5. Other Required CEQA Topics

5.1 Effects Not Found to be Significant

Analysis was performed as part of the Initial Study prior to the preparation of this EIR to determine potential significant environmental effects resulting from the proposed Project. The following impacts were determined not to be significant. Please see Appendix A*, NOP and Initial Study,* for the full analysis.

Table 5-1. Effects Not Found to be Significant

Initial Study Checklist Questions	Conclusion
Aesthetics	
Would the project substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a State scenic highway?	There are no State scenic highways within the City of Hermosa Beach.
Agriculture and Forestry Resources	
Would the project convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as Shown on the Maps Prepared Pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program (FMMP) of the California Resources Agency, to Non-agricultural use?	There are no agricultural uses or Farmland within the City of Hermosa Beach.
Would the project conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?	The Project is not located on or near land zoned for agricultural use or lands under a Williamson Act Contract.
Would the project conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g))?	The proposed Project is not located on or near forest land, timberland, or timberland zoned Timberland Production.
Would the project result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	The Project is not located on or near forest lands. The Project would not involve the conversion of forest land to non-forest use.
Would the project involve other changes in the existing environment, which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural use	The Project is not located on or near Farmland, nor would involve in the conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural use.
Air Quality	
Would the project create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?	The Project would not involve the construction of facility normally associated with odor complaints, such as landfills, agricultural uses, food processing plants, chemical plants, dairies, etc.
Geology and Soils	
Would the project expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault?	The Project is not located within an Alquist-Priolo zone.

Table 5-1. Effects Not Found to be Significant	
Initial Study Checklist Questions	Conclusion
Would the project have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater	The Project would not include any facilities requiring wastewater or sewage disposal and would, therefore, not require a wastewater disposal system.
Hazards and Hazardous Materials	
Would the project be located on a site that is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?	There are no listed hazardous waste sites located within the incorporated limits of Hermosa Beach. Therefore, the Project would not be located on a listed site.
For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?	The Project is not located within an airport land use plan or within two miles of an airport.
For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?	There are no private airstrips in the vicinity of the Project.
Would the project expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands?	The Project location is in an urbanized environment and is not located in close proximity any wildlands.
Hydrology and Water Quality	
Would the project place housing within a 100-year floodplain, as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map?	The Project does not include and would not induce the construction of any housing.
Would the project place within a 100-year floodplain structures that would impede or redirect flood flows?	The Project would be designed with industry standard BMPs to withstand potential hazards associated with a 100-year flood event and the Project would not divert flows.
Would the project expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam?	There are no levees or dams in the vicinity of the Project that could fail and cause flooding.
Would the project expose people or structures to significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?	The Project location is in a region not subject to inundation by seiche or mudflow. The Project would not expose people to inundation by tsunami.
Land Use and Planning	
Would the project physically divide an established community?	The fiber-optic cable would be buried and out of sight and would not physically divide any part of the community
Would the project conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan?	The proposed alignment would not pass through any Marine Protected Areas offshore. No habitat conservation plans or habitat plans have been identified for the terrestrial portion of the Project.
Mineral Resources	
Would the project result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the State?	There are no known mineral resources located within the City of Hermosa Beach or along the proposed offshore cable alignments.
Would the project result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan, or other land use plan?	No mineral resources have been identified by the City of Hermosa Beach's General Plan at the Project site or the immediate vicinity.
Noise	
For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose	The closest airport is Los Angeles International Airport, located approximately 5 miles north of the Project area.

Table 5-1. Effects Not Found to be Significant	
Initial Study Checklist Questions	Conclusion
people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	
For a project within the vicinity of a private air strip, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	There are no private airstrips in the vicinity of the Project.
Population and Housing	
Would the project induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?	The Project does not propose housing and will not induce the need for housing. The Project would not generate a permanent increase in population levels
Would the project displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	Implementation of the Project would not result in the displacement of housing, nor would it necessitate the construction of replacement housing.
Would the project displace substantial numbers of people necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	The Project would be installed at locations without existing housing and would not necessitate the displacement of people or necessitate the construction of new housing elsewhere.
Would the project have a substantial disproportionate adverse effect on a minority or low-income population?	The U.S. Census tracts in which the Project is located do not have a minority population greater the Los Angeles County as a whole. The Project would be constructed within U.S census tracts that have a lower percentage of low-income population than Los Angeles County as a whole.
Public Services	
Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for schools?	No new or substantially altered school facilities would be required to serve the Project.
Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for parks?	No new or substantially altered park facilities would be required to serve the Project.
Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for other public Facilities?	The Project's effect on other types of public facilities is expected to be minimal and will neither substantially affect public facilities nor create the need for any new or altered public facilities.
Recreation	
Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities, which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?	The Project does not include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities.
Transportation and Traffic	
Would the project result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks?	No airport are located nearby and due to the subsurface nature of the Project components, the Project would have

Table 5-1. Effects Not Found to be Significant	
Initial Study Checklist Questions	Conclusion
	no effect on air traffic patterns nor result in a change in air traffic levels that could result in a substantial safety risk.
Utilities and System Services	
Would the project require, or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?	No new or expanded water or wastewater facilities would be required for the Project.
Would the project require, or result in the construction of, new stormwater drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?	The Project would not generate additional stormwater runoff nor alter stormwater drainage patterns. Therefore, the Project would not require the construction of new or expanded stormwater facilities.
Would the project result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider that serves or may serve the proposed project that it has adequate capacity to serve the proposed project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?	The Project would not generate a substantial amount of wastewater. The Project will identify the wastewater treatment provider which can accommodate the additional volume.
Would the project comply with federal, State, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	The Project is not expected to result in any violations of applicable regulations related to solid waste.

In addition to the less-than-significant effects identified in the Initial Study, the impact analyses in Chapter 3 of this EIR concluded that additional impacts resulting from Project implementation would not be significant. These are effects that the Initial Study determined might be significant and needed to receive further evaluation in the EIR; however, after analysis, the EIR concluded that these impacts would not be significant. The less-than-significant impacts identified in the EIR include the following:

Impact A-2: *Construction of the buried conduit system and PFE facilities would temporarily degrade the visual quality of the surrounding areas.*

Impact A-3: *Off-shore construction activities would temporarily degrade the visual quality and views of the Pacific Ocean*

Impact AQ-2: *If marine cable repairs are required during Project operations, repair activities would generate criteria pollutant emissions.*

Impact AQ-3: *Project construction would expose local receptors to pollutant emissions.*

Impact AQ-4: *Project operation would expose local receptors to pollutant emissions.*

Impact AQ-5: *Project construction, operation, and decommissioning emissions would generate air toxic pollutant emissions.*

Impact AQ-6: *Project construction, operation, and decommissioning emissions would present a risk of infection from exposure to Valley Fever.*

Impact AQ-7: *Objectionable odors would be created during Project construction, operation, and decommissioning.*

Impact BIO-4: *Marine cable installation and repair would result in disturbance to Essential Fish Habitat and Cow Cod Conservation Area.*

Impact BIO-5: *Marine cable installation and repair in soft-bottom areas would result in disturbance of benthic organisms.*

Impact BIO-7: *Marine cable installation and repair would result in the temporary suspension of sediments and increased turbidity, which would affect filter-feeding organisms or cause disturbance to benthic organisms.*

Impact BIO-8: *Marine cable installation and repair could disturb contaminated sediments and result in the dispersal and potential uptake of these contaminants by benthic and pelagic organisms.*

Impact BIO-9: *Vessel movement and noise could temporarily disturb marine mammals in the area.*

Impact GEO-1: *Marine construction could disturb unique geologic features*

Impact GEO-2: *Terrestrial construction could result in erosion*

Impact GEO-5: *Expansive soils could damage terrestrial Project components.*

Impact GHG-1: *The Project would directly and indirectly generate GHG emissions during construction and operation.*

Impact HAZ-2: *Laying marine cable could potentially disturb sediments that contain contaminants.*

Impact HWQ-4: *The Project could encounter and discharge shallow contaminated groundwater during construction.*

Impact LU-4: *Construction activities for installation of the terrestrial conduit system would temporarily disrupt established recreation activities along the Greenbelt and Ardmore Park*

Impact TT-7: *Cable-laying activities could inadvertently restrict the movements of Coast Guard or lifeguard vessels such that there would be no reasonable alternative access routes available.*

5.2 Unavoidable Significant Adverse Effects

The impact analysis presented in Chapter 4 disclosed the environmental impacts of the proposed Project, including adverse impacts that would remain significant even with the implementation of feasible mitigation measures. Below is a list of the adverse impacts identified and described in Chapter 4 that are significant and unavoidable (Class I).

Impact A-1: *Construction activities at the cable landing sites would temporarily degrade the visual quality of the surrounding areas.*

Impact A-5: *During construction, the cable landing sites would obstruct scenic views of the beach and coastline.*

Impact AQ-1: *Project construction emissions would exceed SCAQMD regional criteria pollutant emissions thresholds.*

Impact CR-2: *Project-related ground disturbance could encounter unknown buried archaeological or ethnographic historical resources, potentially resulting in an adverse change in the significance of those resources.*

Impact CR-3: *Project-related ground-disturbing activities have the potential to uncover buried prehistoric or historic unique archaeological resources, potentially resulting in an adverse change in the significance of those resources.*

Impact CR-4: *Excavation associated with Project construction could result in the destruction of scientifically important paleontological resources.*

Impact CR-5: *Project ground-disturbing activities could result in the disturbance or destruction of human remains.*

Impact LU-5: *The proposed Project would conflict with applicable policies or regulations.*

Impact N-2: *Construction activities would result in a temporary increase (more than 3 dBA Leq) over the lowest hourly ambient levels at residential uses.*

Impact N-3: *Construction activities would result in a temporary increase (more than 5 dBA Leq) over the lowest hourly ambient levels at non-residential sensitive receptors.*

Impact TT-10: *Cable laying and plowing could create a temporary navigational hazard to marine traffic within the marine area.*

5.3 Growth-Inducing Impacts

Background

In accordance with Section 15126.2(d) of the CEQA Guidelines, an EIR must "discuss the ways in which the proposed project could foster economic or population growth, or the construction of additional housing, either directly or indirectly, in the surrounding environment." In addition, when discussing growth-inducing impacts of a proposed project, "it must not be assumed that growth in any area is necessarily beneficial, detrimental, or of little significance to the environment" (Section 15126.2(d) of the CEQA Guidelines). Two issues must be considered when assessing the growth-inducing impacts of a project:

- **Elimination of Obstacles to Population Growth.** The extent to which additional infrastructure capacity or a change in regulatory structure would allow additional development in the City and region.
- **Promotion of Economic Growth.** The extent to which a project can cause increased activity in the local or regional economy. Economic impacts can include direct effects, such as the direction and strategies implemented within the area of a project, and indirect or secondary impacts, such as increased commercial activity needed to serve the population growth forecasts for the project area.

Elimination of Obstacles to Population Growth

The elimination of either physical or regulatory obstacles to population growth is considered to be a growth-inducing impact. A physical obstacle to population growth typically involves the lack of critical public service infrastructure. The extension of critical public service infrastructure, including roadways, water mains, and sewer lines, into areas that currently do not have these services is expected to support new development. However, the proposed Project would not remove any obstacle to growth

as it does not include the extension of any critical public service infrastructures. While the project does include the extension of telecommunication infrastructure, these services would not remove obstacles to growth because telecommunication infrastructure is already present in the region.

Promotion of Economic Growth

The proposed Project would result in direct economic impacts to the City through employment and the local purchase of some construction materials, as well as secondary impacts from the purchases of goods and services by those employed to construct the proposed Project. However, the proposed Project would not directly or indirectly promote sufficient economic growth to result in a population that would exceed the projections of the Southern California Association of Governments. Fewer than 10 workers on average would be required to construct the Project (most of whom are expected to reside in the County), and construction for each phase would be completed within a four week period for each phase. Maintenance of the proposed Project after completion of the proposed Project would be performed by operation and maintenance employees employed by the applicant and would not require additional staffing.

5.4 Significant Irreversible Environmental Changes

Section 15126.2(c) of the State CEQA Guidelines defines an irreversible impact as an impact that uses nonrenewable resources during the initial and continued phases of the Project. Irretrievable commitments of resources should be evaluated to assure that such consumption is justified. Irreversible impacts can also result from permanent loss of habitat, damage caused by environmental accidents associated with Project construction, or operational resource use.

Construction of the proposed Project would consume nonrenewable resources during construction. This includes use of fossil fuels and construction materials that cannot be recycled at the end of the Project's useful lifetime and may be abandoned in place. Energy would also be required for the production of Project materials and components. During Project operation, small amounts of oil, gas, and other nonrenewable resources would be consumed for inspection, maintenance, and repairs. Energy would be required to operate the telecommunication cables, primarily electrical power for signal generation and amplification. Electrical power would likely be generated from a mix of renewable and nonrenewable sources. On an emergency basis, backup power would be generated at the PFE facilities using fossil fuel. Therefore, an irreversible commitment of relatively small amounts of nonrenewable resources would occur as a result of long-term Project operation. The anticipated equipment, vehicles, and materials required for construction of the proposed Project are detailed in Chapter 2 (Project Description).

Construction and operation of the proposed Project would require the use of a limited amount of hazardous materials such as fuel, lubricants, and cleaning solvents. Additionally, during Project construction and operation, there is a possibility that pre-existing soil contamination could be encountered. All hazardous materials used in construction and operation would be stored, handled, and used in accordance with applicable federal, State, and local regulations. The applicant would be required to develop and comply with an Emergency Response Plan and a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan, as well as implement best management practices (BMPs). Compliance with existing regulations and appropriate implementation of BMPs, as well as mitigation measures recommended in Section 3.7 (Hazards and Hazardous Materials), would reduce the potential for accidents associated environmental damage. Such incidents are is not expected to cause irreversible damage.

Implementation of the Project would not result in any permanent loss of natural habitat. It also would not result any conversion of agricultural land to other uses. Assuming implementation of the mitigation measures recommended in this EIR, construction-related effects on habitat, including hard-bottom marine habitat, would be offset by mitigation and all affected areas would recover from disturbance over time.

Resources that would be consumed as a result of Project implementation include water, electricity, and fossil fuels during construction and operation; however, the amount and rate of consumption of these resources would not result in significant environmental impacts or the unnecessary, inefficient, or wasteful use of resources. Compliance with all applicable codes and regulations, as well as mitigation measures identified in this EIR, would ensure that all natural resources are conserved to the greatest practical extent.

5.5 Energy Conservation

In 1975, Assembly Bill 1575 was adopted by the State Legislature, creating the California Energy Commission (CEC) and amending Public Resources Code Section 21100(b)(3) to require EIRs to examine the wasteful, inefficient, and unnecessary consumption of energy caused by a project. In response, the State Resources Agency created Appendix F of the State CEQA Guidelines to provide guidance on completing this determination. This section includes a discussion to complete the required examination required by the State CEQA Guidelines, Appendix F.

The purpose of the proposed Transpacific Fiber-Optic Cables Project is to provide telecommunication facilities necessary to interconnect and increase interconnectivity between the Los Angeles Basin and Asian and other countries. One objective of the proposed Project is provide for a more streamlined ability for telecommunications connectivity to the Los Angeles basin and Pacific Rim cities and countries. Telecommunication projects typically do not involve the use of fossil fuels, such as natural gas, for generation of electricity. The nature of the proposed Project increases the opportunities for utilizing telecommunications for business and personal use, thereby reducing travel emissions and providing additional opportunities for reducing energy intense cross-Pacific communication.

Implementation of the proposed Project or any of the alternatives would result in the consumption of energy through fuel needed for construction activities. Fuel would be needed for construction vehicles, construction equipment, construction operations, and helicopter use. Additionally, construction would require the manufacture of new materials, some of which would not be recyclable at the end of the proposed Project's lifetime, and the energy required for the production of these materials would also result in an irretrievable commitment of natural resources. The anticipated equipment, vehicles, and materials required for construction of the proposed Project are detailed in Chapter 2 (Description of the Proposed Project).

Several local policies exist that require energy efficiency measures be employed for projects within each plan's jurisdiction. These include the City of Hermosa Beach Municipal Code, City of Hermosa Beach Sustainability Plan, and City of Hermosa Beach Permit Processing and Rebates. MC Global BP4 would improve energy efficiency by demonstrating compliance with these procedures. Furthermore, to meet air quality requirements and save fuel for economic gain, it is to the advantage of MC Global BP4 to implement energy efficiency and fuel use reduction measures for all on-site equipment.

In summary, no increases in inefficiencies or unnecessary energy consumption are expected to occur as a direct or indirect consequence of the Project. Therefore, no mitigation measures are proposed beyond the policies and procedures set by other entities that already exist.