

**Figure S1. Visible Absorption of Light and Dark-adapted CaChR1.** The light and darkadapted spectra are very similar and shown as green and blue plots, respectively. The subcomponent bands for the light-adapted spectrum are also shown (red traces). The black trace is the sum of the three fitted bands. After base-line correction the peak of the band in the UV region appears at 280 nm. See Materials and Methods for additional information.



**Figure S2.** Comparison of *Ca*ChR1 resonance Raman spectra recorded under different conditions. *Top*: RRS recorded at pH 7 with 100mW 785-nm laser excitation power. *Middle*: pH 7, 10mW. *Bottom:* same conditions as top except with 20mW/cm<sup>2</sup> continuous illumination from a 530-nm emitting LED.



**Figure S3.** Inverse linear correlation between ethylenic frequency and visible absorption wavelength maximum of several microbial rhodopsins including *Ca*ChR1. All wavelength and frequency values are from this paper (*Ca*ChR1, *Cr*ChR2, NpSRII, light-adapted BR) or from previously published data: light-adapted AR3 (*1*); BR dark-adapted (*2*); BR M-intermediate (*3*,*4*); BPR and GPR (*5*); SRI (*6*).



**Figure S4. Curve fit of ethylenic region of the RRS of** *Ca***ChR1 at pH 7.** Fitted data is same as shown in Figure 2. Curve fitting was performed using the GRAMS spectroscopy suite (Thermo-Fischer Scientific) as described in Materials and Methods. Two Voigtian components (red and light blue) plus a baseline (not shown) resulted in a close fit (green curve) to the raw data (blue curve). A similar analysis was used for RRS at other pHs and also for the two mutants E169Q and D299N in order to determine the frequency, intensity and full-width at half-maximum of each of the component bands.



**Figure S5. Peak frequency of two fitted components in ethylenic region of RRS of** *Ca***ChR1 as a function of pH.** The two component bands of the ethylenic region (main peak in blue and shoulder in green) were fit using GRAMS for each of the pH values reported in figure 4 and plotted as a function of pH. An example of a single fit is provided in Figure S4. Error bars shown indicate error in the fitted frequency from a single spectrum.





## **References for Supplementary Material**

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