Decision 26-09-051 September 17, 2026

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Application of Charter Fiberlink CA-CCO, LLC (U-6878-C) to expand its existing Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to provide limited facilities-based telecommunications service in the service territory of CenturyTel of Eastern Oregon, LLC.	Application 25-07-012

DECISION GRANTING CHARTER FIBERLINK CA-CCO, LLC A CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY TO EXPAND THE TERRITORIAL SCOPE OF ITS CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY TO INCLUDE THE SERVICE TERRITORY OF CENTURYTEL OF EASTERN OREGON, LLC

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Summary

This decision approves Charter Fiberlink CA-CCO LLC's application to modify its existing certificate of public convenience and necessity to expand its service area and provide limited facilities-based telecommunication services within areas of the state of California that are currently part of the service territory of CenturyTel of Eastern Oregon, LLC subject to the terms and conditions set forth in the Ordering Paragraphs.

Application 25-07-012 is closed.

1. Background

On May 6, 2004, Charter Fiberlink CA-CCO, LLC (U-6878-C) (Charter Fiberlink) was granted a certificate of public convenience and necessity (CPCN) to provide limited facilities-based and resold local exchange and telecommunications services within the service territories of Pacific Bell Telephone Company dba AT&T California (U1001C) (AT&T California), Frontier California, Inc. (U1002C) (Frontier California), Consolidated Communications of CA Company (U1015C) (Consolidated Communications), and Citizens Telecommunications Company of CA, Inc d/b/a Frontier Communications of California (U1024C) (Frontier Communications).[1]

On July 18, 2025, Charter Fiberlink filed this application to expand its service area to provide limited facilities-based telecommunication services within

[1] *See* Re Charter Fiberlink CA-CCO, LLC, D.04-05-011 (Charter Fiberlink CPCN). The initial decision granting Charter Fiberlink a CPCN is also included as part of "Attachment A – Certificates."

areas of the state of California that are currently part of the service territory of CenturyTel of Eastern Oregon, LLC (CenturyTel).[2] No responses or protests to the Application or amendment have been filed, therefore the Application is uncontested.

Charter Fiberlink's principal place of business is located at 12405 Powerscourt Drive, St. Louis, Missouri 63131.

On August 27, 2025, Charter Fiberlink filed an Amended Application to clearly identify and publicly disclose items of the confidential explanation of exceptions that are publicly available, while separately marking "confidential" items concerning past investigations by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), and state regulatory or law enforcement agencies regarding aspects of Charter Fiberlink's or their affiliate businesses, which were resolved.

On September 11, 2025, the assigned Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) issued a Ruling Setting Virtual Prehearing Conference (PHC), and a PHC was held on September 29, 2025, to address the issues of law and fact, determine the need for hearing, set the schedule for resolving the matter, and address other matters as necessary.

On December 15, 2025, the assigned ALJ issued a Ruling Requesting Additional Information, to which Charter Fiberlink responded on December 31, 2025.

On January 13, 2026, the assigned ALJ issued a Ruling Requesting Additional Information, to which Charter Fiberlink responded on February 2, 2026.

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[2] *See* Charter Fiberlink Response to ALJ Inquiry dated February 2, 2026, which identifies the New Pine Creek exchange area as the expanded service area.

On April 17, 2026, the Assigned Commissioner's Scoping Memo and Ruling was issued to set forth the issues, need for hearing, schedule, category, and other matters necessary to scope this proceeding pursuant to Public Utilities Code (Pub. Util. Code) Section 1701.1 and Article 7 of the California Public Utilities Commission's (Commission) Rules of Practice and Procedure (Rules).

2. Submission Date

This matter was submitted on April 17, 2026, upon the assigned Commissioner's issuance of the Scoping Memo and Ruling.

3. Issues Before the Commission

The issues to be determined or otherwise considered are:

1. Whether modification of Charter Fiberlink's service area meets all of the Commission requirements, including but not limited to public purpose program surcharge and user fee reporting and payment obligations; and
2. Whether modification of Charter Fiberlink's service area is compliant with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements for a CPCN.

4. Jurisdiction

The Commission has broad jurisdiction over "public utilities," as defined in Public Utilities (Pub. Util.) Code Section 216.[3] California's Constitution extends the Commission's jurisdiction to companies engaged in "the transmission of telephone and telegraph messages," which includes both public utility services and facilities.[4] The Commission classifies entities providing

[3] Pub. Util. Code §§ 216, 234.

[4] *See* Decision (D.) 20-07-011, at 14-15; Cal. Const., art. XII, §§ 1-6; Pub. Util. Code § 701.

two-way voice communications service for compensation within California as "telephone corporations,"[5] and regulates them as public utilities.[6]

As part of its regulatory authority over "telephone corporations," the Commission authorizes certificates of public convenience and necessity to "telephone corporations" seeking to construct a "line, plant, or system, or any extension thereof" in California.[7]

Charter Fiberlink proposes to expand the territorial scope of its CPCN to include the New Pine Creek exchange area of CenturyTel.[8] This expansion is subject to the Commission's jurisdiction.

5. Proposed Construction and California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Compliance

Charter Fiberlink's construction activity in its expanded service area will be consistent with the "limited facilities-based authority" that it currently holds elsewhere in the state, *i.e.*, its construction activities will be limited to installation of equipment in existing buildings or structures. Should the construction of new facilities become necessary or desirable, Charter Fiberlink will seek to expand the scope of its authority accordingly. Because Charter Fiberlink states that it does not intend to construct any facilities other than equipment to be installed in existing buildings or structures, there is no indication that this application involves a "project" within the meaning of CEQA, as the activities described in the application are not expected to cause a direct or indirect physical change to the environment.

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[5] Pub. Util. Code §§ 216, 233, 234; D.22-10-021 at 68.

[6] Pub. Util. Code § 216(a). Telephone corporations are required to file annual affiliate transaction reports and pay surcharges and user fees.

[7] Pub. Util. Code § 1001.

[8] *See* Charter Fiberlink February 2, 2026 Response to ALJ Inquiry at 1.

6. Financial Qualifications

To be granted a CPCN for authority to provide limited facilities-based services, an applicant with profitable interstate operations may demonstrate that it has a minimum of $100,000 cash or cash equivalent, reasonably liquid and readily available to meet the firm's start-up expenses.[9] In D.04-05-011, the Commission previously determined that Charter Fiberlink possesses cash or cash equivalents that are reasonably liquid and available. Therefore, Charter Fiberlink's financial documentation under its existing CPCN certificate covers the expansion of its territory sought in this Application.

7. Technical Qualifications

To be granted a CPCN, an applicant must make a reasonable showing of managerial and technical expertise in telecommunications or a related business.[10] In D.04-05-011, the Commission previously determined that Charter Fiberlink management possess sufficient managerial, technical expertise, and training to operate as a telecommunications provider. In addition, as part of its Application, Charter Fiberlink included Attachment C-1 (names and addresses of the key management and technical personnel and owners of Charter Fiberlink CA-CCO, LLC.) and Attachment C-2 (biographies of such personnel), which demonstrate that Charter Fiberlink's existing personnel have managerial and technical expertise.

Therefore, Charter Fiberlink satisfies this requirement — Charter Fiberlink's personnel have managerial and technical expertise in

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[9] The financial requirement for CLECs, NDIECs, and fixed interconnected VoIP providers is contained in D.24-11-003, Appendix F.

[10] D.95-12-056 at Appendix C, Rule 4.A as modified by D.13-05-035 and D.24-11-003.

telecommunications or a related business, which covers the expansion of its territory sought in this Application.

8. Certification Requirements

Charter Fiberlink's Attachment D to its Application is a sworn affidavit signed by Jamal H. Haughton, the Executive Vice President, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary of its parent company, Charter Communications, Inc. He certifies that (with the exception of items noted in Exhibit A to Attachment D), no one associated with or employed by Charter Fiberlink as an affiliate, officer, director, partner, or owner of more than 10 percent of Charter Fiberlink, or anyone acting in a management capacity for Charter Fiberlink (a) held one of these positions with a company that filed for bankruptcy; (b) been personally found liable, or held one of these positions with a company that has been found liable, for fraud, dishonesty, failure to disclose, or misrepresentations to consumers or others; (c) been convicted of a felony; (d) been (to his/her knowledge) the subject of a criminal referral by judge or public agency; (e) had a telecommunications license or operating authority denied, suspended, revoked, or limited in any jurisdiction; (f) personally entered into a settlement, or held one of these positions with a company that has entered into settlement of criminal or civil claims involving violations of [Sections] 17000 *et seq.,* [Sections] 17200 *et seq*., or [Sections] 17500 *et seq*. of the California Business & Professions Code, or of any other statute, regulation, or decisional law relating to fraud, dishonesty, failure to disclose, or misrepresentations to consumers or others; or (g) been found to have violated any statute, law, or rule pertaining to public utilities or other regulated industries; or (h) entered into any settlement agreements or made any voluntary payments or agreed to any other type of monetary forfeitures in resolution of any action by any regulatory body, agency, or attorney general.

On August 27, 2025, Charter Fiberlink filed an Amended Application. The Amended Application "more clearly identifies and publicly discloses items that are publicly available, while separately marking those items that are *not* publicly available in any format and therefore confidential."[11] It included information that was in Exhibit A to Attachment D of the Application that is both public and redacted.

The exceptions fall into three categories, corresponding with affirmations (b), (g), and (h) to the above referenced certification. It also provides an exception regarding investigations by the FCC.

As stated in D.13-05-035, applicants must disclose any exceptions to the certification requirements so that the Commission has the "relevant information to more thoroughly protect California consumers."[12] Specifically, the information applicants provide must "allow the Commission to do more thorough fiscal and civil responsibility checks."[13] Applicants who disclose exceptions may still be granted authority to operate in California.[14]

Here, the Commission has considered both the public disclosures listed above and the ones over which Charter Fiberlink asserts confidentiality. The Commission finds that Charter Fiberlink appropriately disclosed the exceptions to the Commission, brought the issues into compliance, and remains in compliance. These actions support granting the CPCN authority to expand Charter Fiberlink's service territory, although Charter Fiberlink disclosed

[11] Amended Application at 1.

[12] D.13-05-035 at 40.

[13] D.13-05-035 at 37.

[14] D.13-05-035 at 40.

exceptions to the certification requirements in D.13-05-035 and D.24-11-003. Charter Fiberlink provided the information necessary for the Commission to do a thorough fiscal and civil responsibility check, and the Commission finds that it is in the public interest to grant the requested service authority.

9. Tariffs

Competitive Local Exchange Carriers (CLECs), Interexchange Carriers (IEC) and fixed interconnected Voice Over Internet Protocol (VoIP) providers are required to file tariffs if they offer basic service as defined by D.12-12-038. In D.04-05-011, the Commission ordered that Charter Fiberlink is authorized to file tariff schedules for the provision of competitive local exchange services.[15] Charter Fiberlink confirms in their application that their current tariff would apply to service offered in the CenturyTel territory and is on file with the Commission.[16]

A tariff update is required to include Charter Fiberlink's expansion of its existing territory to include the New Pine exchange, which is currently part of the service territory of CenturyTel. Charter Fiberlink must file a tariff update by submitting a Tier 2 advice letter using the General Order (GO) 96-B advice letter process at least 30 days before initiation of service in the extended area requested in this proceeding.

10. Service Territory and Map Requirements

In D.04-05-011, the Commission previously granted Charter Fiberlink authority to operate within the state of California. By this Application, Charter Fiberlink proposes to extend its existing service territory to include the New Pine exchange, which is currently part of the service territory of CenturyTel. Charter

[15] D.04-05-011, OP 3 at 8.

[16] *See* Charter Fiberlink July 18, 2025 Application at 6.

Fiberlink provided a map of the extended service territory in its February 2, 2026 Response to ALJ Inquiry. Therefore, Charter Fiberlink has complied with this requirement.

11. Expected Customer Base

As stated in its Application to expand its service territory, Charter Fiberlink anticipates providing a connection between its interconnected VoIP service provider affiliate, Spectrum Advanced Services , LLC (U1158C) (Spectrum Advanced) and interexchange carriers seeking to terminate interconnected VoIP calls to customers served by Spectrum Advanced. In a response dated July 23, 2026, Charter Fiberlink provided its confidential estimated customer base for the first and fifth years of operation. Therefore, Charter Fiberlink has complied with this requirement.

12. Environmental and Social Justice Action Plan

On December 15, 2025, the assigned ALJ issued a ruling requiring that Charter Fiberlink explain how the authority sought is consistent with the Commission's Environmental and Social Justice (ESJ) Action plan. On December 21, 2025, Charter Fiberlink filed a response to an ALJ Inquiry and explained that Charter Fiberlink's expansion into the California service territory of CenturyTel, including Charter Fiberlink's provision of voice services in such territory, will not conflict with the nine goals of the Commission's ESJ Action Plan and will not have adverse economic or environmental impacts on any identified ESJ community. Additionally, Charter Fiberlink's expansion proposed in the Application will expand access to high quality voice services in the service territory of CenturyTel. Charter Fiberlink has long provided low-income customers with affordable voice services through the California LifeLine program, which it plans to continue to offer as part of its California service territory expansion.[17] Based on the information provided in the Application and Response to the ALJ Inquiry, this decision finds that approval of the Application is consistent with the Commission's ESJ goals.

13. Safety Considerations

With the adoption of the *Safety Policy Statement of the California Pub. Util. Commission* on July 10, 2014, the Commission has, among other things, heightened its focus on the potential safety implications of every proceeding. The Commission considered the potential safety implications here and is satisfied that Charter Fiberlink will meet the Commission's minimum safety goals and expectations because Charter Fiberlink already operates under a CPCN granted in D.04-05-011.

14. Conclusion

Charter Fiberlink is already authorized under D.04-05-011, to provide limited facilities-based telecommunication services in the service territories of AT&T California, Frontier California (U1002C), Consolidated Communications, and Frontier Communications. By this decision, the Commission grants Charter Fiberlink an extension of its service territory to include the New Pine exchanges operated within California by CenturyTel subject to compliance with the terms and conditions set forth in the Ordering Paragraphs.

The CPCN granted by this decision will benefit the public interest by expanding the availability of technologically advanced telecommunications services within the provides benefits to Charter Fiberlink and corresponding obligations. It also benefits Charter Fiberlink by granting authority to operate in the prescribed service territory, and this authority enables Charter Fiberlink,

[17] *See* Charter Fiberlink December 31, 2025 response to ALJ Inquiry on ESJ Action Plan.

pursuant to Section 251 of the 1934 Communications Act, as amended by the 1996 Telecommunications Act (47 U.S.C. Section 251), to interconnect with telecommunications carriers.

In return for this benefit, Charter Fiberlink is obligated to comply with all Pub. Util. Code provisions, Commission rules, GOs, and decisions applicable to telephone corporations providing approved services. The applicable statutes, rules, GOs, and decisions include, but are not limited to consumer protection rules, tariffing, and reporting requirements. Moreover, Charter Fiberlink is obligated to pay all Commission prescribed user fees and public purpose program surcharges as set forth in the Appendix B of this decision, to comply with CEQA, and to adhere to Pub. Util. Code Section 451 which states that every public utility "…shall furnish and maintain such adequate, efficient, just, and reasonable service, instrumentalities, equipment, and facilities, including telephone facilities, as defined in Section 54.1 of the Civil Code, as are necessary to promote the safety, health, comfort, and convenience of its patrons, employees, and the public."

15. Additional Requirements Following Commission's Grant of CPCN

The extension of CPCN authority granted in this decision is contingent upon Charter Fiberlink**'s** compliance with several requirements: (1) rendering service to customers within the extended service area within 12 months from the effective date of this decision; (2) using its assigned corporate identification number in the caption of all original filings with the Commission; (3) filing in this docket a written acceptance of the extension granted in this proceeding within 30 days of the effective date of this decision; (4) providing the name, address, e-mail address, and telephone number of any new designated primary regulatory/official contact person (if any) with respect to the new area to the Commission's Communications Division within five days of written acceptance of its certificate; (5) providing the name, address, e-mail address, and telephone number of any new designated contact person (if any) for purposes of resolving consumer complaints to the Commission's Consumer Affairs Branch within five days of written acceptance of its certificate; (6) providing the date that service is first rendered to the public within the new area, to the Commission's Director of the Communications Division, in writing, by email to cdcompliance@cpuc.ca.gov, no later than five days after service first begins; and (7) submitting its compliance with Pub. Util. Code Section 708, Employee Identification Cards, to the Commission's Director of the Communications Division, in writing, by email to cdcompliance@cpuc.ca.gov, within 60 days of the effective date of this decision. These requirements are in addition to Charter Fiberlink's ongoing obligation to be subject to all the current requirements applicable to competitive local exchange carriers, interexchange carriers, and VoIP providers included in Attachments B, C, and D to this decision (including annual affiliate transaction reports, ongoing performance bond requirements, and payment of surcharges and user fees); all Consumer Protection Rules contained in GO 168; and all applicable Commission rules, decisions, GOs, and statutes that pertain to California public utilities on an ongoing basis.

16. Confidential Treatment of Documents and Other Procedural Matters

Charter Fiberlink provided the following: (1) Exhibit A of Attachment D to the Application, which includes disclosures under subsections (b), (g), and (h) that relate to investigations involving Charter Fiberlink's affiliates, (2) an Amended Application, dated August 27, 2025, which more clearly identifies the disclosures under subsection (b), (g), and (h) over which Charter Fiberlink seeks confidential treatment; and (3) a Response to ALJ Inquiry, dated July 23, 2026, with the estimated number of customers in the first and fifth year of operation.

On July 18, 2025 and August 27, 2025, Charter Fiberlink filed Motions for Leave to File Under Seal the information in Exhibit A of Attachment D to the Application and redacted portions of the Amended Application.

The redacted information in the Amended Application is protected from disclosure under federal and state law. Accordingly, we grant the motion filed on August 27, 2025. Because Charter Fiberlink's request for confidential treatment in its July 18, 2025 motion is broader and includes both public information and the redacted information in the Amended Application, we grant the July 18, 2025 motion to the extent that it covers the redacted information sealed by granting the August 27, 2025 motion. D.24-11-003 granted presumptive confidential treatment over estimated customer counts.

The documents sealed are granted confidential treatment for a period of three years without the need to file a motion for confidential treatment of the aforementioned documents.[18] During this three-year period, this information shall not be publicly disclosed except on further Commission order or ALJ ruling. If Charter Fiberlink believes that it is necessary for this information to remain under seal for longer than three years, Charter Fiberlink may file a motion showing good cause for extending this order by no later than 30 days before the expiration of the grant of confidentiality.

All rulings by the assigned Commissioner and the assigned ALJ are affirmed.

[18] D.24-11-003 at 48-54; GO 66-D.

17. Summary of Public Comments

Rule 1.18 allows any member of the public to submit written comments in any Commission proceeding using the "Public Comment" tab of the online Docket Card for that proceeding on the Commission's website. Rule 1.18(b) requires that relevant written comments submitted in a proceeding be summarized in the final decision issued in that proceeding. No public comments have been submitted in this proceeding.

18. Comments on Draft Decision

This is an uncontested matter in which the decision grants the relief requested. Accordingly, pursuant to Section 311(g)(2) of the Pub. Util. Code and Rule 14.6(c)(2), the otherwise applicable 30-day period for public review and comment is waived.

19. Assignment of Proceeding

Karen Douglas is the assigned Commissioner and Patricia Miles is the assigned ALJ in this proceeding.

Findings of Fact

1. Charter Fiberlink is a Delaware limited liability company authorized to do business in California.

2. Charter Fiberlink's principal place of business is 12405 Powerscourt Drive, St. Louis, Missouri 63131.

3. Charter Fiberlink proposes to modify its existing CPCN authority to extend its coverage to include the New Pine exchanges which are currently part of the service territory of CenturyTel of Eastern Oregon, LLC..

4. Charter Fiberlink is a telephone corporation and a public utility as defined in Pub. Util. Code Sections 234(a) and 216(a).

5. Charter Fiberlink will not construct any facilities other than equipment to be installed in existing buildings or structures.

6. Granting this CPCN will expand the availability of technologically advanced telecommunications services within the state.

7. Granting Charter Fiberlink a CPCN to expand its service territory is in the public interest.

8. D.04-05-011 determined that Charter Fiberlink met the financial qualifications to provide services in California.

9. Charter Fiberlink's management possesses sufficient experience, knowledge, and technical expertise to provide telecommunication services within the expanded service area.

10. Charter Fiberlink cannot attest that no one associated with or employed by Charter Fiberlink as an affiliate, officer, director, partner, agent, or owner (directly or indirectly) of more than 10 percent of Charter Fiberlink, or anyone acting in a management capacity for Charter Fiberlink**:** (b) been personally found liable, or held one of these positions with a company that has been found liable, for fraud, dishonesty, failure to disclose, or misrepresentations to consumers or others; (g) been found to have violated any statute, law, or rule pertaining to public utilities or other regulated industries; or (h) entered into any settlement agreements or made any voluntary payments or agreed to any other type of monetary forfeitures in resolution of any action by any regulatory body, agency, or attorney general.

11. Charter Fiberlink cannot attest that, to the best of Charter Fiberlink's knowledge, neither Charter Fiberlink, or any affiliate, officer, director, partner, nor owner of more than 10 percent of Charter Fiberlink, or any person acting in such capacity whether or not formally appointed, is being, or has been investigated by the FCC or any law enforcement or regulatory agency for failure to comply with any law, rule or order.

12. Charter Fiberlink or its affiliates appropriately disclosed the exceptions to the certification requirement to the Commission, brought the issues into compliance, and remain in compliance.

13. Charter Fiberlink meets the tariffing requirements for a CPCN pursuant to D.98-08-031, D.12-12-038, and D.24-11-003.

14. Charter Fiberlink provided a map showing the location of its proposed construction or extension, and its relation to other public utilities, corporation, person, or entities with which the same is likely to compete.

15. Charter Fiberlink meets the Commission's minimum safety goals.

16. Charter Fiberlink provided information regarding how the authority sought is consistent with the Commission's ESJ Action Plan.

17. Charter Fiberlink filed estimated customer counts, which have a presumption of confidentiality pursuant to D.24-11-003 and GO 66-D.

18. In Exhibit A to Attachment D of the Application and in the Amended Application, Charter Fiberlink disclosed exceptions to subsections (b), (g), and (h) of the certification requirements that relate to investigations involving Charter Fiberlink 's affiliates and requested confidential treatment through two Motions to Seal.

19. Charter Fiberlink's request for confidential treatment of the information in Exhibit A to Attachment D includes the redacted information in the Amended Application and public information.

20. The redacted information in Amended Application is protected from disclosure under federal and state law.

Conclusions of Law

1. Charter Fiberlink's CPCN, which was granted in D.04-05-011, to provide limited facilities-based telecommunication services in the service territories of

AT&T California, Frontier California (U1002C), Consolidated Communications, and Frontier Communications, should be extended to cover the New Pine exchange which is currently part of the service territory of CenturyTel of Eastern Oregon, LLC, subject to the terms and conditions set forth in this decision.

2. Charter Fiberlink should not construct any facilities other than equipment to be installed in existing buildings or structures in the extended service territory.

3. Charter Fiberlink should file a tariff update to include the extended area requested in this proceeding by submitting a Tier 2 advice letter using the GO 96-B advice letter process at least 30 days before initiation of service in the extended area requested in this proceeding.

4. The certificate granted, and the authority for Charter Fiberlink to render service to customers under the rates, charges, and rules authorized, should expire if not exercised, by offering or actively providing service on a wholesale and/or resale basis, after 12 months from the effective date of this decision. Charter Fiberlink should be responsible for seeking approval for an extension of time to comply with this decision pursuant to Rule 16.6.

5. Charter Fiberlink's assigned utility identification number U-6878-C should apply within the extended service area and should continue to be used as its corporate identification number in the caption of all original filings with this Commission, in the titles of other pleadings filed in existing cases, and informal submissions to the Commission.

6. Charter Fiberlink should file in this docket a written acceptance of the extension granted in this proceeding within 30 days of the effective date of this decision. The written acceptance filed in this docket does not reopen the proceeding.

7. Charter Fiberlink should provide the name, address, e-mail address, and telephone number of any new designated primary regulatory/official contact person related to the extended area (if any) to the California Public Utilities Commission's Communications Division within five days of written acceptance of its certificate.

8. Charter Fiberlink should provide the name, address, e-mail address, and telephone number of any new designated contact person related to the extended area (if any) for purposes of resolving consumer complaints to the California Public Utilities Commission's Consumer Affairs Branch within five days of written acceptance of its certificate.

9. Charter Fiberlink should provide the date that service within the extended area is first rendered to the public, to the California Public Utilities Commission's Director of the Communications Division, in writing, by email to cdcompliance@cpuc.ca.gov, no later than five days after service first begins.

10. Charter Fiberlink should submit its compliance with Pub. Util. Code Section 708, Employee Identification Cards, to the Commission's Director of the Communications Division, in writing, by email to cdcompliance@cpuc.ca.gov, within 60 days of the effective date of this decision.

11. Charter Fiberlink should be subject to all the current requirements applicable to CLECs, IECs, and fixed interconnected VoIP providers included in Attachments B, C, and D to this decision (including annual affiliate transaction reports, ongoing performance bond requirements, and payment of surcharges and user fees); all Consumer Protection Rules contained in GO 168; and all applicable California Public Utilities Commission rules, decisions, GOs, and statutes that pertain to California public utilities on an ongoing basis.

12. Charter Fiberlink's expected customer base, the redacted disclosures in the Amended Application, dated August 27, 2025, and those portions of Exhibit A to Attachment D of the Application, dated July 18, 2025, which are redacted in the Amended Application should be kept under seal for a period of three years from the issuance date of this decision.

13. All rulings by the assigned Commissioner and the assigned ALJ should be affirmed.

14. All pending motions should be denied.

15. This proceeding should be closed.

O R D E R

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. The Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity granted to Charter Fiberlink CA-CCO, LLC in D.04-05-011, to provide limited facilities-based telecommunication services in the territories of Pacific Bell Telephone Company dba AT&T California, Frontier California (U1002C), Consolidated Communications of CA Company (U1015C), and Citizens Telecommunications Company of CA, Inc d/b/a Frontier Communications of California (U1024C), shall be extended to include the New Pine exchanges that are currently part of the service territory of CenturyTel of Eastern Oregon, LLC subject to the terms and conditions set forth in this decision.

2. Charter Fiberlink CA-CCO, LLC may not construct any facilities other than equipment to be installed in existing buildings or structures in the extended service territory.

3. Charter Fiberlink CA-CCO, LLC's assigned utility identification number U-6878-C shall cover the extended service area.

4. Charter Fiberlink CA-CCO, LLC must file in this docket a written acceptance of the extended area granted in this proceeding within 30 days of the effective date of this decision. The written acceptance filed in this docket does not reopen the proceeding.

5. Charter Fiberlink CA-CCO, LLC shall file a tariff update of the extended service area granted by this decision by submitting a Tier 2 advice letter using the General Order 96-B advice letter process at least 30 days before initiation of service in the extended area granted in this proceeding.

6. The certificate granted, and the authority for Charter Fiberlink CA-CCO, LLC to render service to customers under the rates, charges, and rules authorized, will expire if not exercised, by offering or actively providing service on a wholesale and/or resale basis, after 12 months from the effective date of this decision. Charter Fiberlink CA-CCO, LLC is responsible for seeking approval for an extension of time to comply with this decision pursuant to Rules of Practice and Procedure, Rule 16.6.

7. Charter Fiberlink CA-CCO, LLC must file in this docket written acceptance of the certificate granted in this proceeding within 30 days of the effective date of this decision. The written acceptance filed in this docket does not reopen the proceeding.

8. Charter Fiberlink CA-CCO, LLC must provide the name, address, email address, and telephone number of its designated primary regulatory/official contact person to the California Public Utilities Commission's Communications Division within five days of written acceptance of its certificate. Refer to Attachment B for additional information related to updating contact information.

9. Charter Fiberlink CA-CCO, LLC must provide the name, address, email address, and telephone number of its designated contact person for purposes of

resolving consumer complaints to the California Public Utilities Commission's Consumer Affairs Branch within five days of written acceptance of its certificate. Refer to Attachment B for additional information related to updating contact information.

10. Charter Fiberlink must submit its compliance with Public Utilities Code Section 708, Employee Identification Cards, to the California Public Utilities Commission's Director of the Communications Division, in writing, by email to cdcompliance@cpuc.ca.gov, within 60 days of the effective date of this decision.

11. Charter Fiberlink CA-CCO, LLC must provide the date that competitive local exchange service is first rendered to the public, to the California Public Utilities Commission's Director of the Communications Division, in writing, by email to cdcompliance@cpuc.ca.gov, no later than five days after service first begins.

12. Charter Fiberlink CA-CCO, LLC is subject to all the current requirements applicable to competitive local exchange carriers, interexchange carriers, and fixed interconnected Voice over Internet Protocol providers included in Attachments B, C, and D to this decision (including annual affiliate transaction reports, ongoing performance bond requirements, and payment of surcharges and user fees); all Consumer Protection Rules contained in General Order 168; and all applicable California Public Utilities Commission rules, decisions, General Orders, and statutes that pertain to California public utilities on an ongoing basis.

13. Confidential treatment of Charter Fiberlink CA-CCO, LLC's expected customer base, the redacted disclosures in the Amended Application, dated August 27, 2025, and those portions of Exhibit A to Attachment D of the Application, dated July 18, 2025, which are redacted in the Amended Application

is granted for a period of three years after the date of this decision. During this three-year period, this information shall not be publicly disclosed except on further Commission order or Administrative Law Judge ruling. If Charter Fiberlink CA-CCO, LLC believes that it is necessary for this information to remain under seal for longer than three years, Charter Fiberlink CA-CCO, LLC may file a motion showing good cause for extending this order by no later than 30 days before the expiration of this order.

14. All rulings by the assigned Commissioner and the assigned Administrative Law Judge are affirmed.

15. All pending motions are deemed denied.

16. Application 25-07-012 is closed.

This decision is effective today.

Dated September 17, 2026, at San Marcos, California.

JOHN REYNOLDS
President
DARCIE L. HOUCK
KAREN DOUGLAS
MATTHEW BAKER
CHRISTINE HARADA
Commissioners

ATTACHMENT A

ATTACHMENT A

TARIFF DEFICIENCIES

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(END OF ATTACHMENT A)

ATTACHMENT B

ATTACHMENT B

TELEPHONE CORPORATION REQUIREMENTS APPLICABLE TO PROVIDERS OF COMPETITIVE LOCAL EXCHANGE CARRIERS, INTEREXCHANGE CARRIERS AND FIXED INTERCONNECTED VOIP CARRIERS (Carrier)

1. Carrier is subject to all the current applicable California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC or Commission) rules, decisions, General Orders, and statutes that pertain to California public utilities and telephone corporations on an ongoing basis.

2. Carrier is responsible for rendering services to customers under the rates, charges and rules authorized by the Commission within 12 months from the date of the decision. Rendering services may include but are not limited to offering and/or actively providing services to its customers on a wholesale and/or resale basis.

3. Carrier is responsible for keeping all contact information up to date with the Commission. Changes to its primary regulatory and/or complaint contact information must be updated in the Commission's TUFFS portal within 30 days of any change or at least annually by June 1 of each calendar year. Additionally, information on accessing TUFFS is available from the CPUC Website: https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/industries-and-topics/internet-and-phone/telecommunications-surcharges-and-user-fees

4. Carrier is subject to California public purpose program surcharges and user fees. Pursuant to Decision (D.) 22-10-021, as modified by D.24-11-003, all telephone corporations operating in California must assess, collect, report and remit public purpose program surcharges based on the number of active access lines. For definition of access line, see Section 5.2.2 of D.22-10-021. The surcharge funds the following California public purpose programs:

a. The Universal Lifeline Telephone Service Trust Administrative Committee Fund (Pub. Util. Code § 277);

b. The California Relay Service and Communications Devices Fund (Pub. Util. Code § 2881; D.98-12-073);

c. The California High Cost Fund-A (Pub. Util. Code § 275.6); D.96-10-066, at 3-4, App. B, Rule 1.C);

d. The California High Cost Fund-B (Pub. Util. Code § 276.5), D.96-10-066, at 191, App. B, Rule 6.F.; D.07-12-054);

e. The California Advanced Services Fund (Pub. Util. Code § 281; D.07-12-054); and

f. The California Teleconnect Fund (Pub. Util. Code § 280; D.96-10-066, at 88, App. B, Rule 8.G).

User Fees must be assessed and collected based on intrastate telecommunications revenues. The User Fee funds the CPUC's annual operating budget for regulating the telecommunications corporations under its jurisdiction (Pub. Util. Code §§ 431-435). Pursuant to D.24-11-003, Interconnected VoIP service providers operating in California are subject to User Fees, starting on July 1, 2025.

5. Carrier is responsible for obtaining guidance and directive from the Commission's Communications Division for timely reporting and remitting of public purpose program surcharges and the user fees through the Commission's proprietary Telecommunications and User Fee Filing System (TUFFS). Additional information about telecommunications surcharges and user fees is available from the CPUC website: https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/industries-and-topics/internet-and-phone/telecommunications-surcharges-and-user-fees.

6. Carrier is responsible for timely and accurately reporting its number of access lines and remitting the resulting public purpose program surcharges through TUFFS even if there is zero access line to report and zero resulting

surcharges to remit. Carriers that report and/or remit surcharge funds after the due date will be charged a penalty equal to an annual rate of 10 percent. Send an email to Telcosurcharge@cpuc.ca.gov for questions related to surcharges and access to TUFFS. Current and historical surcharge rates is available from the CPUC Website: https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/industries-and-topics/internet-and-phone/telecommunications-surcharges-and-user-fees/surcharge-rates.

7. Carrier is responsible for timely and accurately reporting and remitting the user fees based on a standard user fee remittance rate applied to the gross intrastate revenue or an annual minimum user fee of $100, whichever is greater. The user fee remittance rate is determined annually by the Commission and posted on the Commission's webpage. The reporting and remittance of user fees must be through TUFFS within 15 days after the end of each calendar quarter (March 31, June 30 and September 30, and December 31) or January 15 due date for those paying the annual minimum user fee of $100. TUFFS will automatically adjust the minimum user fee amount due to $100 when the annual gross intrastate revenue is zero ($0) or less than the annual minimum user fee of $100. Under Pub. Util. Code Section 405, carriers that are in default of reporting and submitting user fees more than 30 days after the quarterly user fee payment due dates of April 15, July 15, October 15, and January 15, or more than 30 days after the January 15 due date for those utilities paying the annual minimum user fee of $100, will be subject to automatic penalties including suspension or revocation of their authority to operate in California. Pursuant to D.24-11-003, Interconnected VoIP service providers operating in California are subject to User Fees, starting on July 1, 2025. Send an email to userfees@cpuc.ca.gov for questions related to user fees. Send an email to userfees@cpuc.ca.gov for questions related to user fees. Current and historical user fee rates is available from the CPUC Website:

https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/industries-and-topics/internet-and-phone/telecommunications-surcharges-and-user-fees/user-fee-rates.

8. In compliance with Resolution T16901, December 2, 2004, Carrier is responsible for checking the joint tariff for public purpose program surcharges and user fees filed by Pacific Bell Telephone Company dba AT&T California and apply the current public purpose program surcharges and user fees amounts in that joint tariff on end user bills until further revised.

9. Carrier is responsible for ensuring that its tariff filings reflect all surcharges and fees to which it is subject to, as identified above.

10. If Carrier is a provider of interexchange services, competitive local exchange services and/or fixed interconnected VoIP services, the effectiveness of its future nondominant carrier tariffs, if applicable, is subject to the requirements of General Order 96-B and the Telecommunications Industry Rules (D.07-09-019).

11. If Carrier is a non-dominant interexchange carrier, the effectiveness of its future non-dominant interexchange carrier tariffs is subject to the requirement of General Order 96-B and the Telecommunications Industry Rules (D.07-09-019).

12. Carrier providing competitive local exchange service is responsible for submitting a service area map as part of its initial tariff filed via Advice Letter to the Communications Division.

13. Carrier is responsible for submitting a copy of its complete tariff in use to the California Public Utilities Commission's Director of the Communications Division, by e-mail to cdcompliance@cpuc.ca.gov, in compliance with Public Utilities Codes Section 489(a), no later than February 15 of each year. Additional information is available from the CPUC Website: https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/industries-and-topics/internet-and-phone/carrier-reporting-requirements/tariff-filing-requirements.

14. Carrier is responsible for obtaining a performance bond of at least $25,000 in accordance with Decision 13-05-035 and D.24-11-003. Within 30 calendar days after the effective date of CPCN authority, carrier is required to submit a Tier-1 advice letter to the Director of the Communications Division via TD._PAL@cpuc.ca.gov with a copy of the license holder's executed performance bond. The performance bond must be a continuous bond *(i.e.*, there is no termination date on the bond) issued by a corporate surety company authorized to transact surety business in California, and the Commission must be listed as the obligee on the bond. Requests for an extension of time to submit the initial performance bond must be submitted to the Director of the Communications Division via email at cdcompliance@cpuc.ca.gov within 30 days of the effective date of this decision using the performance bond filing extension form is available from the CPUC Website: https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/industries-and-topics/internet-and-phone/carrier-reporting-requirements/performance-bond-requirements. Pursuant to Decision 13-05-035, the Commission must revoke a certificate of public convenience and necessity if a carrier is more than 120 days late in providing the Communications Division a copy of its executed performance bond and the carrier has not been granted an extension of time by the Communications Division.

15. Carrier is required to submit a Tier-1 Advice Letter on an annual basis, no later than March 31 of each year, with a copy of the executed performance bond. Carrier is responsible for ensuring that its performance bond does not lapse during any period of its operation. Additional information regarding performance bond requirement is available from the CPUC Website: https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/industries-and-topics/internet-and-phone/carrier-reporting-requirements/performance-bond-requirements.

16. Carrier is responsible for ensuring that its employees comply with the provisions of Pub. Util. Code Section 2889.5 regarding solicitation of customers.

17. If Carrier is 90 days or more late in complying with its reporting obligations to the Commission including but not limited to filing its annual reports (e.g., Operations and Financials, and Affiliated Transaction Reports), submitting Performance Bonds, reporting and remitting surcharges and user fees; and has not received written permission from the Commission or Communications Division to file or remit late, the Communications Division may issue a citation pursuant to Resolution T-17601. Failure to comply with the issued citation or timely appeal the citation may result in a revocation of the company's operating authority and/or a referral to the Commission's Consumer Protection and Enforcement Division for enforcement action, which could result in additional fines, penalties, or other sanctions.

18. Carrier is exempt from Rule 3.1(b) of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure.

19. Carrier is exempt from Pub. Util. Code Sections 816-830.

20. If Carrier decides to discontinue service or file for bankruptcy, it must immediately notify the California Public Utilities Commission's Director of the Communications Division, by e-mail to cdcompliance@cpuc.ca.gov.

(END OF ATTACHMENT B)

ATTACHMENT C

ATTACHMENT C
ANNUAL REPORT

In addition to the annual reporting requirement pursuant to General Order 104-A, Telephone Corporations must submit the following information electronically to the Commission's Communications Division using the Annual Operational and Financial Information Report Form[19] via email to cdcompliance@cpuc.ca.gov no later than March 31st of the year following the calendar year for which the annual report is submitted.

Failure to submit this information on time may result in a penalty as provided for in Pub. Util. Code Sections 2107 and 2108.

Required information:

1. Exact legal name and Utility ID number of the reporting utility.
2. Address of the reporting utility.
3. Name, title, address, and telephone number of the person to be contacted concerning the reported information.
4. Name and title of the officer having custody of the general books of account and the address of the office where such books are kept.
5. Type of organization (*e.g.*, corporation, partnership, sole proprietorship, etc.).

   If incorporated, specify:

   a. Date of filing articles of incorporation with the Secretary of State.
   b. State in which incorporated.
6. Number and date of the Commission decision granting the Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity.
7. Date operations were begun.
8. Description of other business activities in which the utility is engaged.
9. List of all affiliated companies and their relationship to the utility. State if affiliate is a:

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[19] An Annual Operations and Financial Information Report form (in PDF format) has been developed to help facilitate the submission of this reporting obligation and available from the CPUC website: https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/-/media/cpuc-website/divisions/communications-division/documents/licensing-compliance/annual-reporting-requirements/aropfi.pdf

a. Regulated public utility.
b. Publicly held corporation.

10. Balance sheet as of December 31st of the year for which information is submitted.
11. Income statement for California operations for the calendar year for which information is submitted.

Additional information about the reporting requirements is available from the CPUC Website: https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/industries-and-topics/internet-and-phone/carrier-reporting-requirements/annual-report-forms. For any questions concerning this report, please send an email to cdcompliance@cpuc.ca.gov with a subject line that includes: "CD Annual Reports."

(END OF ATTACHMENT C)

ATTACHMENT D

ATTACHMENT D

CALENDAR YEAR AFFILIATE TRANSACTION REPORT

Telephone Corporations must submit the following information electronically the Commission's Communications Division using the Annual Affiliate Transaction Report Form[20] via email to cdcompliance@cpuc.ca.gov no later than May 1st of the year following the calendar year for which the annual affiliate transaction report is submitted.

Failure to submit this information on time may result in a penalty as provided for in Pub. Util. Code §§ 2107 and 2108.

1. Each utility must list and provide the following information for each affiliated entity and regulated subsidiary that the utility had during the period covered by the Annual Affiliate Transaction Report.
    - Form of organization (*e.g.,* corporation, partnership, joint venture, strategic alliance, etc.);
    - Brief description of business activities engaged in;
    - Relationship to the utility (e.g., controlling corporation, subsidiary, regulated subsidiary, affiliate);
    - Ownership of the utility (including type and percent ownership)
    - Voting rights held by the utility and percent; and
    - Corporate officers.

2. The utility must prepare and submit a corporate organization chart showing any and all corporate relationships between the utility and its affiliated entities and regulated subsidiaries in item 1 above. The chart must have the controlling corporation (if any) at the top of the chart, the utility and any subsidiaries and/or affiliates of the controlling corporation in the middle levels of the chart, and all secondary subsidiaries and affiliates (*e.g.,* a

[20] An Annual Affiliate Report form (in PDF format) has been developed to help facilitate the submission of this reporting obligation and available from the CPUC Website: https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/-/media/cpuc-website/divisions/communications-division/documents/licensing-compliance/annual-reporting-requirements/annual-affiliate-transaction-report-form_.pdf.

subsidiary that in turn is owned by another subsidiary and/or affiliate) in the lower levels. Any regulated subsidiary must be clearly noted.

3. For a utility that has individuals who are classified as "controlling corporations" of the competitive utility, the utility must only report under the requirements of item 1 and item 2 above any affiliated entity that either (a) is a public utility or (b) transacts any business with the utility filing the annual report excluding the provision of tariff services.

4. Each annual report must be signed by a corporate officer of the utility stating under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California (CCP 2015.5) that the annual report is complete and accurate with no material omissions.

5. Any required information, documents, or other material that a utility is unable to provide must be reasonably described and the reasons they cannot be obtained, as well as the efforts expended to obtain them, must be set forth in the utility's Annual Affiliate Transaction Report and verified in accordance with Section I-F of Decision 93-02-019.

6. Utilities that do not have affiliated entities must submit, in lieu of the annual transaction report, an annual statement to the Commission stating that the utility had no affiliated entities during the report period. This statement must be signed by a corporate officer of the utility, stating under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California (CCP 2015.5) that the annual report is complete and accurate with no material omissions.

Additional information about the reporting requirements is available from the CPUC Website: https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/industries-and-topics/internet-and-phone/carrier-reporting-requirements/annual-report-forms. For any questions concerning this report, please send an e-mail to cdcompliance@cpuc.ca.gov with a subject line that includes: "CD Annual Reports."

(END OF ATTACHMENT D)