
State Water Resources Control Board

Public Notice of Application for Water Quality Certification and Waste Discharge Requirements for the AT&T Japan-U.S. Cable Network Decommissioning Project

State Water Resources Control Board
Division of Water Quality
Water Quality Certification Program

Date Posted: May 15 2025

Affected Counties: San Luis Obispo & Mendocino

The following information is provided in satisfaction of the public notice requirements of section 3858, title 23, of the California Code of Regulations, which governs the State's Water Quality Certification Program.

State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) staff are proposing to regulate this Project pursuant to section 401 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1341) and the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act. **Staff will consider all comments submitted in writing and received at this office during a 21-day comment period that begins on May 15, 2025 and ends at 5:00 p.m. on June 5, 2025.** To submit comments, or if you have questions, please contact the State Water Board staff person listed below.

State Water Resources Control Board Contact:

Chris Monary
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Project Name: AT&T Japan-U.S. Cable Network Decommissioning Project (SWRCB ID: SB25019IN)

Background: On March 20, 2025, AT&T Enterprises, LLC submitted a complete application for Clean Water Act section 401 water quality certification for the AT&T Japan-U.S. Cable Network Decommissioning Project.

Project Description: AT&T Enterprises, LLC is proposing to decommission and remove portions of the Japan to U.S. Segments S8 and S9 of the submarine fiber optic telecommunication cable system. The removal of the cable segments will be from their U.S. shore landings to the end of burial depth at the 1,000-fathom contour.

The S9 cable segment runs offshore between two shore landings in Montana de Oro State Park, San Luis Obispo County and Manchester State Park, Mendocino County. The S8 cable segment runs between Manchester and Japan.

Impacts from cable removal activities will be limited to temporary increases in turbidity. Passive restoration is proposed, because ocean currents in the project area are expected to naturally settle suspended sediment without the need for further restoration.

Table 1: Total Project Temporary and Permanent Impacts to Waters of the State.

Aquatic Resource type	Ocean/Bay
Acres of temporary impact	1.46
Linear feet of temporary impact	92,390
Acres of permanent impact	0
Linear feet of permanent impact	0

A Certification or Denial will be prepared by the State Water Board for the AT&T Japan-U.S. Cable Network Decommissioning Project in response to this application.

Applicant: AT&T Enterprises, LLC

Applicant Contact: Michaela Craighead, Senior Project Manager/Marine Biologist

Telephone: (805) 786-2650 ext. 147

Email: mcraighead@padreinc.com

Date of Complete Application Submittal: March 20, 2025

Note: No regulatory decision on the application is implied or intended in this public notice.

Pursuant to federal law (title 33, United States Code, section 1341; Clean Water Act section 401), applicants for a federal license or permit for activities which may discharge to waters of the United States must seek water quality certification (Certification) from the state or Indian tribe with jurisdiction. Such Certification is based on a finding that the discharge will meet water quality standards and other applicable requirements. In California, Regional Water Quality Control Boards (Regional Water Boards) issue or deny Certification for discharges within their geographical jurisdiction. The State Water Board has this responsibility for projects affecting waters within multiple Regional Water Board jurisdictions.

KEEP INFORMED OF PROJECT MILESTONES

To be informed of milestones in the development of this proposed Certification, any interested persons should enroll in the State Water Board's 401 Program e-mail notification service.

Click the Submit button after entering a valid email address under the Subscribe to the 401 Water Quality Certification and Wetland Program Email List banner on the 401 Program webpage at:

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/cwa401/

By enrolling in this list, you will receive notices for all current Certification applications, including the Project announced in this notice. You will need a valid e-mail address to use this service. If you do not have internet access or do not wish to participate in the email notification service, contact the staff person named in the notice to express your interest in receiving notices by other means. You can enroll or un-enroll at any time.