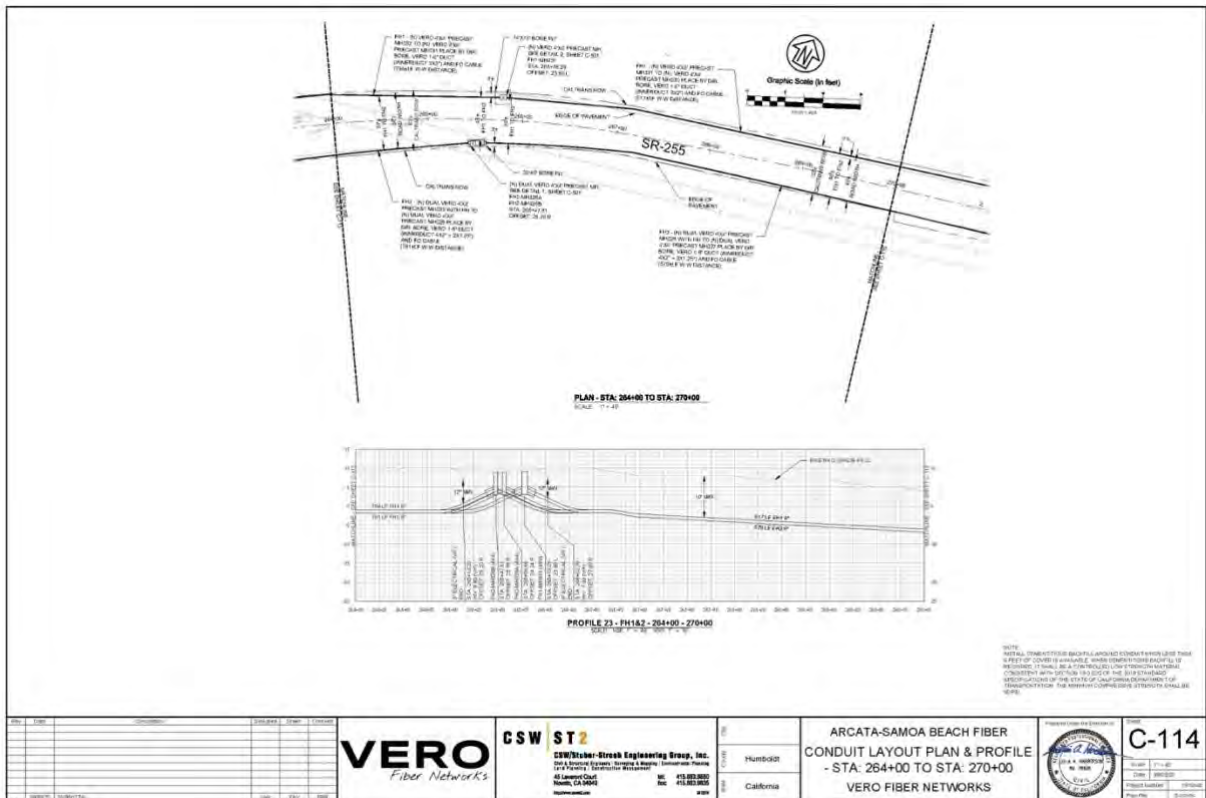
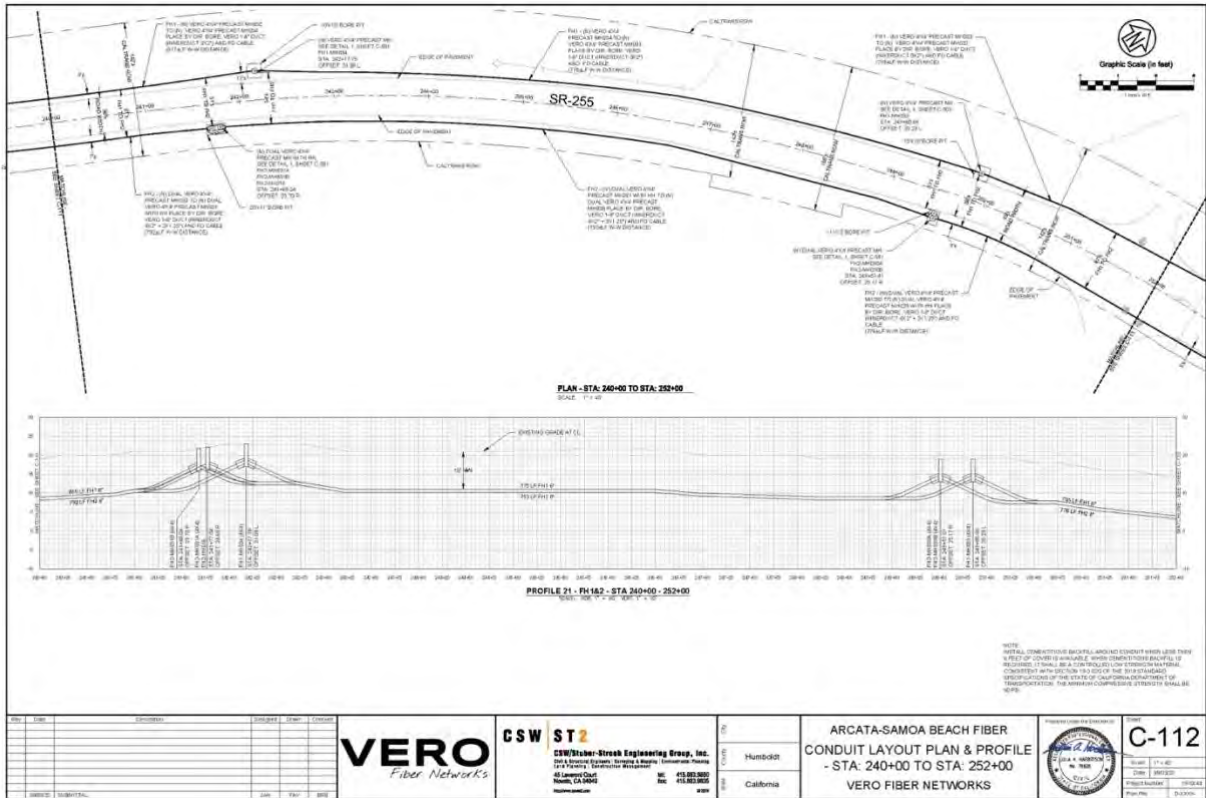


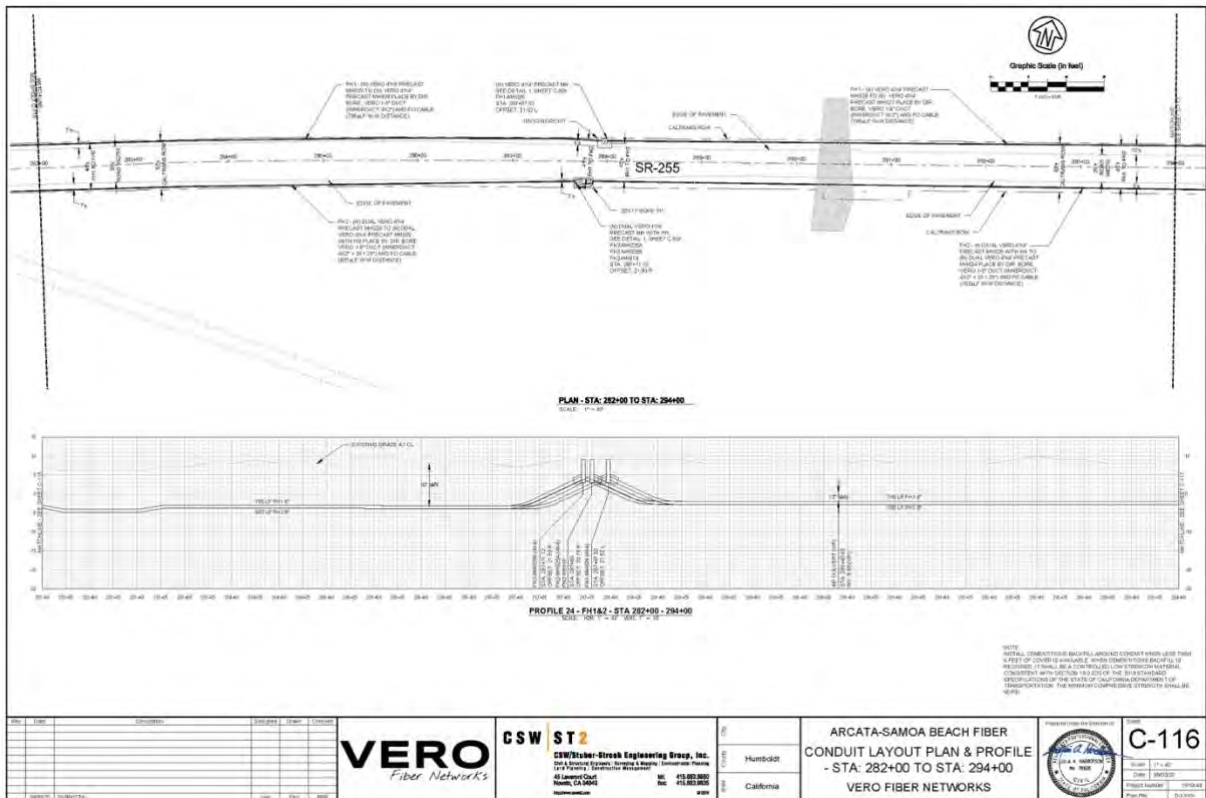
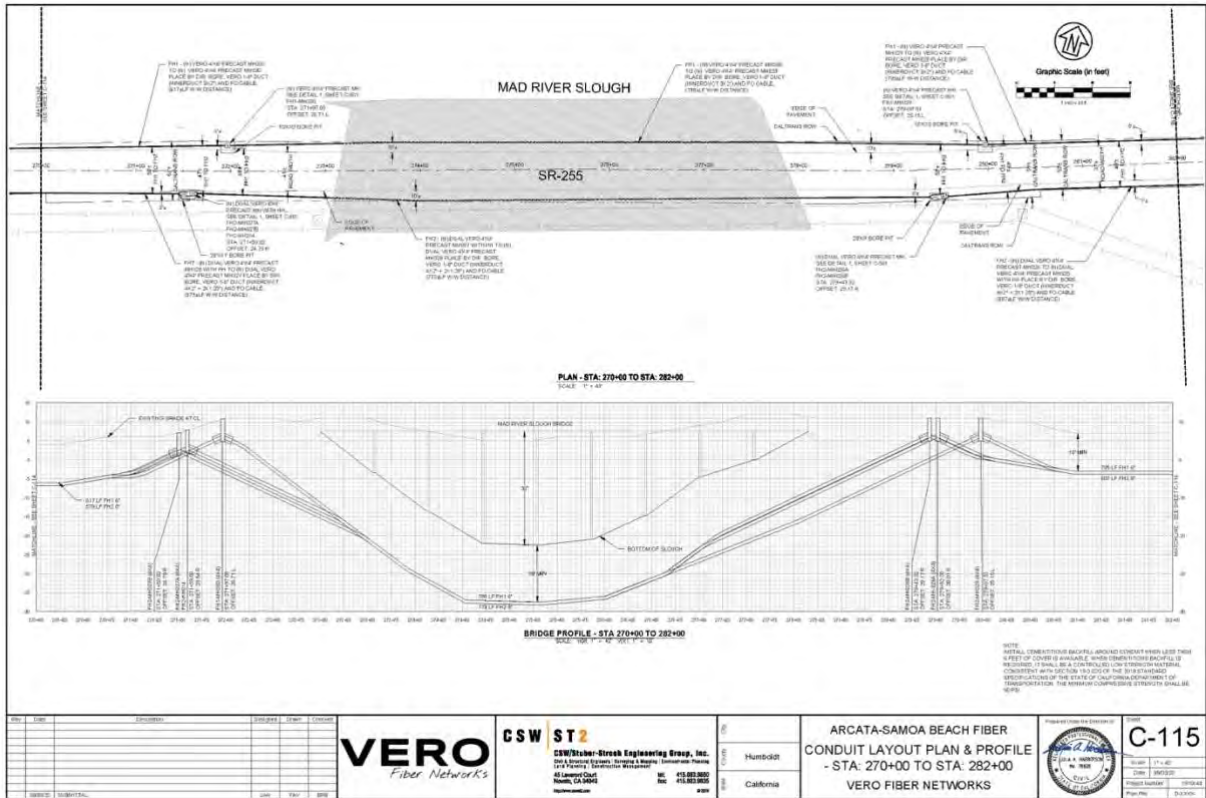


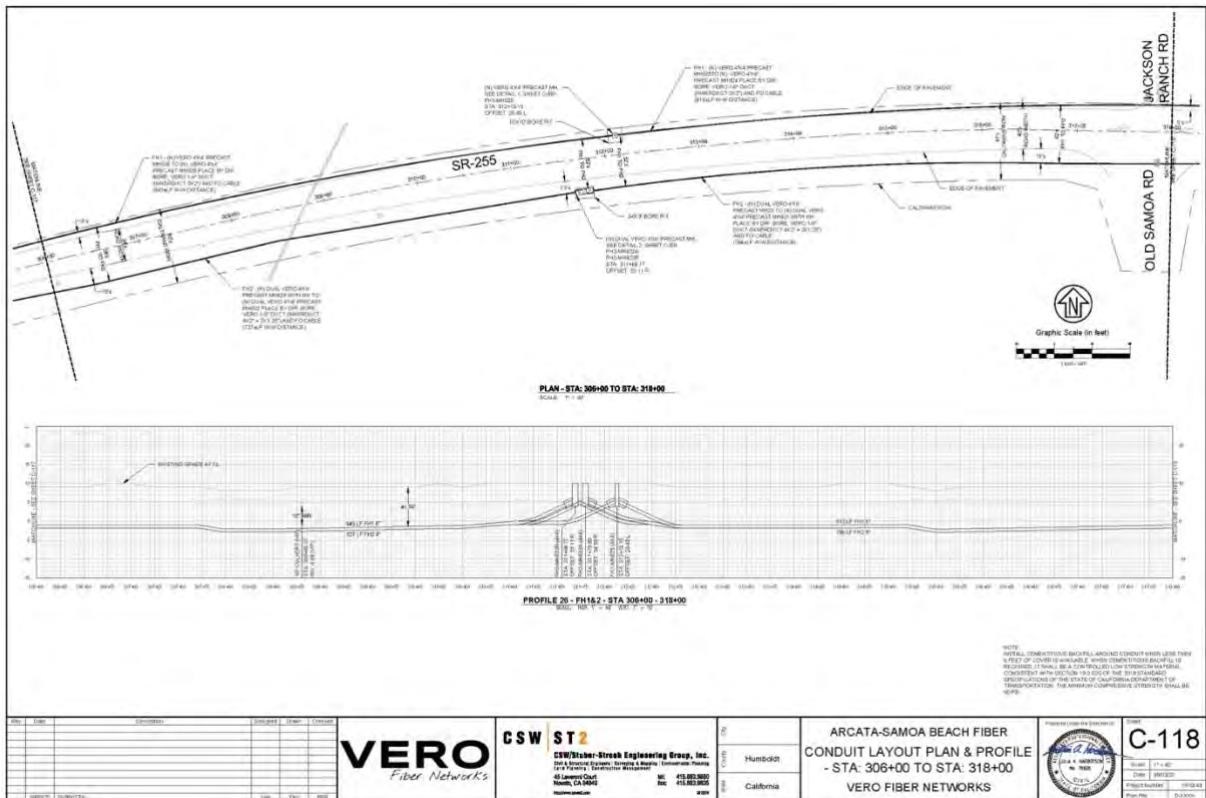
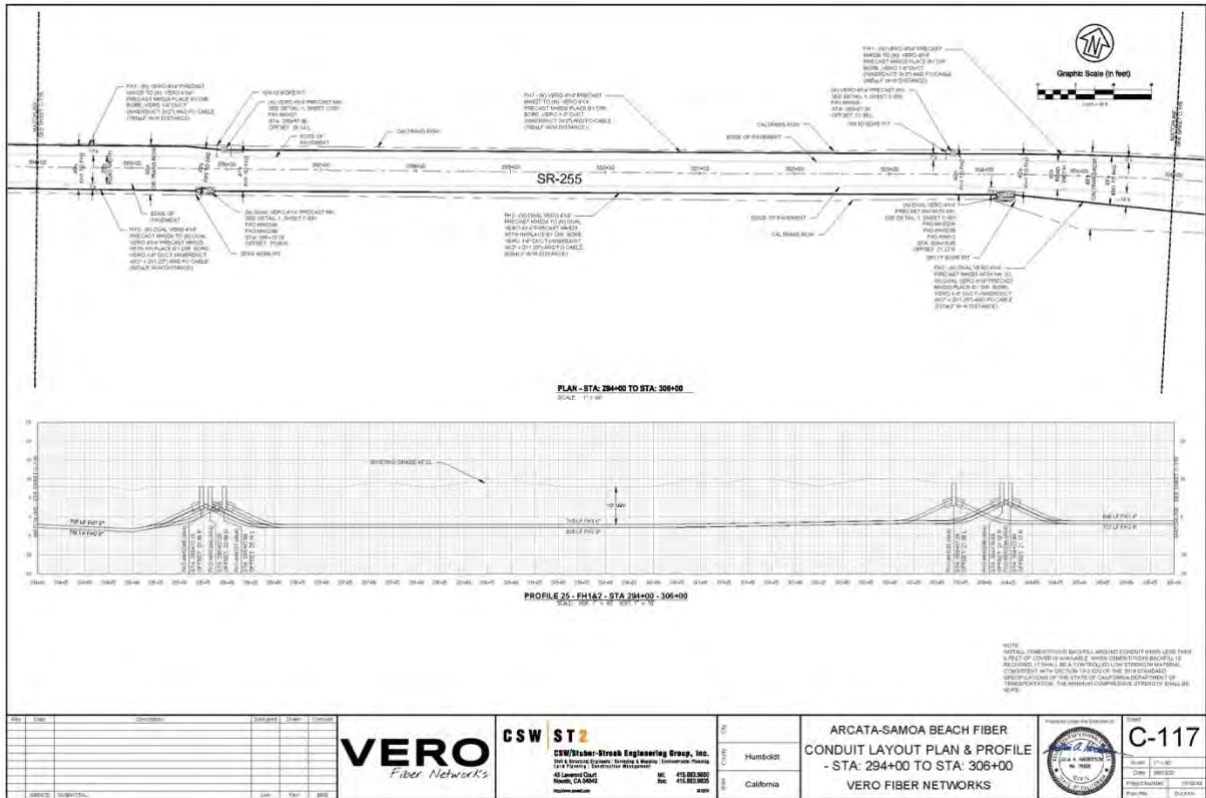


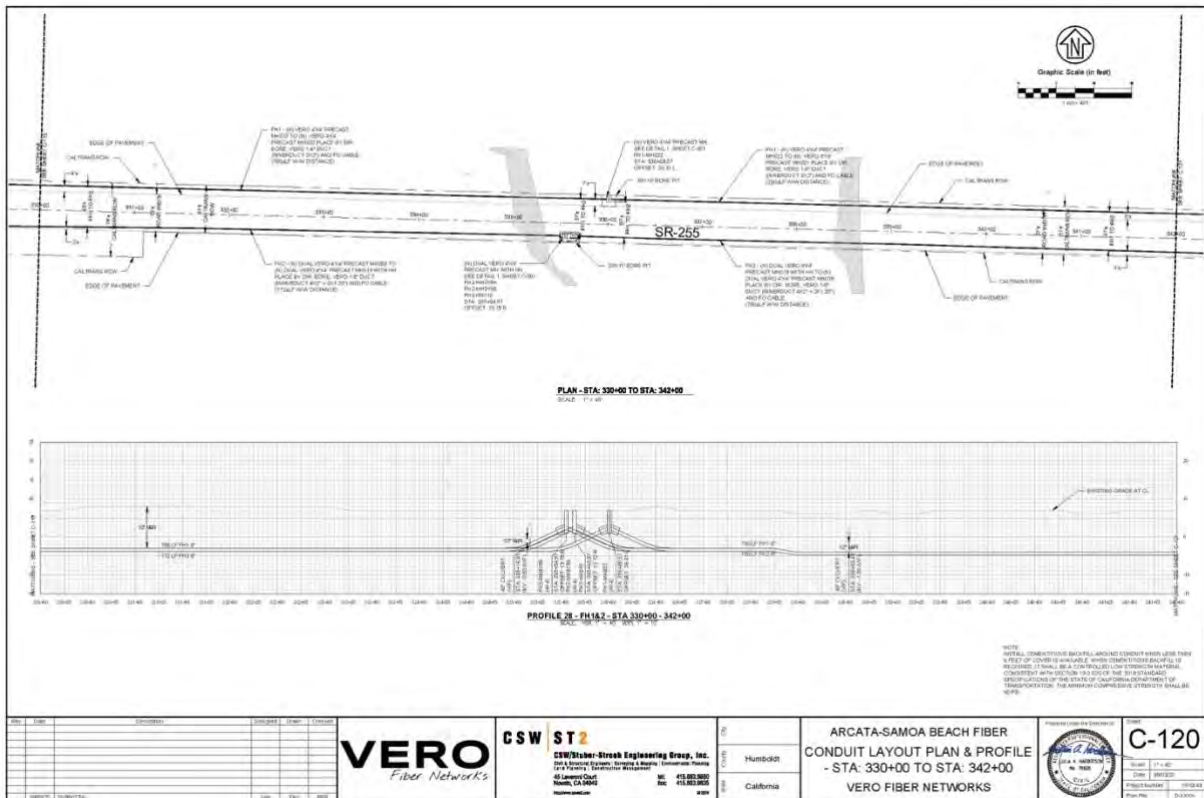
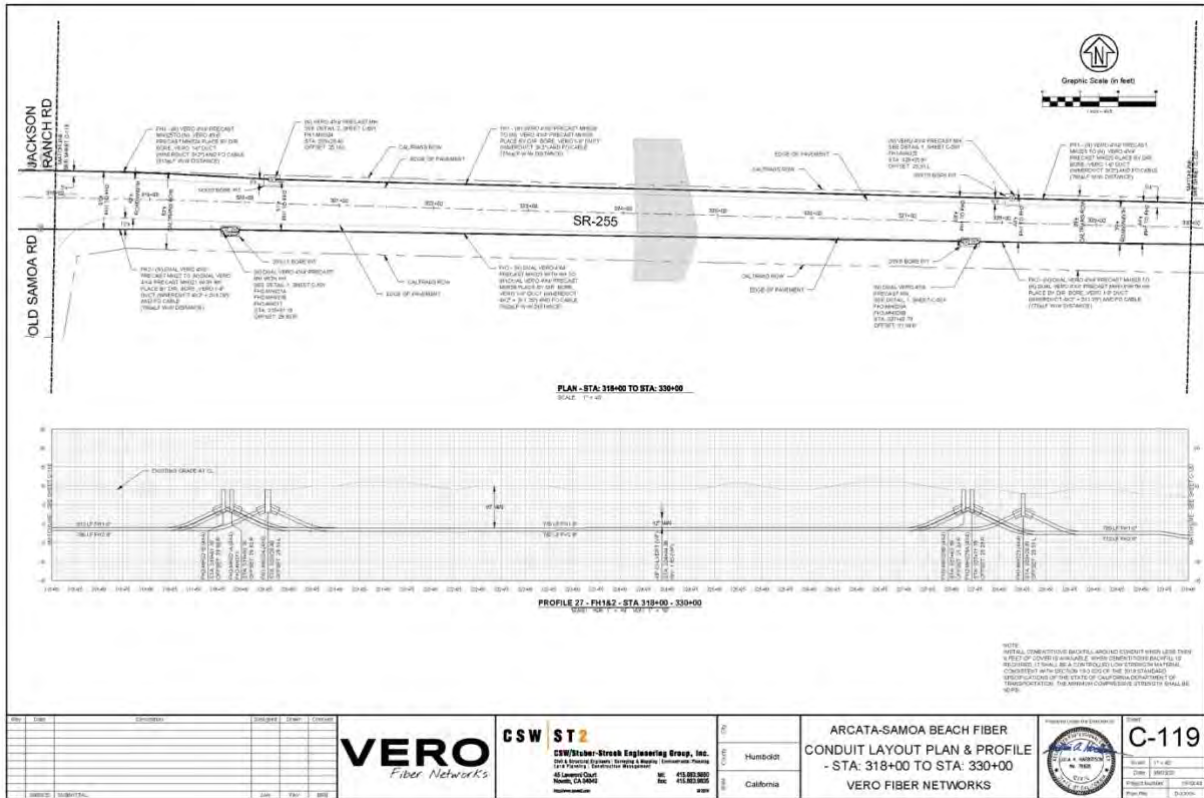


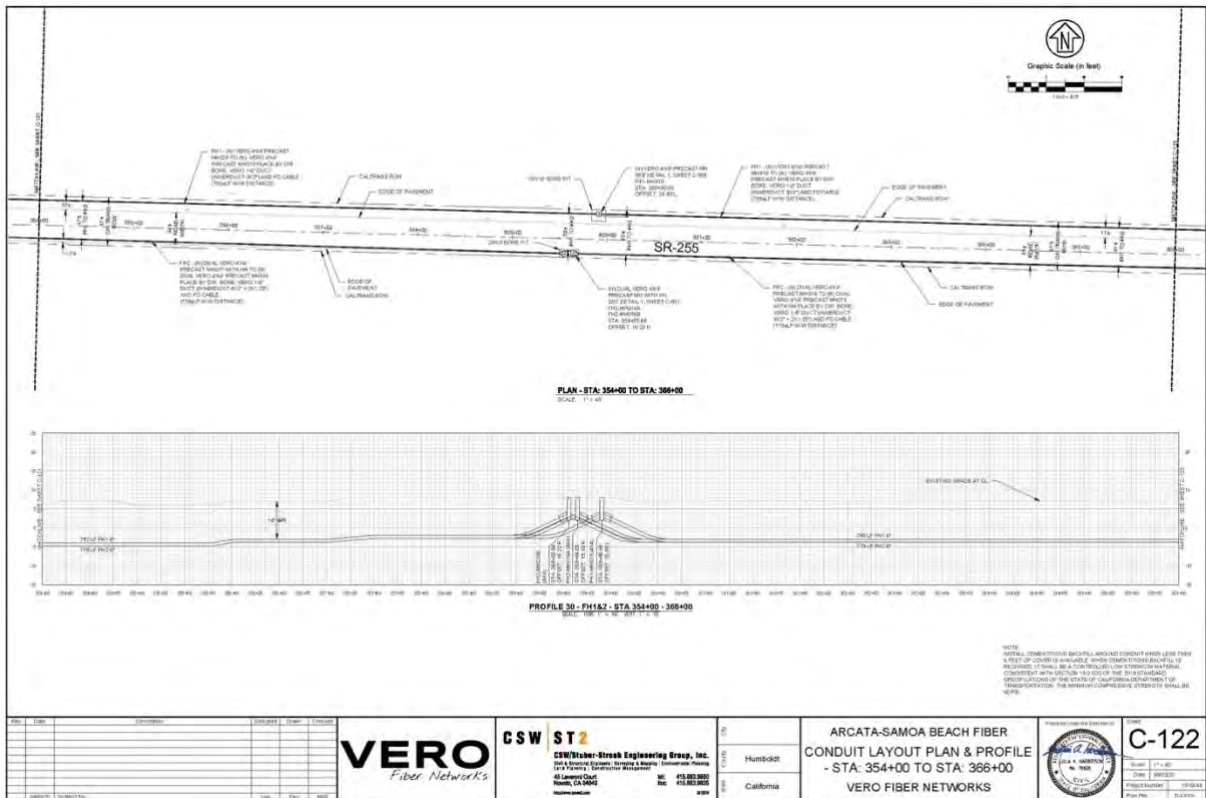
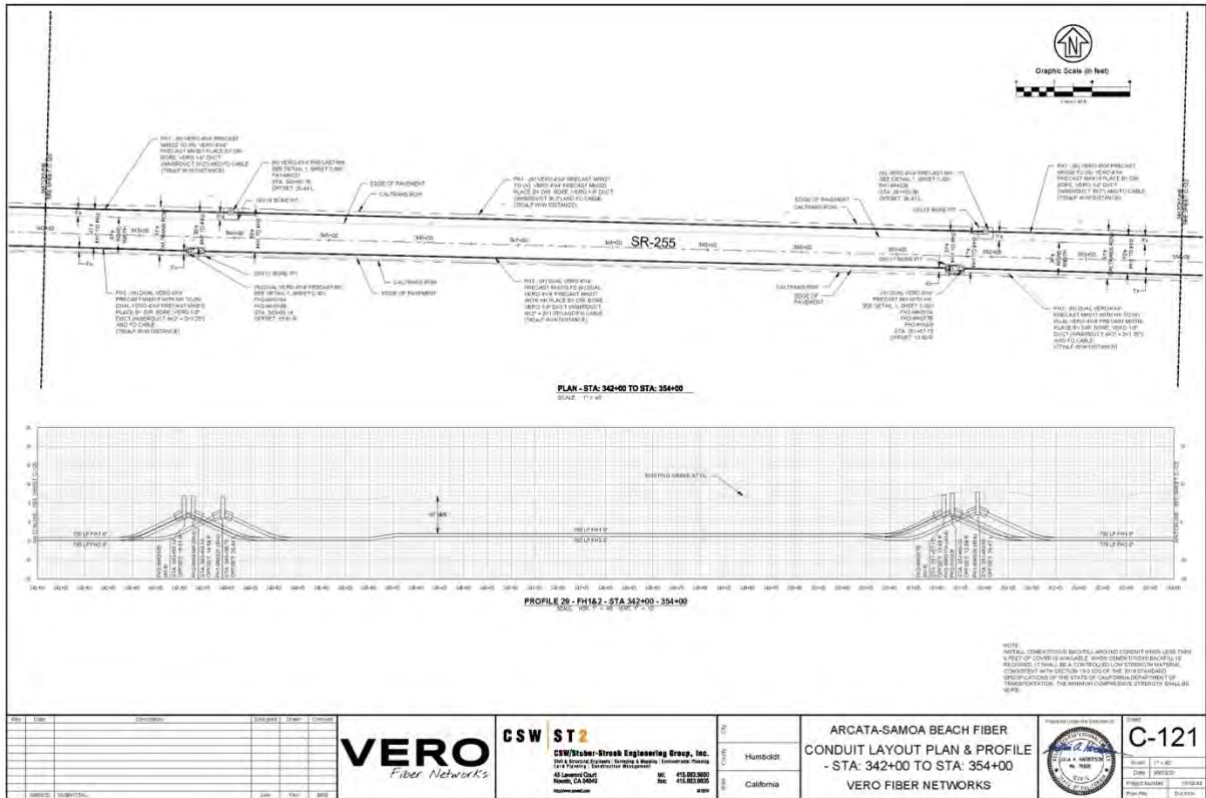


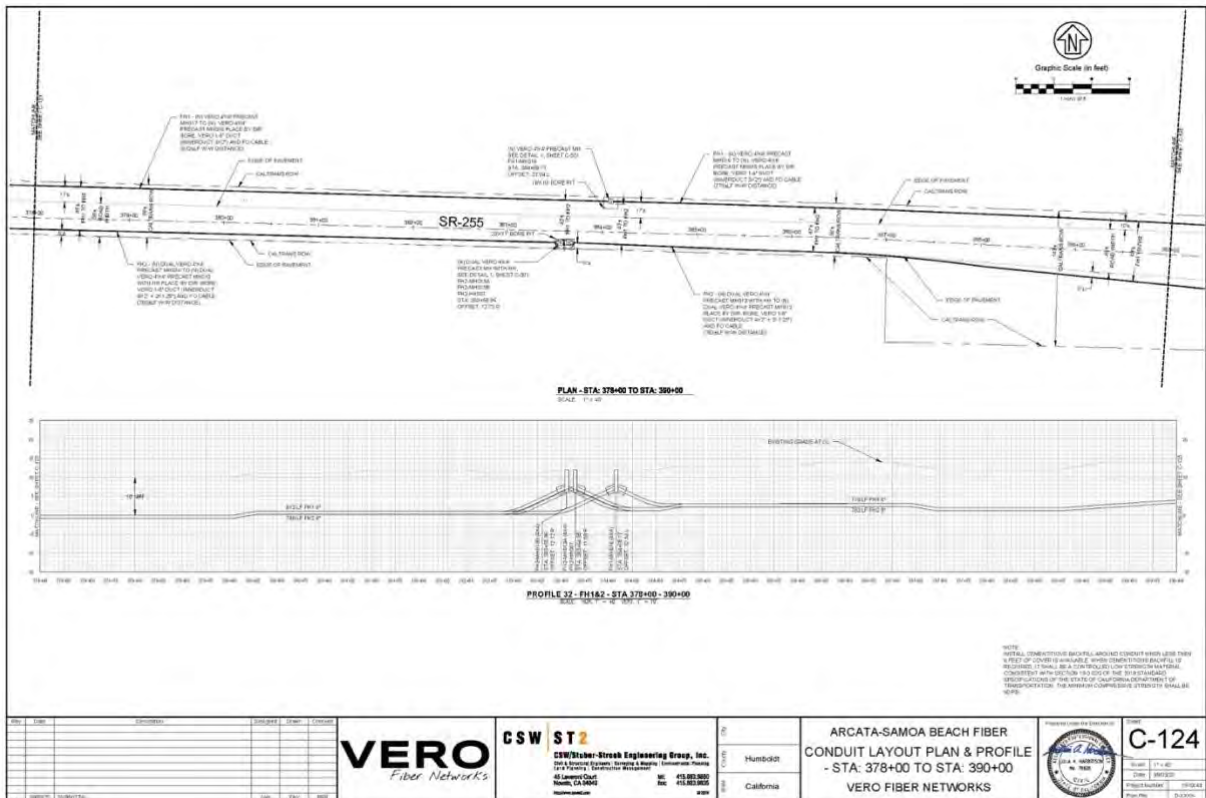
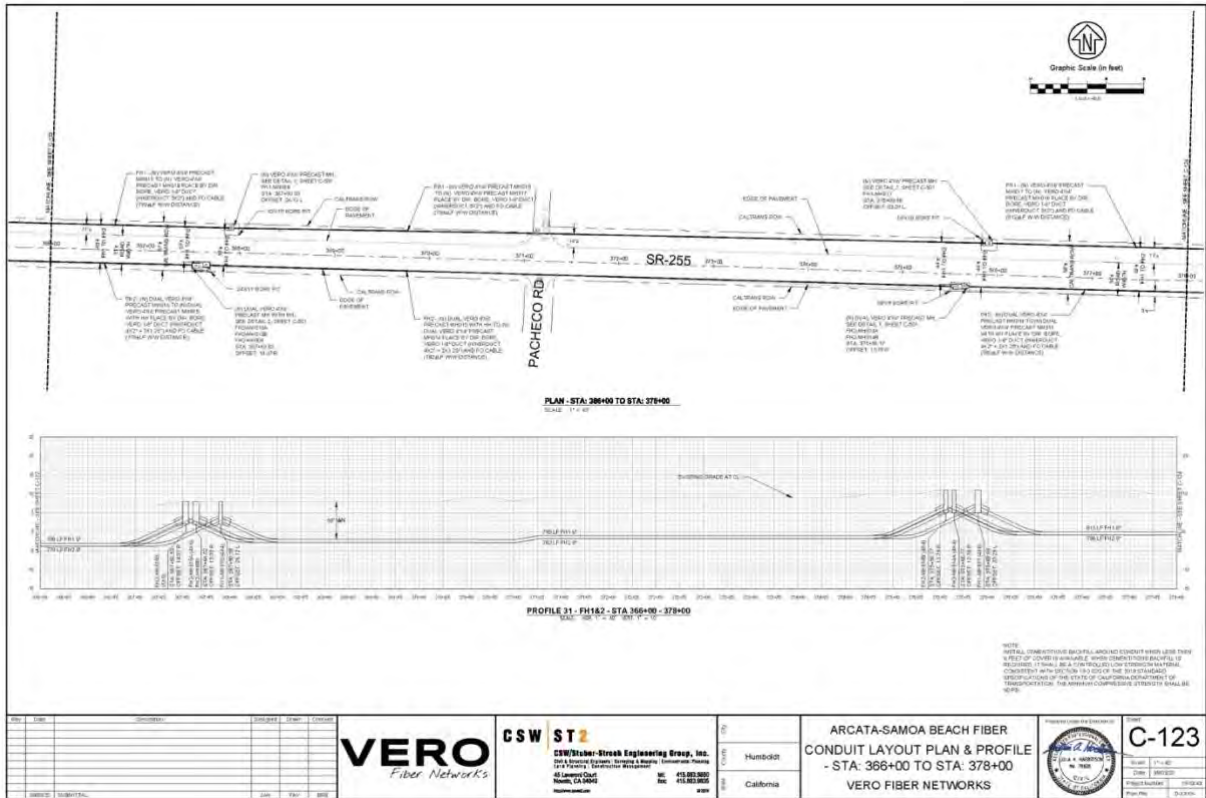


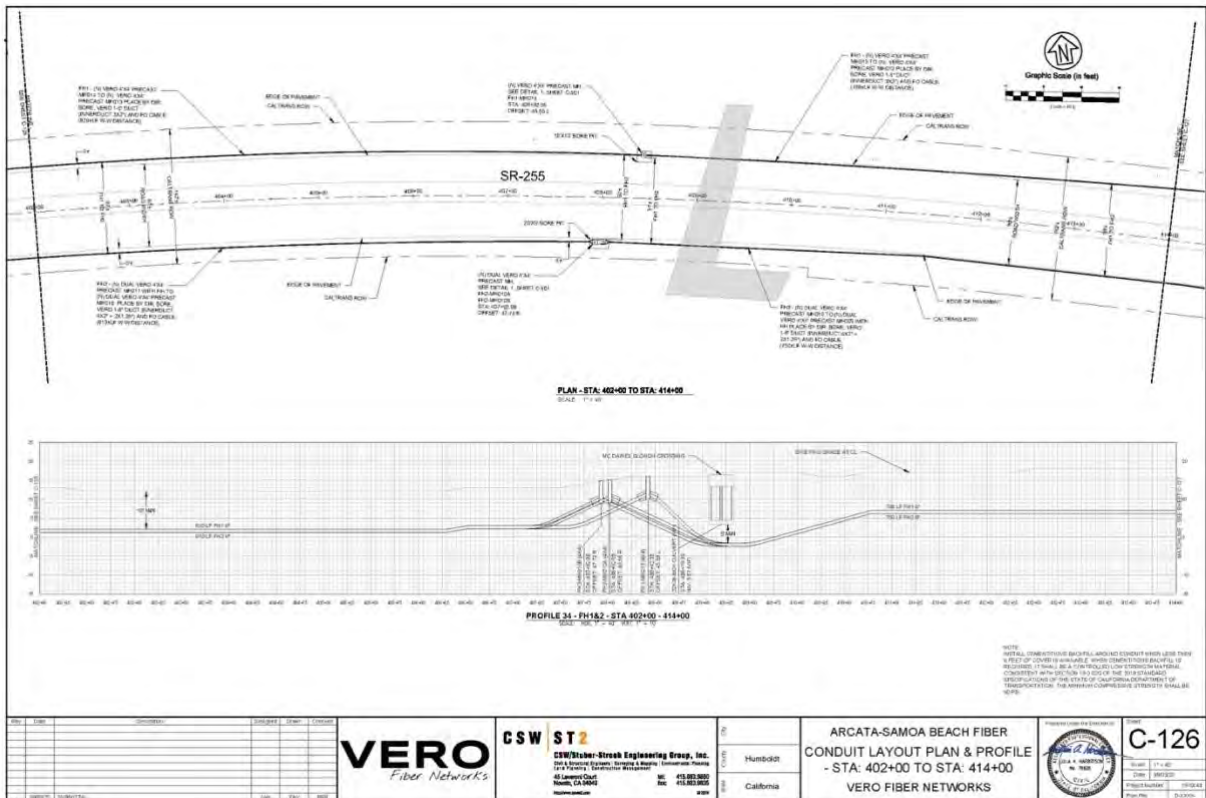
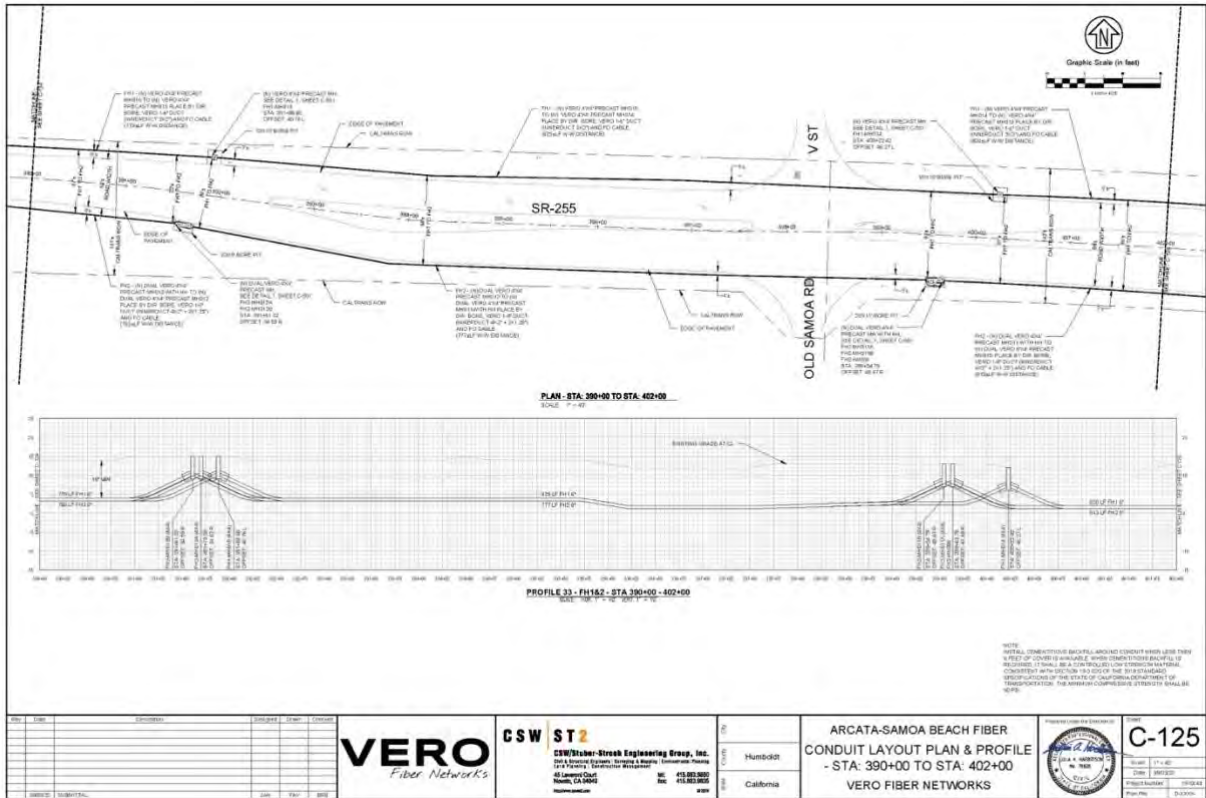


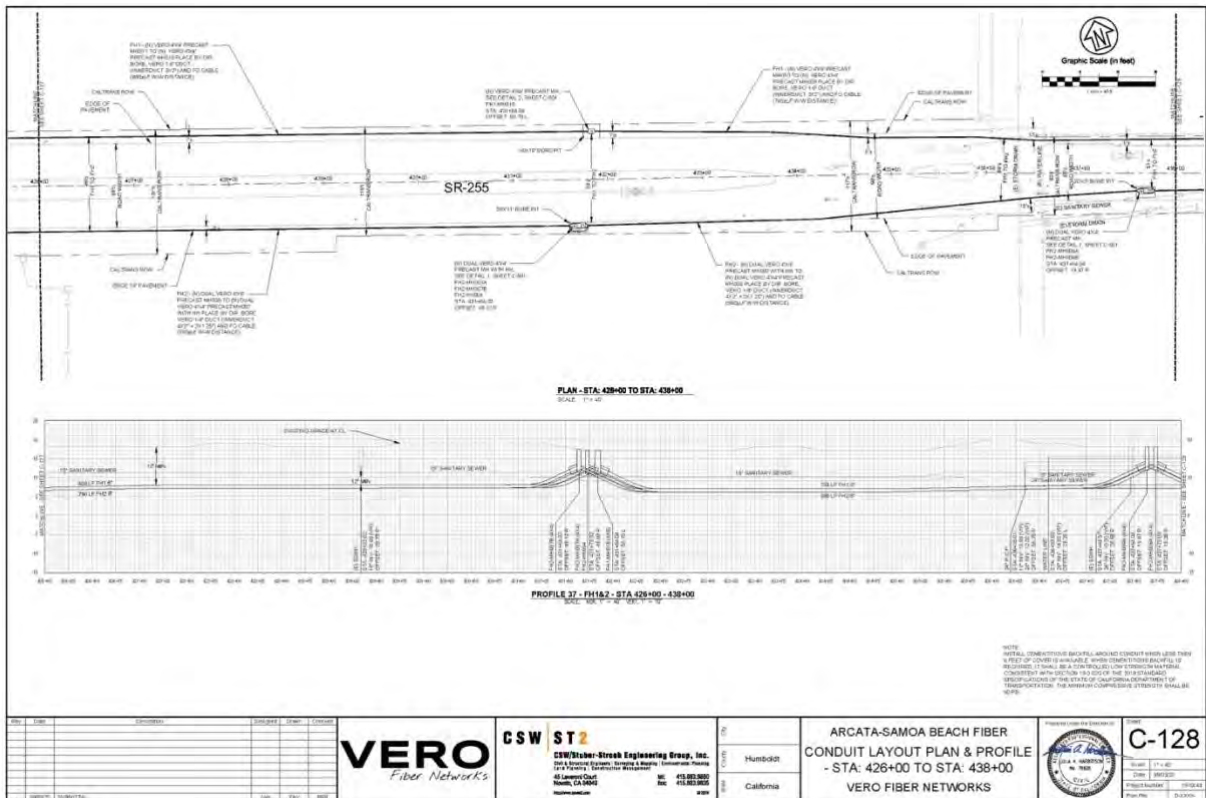
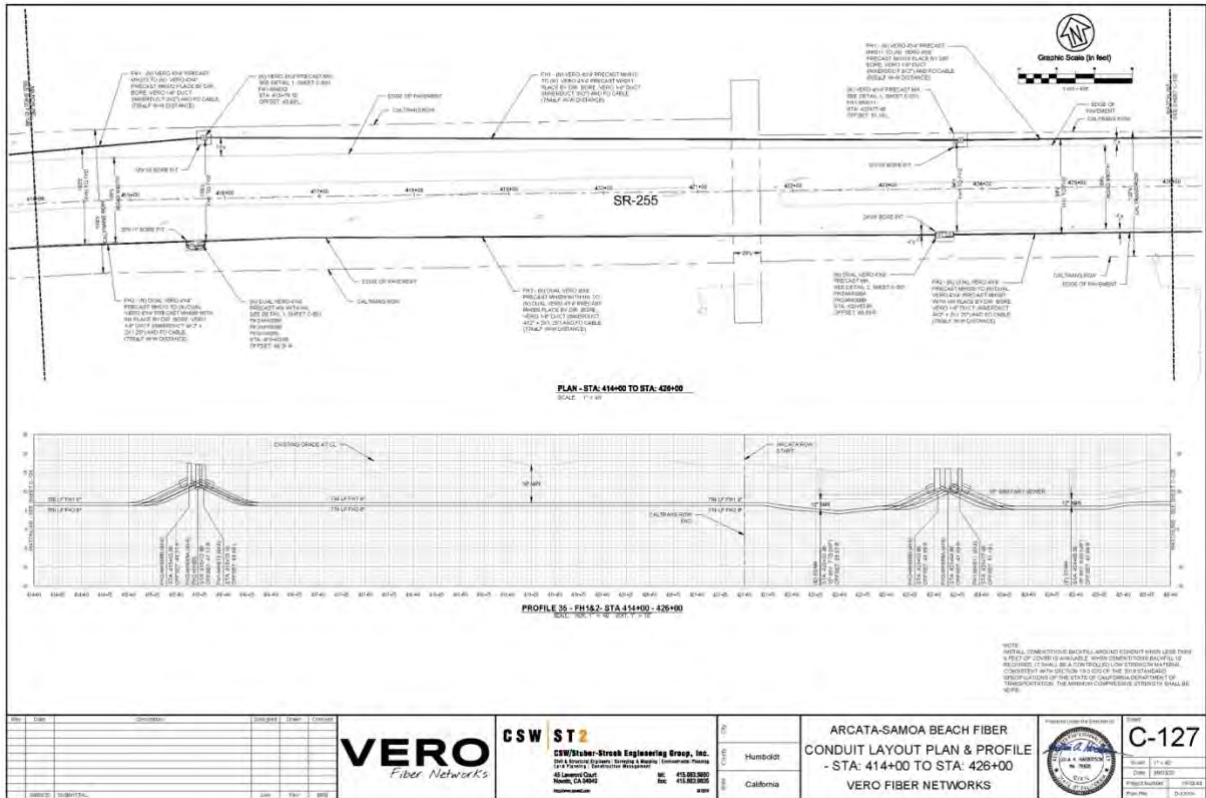


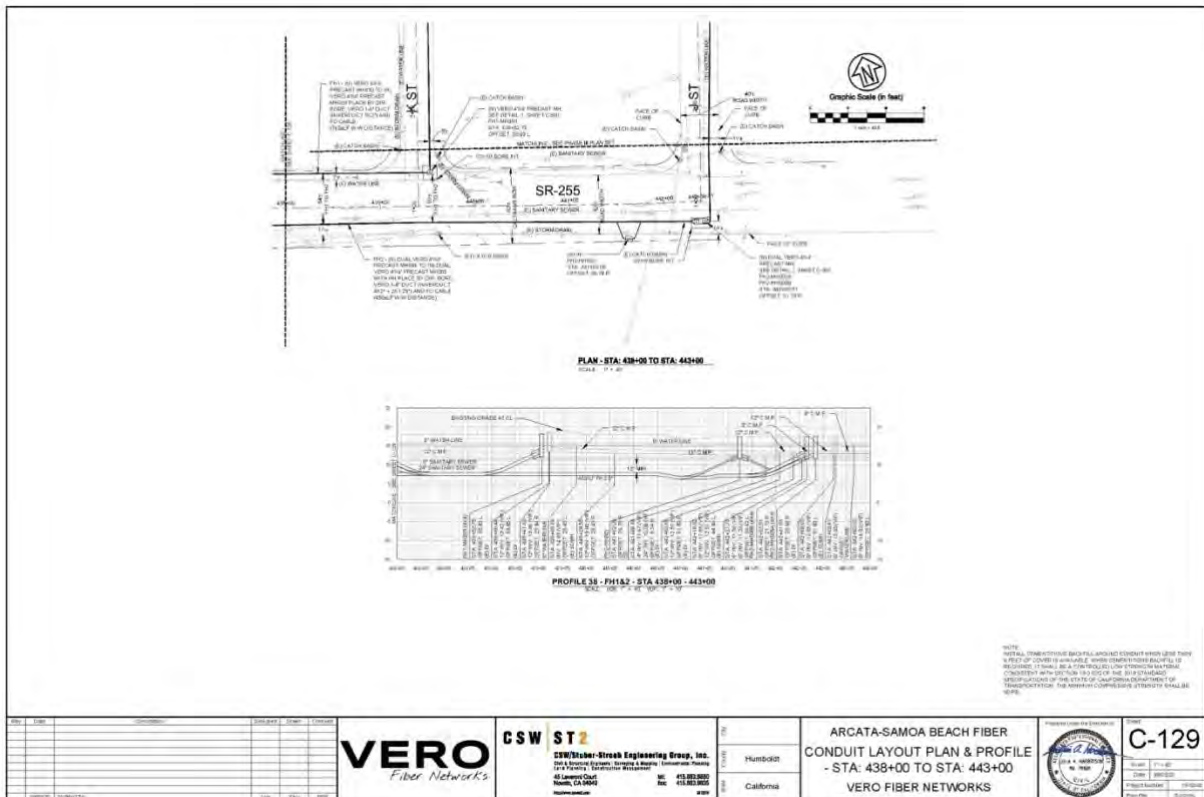


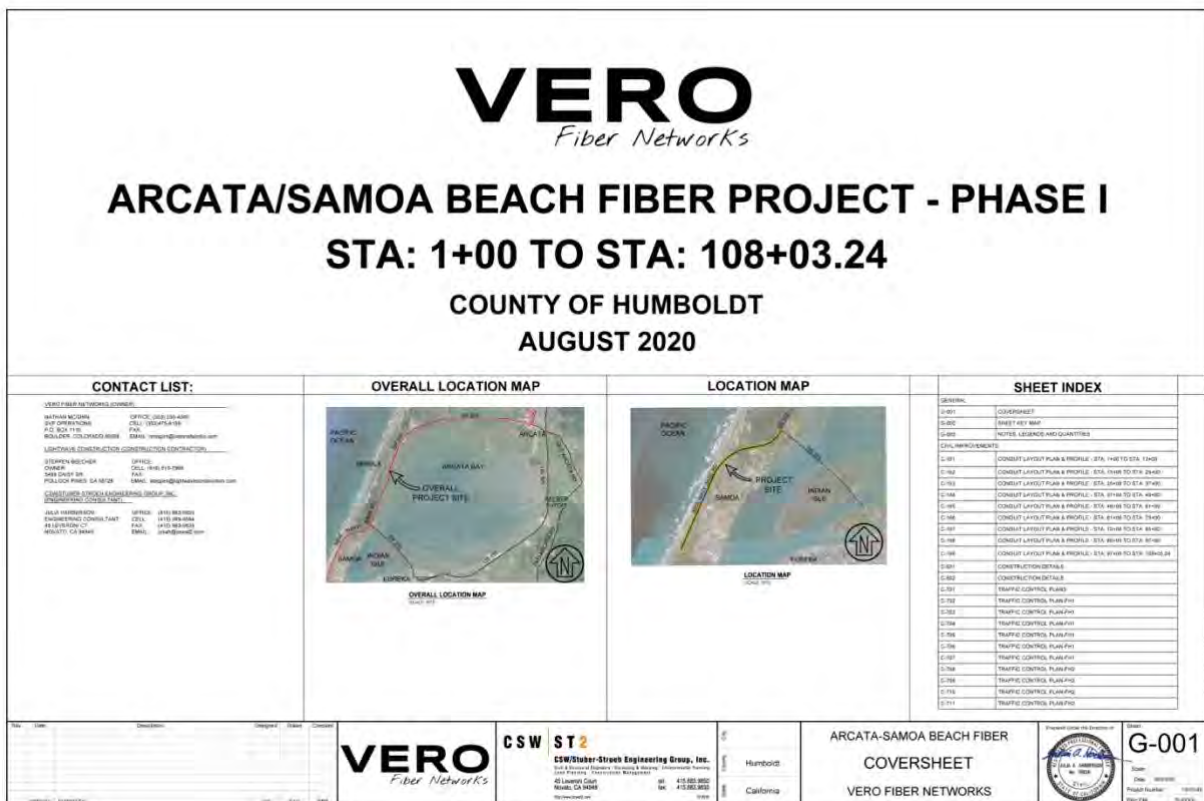




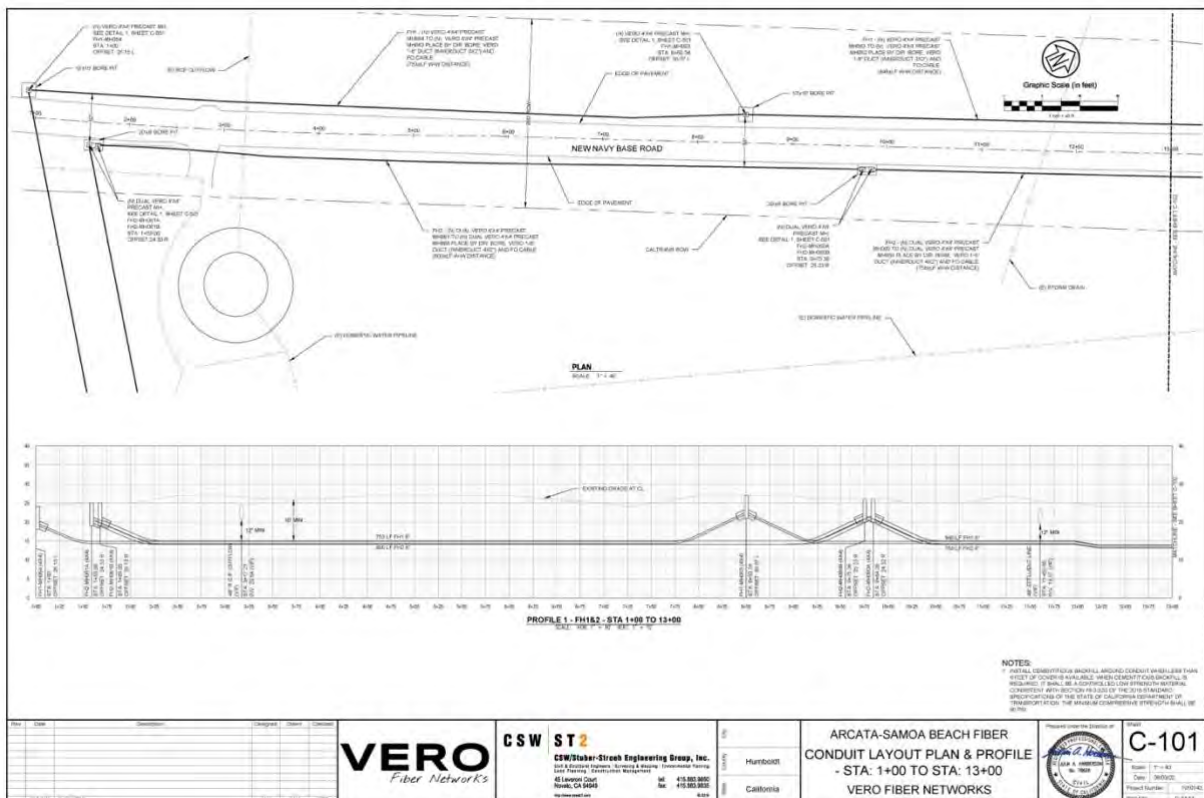


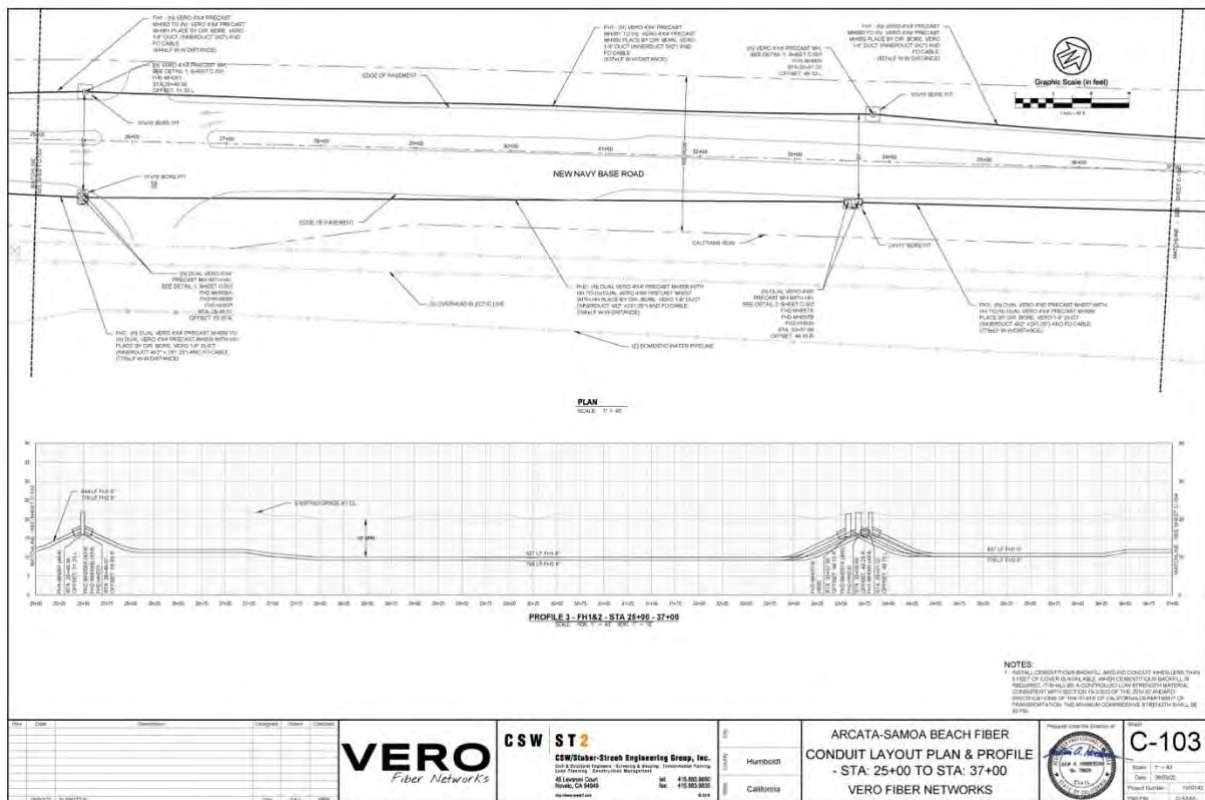


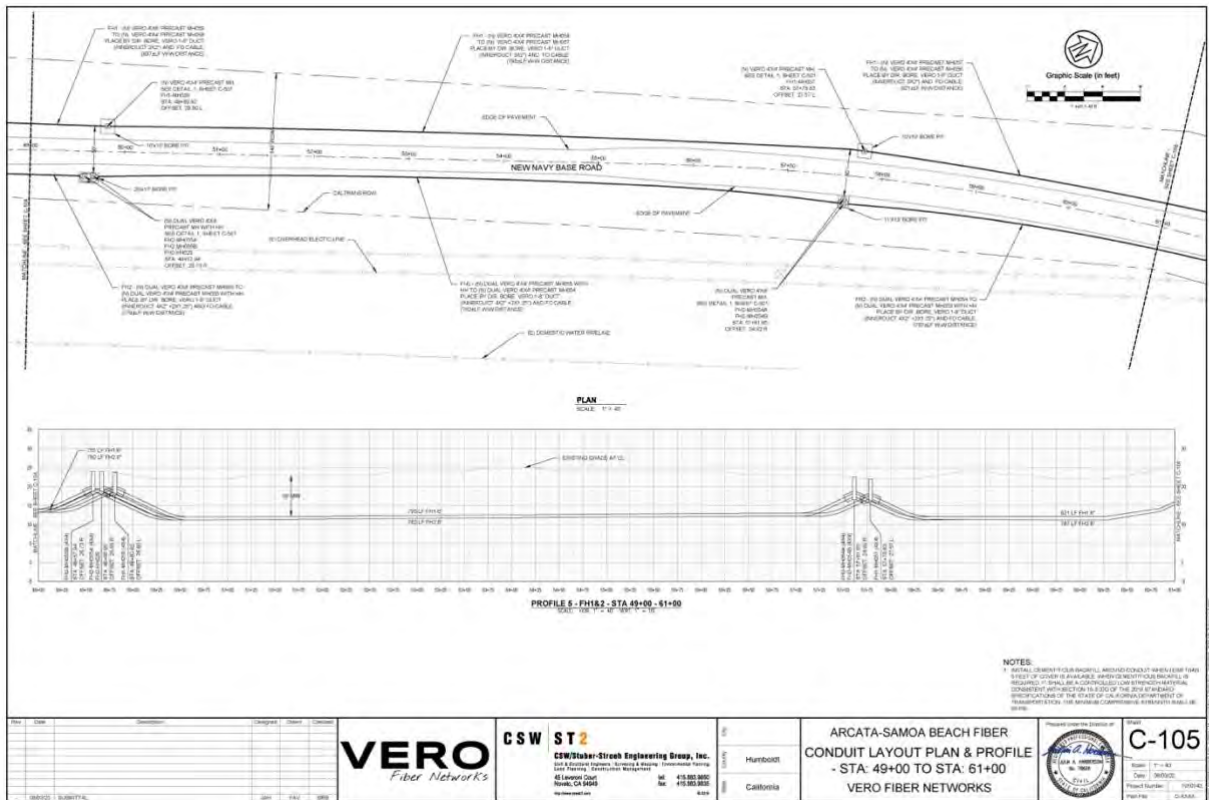
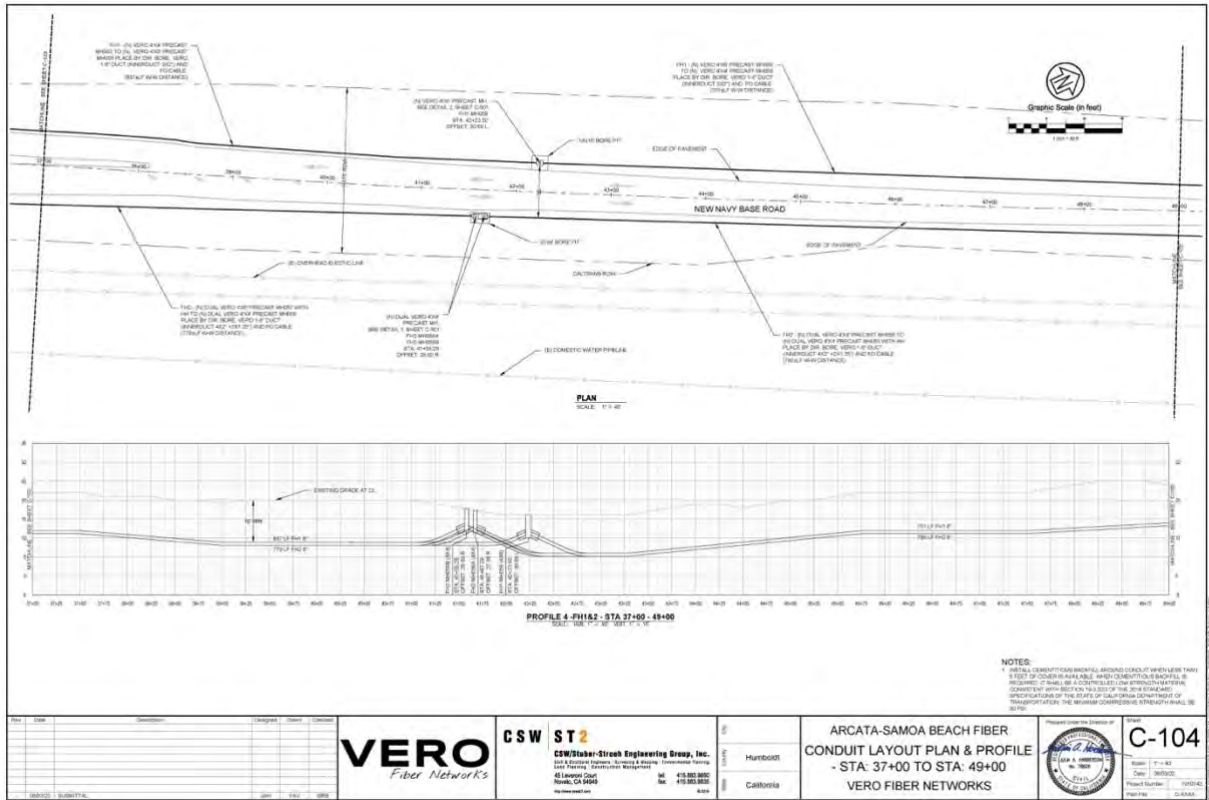


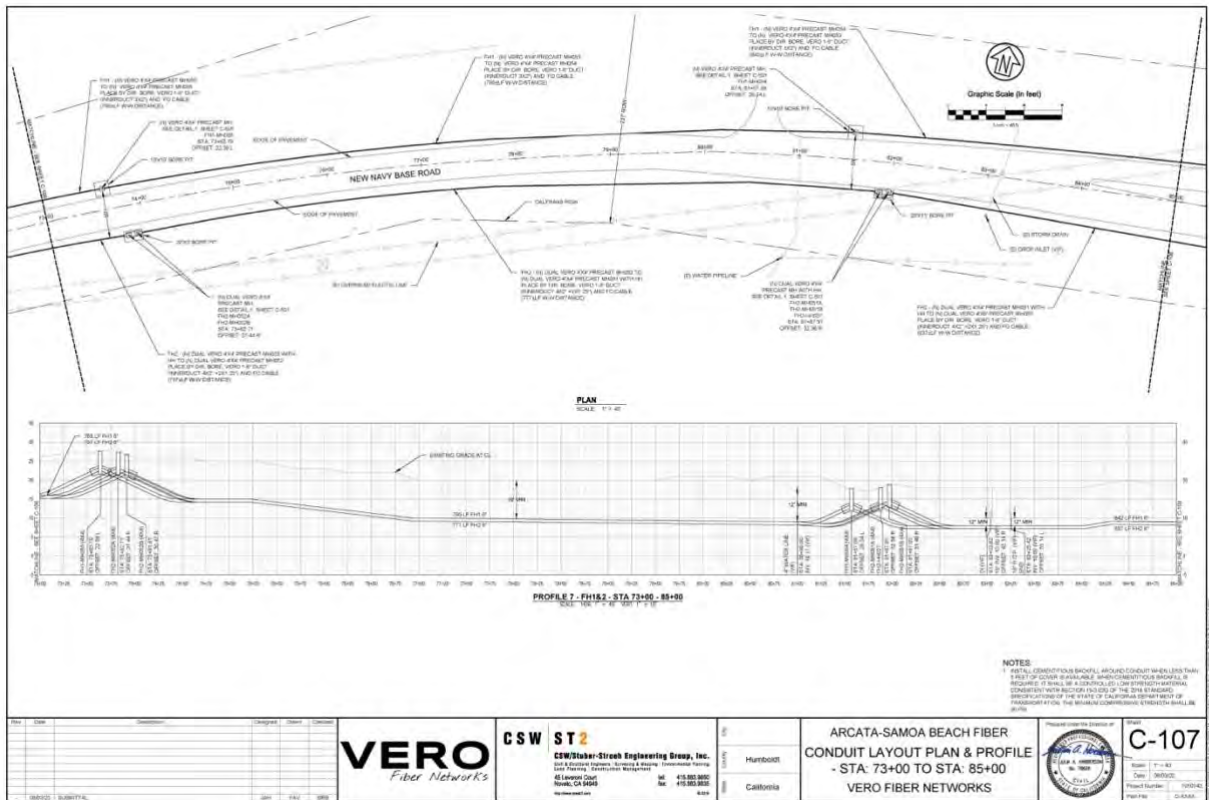
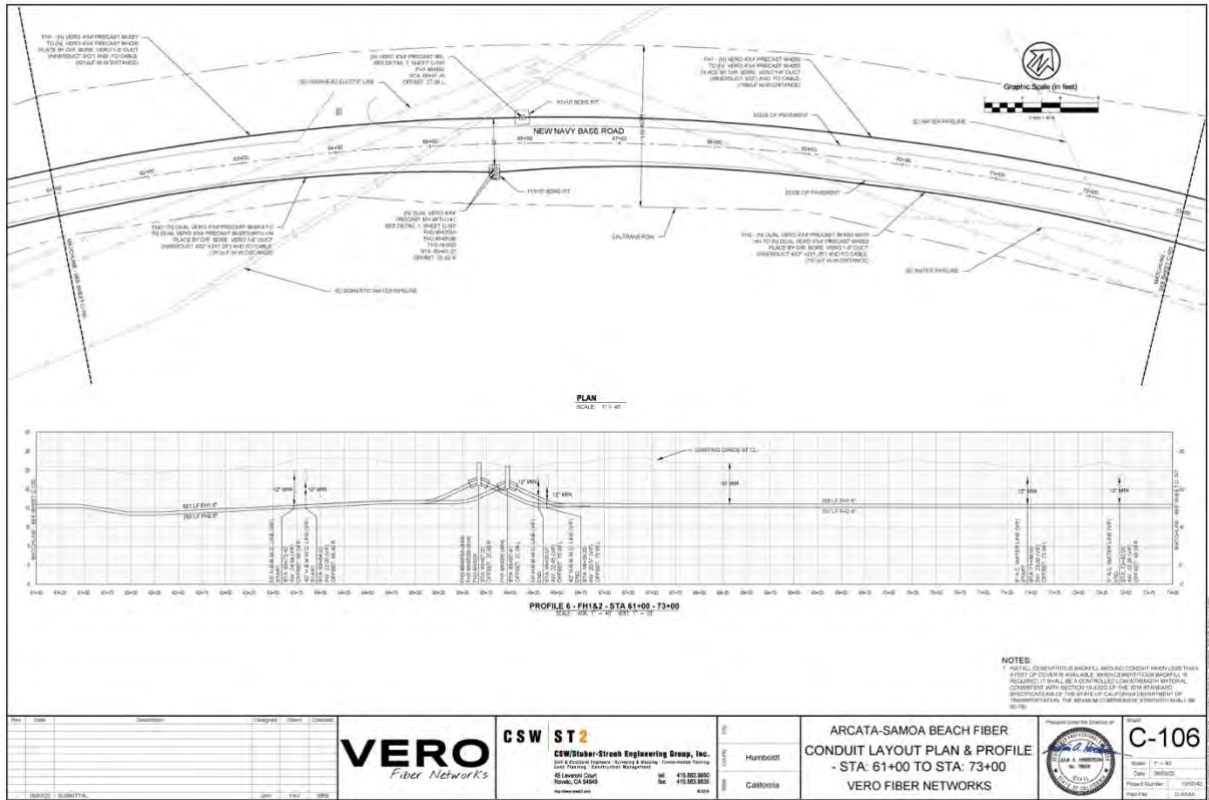


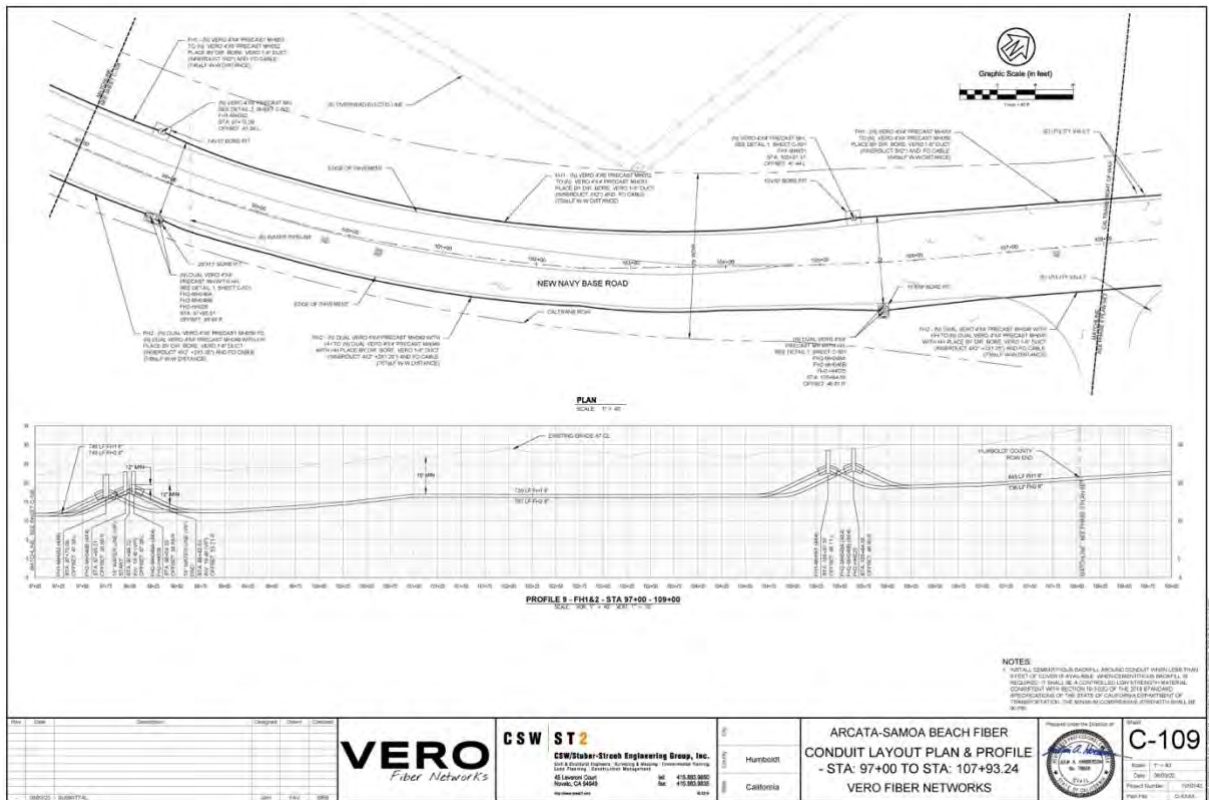
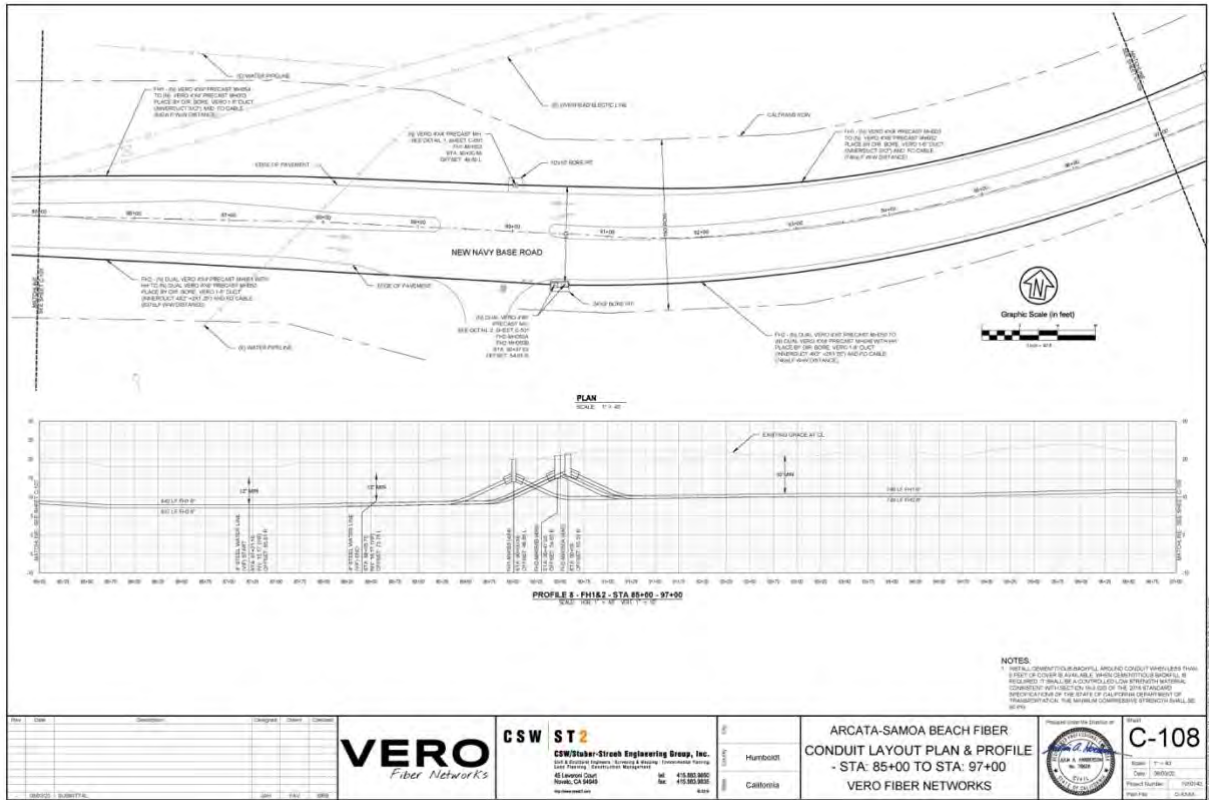
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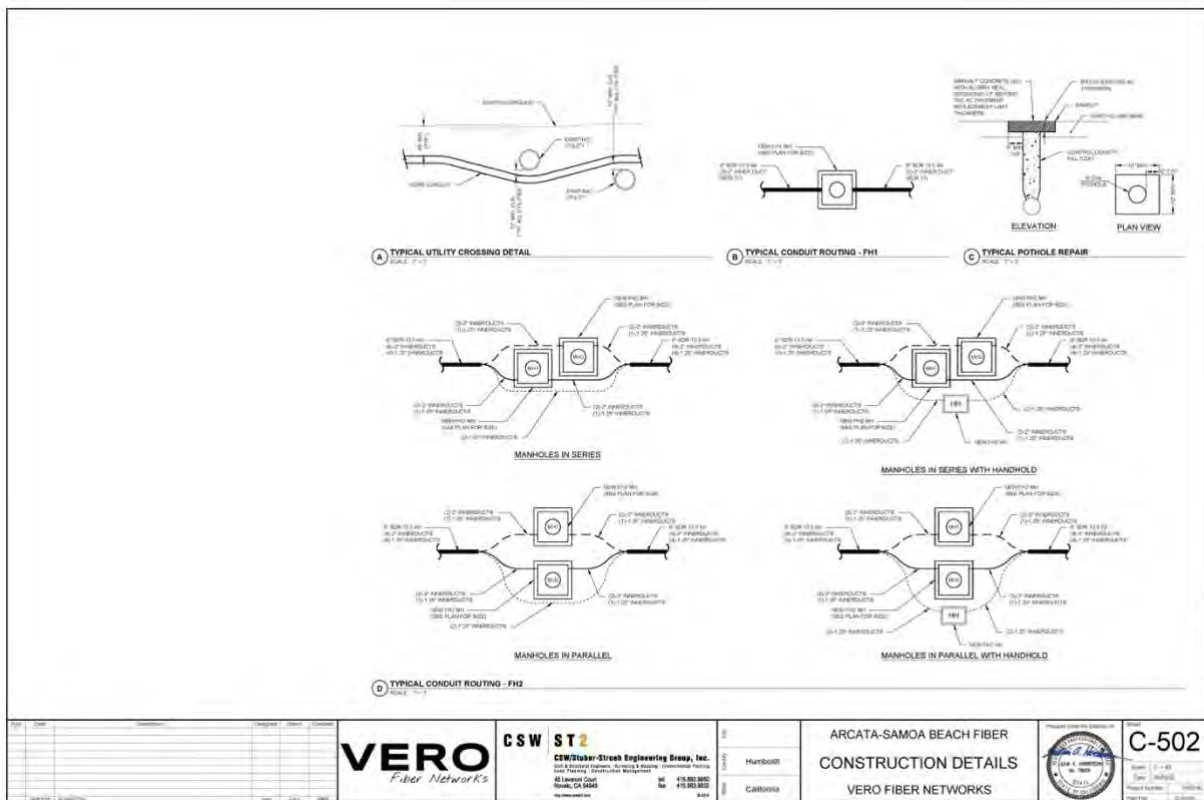
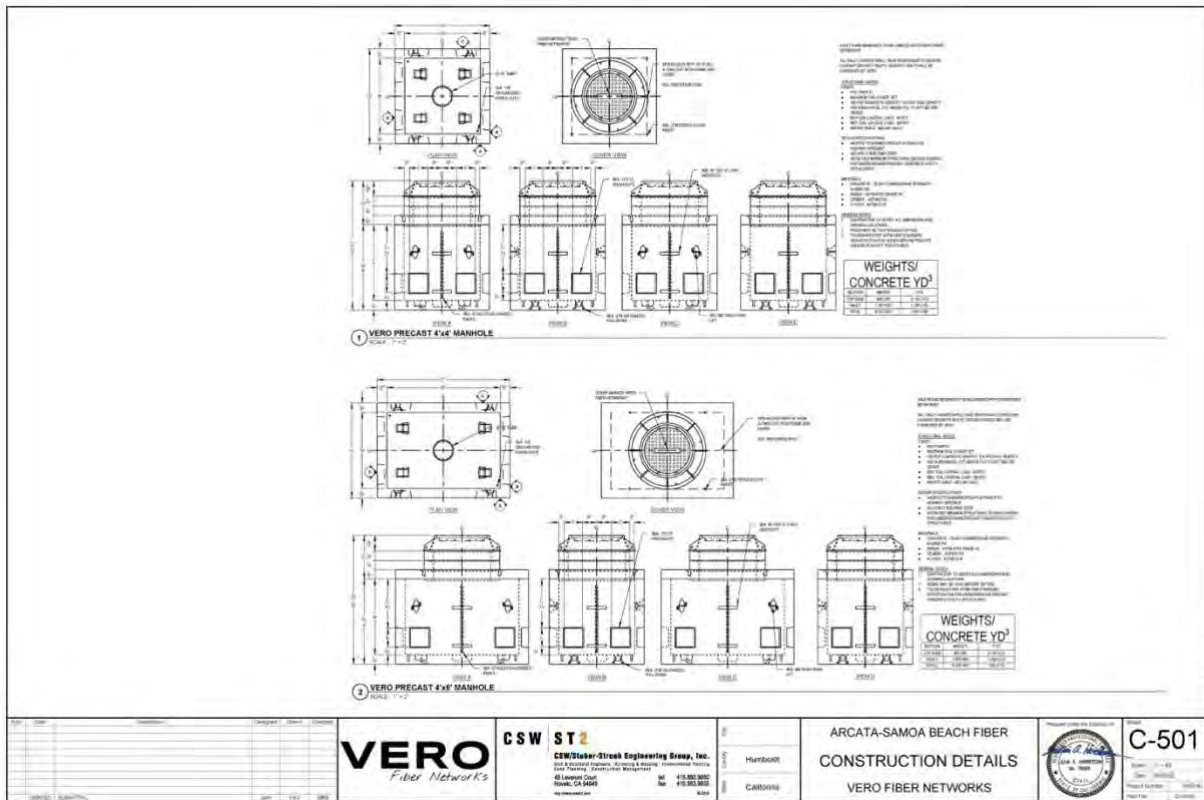












ARCATA/SAMOA BEACH FIBER PROJECT FH1 AND FH2
HORIZONTAL DIRECTIONAL DRILL CONTINGENCY PLAN

Humboldt County, California

December 2020

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Horizontal Directional Drill Contingency

1-INTRODUCTION

This Horizontal Directional Drill Contingency Plan (Plan) discusses how Vero Fiber Networks and its contractors will implement procedures to minimize impacts from an inadvertent release during horizontal directional drilling (HDD) during construction of the Arcata/Samoa Beach Fiber Project FH1/ FH2 (Project). The Project involves the installation of one 6 inch conduit in FH1 and one 8 inch conduit in FH2 along approximately 9 miles State Route 255 in Humboldt County, California. These conduits will house fiber optic cables.

The project must cross the Mad River Slough on the north end of Arcata Bay. To avoid impacting environmental resources, the project will install the conduits below the slough using the HDD method.

This project requires approval from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) Section 1602 Streambed Alteration Agreement (SAA) as well as a State of California Department of Transportation encroachment permit.

2-OBJECTIVES

This Plan has been prepared to provide methods and procedures that will minimize the impacts associated with the HDD activities. The HDD practices and construction methods presented in this Plan are intended to accomplish the following objectives:

- To avoid direct impacts to creek crossings during the rainy season using HDD techniques and in a manner that does not result in sediment-laden discharge or hazardous materials release into waters.
- To address procedures for containing an inadvertent release of drilling fluid (frac-out) during HDD activities.
- To coordinate HDD activities with the CDFW in accordance with the Section 1602 SAA.
- Avoid release of contamination when working near sites of known concern.

3-BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

The contractor will implement several Best Management Practices (BMP) to protect the slough including:

1. Site preparation shall begin no more than 10 days prior to initiating horizontal bores to reduce the time soils are exposed adjacent to creeks and drainages.
2. Trench and/or bore pit spoil shall be stored a minimum of 25 feet from the top of the bank or wetland/riparian boundary. Spoils shall be stored behind a sediment barrier and covered with plastic or otherwise stabilized (i.e., tackifiers, mulch, or detention).
3. Portable pumps and stationary equipment located within 100 feet of a water resource (i.e., wetland/riparian boundary, creeks, and drainages) shall be placed within secondary containment with adequate capacity to contain a spill (i.e., a pump with 10-gallon fuel or oil capacity should be placed in secondary containment capable of holding 15 gallons). A spill kit shall be maintained on site at all times.
4. Immediately following backfill of the bore pits, disturbed soils shall be seeded and stabilized to

Horizontal Directional Drill Contingency

prevent erosion, and temporary sediment barriers shall be left in place until restoration is deemed successful.

5. The applicant shall obtain the required permits prior to conducting creek crossing work. Required permits may include ACOE CWA Section 404, Regional Water Quality Control Board Clean Water Act 401, and CDFG Streambed Alteration Agreement 1602. The applicant shall implement all pre- and post-construction conditions identified in the permits issued.

4-PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

The HDD methodology will be utilized on this Project to bore at different locations along the fiber optic line. Bore pits will be located on each side of the proposed bore segment. Boring depths will vary depending on the location and should not exceed 50 feet below grade.

This document includes descriptions of construction methods and drilling procedures, spill prevention measures, notification, documentation, and corrective action procedures. While avoiding impacts to sensitive resources, HDD has the potential to inadvertently release drilling fluids, but properly managed released material can be contained, removed and disposed of safely.

4.1 Drilling Procedures

HDD are technically advanced procedures that involve trenchless drilling to minimize impacts to sensitive habitats and waterways. The HDD process uses a combination of water and bentonite slurry (naturally occurring clay) for drilling fluids. The non-hazardous mixture consists of a combination of active clay, inert solids and water. The fluid is prepared in a mixing tank and is pumped through the center of the drill pipe to the cutters. The fluid used during this process acts as a coolant and a lubricant during the drilling process and removes the cuttings and stabilizes the borehole. The cuttings are returned to the entry pit where it is pumped to processing equipment. The fluid is cleaned and recycled while the cuttings are disposed of at an approved disposal facility.

The contractor shall review the soil conditions and recommended drill fluid mix as detailed in Appendix A.

4.1.1 Inadvertent Release

The process of HDD can cause drilling fluid to be released during installation, which can occur when pressure in the drill hole is not maintained and a loss of circulation of drilling fluids occurs. Drilling fluid loss is typical in small amounts when layers of soil, gravel, and rocks are encountered and the drilling fluid fills voids in the materials; however, there is a potential for the inadvertent release of drilling fluid. Drilling fluid release is usually caused by the drill hole pressure going beyond the containment capacity due to fractures in bedrock or other significant voids in geologic strata that allows fluids to surface. A good indicator that a significant amount of loss has occurred is when the returning drilling fluid volume is significantly lower than the pumping fluid volume. The following provides the steps that will be taken in an effort to avoid an inadvertent release of HDD fluid.

4.1.2 Prior to Construction

All sediment and erosion control measures will be installed by the contractor. The measures include the following:

- Storm drain inlets will be protected.

Horizontal Directional Drill Contingency

- Large diameter fiber rolls (straw wattles) will be placed around proposed work areas.
- Silt fencing will be placed as needed.
- A site entrance and exit will be established to avoid track out.
- The site will be evaluated for areas that have potential for inadvertent release of fluids (dry and cracked soils) and an inventory of proper drilling fluids and equipment will be on site to deal with the potential problem areas.
- Containment areas will be set up for equipment, drilling fluids, and cuttings storage. Containment areas consist of some type of plastic sheathing formed with straw wattles to form a pit like area.
- Spill kits and cleanup materials, as described in Section 4.1.5 Spill Kit Equipment, will be available on site prior to any construction activities.
- The BMPs, emergency spill kit, and the Frac-Out kit will be staged nearby for immediate spill response.

4.1.3 During Construction

- All equipment within 100 feet from any drainage or other water resource will be placed in a double containment area.
- Drilling fluid and any waste will be contained in containment areas and stored in storage tanks.
- Spoil stockpiles will be stored behind a sediment barrier and covered with a plastic sheathing. Spoils will be stored at least 25 feet from any water bodies.
- Monitoring of fluid pressure, bore paths, and water bodies will continue during the duration of the construction activities by the Qualified Drilling Monitor (see Section 4.2 Notifications, Monitoring, and Documentation Procedures for monitoring and documentation procedures).
- A vacuum truck with sufficient hoses to reach all areas along the bore alignment will be staged on site prior to and during all drilling operations for emergency response. If workspace does not permit a vacuum truck to be staged on site, the truck will be readily available at a nearby work location or staging area via on-call procedures.
- An interim pump will be on site to reach low areas and assist the vacuum truck.
- Good housekeeping procedures will be maintained during construction at all times. Tailboard meetings will be held before work each day to discuss housekeeping and safety along with other topics.

4.1.4 Post Construction

- Following completion of trenchless excavation activities for the Project, all cuttings and other spoils will be hauled off site to an approved facility.
- All drilling fluids will be removed and hauled off site to an approved facility throughout construction; however, all drilling fluids, cuttings, and spoil piles associated with trenchless excavation activities for the Project will be removed upon completion of those activities.
- All pre-construction sediment and erosion control measures described previously will continue to remain in place and will be monitored until the site has been stabilized and the spoils have been removed.

4.1.5 Spill Kit Equipment

The materials provided in the Emergency Spill Kit may include the following items:

Horizontal Directional Drill Contingency

- Three (3) absorbent socks
- Six (6) disposal bags and ties
- Two (2) pair of safety glasses
- Two (2) pair of rubber gloves
- One (1) sorbent drip pillow
- Twelve (12) sorbent pads
- One (1) Emergency Response Guidebook
- Two (2) sorbent spill pillows
- Four (4) hazardous labels
- One (1) bag Lite-Dri Absorbent
- One (1) shovel & 1 broom
- Absorbent skipper booms
- One (1) 55-gallon storage barrel

The materials provided in the Frac-Out Kit may include the following items:

- One hundred (100) sand bags
- Vacuum truck with sufficient length of vacuum hose
- Intermediate pump
- Hundred (100) feet of fiber rolls
- Twenty (20) straw bales
- Two (2) shovels
- Lumber
- One (1) 3,000-gallon tank for storage of released material

4.2 NOTIFICATIONS, MONITORING, AND DOCUMENTATION PROCEDURES

As identified in the Project plans, and the Project's federal, state and local permits, HDD locations will be monitored, in Section 4.2.1 Monitoring Procedures of this Plan, until the sites are stabilized and the spoils have been removed. The personnel operating the drilling machine as well as at the bore and receiving pits shall be in constant communication. They shall be trained in the equipment's hydrostatic pressure monitoring system and have at least 10 years of experience in directional drilling.

4.2.1 Monitoring Procedures

During drilling operations, the drilling contractor will have a Qualified Drilling Monitor present on site, who will perform the following activities:

- Visually inspect the bore path at the completion of each joint and inspect 100 feet upstream and downstream along bore alignment.
- Examine drilling mud pressures and return flows. Shut down drilling operations immediately if more than 2% of the total fluid volume in circulation is lost during the drilling of one (1) joint (30 feet max).
- Visually inspect the bore alignment and a 100-foot radius around the HDD operation.
- If drilling fluids begin to decline, two (2) crew members will continue to monitor until drilling fluid returns are stabilized.

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- Communicate regularly regarding the drilling conditions during the course of the drilling activities.
- Inspect all stream crossings with flowing water.
- Monitoring for frac-outs shall continue 48 hours after all the drilling and reaming is completed.
- Contain all drilling fluids and cuttings for proper disposal at an approved facility.

A daily inspection form with hourly inspection intervals is included in Attachment B: Inspection Forms.

Prior to the commencement of drilling operations, the environmental monitor will identify any sensitive environmental resources located in the area of potential frac-out. The location of these resources will be communicated to the drilling contractor verbally.

An environmental monitor will be present at all times when HDD activities are being performed. As discussed in Section 4.2.4 Corrective Actions, in the event of an inadvertent release outside of the approved work area, the construction contractor will conduct cleanup and inspections of the area via foot when feasible and, if it is safe to do so, will be accompanied by the appropriate environmental, archeological, and biological monitor(s).

4.2.2 Notification

In the event that an inadvertent release is discovered, the required notifications will be made according to the Project's permits and plans. Specifically, as required by the Project's Section 404, 401, and 1602 permits, the United States Army Corps of Engineers, Regional Water Quality Control Board, CDFW, and CPUC will be notified of any inadvertent release impacting jurisdictional waters. The notification(s) will be made as soon as an impact to a resource has been identified and sufficient data has been gathered to release the report. Vero Fiber Networks will endeavor to make the required notifications by phone or in writing within 24 hours following discovery of the release, if feasible.

4.2.3 Documentation

In the event that an inadvertent release is discovered, the following information will be documented:

- Name and telephone number of the person reporting release
- Date and time of release
- Location of release
- Nature of the release (type, quantity, size, etc.)
- How the release occurred
- Type of activity occurring around area
- Description of sensitive areas and their location in relation to the release
- Any identified impacts to biological, cultural, or paleontological resources
- Corrective actions taken
- Information regarding the potential threat to public health and safety (if any)

After the information detailed previously has been gathered, Vero Fiber Networks will provide the appropriate information in writing within 48 hours to the requisite agencies, as discussed in Section 4.2.2 Notification. However, in the event that the information cannot be gathered and/or cleanup activities are not completed

Horizontal Directional Drill Contingency

within 48 hours, a final report documenting the information discussed in Section 4.2.2 Notification will be submitted to the requisite agencies as soon as practicable.

4.2.4 Corrective Actions

In the event that an inadvertent release/frac-out is discovered, the following corrective actions will take place:

- Drilling operations will stop immediately.
- Notification procedures will be implemented.
- The material will be removed and/or contained to minimize the affected area. Environmental monitors will be on site at all times while HDD activities are performed to ensure environmental requirements are met for removals in sensitive areas.
- The spill kit equipment will be kept on a trailer to facilitate rapid response to the site of the inadvertent release.
- The least damaging equipment and techniques will be used to clean up the spill. In the event that cleanup of an unanticipated release is necessary outside of the approved Project area and procedures beyond the use of foot traffic are required, the equipment and access route to be utilized for cleanup activities will be approved by CPUC prior to the completion of these activities, if feasible. However, the primary objective of the contractor in the event of a release will be to secure the site to prevent harm to human health and the environment.
- Impacted soils and any other materials associated with spill containment will be removed as soon as practical to an approved disposal facility.

4.3 CONTACT INFORMATION

The following table lists the individuals responsible for implementation of this Plan during construction.

Company/Organization	Name/Title	Telephone Number
Vero Fiber Networks	Josh Nelson, Project Manager	850.490.0409
Lightwave Construction	Steppen Beecher, Superintendent	916.515.7698
CSW ST2	Robert Stevens, Project Manager	415.533.1864
CSW ST2	Julia Harberson, Project Engineer	415.599.9564

4.4 KNOWN SITES OF CONTAMINATION

As shown in Appendix B, there are two sites within the project area that have known contamination including a closed landfill and the former Sierra Pacific Industries facility. Each site will require an approach to manage worker and the public's safety noted as follows:

- Landfill. While working near the landfill, the Contractor shall have a methane detector available at all points of excavation. At no time shall the contractor have ignition source in operation. At concentrations between 5 and 17%, all work shall stop until the level reduces. All drilling mud spoils shall be separated from other drilling operations and tested for contamination.
- Sierra Pacific Site. This site is known to have soils containing dioxin. The contractor's crews shall

Horizontal Directional Drill Contingency

wear personnel protective equipment consistent with the guidelines of Cal/ OSHA. All drilling mud spoils shall be separated from other drilling operations and tested as noted in Appendix A. It is imperative that the drilling mud positively encases the conduits crossing the slough to create an impermeable barrier. During pull back operations, the contractor shall monitor fluid flow to ensure it does not increase. If pull back tension increases, the contractor shall apply additional fluid.

APPENDIX A
SOIL CONDITIONS

**MEMORANDUM**

To: Melissa Kraemer and Amber Leavitt – California Coastal Commission
From: Robert Stevens, PE
CC: Dave Jones, Nathan McGinn and Josh Nelson – Vero Networks
Date: December 22, 2020
Subject: Arcata/Samoa Beach Fiber Project – Site Soils

The proposed project will use the horizontal directional drilling (HDD) technique to install the 6 and 8 inch in diameter conduits using a trenchless process. As most of the alignment is within the State of Caltrans Department of Transportation's right of way, we are following their guidance related to soils investigations as detailed in the Encroachment Permits Manual. Per Section 603.6A-2E of the manual:

If the contractor can go to the project site and do an excavation with a backhoe to one foot below the proposed depth of the bore, that excavation can be considered a soil investigation.

The purpose and intent of the soil analysis is to assist the contractor in developing the proper drilling fluid mixture, and to ensure Caltrans that the contractor is aware of the conditions that do existing in the area of the proposed project.

There are two failures that can occur in the HDD process including bore hole collapse and hydraulic fracture. As site soils often vary widely, we have found the following is imperative to guide the contractor and mitigate these failures:

1. Provide basic soil conditions at the site;
2. Require the contractor to complete site specific investigation during bore pit excavation as noted in the Caltrans guidelines;
3. Develop an initial drilling fluid mix; and
4. Implement site specific monitoring of drilling fluid pressure and flow to avoid an issue before a failure occurs.

Site Soils

There are many prior investigations of the Samoa Peninsula that detail the geologic conditions. The location and morphology of Humboldt Bay is largely a result of tectonic processes. Humboldt Bay consists of two principal basins, Arcata Bay and South Bay. These shallow estuarine basins are connected across the bay mouth by the narrow "Eureka Channel" which connects to the Pacific Ocean. Each of the principal basins is associated with a crustal down-warp and appears to represent a filled paleoriver valley. This is especially true in Arcata Bay, which appears to be an erosional feature associated with the former course of the Mad River. In that regard, much of the Samoa Peninsula is the remnant of the western divide of the Mad River drainage and is underlain by the same earth materials that underlie the Eureka side of the bay.

December 22, 2020

According to T Leroy in *"Holocene Sand Dune Stratigraphy and Paleoseismicity of the North and South Spits of Humboldt Bay, Northern California"* the Samoa Peninsula is covered with sand dunes that north of the SR255 bridge can be nearly 60 feet above sea level. Groundwater typically is found from 5 to 10 feet below the surface.

In discussions with various contractors that have excavated within the area, they have noted that sand is commonly found below the ground's surface. Soils investigations to install ground water monitoring wells with the Sierra Pacific Industries facility along State Route (SR) 255 just west of the Mad River Slough generally found sand beneath the site. While fill was likely placed to construct the sawmill, at the truck stop area, which is near SR 255, the investigation encountered fine to medium grain sand of sand due origin.

To support construction of the bridge crossing the Mad River Slough, Caltrans completed a series of test borings to a depth of about 90 feet; we have attached a log for reference. Within the bore profile that is to be no less than 15 feet below the creek, we find clayey silt and silty sands.

Bore Recommendations

As the contractor will encounter sandy soils within a majority of the installation along the Samoa Peninsula, the primary concern will be ensuring the bore hole does not collapse. Thus, the initial recommendation for the drilling fluid to be mixed with 100 gallons of water is:

- 45 lbs of Baroid Bore-Gel – Bentonite clay used to suspend the bore hole in sand and reduce friction
- 2 lbs of Baroid Quick-Bore – Bentonite clay used to suspend the bore hole and create a filter cake with low permeability
- 25 lbs of Baroid Zeogel – A clay that improves stability of drilling fluid within high salt concentrations

At the Mad River Slough crossing, the contractor may find that drilling at a depth of more than 30 feet below the ground may be preferable due to the presence of a stiff silt. As there is less sand at this crossing, the initial recommendation for the drilling fluid to be mixed with 100 gallons of water is:

- 25 lbs of Baroid Bore-Gel – Bentonite clay used to suspend the bore hole in sand and reduce friction
- 2 lbs of Baroid Quick-Bore – Bentonite clay used to suspend the bore hole and creates a filter cake with low permeability
- 0.25 lbs of Baroid No-Sag – Helps to suspend drill cuttings
- 25 lbs of Baroid Zeogel – A clay that improves stability of drilling fluid within high salt concentrations

The initial recommendation for application of the drilling fluid rate is 12 GPM while maintaining a hydrostatic pressure of no more than 15 PSI. During the initial boring operation forming the pilot hole, the contractor shall monitor the pressure within the bore hole. If there is a change in either fluid pressure or drilling fluid flow at the bore or exit hole, he or she shall stop the operation. Depending upon the condition, either pull back the drill string or increase the density of the drilling fluid.

To expand the pilot hole to receive the 6 and 8 inch conduit, the contractor shall use reamers of successively larger diameters. During pull back, the contractor shall continue to apply drilling fluid at the pressure and flow as previously stated. As the pull back operation can significantly increase pressure, the contractor shall diligently monitor the bore hole pressure as well as fluid flow at the entry and exit pits.

December 22, 2020

Mad River Slough Contamination

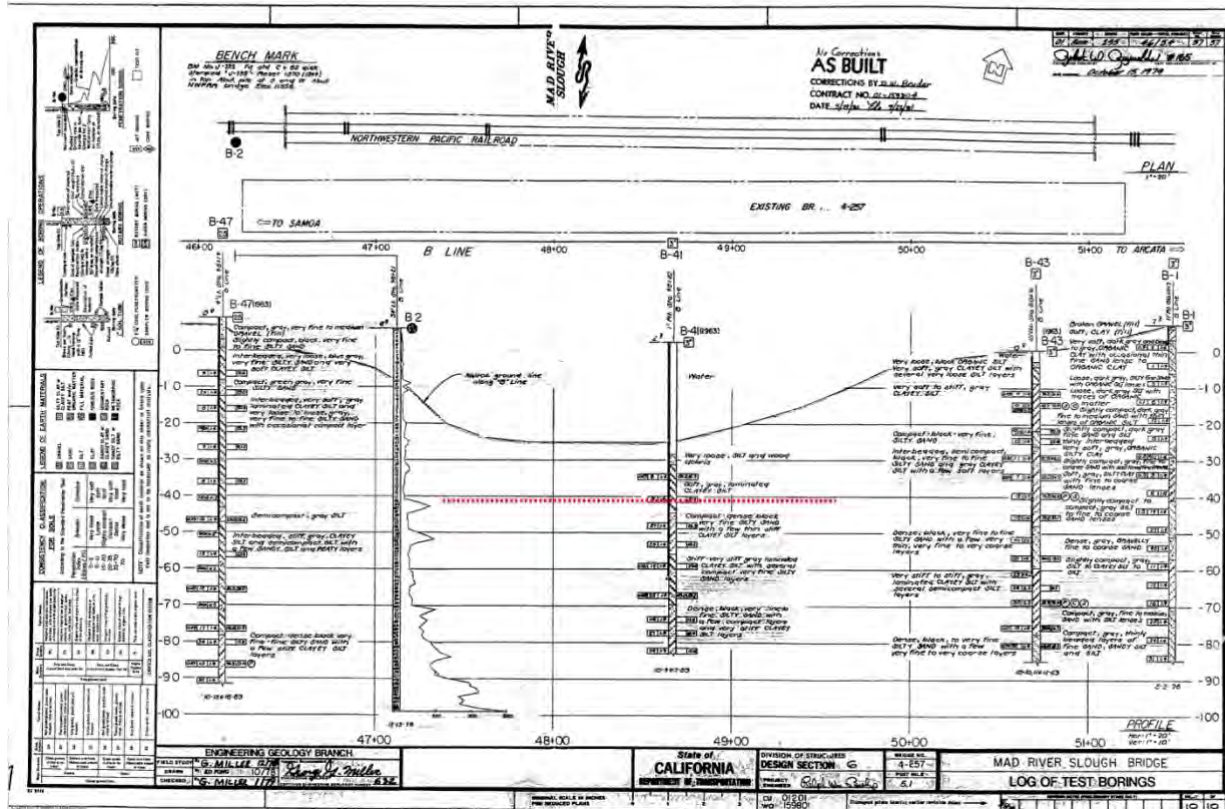
Along the west bank of the Mad River Slough and north of State Route 255, the former Sierra Pacific Industries facility contains soils contamination including dioxin. There are two potential concerns related to the conduit installation near the site including worker safety and mobilization of contaminated ground water.

Based upon sediment surveys within the Mad River Slough over the last decade, the sediment is at an elevation of -22 feet based upon the North American Vertical Datum of 1988 (NAVD88). The contamination is likely within a depth of 1.5 feet. The proposed conduit installation will be more than 15 feet below this elevation at no less than -38 feet NAVD88.

As previously discussed, the directional bore operation uses a drilling fluid that includes a high concentration of bentonite clay to suspend the bore-hole. It creates a "cake" between the circumference of the bore hole and the installed conduit. Bentonite is a highly impermeable material. A study entitled "Effect of Bentonite on Permeability of Dune Sand" completed by N. K. meta found that 10% bentonite to 90% sand produced a permeability of 6.9×10^{-8} versus about 1×10^{-4} cm/s for sand alone using a falling head test. Thus, the drilling fluid creates a barrier for the transmission of ground water.

As the soil and water removed during the boring operation could be contaminated, the contractor will need to separate and store this material to avoid contaminating other areas within the project. Upon separating the water and soil, the contractor will need to retain a certified laboratory to test the materials in accordance with the receiver of the waste. This shall include the standard tests (ie hydrocarbon and metals) as well as chlorinated phenols, phenols, dioxins, and furans, which are known to be present near the site.

Finally, the contractor's personnel shall implement standard protocols for working near contaminated sites in accordance with Cal/ OSHA guidelines. This shall include having personnel trained in Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response (HAZWOPER) as well as wearing personnel protective equipment.



APPENDIX B

KNOWN SITES OF CONTAMINATION


CSW | ST2
CSW/Stuber-Stroeh Engineering Group, Inc.

 Civil & Structural Engineers | Surveying & Mapping | Environmental Planning
 Land Planning | Construction Management

 45 Leveroni Court
 Novato, CA 94949

<http://www.cswst2.com>

 tel: 415.883.9850
 fax: 415.883.9835

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Rev. X

Job No. 1910140

Date: 01/12/21

Scale: 1" = 300'

ARCATA-SAMOA BEACH FIBER ENVIROMENT CONSIDERATIONS

ARCATA

HUMBOLDT

CALIFORNIA

APPENDIX C

INSPECTION FORMS

PROJECT NAME: _____

DIALY INSPECTION LOG

DATE	TIME	INSPECTION LOCATION	NOTES	INSPECTOR NME
	7 AM			
	8			
	9			
	10			
	11			
	12 PM			
	1			
	2			
	3			
	4			
	5			
	6			
	7 pm			
	7 AM			
	8			
	9			
	10			
	11			
	12 PM			
	1			
	2			
	3			
	4			
	5			
	6			
	7 pm			

RELEASE INSPECTION AND DOCUMENTATION FORM

Name and Title: _____

Date: _____

Location of Release: _____

Approximate amount of boring actives completed (feet): _____

Nature of Release:

How release occurred:

Description of sensitive area:

Corrective Action taken:

Attach photograph here

Signature _____

TABLE E AVOIDANCE AND MINIMIZATION MEASURES (AMMS) AND BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (BMPS)			
ID	Subject	Measure to be Implemented	Areas Where Measures would be Implemented
AMM BIO-1	Biological Monitoring Requirements	<p>The Applicant shall designate one or more Project biologists. Project biologist refers to the qualified person assigned to ensure Project-wide biological measures identified in this document are followed and to document compliance with these measures. The Project biologist would also oversee other biologists and/or biological monitors. Biological monitor refers to a qualified person assigned to ensure biological measures are being implemented during construction activities.</p> <p>Project biologist(s) or biological monitor(s) shall be on-site as needed according to AMMs. Project biologists and biological monitors shall be familiar with sensitive species and resources and the minimization measures for this proposed Project. The Project biologist(s) shall be responsible for overseeing and training biological monitors; advising the applicant and contractor on compliance with biological mitigation measures; notifying the applicant of noncompliance with biological resources conditions; responding directly to inquiries of the lead agencies or resource agencies regarding biological resource issues; maintaining records of tasks related to compliance and reporting for biological resource measures; preparing monthly, annual, and final compliance reports; establishing and enforcing speed limits at Project work areas; and maintaining the ability for regular, direct communication with representatives of the CDFW and USFWS, including notifying these agencies of dead or injured special-status species and reporting special-status species observations.</p> <p>Daily logs—When on-site, the Project biologist(s) and/or biological monitor(s) shall maintain electronic records of daily activities, observations, and communications with the applicant or construction personnel. These records shall be made available for review to the lead agencies at any time during or following Project implementation.</p> <p>Stop Work Authority—The Project biologist(s) and biological monitor(s) shall have written authority to require a halt to activities in any area when determined that there would be an unauthorized adverse impact to biological resources if the activities continued.</p>	Project-wide, where and when a monitor is needed.
AMM BIO-2	Environmental Awareness Training	Key personnel (e.g., crew leads, foremen) would complete an environmental awareness training on the protected species in and around the Project route and on required environmental protection measures. Training shall explain the need for and implementation of minimization measures. The training shall include supporting written material and electronic media, including photographs of protected species; providing information regarding the locations and types of sensitive biological resources within the Project alignment and adjacent areas as well as explaining the reasons for protecting these resources; informing participants that no snakes, other reptiles, bats, or any other wildlife shall be harmed or harassed, with special emphasis on special-status species and including information on physical	Project-wide

TABLE E AVOIDANCE AND MINIMIZATION MEASURES (AMMS) AND BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (BMPS)			
ID	Subject	Measure to be Implemented	Areas Where Measures would be Implemented
		characteristics, distribution, behavior, ecology, sensitivity to human activities, legal protection, penalties for violations, reporting requirements, and protection measures; identifying the Project biologist(s) and biological monitor(s) for contact or further comments and questions about the material discussed in the program; directing trainees to report all observations of listed species and their sign to the Project biologist for inclusion in the compliance reports; a discussion of the Project biologists' and biological monitors' stop work authority; and a training acknowledgment form to be signed by each worker indicating that they received training and shall abide by the guidelines.	
AMM BIO-3	Habitat Mitigation and Monitoring Plan	During final Project design, a Habitat Mitigation and Monitoring Plan would be developed that provides detailed plans for the restoration of temporarily disturbed waterways, wetlands, and riparian habitat. For these areas, temporary ground disturbance from construction activities (including staging/laydown areas) would be restored to the original conditions and contours and revegetated with native plant species. This plan shall also be submitted to and approved by USACE, the USFWS, and the CDFW prior to initiating any mitigation activities. The plan would outline restoration and conservation activities, locations, monitoring requirements, and criteria to measure mitigation success. Restoration may include planting and/or seeding with locally sourced native species, erosion control measures, non-native plant control, and site monitoring.	Project-wide
AMM BIO-4	Wetlands, Riparian Habitat, and Aquatic Resources	Prior to construction, a qualified biologist would flag the boundaries of wetland, riparian habitat, and waterways delineated in the Preliminary Jurisdictional Delineation Report (Transcon 2020). Project infrastructure would be designed to avoid these resources to the greatest extent practicable. During construction, crews would limit all construction activities and staging to outside of the flagged areas. Manholes, handholes, and boring pits would not be located in any wetland, riparian, or aquatic resources. If construction activities require placement of fill, crews, or equipment in wetlands or require disturbance to jurisdictional wetland or riparian areas, then Vero would obtain and comply with all necessary USACE, CDFW, and California Coastal Commission permits.	Project-wide
AMM BIO-5	Special-Status Plants	The Project biologist shall conduct a clearance survey for special-status plant species immediately prior to construction in appropriate habitat. If planned construction activities may result in an impact to special-status plant species, the following measures would be taken: (1) a minor reroute of the alignment would be made to avoid the plant(s) and a suitable buffer area to prevent root damage or other incidental damage; or (2) in areas that cannot be avoided by a minor reroute, the Project biologist would contact the appropriate agency to discuss the potential for salvaging the affected plants. A biological monitor shall be responsible for designating an appropriate buffer area or bore depth to minimize potential adverse impacts to the plants and their roots.	Suitable habitat (would be mapped for construction crews)

TABLE E AVOIDANCE AND MINIMIZATION MEASURES (AMMS) AND BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (BMPs)			
ID	Subject	Measure to be Implemented	Areas Where Measures would be Implemented
AMM BIO-6	Invasive Species Prevention	<p>Contractor vehicles and equipment would be cleaned inside and out prior to mobilization to limit the introduction of non-native species on the Project corridor, specifically:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exterior cleaning would consist of washing vehicles and equipment, with attention paid to the tracks, feet, and/or tires; on the undercarriage, with special emphasis on axles, frame, cross members, motor mounts; and on and underneath steps, running boards, and front bumper brush guard assemblies. Vehicle cabs would be swept out, and refuse would be disposed of in waste receptacles to be disposed of at an approved off-site location. The contractor would inspect vehicles and equipment to ensure they are free of soil and debris capable of transporting non-native vegetation seeds, roots, or rhizomes. Seeds and plant parts that result from the cleaning would be collected and bagged for disposal at an approved off-site location. If noxious or invasive weeds are within the Construction Corridor, vehicles would be cleaned before moving on to areas that are weed free Contractors would avoid or minimize all types of off-road travel that may result in the collection and dispersion of non-native vegetation by construction vehicles and equipment Activity boundaries, including equipment staging and parking areas, shall avoid known noxious plant infestations. If unavoidable, prior to implementation of operations where invasive plants are present, invasive plant infestations shall be bladed away from equipment and access routes before operations start. Removed invasive plants or shrubs should be located on the edge of the clearing out of the way of operations to avoid retrieval on equipment. Equipment/machinery shall be cleaned prior to leaving the infested area to operate in another non-contiguous area Rock, sand, or any material used for soil erosion control shall originate from a certified weed-free source if available. Rock source shall be inspected by staff trained in invasive plant identification. Permittee shall provide documentation that material is weed-free. (see https://www.cal-ipc.org/solutions/prevention/weedfreeforage/ and https://www.cal-ipc.org/solutions/prevention/weedfreegravel/ for more information about weed-free erosion control and aggregate sources) 	Project-wide
AMM BIO-7	Nesting Birds	<p>To avoid and minimize adverse effects to nesting birds, the following measures shall be implemented:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If work will occur during the nesting bird season (February 15 until August 31 or January 1 until August 31 where there is potential for nesting eagles), nesting bird surveys would be conducted within 7 days prior to the onset of construction by a Project biologist or biological monitor familiar with the species that may nest in the Action Area. Surveys would occur to a distance of 100 feet (for passerines) or 300 feet (for raptors) from the proposed work, access routes, and staging areas. In areas within 0.5 mile of suitable bald or golden eagle nesting 	Project-wide

TABLE E AVOIDANCE AND MINIMIZATION MEASURES (AMMS) AND BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (BMPs)			
ID	Subject	Measure to be Implemented	Areas Where Measures would be Implemented
		habitat, nesting season is from January 1 to August 31, and surveys would be performed within 2,640 feet of work. If an active nest is encountered in or adjacent to a work area, a no equipment/no activity buffer would be implemented around the nest (the size of which would be determined by the Project biologist) or the nest would be monitored by a Project biologist or biological monitor for disturbance.	
AMM BIO-8	Special Status Amphibians	<p>When ground-disturbing work is occurring within 25-50 feet of waterways that have water present and that are suitable habitat for special-status amphibians, a qualified biologist would conduct a pre-disturbance survey for special-status amphibians (adults, subadults, tadpoles, or egg masses). The survey area would include suitable habitat within 50 feet of perennial and intermittent waterways, within 25 feet of ephemeral drainages, and at least 50 feet upstream and downstream of the work area. The biologist would conduct surveys for special-status amphibians prior to the start of ground-disturbing activities. If no special-status amphibians are detected, work may resume for 3 to 5 days before new surveys need to be conducted.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If a special-status amphibian is confirmed to be present, then a qualified biologist would move the individual to a suitable off-site location within the same waterway. 	Suitable habitat (would be mapped for construction crews)
BMP BIO-1	General Bio (Construction Sites & Facilities)	<p>The contractor shall implement the following measures to manage construction sites and related facilities to avoid or minimize impacts to biological resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limit Disturbance Areas—The boundaries of areas to be disturbed (including staging areas, access roads, and sites for temporary placement of spoils) shall be clearly delineated with stakes and flagging prior to construction activities in consultation with the Project biologist. Spoils and topsoil shall be stockpiled in areas already disturbed so that stockpile sites do not add to total disturbance footprint. Disturbances, Project vehicles, and equipment shall be confined to the designated work areas. Parking areas, staging, and disposal site locations shall similarly be located in areas without native vegetation or special-status species habitat. Minimize Access Impacts—Where existing routes may need improvements, the improvements shall not extend beyond the flagged impact area as described above. Vehicles passing or turning around shall do so within the planned impact area or in previously disturbed areas. Where new access is required outside of existing roads or the construction zone, the route shall be clearly marked (i.e., flagged and/or staked) prior to the onset of construction. Minimize Traffic Impacts—Vehicular traffic during Project construction and operation shall be confined to existing designated routes of travel to and from work sites, and cross-country vehicle and equipment use outside designated work areas shall be prohibited. The speed limit within any part of the Project area shall be designated and enforced by the Project biologist. 	Project-wide

TABLE E AVOIDANCE AND MINIMIZATION MEASURES (AMMS) AND BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (BMPs)			
ID	Subject	Measure to be Implemented	Areas Where Measures would be Implemented
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimize Impacts of Alignments, Roads, Staging Areas—Staging areas for construction equipment, supplies, personnel parking, and other ancillary functions shall be designed and maintained with the goal of minimizing impacts to native plant communities and sensitive biological resources Cover Open Trenches—Open trenches or other holes (e.g., HDD boring holes) created during construction that may entrap wildlife would be covered at the end of the workday Trash/Debris—Trash and food items including wrappers, cans, bottles, and all food scraps would be contained in closed containers in a manner that wildlife cannot access and removed daily to reduce attractiveness to opportunistic predators. Feeding of wildlife is strictly prohibited Special-Status Species Sightings—If any potential special-status species is observed near a work area, work would halt, and the animal would be allowed to leave on its own volition before work commences. Under no circumstances should crew members encourage the departure of the animal Pets/Firearms—Pets and firearms shall be prohibited from the construction site. If guard dogs are to be used, the contractor shall ensure that such animals do not affect any special-status species 	
BMP BIO-2	SWPPP	<p>To minimize the potential for stormwater runoff to waters and wetlands within the Project area, an SWPPP would be prepared and implemented. The SWPPP would include, at a minimum:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identification of potential sources of pollutants and toxic materials; Identification of BMPs for storm water contact minimization, construction material distribution and access, equipment storage, vehicle maintenance, and cleaning areas; Erosion and sediment control measures for wet- and dry-season activities; Temporary and permanent erosion control techniques, sediment control on public roads, wind erosion, and non-stormwater management techniques; and Waste management/disposal methods. 	Project-wide, where and when applicable
BMP BIO-3	SPPP	<p>To minimize the potential for accidental spill or pollutant discharge (i.e., fuels and lubricants used in Project equipment) into waters or wetlands within the Project area, Vero would prepare an SPPP and would implement the BMPs specified in the plan. The SPPP would include, at a minimum:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Measures to ensure that petroleum products are not discharged into drainages or bodies of water; 	Project-wide, where and when applicable

TABLE E AVOIDANCE AND MINIMIZATION MEASURES (AMMS) AND BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (BMPs)			
ID	Subject	Measure to be Implemented	Areas Where Measures would be Implemented
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A description of potentially hazardous and nonhazardous materials that could accidentally be spilled during construction (e.g., fuels, equipment lubricant, human waste and chemical toilets, bentonite, etc.), potential spill sources, potential spill causes, proper storage and transport methods, spill containment, spill recovery, agency notification, and responsible parties. Proper hazardous material storage procedures in staging areas (i.e., hazardous materials shall be stored in staging areas that are located at least 100 feet from ephemeral and intermittent streams and 300 feet from perennial streams, lakes, and wetlands); Proper refueling and vehicle maintenance procedures near waters or wetlands (i.e., these types of activities shall be performed at least 100 feet from ephemeral and intermittent streams and 300 feet from perennial streams, lakes, and wetlands); and Other BMPs that would protect waters and wetlands from accidental spills (i.e., sedimentation fences, certified weed-free hay bales, sand bags, water bars, and baffles). 	
BMP BIO-4	HDD FRAC-OUT Plan	<p>To protect waterways in the event of a frac-out during HDD activities, Vero would prepare and implement an HDD FRAC-OUT Plan. The HDD FRAC-OUT Plan would include, at a minimum:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring procedures during drilling operations, (i.e., the bore path and waterways would be visually inspected at all times during drilling operations in the event of frac-outs); Clean-up and containment procedures in the event of accidental drilling fluid spills; Detailed reporting procedures in the event of a drilling fluid release; and/or Specific response procedures in the event of a drilling fluid release. 	Project-wide, where and when applicable
BMP BIO-5	Hazardous Materials	Any soil bonding and weighting agents used on unpaved surfaces shall be non-toxic to wildlife and plants. If a leak or spill from fuels and lubricants enters or threatens to enter a stream crossed or immediately adjacent to the proposed Project ROW, response procedures specified in the SPPP would be implemented.	Project-wide, where and when applicable
BMP BIO-6	Air Quality/Dust Prevention	<p>For land preparation and excavation, the following dust control measures should be implemented:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All soil excavated or graded should be sufficiently watered to prevent excessive dust. Watering should occur as needed with complete coverage of disturbed soil areas. All clearing, grading, earth moving, and excavation activities should cease: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> During periods of winds greater than 20 miles per hour (mph) (averaged over one hour), if disturbed material is easily windblown, or When dust plumes of 40 percent or greater opacity impact public roads, occupied structures, or neighboring property. 	Project-wide, where and when applicable

TABLE E AVOIDANCE AND MINIMIZATION MEASURES (AMMS) AND BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (BMPS)			
ID	Subject	Measure to be Implemented	Areas Where Measures would be Implemented
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All fine material transported off-site should be either sufficiently watered or securely covered to prevent excessive dust Areas disturbed by clearing, earth-moving, or excavation activities should be minimized at all times Stockpiles of soil or other fine loose material shall be stabilized by watering or another appropriate method to prevent wind-blown, fugitive dust Where acceptable to the fire department, weed control should be accomplished by mowing instead of disking, thereby leaving the ground undisturbed and with a mulch covering Water applied to dirt roads and construction areas (trenches or spoil piles) for dust abatement shall use the minimal amount needed to meet safety and air quality standards in an effort to prevent the formation of puddles, which could attract special-status species to construction sites For building construction, the following dust control measures should be implemented: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Once initial leveling has ceased, all inactive soil areas within the construction site should either be seeded and watered until plant growth is evident, treated with a dust palliative, or watered sufficiently as to prevent excessive dust All active disturbed soil areas should be sufficiently watered to prevent excessive dust, but no less than twice per day 	
BMP BIO-7	Dewatering Activities	<p>For any dewatering activities, water would either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be discharged to a portable tank or other approved container and disposed of off-site in compliance with all applicable state and federal regulations and permit requirements; or Be discharged in upland areas away from aquatic resources in compliance with all applicable state and federal regulations and permit requirements. <p>Dewatering activities would adhere to all applicable BMPs outlined in the Project SWPPP to prevent any erosion and stormwater run-off from leaving the Construction Corridor. Dewatered sites would also be covered if left for an extended period of time to prevent wildlife entrapment.</p>	Project-wide, where and when applicable

Exhibit 8: Excerpt of Proposed Cultural Resources Testing Plan

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Cultural Resources Testing Plan for the Arcata-Samoa Beach Fiber Optic Project - FH1/FH2

Submitted by Vero Fiber Networks, LLC to the California Coastal Commission in support of the Coastal Development Plan

In support of their Arcata-Samoa Beach Fiber Optic Project - FH1/FH2, Vero Fiber Networks, LLC (Vero) submitted a Project Description to the California Coastal Commission for the Commission's review of a Coastal Development Plan (CDP) permit. The Project Description included a project cultural resources inventory report with archaeological and tribal monitoring and unanticipated discovery protocols (Loftus et al., 2020). Subsequently, the Tribal Historic Preservation Offices of the Blue Lake Rancheria Tribe, the Bear River Band of Rohnerville Rancheria, and the Wiyot Tribe – Table Bluff Reservation requested that some pre-construction testing be conducted. The purpose of this document is to describe these testing activities to assist the Coastal Commission in their review of Vero's CDP permit.

Project FH1/FH2 was designed so that no vaults or other surface disturbance would be placed within previously identified archaeological site areas, designated as Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESAs). However, due to the presence of historically shifting dune formations, the exact extent or depth of these sites or the presence of additional unknown, buried sites cannot be known for sure.

Native American village sites in Humboldt County, including known Wiyot villages, are characterized by unique soil profiles. These typically consist of lenses of grayish-colored sands formed from the long-term accumulation of charcoal, decomposed vegetation, and animal fats, interspersed with broken shell, charcoal fragments, animal bones, lithics, and other artifacts (Loud 1918; Erlandson 1994; Tushingham 2016). These lenses are visibly different from the lighter-colored natural sand deposits and can be identified during excavation, testing, boring, or augering activities. There is also evidence that past catastrophic tsunami events (including one in 1700) greatly impacted Native American occupation of the coastal regions of Humboldt County. Evidence of these tsunami events may be identified during the testing effort (Patton 2005).

Monitoring during construction, while useful, raises safety issues and can adversely affect a project's schedule if discoveries are made. Traditional pre-construction excavation and testing are not only labor-intensive and time-consuming, but they can also result in substantial environmental damage to the site. Archaeologists must balance the need to collect enough data to reduce uncertainty with the need to limit data collection costs. Soil augering allows subsurface deposits to be examined with a moderate amount of effort and far less destruction to the site. Conducting the augering prior to construction at a specific location allows areas to be cleared in advance; if cultural resources are identified, sufficient time is allowed to alter the project design or apply other mitigation actions. For Project FH1/FH2, testing will be carried out under the CALTRANS Construction Encroachment permit, but prior to vault excavation. Auguring will occur subsequent to the proposed biological surveys and flagging of sensitive biological resource areas and a biological monitor will be present where the auguring occurs adjacent to Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Areas (ESHA). Testing equipment, equipment operator, protective fencing, and traffic control will be provided by Vero.

Augering will be conducted using a six-inch screw auger attached to a mini excavator (Figure 1) or to a rubber-tired backhoe. This would allow testing the entire vertical area of potential effect (APE), to a depth of ten feet. Each testing location will be placed at the upper elevation extant of a proposed vault (i.e., farthest away from the road hardtop). This is where buried archaeological deposits are more likely

Exhibit 8: Excerpt of Proposed Cultural Resources Testing Plan

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to be intact and would also allow augering farther from the road prism. Testing adjacent to wetlands or other areas of biological concern would only occur if and where Vero receives a temporary easement.



Figure 1 A mini-excavator with 6-inch screw auger.

Test augering would occur in 50-cm (20-inch) increments, after which the auger would be retracted and the soil “spun off” onto a tarp. This soil would be carefully examined by the archaeological and tribal monitors for evidence of archaeological deposits before the next level was augered. Soils and any artifacts and other cultural constituents identified would be photographed, and recorded for soil color, constitution, lens thickness and depth, and moisture level. Evidence of past tsunami events, such as buried peat deposits, will be recorded and it is hoped Jason Patton, a local geomorphologist, will be available to help interpret the testing results. Any artifacts identified would be collected for examination by the THPOs; these would later be reburied in the vicinity of the line by them. Afterwards, the loose soil would be shoveled back into the auger hole and tamped down. If the results are inconclusive, additional test augering may be placed within the same vault footprint. If there is positive evidence of buried cultural deposits, CALTRANS, Tribal representatives, and Vero will be notified per the Discovery Plan. The California Coastal Commission will be notified if the archeological test results are positive and a vault location is moved to avoid impacts to archeological resources. This will allow for confirmation that the new vault location will not adversely impact other coastal resources. Additional auger testing would then be implemented at increments (i.e., of 20 feet) in one or both directions along the alignment until all interested parties agree a new, usable vault location has been identified.

In December 2019 and again in February 2021, after driving the FH1/FH2 project alignment with the THPOs and observing each proposed vault location, the Tribes determined eight of the proposed vaults nearest to four previously recorded sites along the Samoa Peninsula (Loud 1918) should be tested prior to construction. In addition, two separate points of concern at locations away from proposed vaults but near to suspected site locations, should be auger tested. One of these is located near to site Loud 27 on the peninsula and the other is near site Loud 39 within the City of Arcata (Loud 1918). All of these testing locations will be monitored by a Tribal monitor and by an archaeologist who meets the Secretary

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of the Interior's standards for professional archaeologists and has experience in identifying human remains.

The remaining 63 vault locations proposed for the Samoa Peninsula were carefully examined by Transcon Environmental archaeologists. Thirty-eight of these were determined to have an extremely low potential for buried deposits because they are within road fill, at the base of extremely deep road cuts, or on the Pacific Ocean side of the peninsula. The remaining 25 vault locations are within natural soil deposits on the Bay side of the peninsula, but where no archaeological sites have been previously identified. A subset of these vault locations may also be subjected to auger testing based on the results of the testing at the initial ten locations and following consultation with CALTRANS and the Tribes.

Each of these known and possible testing locations is described in Table 1 and shown on Figure 2.

TABLE 1 Vault and Testing Locations

Vault Number	Condition	Action
<i>FH1- (west side)</i>		
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