

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

KARUK TRIBE LAST MILE FIBER CONSTRUCTION PROJECT

Issued by: EnerTribe Inc. on behalf of the Karuk Tribe

RFP Number: 072025Karuk FTTH

Issue Date: 07/21/2025

Proposal Due Date: 8/12/2025

1. INTRODUCTION

The Karuk Tribe is soliciting proposals from qualified contractors to construct a fiber-to-the-home network as part of the Karuk Last Mile Project. This project will expand broadband access to tribal households, businesses, and community institutions along Highway 96 and Ishi Pishi Road in Orleans, California. As shown on the map provided, the project will not be building fiber north up CA96 within the yellow boundary. However, the fiber construction contractor will be responsible for the fiber drops and connecting to either SiskiyouTel or the CDT middle mile. An updated KMZ will follow once the project area has been finalized.

2. PROJECT OVERVIEW

The project includes permitting, engineering, and construction of approximately 251,711 feet of fiber optic cable serving 245 locations. It is designed to deliver reliable high-speed broadband access to homes and community facilities.

3. SCOPE OF WORK

3.1 Pre-Construction Activities

- Attend kickoff meetings with Karuk Tribe and EnerTribe.
- Complete detailed engineering designs (routes, placement, environmental review).
- Conduct make-ready assessments for poles and underground routes.
- Coordinate with utility companies for pole attachments and rights-of-way.
- Ensure all engineering designs meet local, state, federal, and Tribal guidelines.
- Identify obstacles, environmental concerns, and permitting requirements; secure permits (including Caltrans).
- Provide detailed materials and equipment list.
- Submit a construction schedule with milestones for approval.

3.2 Construction & Installation

- Aerial Fiber (if applicable):
 - Install fiber on approved utility poles with correct tensioning.
 - Perform splicing and testing of all aerial runs.
- Underground Fiber (if applicable):
 - Trenching, boring, or micro-trenching as designed.

- Install conduit, vaults, pedestals, and handholes.
- Backfill with native soil and restore disturbed areas.
- Fiber Splicing and Testing:
 - Splice fiber cables, terminations, enclosures at designated locations.
 - Conduct OTDR and power meter tests; provide test results for validation.
- Service Drops & Customer Premises Installations:
 - Install service drops to residential and community buildings.
 - Place ONTs and test service activation.

3.3 Compliance & Reporting

- Comply with NEPA, Tribal regulations, and federal funding requirements.
- Maintain as-built drawings and GIS data.
- Participate in regular project meetings and inspections with EnerTribe, MMBI, and the Karuk Tribe.
- Provide progress reports, flag delays or issues.
- Conduct safety audits and adhere to OSHA standards.

4. PROJECT DELIVERABLES

- Approved project schedule with milestones.
- Final engineering and make-ready plans.
- All permit approvals and documentation.
- Fully installed operational fiber network.
- Fiber test results.
- Complete as-built drawings.

5. TIMELINE

The middle mile is estimated to connect with the last mile in September 2026. All work must be completed no later than December 2026.

Key milestones include (to be finalized in negotiation):

- Project Kickoff
- Engineering Completion
- Permit Approvals
- Backbone Fiber Installation
- Splicing and Testing
- Customer Installations
- Final Inspection and Project Completion

6. PERFORMANCE BOND AND PAYMENT BOND

The contractor will provide a 100% performance bond to guarantee the completion of the project in accordance with the contract terms and specifications. Additionally, if the client (the Tribe) requires a payment bond to ensure payment to subcontractors, suppliers, and laborers, the contractor will be responsible for obtaining and providing such a bond as well. Both bonds must be issued by a surety company acceptable to the client and must be provided prior to the commencement of work.

7. PREVAILING WAGE REQUIREMENT

Contractors must comply with California Prevailing Wage Laws:

- Submit certified payroll records as required.
- Pay prevailing wages to all workers per California Labor Code.

8. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

- Work must comply with Tribal, local, state, and federal codes.
- Contractor responsible for all permits and agency approvals.
- Contractor must comply with OSHA safety requirements, including trench shoring.
- Contractor shall hire and train Tribal members for roles in this construction project, providing them with the skills, certifications, and hands on experience needed for long term employment opportunities in the industry.
- Protect existing utilities and verify locations before excavation (including use of California 811).
- Restore disturbed areas and improvements (pavement, landscaping, etc.) to original or better condition.
- Maintain safe and orderly worksites, provide necessary barricades, signage, flaggers.
- Daily site cleanup and disposal of debris.
- Contractor to supply all utilities for construction (water, power, sanitation).
- Maintain detailed, redlined as-built drawings with all changes noted.
- Contractor will defend, indemnify, and hold the Tribe and EnerTribe harmless except in cases of sole negligence by the owner/engineer.
- Provide dust control at all times.
- Traffic control as required in public rights-of-way.

9. CHANGE ORDERS

Any changes to scope, budget, or timeline require prior written approval through a formal Change Order process.

10. PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS

Proposals must include:

- Company qualifications and relevant experience.
- Detailed work plan and approach.
- Preliminary schedule with milestones.
- Proposed staffing plan.
- Itemized cost proposal.
- Proof of ability to secure the required performance bond.
- Statement of compliance with prevailing wage requirements.

11. EVALUATION CRITERIA

Proposals will be evaluated on:

- Qualifications and relevant experience.
- Technical approach.

- Proposed schedule.
- Cost competitiveness.
- Commitment to local and Tribal hiring.
- References from similar projects.

12. SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

Submit proposals in PDF format to:

Chris Stewart

chris.stewart@enertribe.com

Due Date: 8/12/2025

13. QUESTIONS

Submit all questions in writing by 8/8/2025 to:

chris.stewart@enertribe.com

14. RIGHTS RESERVED

Karuk Tribe reserves the right to:

- Reject any or all proposals.
- Waive any irregularities.
- Negotiate changes with the selected contractor.
- Award based on overall best value.

15. ATTACHMENTS

- Attachment: Route Map (if applicable)

16. CONTRACT TERMS

The selected contractor will sign the Karuk Tribe's Independent Contractor Agreement, incorporating all terms of the attached SOW.

17. CONTACT INFORMATION

For further information, please contact:

Chris Stewart

chris.stewart@enertribe.com

530.351.3458