

# INITIAL STUDY AND ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW CHECKLIST

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California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

## PROJECT INFORMATION

1. Project Title: AT&T Mobility (MUP20-0003)
2. Lead Agency Name and Address: Butte County – Department of Development Services  
Planning Division  
7 County Center Drive  
Oroville, CA 95965
3. Contact Person and Phone Number: Mark Michelena, Senior Planner  
530.552.3683  
mmichelena@buttecounty.net
4. Project Location: The project site area is a 2,400 square foot area in the northern portion of an approximately 66 acre parcel. The parcel is located on the west side of Lincoln Boulevard, across from Monte Vista Avenue, west of the City of Oroville. Township 19N, Section 29, Range 04E; MDB&M. Latitude 39°28'41.871"N, Longitude 121°32'59.98"W. APNs 078-170-046.
5. Project Sponsor's Name and Address: AT&T Mobility, Attn: Karen Lienert  
605 Coolidge Drive, Suite 100  
Folsom, CA 95630
6. General Plan Designation: Public (P)
7. Zoning: PB (Public)
8. Description of Project: (Describe the whole action involved, including but not limited to later phases of the project, and any secondary, support, or off-site features necessary for its implementation. Attach additional sheets if necessary.)  
  
The project is a Minor Use Permit to allow AT&T to add 9 antennas and 12 remote radio units (RRUS) at a height of 115' on an existing 155' monopole. Additionally AT&T will install a prefabricated equipment building for radios and a 30 kw diesel emergency backup generator in a new 15' x 20' lease area. The new lease area will be fenced and slatted to match the existing lease area. The facility will be unmanned.
9. Surrounding Land Uses and Setting: (Briefly describe the project's surroundings)  
  
Surrounding uses include primarily undeveloped lots ranging in size from 0.2 to 45 acres. The surrounding area includes residential, commercial and industrial development along with larger undeveloped parcel.

Direction	General Plan Designation	Zoning	Existing Land Use(s)
North	Mixed Use (MU)	MU-3	Vacant
South	MU & Public (P)	PB, MU-1 & Heavy Industrial (HI)	Cemetery, Industrial & Vacant
East	P, MU & Retail and Office (RTL)	PB, M-3, MU-1 & General Commercial (GC)	Cemetery, Church, Residential & Commercial
West	P & City of Oroville	PB & City of Oroville	Cemetery, Vacant & Residential

The purpose of the PB zone is to allow for public and quasi-public facilities that serve Butte County residents and visitors and enhance the quality of life within the county. Permitted uses in the PB zone include public and private schools; parks and playgrounds; community centers; interpretive facilities; public libraries; governmental offices; and police and fire stations. Uses permitted with the approval of a Conditional Use Permit include hospitals, cultural institutions, religious facilities, and large scale facilities such as dams and reservoirs, landfills, cemeteries and mausoleums, correctional institutions, major utilities, and other similar public works projects. The maximum FAR in the PB zone is 0.5. The PB zone implements the Public land use designation in the General Plan.

The project site is a small level area on a gently sloping parcel that is the Memorial Park Cemetery. The project are is grassland with nearby oak trees. The project site area is approximately 310 feet above sea level.

10. Other public agencies whose approval is required: (e.g., permits, financing approval, or participation agreement)

- Butte County Department Development Services: Building Permits (Future Construction)
- Butte County Public Health Environmental Health Division (Hazardous Materials)
- Butte County Public Works Department

11. Have California Native American tribes traditionally and culturally affiliated with the project area requested consultation pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21080.3.1? If so, is there a plan for consultation that includes, for example, the determination of significance of impacts to tribal cultural resources, procedures regarding confidentiality, etc.?

See Discussion 1.18

## ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED:

The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project, involving at least one impact that is a "Potentially Significant Impact" as indicated by the checklist on the following pages. Where checked below, the topic with a potentially significant impact will be addressed in an environmental impact report.

<input type="checkbox"/>	Aesthetics	<input type="checkbox"/>	Agriculture and Forest Resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Air Quality
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Biological Resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Cultural Resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	Energy
<input type="checkbox"/>	Geology / Soils	<input type="checkbox"/>	Greenhouse Gas Emissions	<input type="checkbox"/>	Hazards / Hazardous Materials
<input type="checkbox"/>	Hydrology / Water Quality	<input type="checkbox"/>	Land Use / Planning	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mineral Resources
<input type="checkbox"/>	Noise	<input type="checkbox"/>	Population / Housing	<input type="checkbox"/>	Public Services
<input type="checkbox"/>	Recreation	<input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Tribal Cultural Resources
<input type="checkbox"/>	Utilities / Service Systems	<input type="checkbox"/>	Wildfire	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mandatory Findings of Significance
		<input type="checkbox"/>	None	<input type="checkbox"/>	None with Mitigation Incorporated

## DETERMINATION (To be completed by the Lead Agency)

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

- I find that the proposed project could not have a significant effect on the environment, and a **NEGATIVE DECLARATION** will be prepared.
- I find that although the proposed project **COULD** have a significant effect on the environment, there **WILL NOT** be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. A **MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION** will be prepared.
- I find that the proposed project **MAY** have a significant effect on the environment, and an **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT** is required.
- I find that the proposed project **MAY** have a “potentially significant impact” or “potentially significant unless mitigated” impact on the environment, but at least one effect 1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and 2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. An **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT** is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.
- I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier **EIR** or **NEGATIVE DECLARATION** pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier **EIR** or **NEGATIVE DECLARATION**, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project, nothing further is required.

*Mark Michelena*

June 23, 2020

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Prepared by: Mark Michelena, Senior Planner

Date

*Daniel Breedon, Planning Manager*

June 24, 2020

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Reviewed by: Dan Breedon, Planning Manger

Date

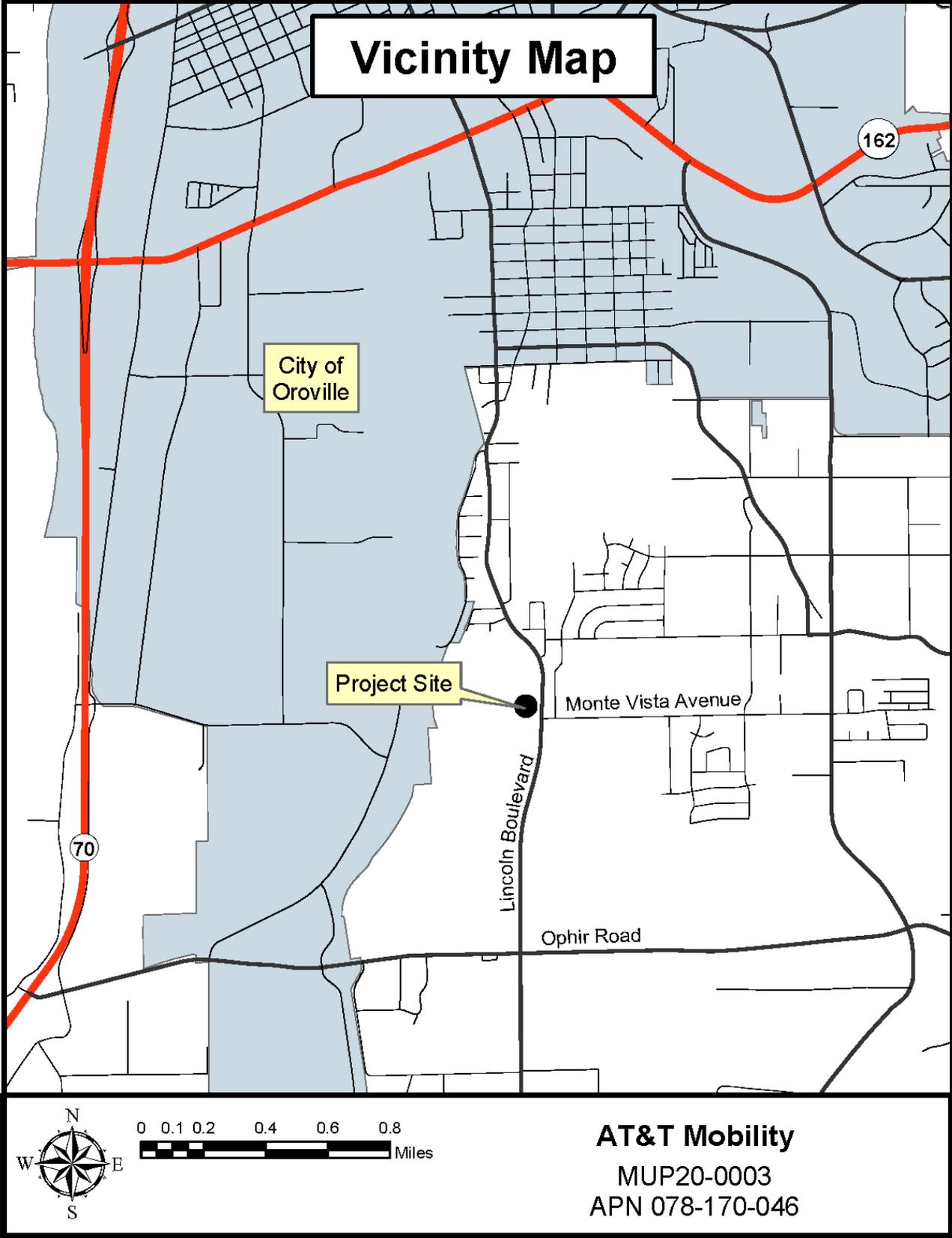


Figure 1 - Project Vicinity Map



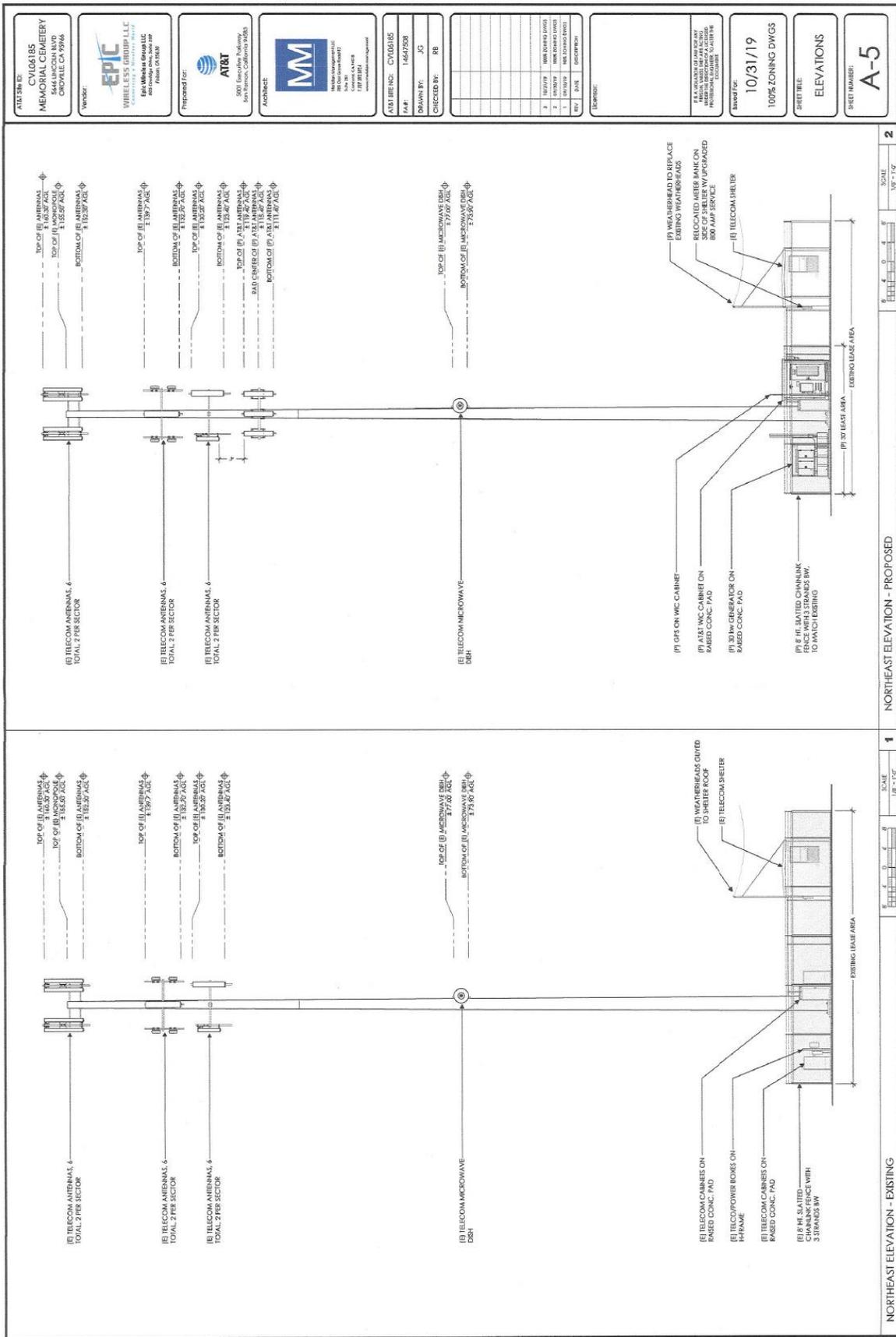


Figure 3 – Elevation

## EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

1. A brief explanation is required for all answers except “No Impact” answers that are adequately supported by the information sources a lead agency cites in the parentheses following each question. A “No Impact” answer is adequately supported if the referenced information sources show that the impact simply does not apply to projects like the one involved (e.g., the project falls outside a fault rupture zone). A “No Impact” answer should be explained where it is based on project-specific factors as well as general standards (e.g., the project will not expose sensitive receptors to pollutants, based on a project-specific screening analysis).
2. All answers must take account of the whole action involved, including off-site as well as on-site, cumulative as well as project-level, indirect as well as direct, and construction as well as operational impacts.
3. Once the lead agency has determined that a particular physical impact may occur, then the checklist answers must indicate whether the impact is potentially significant, less than significant with mitigation, or less than significant. “Potentially Significant Impact” is appropriate if there is substantial evidence that an effect may be significant. If there are one or more “Potentially Significant Impact” entries when the determination is made, an EIR is required.
4. “Negative Declaration: Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated” applies where the incorporation of mitigation measures has reduced an effect from “Potentially Significant Impact” to a “Less Than Significant Impact.” The lead agency must describe the mitigation measures, and briefly explain how they reduce the effect to a less than significant level (mitigation measures from “Earlier Analyses,” as described in (5) below, may be cross-referenced).
5. Earlier analyses may be used where, pursuant to the tiering, program EIR, or other CEQA process, an effect has been adequately analyzed in an earlier EIR or negative declaration. Section 15063(c)(3)(D). In this case, a brief discussion should identify the following:
  - a) Earlier Analysis Used. Identify and state where they are available for review.
  - b) Impacts Adequately Addressed. Identify which effects from the above checklist were within the scope of and adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and state whether such effects were addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis.
  - c) Mitigation Measures. For effects that are “Less than Significant with Mitigation Measures Incorporated,” describe the mitigation measures which were incorporated or refined from the earlier document and the extent to which they address site-specific conditions for the project.
6. Lead agencies are encouraged to incorporate into the checklist references to information sources for potential impacts (e.g., general plans, zoning ordinances). Reference to a previously prepared or outside document should, where appropriate, include a reference to the page or pages where the statement is substantiated.
7. Supporting Information Sources: A source list should be attached, and other sources used or individuals contacted should be cited in the discussion.
8. This is only a suggested form, and lead agencies are free to use different formats; however, lead agencies should normally address the questions from this checklist that are relevant to a project’s environmental effects in whatever format is selected.
9. The explanation of each issue should identify:
  - a) the significance criteria or threshold, if any, used to evaluate each question; and
  - b) the mitigation measure identified, if any, to reduce the impact to less than significance.

# 1.1 AESTHETICS

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
I. Aesthetics.				
Except as provided in Public Resources Code section 21099 (where aesthetic impacts shall not be considered significant for qualifying residential, mixed-use residential, and employment centers), would the project:				
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) In non-urbanized areas, substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings? (Public views are those that are experienced from publicly accessible vantage points.) If the project is in an urbanized area, would the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

## Setting

The project site and vicinity is within the Oroville Urban Area. The surrounding area includes residential, commercial and industrial development along with larger undeveloped parcel. The project site is located at the northern edge of the Oroville Cemetery. The City of Oroville is located to the west of the project parcel. Surrounding lots range in size from 0.2 to 45 acres. There is some residential development to the south and west. The project parcel is approximately 66 acres, while the project site area will add 300 square feet to the existing 2,100 square foot lease area and add 9 antennas and 12 remote radio units (RRUS) at a height of 115' on an existing 155' monopole.

The Butte County General Plan depicts identified scenic resources in Butte County, including land-based and water-based scenic resources (Figure COS-7), County scenic highways (Figure COS-8), and Scenic Highway Zones (Figure COS-9).

## Discussion

### a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?

Less than significant impact. The project parcel and surrounding area is in the Oroville Urban Area and the City of Oroville's Sphere of Influence. The addition of the collocation will not increase the height of the tower or extend further out than the existing antenna arrays. The additional 300 square feet of leased area for ground equipment will be screened from public view by existing vegetation. There are no identified scenic vistas in or near the project site.

**b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?**

Less than significant impact. The project site is not located adjacent to a state-designated or county-designated scenic highway. The addition of the collocation will not increase the height of the tower or extend further out than the existing antenna arrays. The additional 300 square feet of leased area for ground equipment will be screened from public view by existing vegetation. Therefore, future development would not damage or degrade scenic resources within an identified scenic highway.

**c) In non-urbanized areas, substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings? (Public views are those that are experienced from publicly accessible vantage points.) If the project is in an urbanized area, would the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?**

No impact. The project parcel and surrounding area is in the Oroville Urban Area and the City of Oroville's Sphere of Influence. The addition of the collocation will not increase the height of the tower or extend further out than the existing antenna arrays. The additional 300 square feet of leased area for ground equipment will be screened from public view by existing vegetation.

**d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?**

Less than significant impact. No new outdoor lighting is proposed. However, outdoor lighting for safety and security could potentially be added in the future on the resultant parcels. Based on the distance from any residential uses and existing vegetation, any future lighting will not create a substantial impact that will affect day or nighttime views in the area.

## 1.2 AGRICULTURE AND FOREST RESOURCES

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
<p>II. Agriculture and Forest Resources.</p> <p>In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997, as updated) prepared by the California Department of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland.</p> <p>In determining whether impacts to forest resources, including timberland, are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to information compiled by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection regarding the state's inventory of forest land, including the Forest and Range Assessment Project and the Forest Legacy Assessment project; and forest carbon measurement methodology provided in Forest Protocols adopted by the California Air Resources Board.</p> <p>Would the project:</p>				
a) 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 of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use or a Williamson Act contract?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) 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))?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Involve other changes in the existing environment, which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

### Discussion

**a) 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 of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?**

No impact. The California Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program designates the project parcel as "Urban and Built-up Land". Only lands categorized as Prime Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance, Unique Farmland, and Farmland of Local Importance (if adopted by the county) are designated as Important Farmland. The proposed project is not located on lands designated as Important Farmland in the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program, and would not result in the conversion of Important Farmland to a non-agricultural use.

**b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use or a Williamson Act contract?**

No impact. The project site is not under a Williamson Act Contract. And, there are no parcels under a Williamson Act Contract within 300 feet of the project site. There is no agricultural uses on surrounding parcels.

**c) 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))?**

No impact. The project site and surrounding area is not classified as forestland, as defined in Public Resources Code Section 12220(g), or as timberland, as defined in Public Resources Code Section 4526. The project site is not zoned or designated for forest or timber resource uses.

**d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?**

No impact. The project site is located in the valley region of Butte County and does not contain trees or timber resources classified as forestland, as defined in Public Resources Code Section 12220(g), or as timberland, as defined in Public Resources Code Section 4526. Therefore, the proposed project would not result in loss or conversion of forest land to a non-forest use.

**e) Involve other changes in the existing environment, which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?**

No impact. The project site is designated as "Urban and Built-up Land" under the California Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program. Lands within 300 feet of the project site are designated "Grazing Land" and "Urban and Built-up Land". No prime, unique or farmland of statewide importance occurs on the project site, or in the immediate vicinity of the project site.

# 1.3 AIR QUALITY

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
<p>III. Air Quality.</p> <p>Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management district or air pollution control district may be relied on to make the following determinations.</p> <p>Are significance criteria established by the applicable air district available to rely on for significance determinations? <span style="margin-left: 100px;"><input type="checkbox"/> Yes</span> <span style="margin-left: 100px;"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</span></p> <p>Would the project:</p>				
a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

## Environmental Setting

Butte County is located within the Sacramento Valley Air Basin (SVAB), comprising the northern half of California’s 400-mile long Great Central Valley. The SVAB encompasses approximately 14,994 square miles with a largely flat valley floor (excepting the Sutter Buttes) about 200 miles long and up to 150 miles wide, bordered on its east, north and west by the Sierra Nevada, Cascade and Coast mountain ranges, respectively.

The SVAB, containing 11 counties and some two million people, is divided into two air quality planning areas based on the amount of pollutant transport from one area to the other and the level of emissions within each. Butte County is within the Northern Sacramento Valley Air Basin (NSVAB), which is composed of Butte, Colusa, Glenn, Shasta, Sutter, Tehama, and Yuba Counties.

Emissions from the urbanized portion of the basin (Sacramento, Yolo, Solano, and Placer Counties) dominate the emission inventory for the Sacramento Valley Air Basin, and on-road motor vehicles are the primary source of emissions in the Sacramento metropolitan area. While pollutant concentrations have generally declined over the years, additional emission reductions will be needed to attain the State and national ambient air quality standards in the SVAB.

Seasonal weather patterns have a significant effect upon regional and local air quality. The Sacramento Valley and Butte County have a Mediterranean climate, characterized by hot, dry summers and cool, wet winters. Winter weather is governed by cyclonic storms from the North Pacific, while summer weather is typically subject to a high pressure cell that deflects storms from the region.

In Butte County, winters are generally mild with daytime average temperatures in the low 50s°F and nighttime temperatures in the upper 30s°F. Temperatures range from an average January low of approximately 36°F to an average July high of approximately 96°F, although periodic lower and higher temperatures are common. Rainfall between

October and May averages about 26 inches but varies considerably year to year. Heavy snowfall often occurs in the northeastern mountainous portion of the County. Periodic rainstorms contrast with occasional stagnant weather and thick ground or “tule” fog in the moister, flatter parts of the valley. Winter winds generally come from the south, although north winds also occur.

Diminished air quality within Butte County largely results from local air pollution sources, transport of pollutants into the area from the south, the NSVAB topography, prevailing wind patterns, and certain inversion conditions that differ with the season. During the summer, sinking air forms a “lid” over the region, confining pollution within a shallow layer near the ground that leads to photochemical smog and visibility problems. During winter nights, air near the ground cools while the air above remains relatively warm, resulting in little air movement and localized pollution “hot spots” near emission sources. Carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxides, particulate matters and lead particulate concentrations tend to elevate during winter inversion conditions when little air movement may persist for weeks.

As a result, high levels of particulate matter (primarily fine particulates or PM2.5) and ground-level ozone are the pollutants of most concern to the NSVAB Districts. Ground-level ozone, the principal component of smog, forms when reactive organic gases (ROG) and nitrogen oxides (NOx) – together known as ozone precursor pollutants – react in strong sunlight. Ozone levels tend to be highest in Butte County during late spring through early fall, when sunlight is strong and constant, and emissions of the precursor pollutants are highest (Butte County CEQA Air Quality Handbook 2014).

#### Air Quality Attainment Status

Local monitoring data from the BCAQMD is used to designate areas a nonattainment, maintenance, attainment, or unclassified for the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) and California Ambient Air Quality Standards (CAAQS). The four designations are further defined as follows:

Nonattainment – assigned to areas where monitored pollutant concentrations consistently violate the standard in question.

Maintenance – assigned to areas where monitored pollutant concentrations exceeded the standard in question in the past but are no longer in violation of that standard.

Attainment – assigned to areas where pollutant concentrations meet the standard in question over a designated period of time.

Unclassified – assigned to areas where data are insufficient to determine whether a pollutant is violating the standard in question.

Table 1.3-1. Federal and State Attainment Status of Butte County

POLLUTANT	STATE DESIGNATION	FEDERAL DESIGNATION
1-hour ozone	Nonattainment	-
8-hour ozone	Nonattainment	Nonattainment
Carbon monoxide	Attainment	Attainment
Nitrogen Dioxide	Attainment	Attainment
Sulfur Dioxide	Attainment	Attainment
24-Hour PM10	Nonattainment	Attainment
24-Hour PM2.5	No Standard	Attainment
Annual PM10	Attainment	No Standard
Annual PM2.5	Nonattainment	Attainment

Source: Butte County AQMD, 2018

### Sensitive Receptors

Sensitive receptors are frequently occupied locations where people who might be especially sensitive to air pollution are expected to live, work, or recreate. These types of receptors include residences, schools, churches, health care facilities, convalescent homes, and daycare centers. The project site is located in a rural area with residential uses on parcel sizes between 5 and 92 acres. Table 1.3-2 lists sensitive receptors that were identified in the project vicinity and the distances from the project site.

Table 1.3-2. Sensitive Receptors in the Project Vicinity

SENSITIVE RECEPTORS	DISTANCE FROM PROJECT SITE TO RECEPTOR
Residence (2712 Pentz Road)	850 feet west
Residence (9700 Suel Drive)	900 feet east
Residence (2772 Pentz Road)	930 feet southwest
Residence (2776 Pentz Road)	945 feet east
Residence (4800 Messilla Valley Road)	1,475 feet northwest
Residence (302 Vinton Gulch Road)	2,000 feet south

Source: Butte County Geographical Information System/Google Earth imagery

### Butte County Air Quality Management District

The Butte County Air Quality Management District (BCAQMD) is the local agency with primary responsibility for compliance with both the federal and state standards and for ensuring that air quality conditions are maintained. They do this through a comprehensive program of planning, regulation, enforcement, technical innovation, and promotion of the understanding of air quality issues.

Activities of the BCAQMD include the preparation of plans for the attainment of ambient air quality standards, adoption and enforcement of rules and regulations concerning sources of air pollution, issuance of permits for stationary sources of air pollution, inspection of stationary sources of air pollution and response to citizen complaints, monitoring of ambient air quality and meteorological conditions, and implementation of programs and regulations required by the FCAA and CCAA.

According to the State CEQA Guidelines, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management or air pollution control district may be relied on to make significance determinations for potential impacts on environmental resources. BCAQMD is responsible for ensuring that state and federal ambient air quality standards are not violated within Butte County. Analysis requirements for construction and operation-related pollutant emissions are contained in BCAQMD's *CEQA Air Quality Handbook: Guidelines for Assessing Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Impacts for Projects Subject to CEQA Review*. Established with these guidelines are screening criteria to determine whether or not additional modeling for criteria air pollutants is necessary for a project. The CEQA Air Quality Handbook also contains thresholds of significance for construction-related and operation-related emissions: ROG, NOx and PM10. The screening criteria listed in Table 1.3-4 were created using CalEEMod version 2013.2.2 for the given land use types. To determine if a proposed project meets the screening criteria, the size and metric for the land use type (units or square footage) should be compared with that of the proposed project. If a project is less than the applicable screening criteria, then further quantification of criteria air pollutants is not necessary, and it may be assumed that the project would have a less than significant impact for criteria air pollutants. If a project exceeds the size provided by the screening criteria for a given land use type then additional modeling and quantification of criteria air pollutants should be performed (Butte County Air Quality Management District 2014).

Table 1.3-4. Screening Criteria for Criteria Air Pollutants

LAND USE TYPE	MAXIMUM SCREENING LEVELS FOR PROJECTS
Single-Family Residential	30 Units
Multi-Family (Low Rise) Residential	75 Units
Commercial	15,000 square feet
Educational	24,000 square feet
Industrial	59,000 square feet
Recreational	5,500 square feet
Retail	11,000 square feet

Source: Butte County AQMD, CEQA Air Quality Handbook, 2014

## Discussion

### a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?

Less than significant impact. The applicable air quality plan for the project area is the *Northern Sacramento Valley Planning Area 2015 Triennial Air Quality Attainment Plan*. In adopting this plan, BCAQMD assumes that growth within its jurisdiction will be in accordance with city and county general plans, for which air quality effects associated with build-out have been analyzed.

A project is deemed inconsistent with an air quality plan if it would result in population or employment growth that exceeds the growth estimates in the applicable air quality plan (i.e., generating emissions not accounted for in the applicable air quality plan emissions budget). Therefore, proposed projects need to be evaluated to determine whether they would generate population and employment growth and, if so, whether that growth would exceed the growth rate included in the applicable air quality plan.

The proposed project will not result in population or employment growth. The addition of the collocation will provide improved service to existing residences, commercial, industrial and people traveling through the area.

The California Air Resources Board (CARB) allows the use of large diesel generator during power outages. The Butte County Air Quality Management District (BCAQMD) implements and regulates CARB and local rules. The backup generator will operate only during power outages that last longer than the onsite battery backups last and during weekly testing, which is about 15 minutes. The backup generator will be in compliance with the BCAQMD and CARB rules and regulations.

Therefore, the project is not anticipated to cause any significant impacts to regional air quality, or otherwise conflict with the basin's air quality management plan, provided that best management practices for the control of fugitive dust during construction activities are employed.

### b) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard?

Less than significant impact. The proposed project has the potential to impact air quality primarily in two ways: (1) the project would generate mobile source emissions (i.e., added vehicle trips, energy use) associated with project, and (2) construction activities associated with the development of the resultant parcels would generate fugitive dust (PM10) from grading activities, construction exhaust emissions (PM10, NOx), and evaporative emissions of reactive organic gases (ROG or VOC) from paving activities and architectural coatings.

Mobile source emissions are produced from motor vehicles, and include tailpipe and evaporative emissions. Energy use associated with future development also generate emission from heating and cooling systems and lighting. Future development of the resultant parcels have the potential to generate these direct and indirect emissions. Emissions generated during at build-out of the resultant parcels are not expected to be substantial,

and would not significantly violate existing air quality standards, because only a limited amount development would occur over the project site. The limited amount of development to occur with the proposed project was compared to the screening criteria of Table 1.3-3, and deemed to have a less than significant impact to the environment. Construction-related emissions are generally created throughout the course of project implementation and would originate from construction equipment exhaust, employee vehicle exhaust, dust from grading the land, exposed soil eroded by wind, and ROGs from architectural coating and asphalt paving. Construction-related emissions would vary substantially depending on the level of activity, length of the construction period, specific construction operations, types of equipment, number of personnel, wind and precipitation conditions, and soil moisture content. Based on the minimal amount of land disturbance for installation of the ground equipment and no land disturbance for the collocation on the existing tower, the project will have a less than significant impact to an increase to air criteria pollutants.

**c) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?**

Less than significant impact. Negligible amounts of emissions would be generated by construction equipment during site development activities, because of the limited amount of construction equipment and time needed to install the extension, antennas, and equipment cabinets.

The limited scope of the project's construction and operational phases will have no impact upon any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard.

**d) Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?**

No impact. The proposed use is collocation on the existing tower and additional ground equipment which will not generate any odors to the surrounding area.

# 1.4 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
IV. Biological Resources.				
Would the project:				
a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special-status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

## Environmental Setting

### Vegetation Communities

#### Blue Oak

Blue Oak is the dominant vegetation community within the project area. Common species observed were blue oak (*Quercus douglasii*) and live oaks (*Quercus wislizeni*) with an understory ranging from patches of dense buckbrush (*Ceanothus cuneatus*) to an herbaceous dominated understory composed of annual grasses and forbs. Some other species observed were foothill honeysuckle (*Lonicera interrupta*) and poison oak (*Toxicodendron diversilobum*). The Blue Oak habitat type provides foraging ground for a variety of wildlife species and breeding habitat for reptiles and mammals including bats and nesting birds.

Table 4.4-1 Federal and State Listed Species in the vicinity of the project site					
Scientific Name	Common Name	FEDLIST	CALLIST	CDFW Status	Habitat
<i>Oncorhynchus mykiss irideus pop. 11</i>	steelhead - Central Valley DPS	Threatened	None		Rivers, streams and creeks
<i>Oncorhynchus tshawytscha pop. 6</i>	chinook salmon - Central Valley spring-run ESU	Threatened	Threatened		Rivers, streams and creeks
<i>Eumops perotis californicus</i>	western mastiff bat	None	None	SSC	extensive open areas with potential roost locations having vertical faces to drop off from and take flight, such as crevices in rock outcroppings and cliff faces, tunnels and tall buildings.
<i>Corynorhinus townsendii</i>	Townsend's big-eared bat	None	None	SSC	Summer - they inhabit rocky crevices, caves, and derelict buildings. Winter - they hibernate in a variety of dwellings, including rocky crevices, caves, tunnels, mineshafts, spaces under loose tree bark, hollow trees, and buildings.
<i>Branchinecta lynchi</i>	vernal pool fairy shrimp	Threatened	None		vernal pools
<i>Actinemys marmorata</i>	western pond turtle	None	None	SSC	ponds, marshes and streams

Source: California Native Diversity Database Version 5

Endangered, Threatened and Special Status Wildlife

Steelhead – Central Valley DPS (*Oncorhynchus mykiss irideus pop. 11*)

Steelhead – Central Valley DPS is listed as a threatened candidate federally, but is not listed by the state. They are found in flowing rivers, streams and creeks. The project site does not have habitat that would support the steelhead.

Chinook salmon – Central Valley spring-run ESU (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha pop. 6*)

Chinook salmon – Central Valley spring-run ESU is listed as a threatened candidate both and by the state. They are found in flowing rivers, streams and creeks. The project site does not have habitat that would support the chinook salmon.

Western mastiff bat (*Eumops perotis californicus*)

The western mastiff bat is not a federally or state listed species. It is identified as Species of Special Concern by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. Habitat areas includes extensive open areas with potential roost locations having vertical faces to drop off from and take flight, such as crevices in rock outcroppings and cliff faces, tunnels and tall buildings. Neither the project site, nor the surrounding parcels, have habitat that would support the western mastiff bat.

Townsend’s big-eared bat (*Corynorhinus townsendii*)

The Townsend’s big-eared bat is not a federally or state listed species. It is identified as Species of Special Concern by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. Summer habitat areas rocky crevices, caves, and derelict buildings. And winter habitat where they hibernate includes a variety of dwellings, including rocky crevices, caves, tunnels, mineshafts, spaces under loose tree bark, hollow trees, and buildings. Neither the project site, nor the surrounding parcels, have habitat that would support the Townsend’s big-eared bat.

Vernal pool tadpole shrimp (*Lepidurus packardii*)

Vernal pool fairy shrimp are listed under the ESA as threatened. They are widespread but not abundant. Known populations occur in California to southern Oregon. The geographic range of this species encompasses most of the Central Valley from Shasta County to Tulare County and the central coast range from northern Solano County to Santa

Barbra County, California: additional disjunctive occurrences have been identified in western Riverside County, California, and in Jackson County, Oregon, near the city of Medford. The vernal pool fairy shrimp occupies a variety of different vernal pool habitats, from small, clear, sandstone rock pools to large, turbid, alkaline, grassland valley floor pools. Occupied habitats range in size from rock outcrops pools as small as one square meter to large vernal pools up to 12 acres. Smaller vernal pools are the most commonly occupied and are found more frequently in grass or mud bottomed swales, or basalt flow depression pools in unplowed grasslands. No vernal pools occur on the project site.

Western pond turtle (*Actinemys marmorata*)

The Townsend's big-eared bat is not a federally or state listed species. It is identified as Species of Special Concern by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. Their habitat consists of ponds, marshes and streams. The project site does not have habitat that would support the Western pond turtle.

## Discussion

- a) **Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special-status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?**

Less than significant impact with mitigation incorporated. The project site disturbance area is 300 square feet that is being added to the existing leased area. This area does not include habitat for the identified species (listed above). The project site area contains suitable habitat for several avian species protected under the MBTA. To avoid potential impacts to avian species protected under the MBTA and California Fish and Game Code (CFG), Mitigation Measure BIO-1 is recommended before construction on Parcel 1 and Parcel 2. Adherence to recommended mitigation measures would reduce potential impacts to a less than significant level.

- b) **Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?**

No impact. The project site is not identified as containing a Sensitive Natural Community (SNC). There is no riparian habitat on the project site.

- c) **Have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?**

No impact. The project site based on the existing topography, does not have any wetlands that would be impacted by future development and use on the proposed parcels.

- d) **Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?**

Less than significant impact. Wildlife movement corridors are routes frequently utilized by wildlife that provide shelter and sufficient food supplies to support wildlife species during migration. Movement corridors generally consist of riparian, woodlands, or forested habitats that span contiguous acres of undisturbed habitat. Wildlife movement corridors are an important element of resident species home ranges, including deer and coyote. The projects proposed expansion of 300 square feet will not substantially interfere with any movement of native wildlife species.

**e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?**

Less than significant impact. The project parcel does contain oak woodland habitat, Oak woodlands are a common habitat locally and regionally and are not considered by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife as a sensitive natural community; however, native oak trees and woodland habitats are declining statewide because of development and land management practices. As such, Butte County General Plan 2030 states that oak woodland habitat should be considered sensitive because it provides an important habitat for local and residential wildlife, and because oak woodlands are limited in extent compared with its historic distribution.

According to the CEQA Guidelines, Public Resources Code section 21083.4, the lead agency is required to determine whether a project, within its jurisdiction, may result in a conversion of oak woodlands that will have a significant effect on the environment. If a County determines that there may be a significant impact on oak woodlands, the County must require mitigation to avoid or reduce impacts to these resources. Mitigation includes conservation through the use of conservation easements; planting and maintaining an appropriate number of replacement trees; the contribution of funds to the Oak Woodlands Conservation Fund to purchase oak woodlands conservation easements; and/or other mitigation measures developed by the County.

Neither the proposed 300 square foot expansion of the leased area nor the collocation on the existing tower, will impact the oak woodlands

**f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?**

No impact. The Butte Regional Conservation Plan (BRCP) is a joint Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP)/National Community Conservation Plan (NCCP) that is currently being prepared for the western half of the Butte County. In the event the BRCP is adopted, individual projects and development that occur in the BRCP planning area would need to be coordinated with the Butte County Association of Governments to ensure that the project does not conflict with the BRCP. As the plan has not been adopted, the proposed project will not conflict, nor interfere with, the attainment of the goals of the proposed plan.

## Mitigation Measures

### Mitigation Measure BIO-1

If project construction activities, including site grubbing and vegetation removal, occur during the nesting season for birds protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) and California Department Fish & Game Code (CDFC) (approximately February 1 – August 31), the project proponent shall retain a qualified biologist to perform preconstruction surveys for nesting bird species. Surveys to identify active bird nests shall be conducted within and 250 feet around the footprint of proposed construction site. The survey shall be conducted within 7 days prior to the initiation of construction activities. In the event that an active nest is observed, a species protection buffer shall be established. The species protection buffer will be defined by the qualified biologist based on the species, nest type and tolerance to disturbance. Construction activity shall be prohibited within the buffer zones until the young have fledged or the nest fails. Nests shall be monitored by a qualified biologist once per week and a report submitted to the Butte County Department of Development Services.

Plan Requirements: Perform protocol-level surveys for migratory birds protected by the California Department Fish & Game Code and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Requirements of the condition shall be adhered to throughout all grading and construction periods.

Timing: Requirements of the condition shall be adhered to prior to and during construction activities planned to occur during nesting seasons for CDFC and MBTA species (between February 1 and August 31).

Monitoring: The Butte County Department of Development Services shall ensure the condition is met at the time of development and during construction activities.

## 1.5 CULTURAL RESOURCES

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
V. Cultural Resources.				
Would the project:				
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to Section 15064.5?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to Section 15064.5?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of dedicated cemeteries?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

### Environmental Setting

Cultural resources include prehistoric and historic period archaeological sites; historical features, such as rock walls, water ditches and flumes, and cemeteries; and architectural features. Cultural resources consist of any human-made site, object (i.e., artifact), or feature that defines and illuminates our past. Often such sites are found in foothill areas, areas with high bluffs, rock outcroppings, areas overlooking deer migratory corridors, or near bodies of water. The project site is located in the lower foothills and does contain physical characteristics where cultural resources would be likely to be encountered.

### Discussion

**a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to Section 15064.5?**

Less than significant impact with mitigation incorporated. Native American populations used the local region for seasonal and/or permanent settlement, as well as for the gathering of plants, roots, seeds, and seasonal game. Historically, Euro-Americans utilized the region for mining farming, and cattle ranching. With historic use of the project area by prehistoric and historic populations, unanticipated and accidental archaeological discoveries may be encountered during ground-disturbing activities, resulting in potentially significant impacts. To avoid potential impacts to undiscovered prehistoric resources, historic resources, and human remains that may be uncovered during development activities on the project site, Mitigation Measure CUL-1, below, is recommended.

**b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to Section 15064.5?**

Less than significant impact with mitigation incorporated. The possibility exists that buried archaeological resources that may meet the criteria of a unique archaeological resource is present on the project site. If any buried resources are encountered and damaged during project implementation, the destruction of the archaeological resources would be a potentially significant impact. Implementation of Mitigation Measure CUL-1 would reduce this impact to a less-than-significant level.

**c) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?**

Less than significant impact with mitigation incorporated. Indications are that humans have occupied Butte County for over 10,000 years and it is not always possible to predict where human remains may occur outside of formal burials. Therefore, excavation and construction activities, regardless of depth, may yield human remains that may not be interred in marked, formal burials.

Under CEQA, human remains are protected under the definition of archaeological materials as being “any evidence of human activity.” Additionally, [Public Resources Code section 5097.98](#) has specific stop-work and notification procedures to follow in the event that human remains are inadvertently discovered during project implementation.

The Butte County Conservation Element has established two policies that address the inadvertent discovery of human remains. COS-P16.3 requires human remains discovered during construction to be treated with dignity and respect and to fully comply with the federal Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act and other appropriate laws. COS-P16.4 requires work to stop if human remains are found during construction until the County Coroner has been contacted, and, if the human remains are determined to be of Native American origin, the North American Heritage Commission and most likely descendant have been consulted.

Implementation of the Mitigation Measure CUL-1 would ensure that all construction activities that inadvertently discover human remains implements state required consultation methods to determine the disposition and historical significance of any discovered human remains. Mitigation Measure CUL-1 would reduce this impact to a less than significant level.

## **Mitigation Measures**

### Mitigation Measure CUL-1

If grading activities reveal the presence of prehistoric or historic cultural resources (i.e., artifact concentrations, including arrowheads and other stone tools or chipping debris, cans glass, etc.; structural remains; human skeletal remains) work within 50 feet of the find shall immediately cease until a qualified professional archaeologist can be consulted to evaluate the find and implement appropriate mitigation procedures. If human skeletal remains are encountered, State law requires immediate notification of the County Coroner (530.538.7404). If the County Coroner determines that the remains are in an archaeological context, the Native American Heritage Commission in Sacramento shall be notified immediately, pursuant to State Law, to arrange for Native American participation in determining the disposition of such remains. The provisions of this mitigation shall be followed during construction of all subdivision improvements, including land clearing, road construction, utility installation, and building site development.

Plan Requirements: This note shall be placed on all building and site development plans.

Timing: This measure shall be implemented during all site preparation and construction activities.

Monitoring: The applicant/developer shall notify the Planning Division if any cultural resources are uncovered. Should cultural resources be discovered, the Planning Division shall coordinate with the developer and appropriate authorities to avoid damage to cultural resources and determine appropriate action.

# 1.6 ENERGY

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
VI. Energy.				
Would the project:				
a) Result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

## Discussion

- a) **Result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation?**

Less than significant impact. The proposed project would consume energy primarily in two ways: (1) construction activities would consume energy through the operation of equipment, trucks, and worker traffic, and (2) future power for the collocation would cause long-term energy consumption from electricity consumption, and vehicle operations to and from the project site.

Construction energy consumption would largely occur from fuel consumption by equipment during development activities associated with building site clearance; trucks transporting construction materials to the site during parcel development; and, worker trips to and from the job site. Energy consumption during construction related activities would vary substantially depending on the level of activities, length of the construction period, specific construction operations, types of equipment, and the number of personnel. Despite this variability in the construction activities, the overall scope of the anticipated construction at the project site is relatively minor, and therefore, would not require a substantial amount of fuel to complete construction. Additionally, increasingly stringent state and federal regulations on engine efficiency combined with local, state, and federal regulations limiting engine idling times and recycling of construction debris, would further reduce the amount of transportation fuel demand during project construction. Considering the minimal amount of construction activities associated with the project, the proposed project would not result in the wasteful and inefficient use of energy resources during construction and impacts would be less than significant.

Long-term energy consumption would occur after the collocation is installed. The use would consume electricity. The project would also generate additional minimal vehicle trips for routine maintenance and service, which would result in the consumption of transportation fuel.

State and federal regulatory requirements addressing fuel efficiency are expected to increase fuel efficiency over time as older, less fuel-efficient vehicles are retired, and therefore would reduce vehicle fuel energy consumption rates over time. Therefore, energy impacts related to fuel consumption/efficiency during project operations would be less than significant.

**b) Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency**

Less than significant impact. Many of the state and federal regulations regarding energy efficiency are focused on increasing building efficiency and renewable energy generation, as well as reducing water consumption and Vehicles Miles Traveled. The project will generate minimal amount of energy use.

# 1.7 GEOLOGY AND SOILS

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
VII. Geology and Soils.				
Would the project:				
a) Directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:				
i) 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? (Refer to California Geological Survey Special Publication 42.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
iv) Landslides?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction, or collapse?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994, as updated), creating substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

## Discussion

a) **Directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:**

i) **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? (Refer to California Geological Survey Special Publication 42.)**

Less than significant impact. There are no known active faults underlying, or adjacent to, the project site. The Cleveland Hill fault is the only active fault zone in Butte County identified in the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map. The Cleveland Hill fault is located east of Dunstone Drive and Miners Ranch Road, between North Honcut Creek and Mt. Ida Road, approximately 4.6± miles southeast of the project site. Because the nearest active fault is located a considerable distance from the project site, the likelihood of a surface rupture at the project site is very low, and would not be a design consideration for future development.

ii) **Strong seismic ground shaking?**

Less than significant impact. Ground shaking at the project site could occur due to the earthquake potential of the regions active faults. However, the known active fault is a relatively distant from the project site, and would result in low to moderate intensity ground shaking during seismic events. Future residential development on the resultant parcels would be subject to the California Building Code (CBC). The CBC would provide minimum standards to safeguard life or limb, health, property and public welfare by regulating the design, construction, quality of materials, use and occupancy, location, and maintenance of buildings and structures within Butte County. Adherence to the CBC during building construction would ensure that potential impacts are less than significant.

iii) **Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?**

Less than significant impact. According to Butte County General Plan 2030, areas that are at risk for liquefaction can be found on the valley floor, especially near the Sacramento and Feather Rivers, and their tributaries, which have a higher potential to contain sandy and silty soils. The California Building Code (CBC) regulates the construction of structures, which may be constructed with approval of the proposed project. Adherence to CBC standards at the time of development of the resultant parcels would ensure that new structures are adequately sited and engineered to reduce impacts related to seismic ground failure, including liquefaction (generally low potential), are less than significant.

iv) **Landslides?**

Less than significant impact. The project area is a generally level area. According to Figure HS-6, Landslide Potential, of Butte County General Plan 2030, the project site has a low to no potential of landslides. Though the potential for landslides is moderate, shallow slope failures can occur in virtually any sloping terrain during construction activities. Avoidance of potentially sensitive slopes and/or implementation of appropriate engineering and construction measures at the time of development would avoid or reduce potential impacts of landslides to a less than significant level.

b) **Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?**

Less than significant impact. According to Figure HS-7, Erosion Hazard Potential, of Butte County General Plan 2030, the project site has a severe potential of soil erosion. Surface soil erosion and loss of topsoil has the potential to occur in any area of the county from disturbances associated with the construction-related

activities. Construction activities could also result in soil compaction and wind erosion effects that could adversely affect soils and reduce the revegetation potential at the construction site and staging areas.

During construction-related activities, specific erosion control and surface water protection methods for each construction activity would be implemented on the project site. The type and number of measures implemented would be based upon location-specific attributes (i.e., slope, soil type, weather conditions). These control and protection measures, or BMPs, are standard in the construction industry and are commonly used to minimize soil erosion and water quality degradation.

- c) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction, or collapse?**

Less than significant impact. According to Butte County General Plan 2030, the project site is located in an area prone to low to none for landslides, subsidence or liquefaction. The proposed project area of disturbance is only 300 square feet, in a generally level area.

- d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994, as updated), creating substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property?**

Less than significant impact. According to Figure HS-8, Expansive Soil Potential, of Butte County General Plan 2030, the project site is located in an area with a moderate expansive soils. Expansive soils can cause structural damage particularly when concrete structures are in direct contact with the soils. Appropriate design features to address expansive soils may include excavation of potentially problematic soils during construction and replacement with engineered backfill, ground-treatment processes, direction of surface water and drainage away from foundation soils, and the use of deep foundations such as piers or piles. Implementation of these standard engineering methods and adherence to California Building Code (CBC) standards at the time of development would ensure that any impacts associated with expansive soils would remain less than significant.

- e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?**

No impact. The project does not require the use of a wastewater system.

- f) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?**

Less than significant impact. The project area is classified as a Pleistocene-age Riverbank Formation that overlies the Red Bluff formation. The Riverbank Formation consists of weathered gravel, sand, and silt that were deposited between 0.13 and 0.45 million years ago. The thickness of the Riverbank Formation ranges from less than 1 foot to more than 200 feet. The Riverbank Formation is composed of a lower and upper terraces, which were formed by stream carry eroded materials from the surrounding mountain ranges to the base of the foothills, where they were deposited in wide alluvial fans and terrace deposits. The lower terrace consists of red semi-consolidated gravel, sand and silt. The upper terrace consists of unconsolidated but compact, dark-brown to red alluvium containing gravel, sand, silt, and with minor clay. Groundwater generally occurs under unconfined conditions (Geology of the Northern California Sacramento Valley, 2014).

Sediments associated with the Riverbank Formation are typically devoid of significant vertebrate fossils, and no previously recorded fossil sites has been identified on the project site or the surrounding area. Therefore, it is not likely that unique paleontological resources would be found in local sediments. Further, the discovery of fossils, and the subsequent opportunity for data collection and study, is a rare event that could occur from construction grading activities associated with development. As a result, the probability of encountering fossils on the project site is low, and would have a less than significant impact on previously unknown paleontological resources.

## 1.8 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
VIII. Greenhouse Gas Emissions.				
Would the project:				
a) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

### Environmental Setting

The Butte County Climate Action Plan (CAP) was adopted on February 25, 2014. The Butte County CAP provides goals, policies, and programs to reduce GHG emissions, address climate change adaptation, and improve quality of life in the county. The Butte County CAP also supports statewide GHG emission-reduction goals identified in AB 32 and SB 375. Programs and actions in the CAP are intended to help the County sustain its natural resources, grow efficiently, ensure long-term resiliency to a changing environmental and economic climate, and improve transportation. The Butte County CAP also serves as a Qualified GHG Reduction Strategy under CEQA, simplifying development review for new projects that are consistent with the CAP.

A 2006 baseline GHG emission inventory was prepared for unincorporated Butte County. The inventory identified the sources and the amount of GHG emissions produced in the county. The leading contributors of GHG emissions in Butte County are agriculture (43%), transportation (29%), and residential energy (17%). The Climate Action Plan (CAP) adopted by the County provides a framework for the County to reduce GHG emissions while simplifying the review process for new development. Measures and actions identified in the CAP lay the groundwork to achieve the adopted General Plan goals related to climate change, including reducing GHG emissions to 1990 levels by 2020.

New projects are evaluated to determine consistency with the CAP and to identify which GHG emission reduction measures would be implemented with project approval. These measures may include expansion of renewable energy systems for new residential development by prewiring future development for photovoltaic systems; reduction of construction equipment idling time; and, installation of electric vehicle charging outlets in the garage or the exterior of the home.

### Discussion

**a) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?**

Less Than Significant Impact. The proposed project is a communication tower that would not significantly contribute to the existing greenhouse gas inventory for Butte County. Short term construction GHG emissions will occur during installation of the tower and ground equipment. Standby generators will only be used during power outages and for short duration during testing. Vehicle trips will be associated with construction and routine maintenance. GHG emissions generated by the development and vehicle trips would be of a limited scope and duration, but would be cumulatively considerable, which was addressed through the Supplemental EIR for the Climate Action Plan.

**b) Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?**

Less Than Significant Impact. The Butte County General Plan and Butte County Climate Action Plan establish numerous policies relative to greenhouse gases. The everyday operation of the proposed communication facility would not generate greenhouse gas emissions. Due to the short term construction, limited vehicle trips to the site and monthly testing of the standby generators, the anticipated increase in emissions would not conflict with the applicable with policies adopted for the purpose of reducing GHG emissions.

# 1.9 HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
IX. Hazards and Hazardous Materials.				
Would the project:				
a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and/or accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Be located on a site which 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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) 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 or excessive noise for people residing or working in the project area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
g) Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

## Discussion

**a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?**

Less than significant impact. The project is proposed to utilize a standby diesel generator for back-up power. The storage of diesel is required only for emergency purposes during a power outages and will not be routinely used or transported. Storage and handling of diesel, or any other chemicals or hazardous materials, would be subject to a Hazardous Materials Business Plan, administered by the Butte County Public Health Department at the time of development of the project. The plan would include an inventory of hazardous materials and

chemicals handled or stored on the site, an emergency response plan, and a training program in safety procedures.

Construction activities associated with the development of the proposed project would involve the use of potentially hazardous materials, including vehicle fuels, oils, and transmission fluids. However, all potentially hazardous materials would be contained, stored, and used in accordance with manufacturers' instructions and handled in compliance with applicable standards and regulations. In the event of an accidental release, construction personal who are experienced in containing accidental releases of hazardous materials will likely be present to contain and treat affected areas in the event a spill occurs. If a larger spill were to occur, construction personal would generally be on-hand to contact the appropriate agencies. Hazardous materials used during construction would ultimately disposed of by a licensed hazardous waste transporter at an authorized and licensed disposal facility or recycling facility.

**b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and/or accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?**

Less than significant impact. See discussion under 1.9(a), above

**c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?**

Less than significant impact. Oakdale Heights Elementary School has been identified within one-quarter mile of the project site. Wireless communication systems emit non-ionizing, electromagnetic energy. The perceived health risk of this emission has been identified as a potential public health and safety issue. However, no studies to date have demonstrated a specific correlation between wireless communication facilities and health problems. The actual use of radio frequency transmission requires only a small amount of energy, making mobile phone technology one of the most efficient forms of communication available. Unlike television and radio transmitters which work at full power all the time, a mobile phone site is designed to control its output so that it provides exactly the signal strength required to handle the number of calls being made at that moment, no more and no less. Therefore, if no calls are being made at any one moment, the cell site will virtually shut itself down. The antennas are designed to transmit most of the signal away horizontally, or just below the horizontal, rather than at steep angles to the ground.

Based on information provided by AT&T Mobility and predictive modeling, the installation proposed by AT&T Mobility will be compliant with Radiofrequency Radiation Exposure Limits of 47 C.F.R. §§ 1.1307(b)(3) and 1.1310. RF alerting signage and restricting access to the Monopole to authorized climbers that have completed RF safety training is required for Occupational environment compliance. The proposed operation will not expose members of the General Public to hazardous levels of RF energy and will not contribute to existing cumulative MPE levels on walkable surfaces at ground or in adjacent buildings by 5% of the General Population limits.

Power density decreases significantly with distance from any antenna. The panel-type antennas to be employed at this site are highly directional by design and the orientation in azimuth and mounting elevation, as documented, serves to reduce the potential to exceed MPE limits at any location other than directly in front of the antennas. For accessible areas at ground level, the maximum predicted power density level resulting from all AT&T Mobility operations is 0.2971% of the FCC General Population limits. Based on the operating parameters, the cumulative power density level at this location from all antennas is 0.4742% of the FCC General Population limits. There are no apparent inhabited buildings or structures in the immediate area. Based on the operating parameters in Appendix A, the cumulative power density level at this location from all antennas is 0% of the FCC General Population limits.

The proposed communications facility will also have large batteries within the equipment cabinets. Such batteries are typically classified as non-hazardous material for transportation. The use of these batteries on the project site is not expected to create any hazardous materials or emissions. The Butte County Environmental

Health Division requires that the applicant complete a "Hazardous Materials Release Response Plan" pursuant to the California Health and Safety Code".

A building permit is required for construction of the proposed communications facility, which will ensure the engineered structure will adhere to building safety standards in the California Building Code.

The proposed collocations additional RF emissions to the existing facility will not exceed the FCC acceptable standards.

- d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code §65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?**

No impact. A review of regulatory agency databases, which included lists of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to California Government Code Section 65962.5, did not identify contamination sites as being located within, or in the vicinity of, the project site. The closest site, Western Pacific Railroad Company, a federal superfund site, is located approximately 2,000 feet to the northwest in Paradise to the south.

- e) 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 or excessive noise for people residing or working in the project area?**

No impact. No public use airports have been identified to be located within two miles of the project site. The closest commercial airport, Oroville Municipal Airport, is located approximately 3.3 miles to the west. The proposed project is located outside the compatibility zones for the area airports, and therefore, would not result in hazards or noise impacts to people residing on the project site.

- f) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?**

No impact. The proposed project is an unmanned facility, so no evacuation and/or emergency response plans are necessary. The proposed project does not include any actions that physically interfere with any emergency response or emergency evacuation plans. Development of the proposed project would add a small amount of trips onto the area roadways; however, area roadways and intersections would continue to operate at an acceptable level of service. In the event future construction activities require work to be performed in the roadway, appropriate traffic control plans would be prepared in conjunction with a Butte County Encroachment Permit.

- g) Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires?**

Less than significant impact. The project site has not been designated as a high fire hazard by the State Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. It is located within an urbanizing area near the City of Chico. The project site is within a Local Responsibility Area (LRA), which means that the Butte County Fire has fiscal responsibility for preventing and suppressing fires. The proposed use is unmanned and will not subject additional people to risk of fire.

## 1.10 HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
X. Hydrology and Water Quality.				
Would the project:				
a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or groundwater quality?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would:				
i) Result in substantial on- or offsite erosion or siltation;	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ii) Substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or offsite;	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
iii) Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff; or	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
iv) Impede or redirect flood flows?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

### Discussion

- a) **Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or groundwater quality?**

No impact. The project does not create any water discharges.

- b) **Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?**

No impact. The project does not require the use of water.

**c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would:**

**i) Result in substantial on- or offsite erosion or siltation;**

Less than significant impact. Minimal vegetation removal and soil disturbance would occur during clearing of the development area (300 square feet). The proposed expansion area is generally level and would not have the potential of substantial erosion..

**ii) Substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or offsite;**

Less than significant impact. The minor increase in impervious surface area from the expansion (300 square feet) of the leased area is not anticipated to be enough to alter existing drainage patterns or cause offsite flooding. While an increase in stormwater runoff may be expected due to the reduced absorption rate created from new impervious surface added to the site, future development would be reviewed by the Butte County Public Works Department to ensure any potential drainage concerns are addressed, and to ensure no net increase in stormwater runoff leaves the project site.

**iii) Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff; or**

Less than significant impact. Planned stormwater drainage systems in the project area currently consists of a system of roadside ditches and culverts that capture surface runoff, which ultimately infiltrate into the underground aquifer or conveyed to area waterways.

General Plan 2030 Water Resource Element contains a number of policies that address stormwater runoff capacity. Policy W-P1.4 encourages Low Impact Development, which minimizes impervious areas, minimizes runoff and pollution, and incorporates best management practices. Policy W-P5.3 allows and encourages pervious pavements. Policy W-P5.5 requires that stormwater collection systems be installed concurrently with construction of new roadways to maximize efficiency and minimize disturbance due to construction activity. Policy HS-P3.2 requires that applicants for new development provide plans detailing existing drainage conditions and specifying how runoff will be detained or retained on-site and/or conveyed to the nearest drainage facility, without increasing the peak flow runoff to said channel or facility. Policy HS-P3.3 requires that all development include stormwater control measures and site design features that prevent any increase in the peak flow runoff to existing drainage facilities.

The proposed project would generate a minor increase in runoff from the future development of the expanded leased area (300 square feet). Improvements are relatively small and conveyed through a system of existing roadside ditches and culverts to area waterways.

**iv) Impede or redirect flood flows?**

Less than significant impact. The floodplain mapping of the project area identifies the project site being located within the X (shaded) zone. The X (unshaded) zone is defined by FEMA as areas between the limits of the 100-year base flood and the 0.2-percent-annual-chance (or 500-year) flood. Future site improvements would be reviewed by Butte County Public Works to ensure that surface flows would be adequately directed to planned and existing stormwater drainage facilities.

**d) In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?**

No impact. The floodplain mapping of the project area identifies the project site being located within the X (shaded) zone. The X (shaded) zone is defined by FEMA as areas between the limits of the 100-year base flood and the 0.2-percent-annual-chance (or 500-year) flood. The project site is not located in an area that would be impacted by a seiche, tsunami, or mudflows.

**e) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?**

No impact. The project site is located within the Vina subbasin of the Sacramento Valley groundwater basin bounded on the north at the Tehama County line, to the west by the Sacramento River, to the south at the border of Western Canal Water District, and to the east by the edge of the alluvial basin as defined by Bulletin 118. The Groundwater Sustainability Agencies in the Vina subbasin include Butte County, the City of Chico, Durham Irrigation District and Rock Creek Reclamation District. Butte County, The City of Chico and Durham Irrigation District are in the process of entering into a Joint Powers Agreement in order to create a Groundwater Sustainability Agency in order to implement the requirements of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act including adoption of a basin management plan. As a basin management plan has not been adopted for the Vina subbasin, the proposed project will not conflict, nor interfere with, the attainment of the goals of the proposed plan.

# 1.11 LAND USE AND PLANNING

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XI. Land Use and Planning.				
Would the project:				
a) Physically divide an established community?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

## Environmental Setting

### Butte County General Plan

The General Plan represents the community’s values, ideals and aspirations with respect to land use, development, transportation, public services, and conservation policy that will govern Butte County through 2030. The Land Use Element of the General Plan designates the land use of areas within the County, and includes a description of the characteristics and intensity of each land use category. The land use designation for the proposed project site is as follows:

Public

This designation allows large facilities owned and operated by government agencies, including schools, colleges, airports, dams and reservoirs, disposal sites, recreation facilities, conservation areas, fire stations and other government buildings and property. Alternative energy facilities are allowed in the Public designation, subject to permit requirements. It also allows quasi-public uses such as churches, hospitals, museums, private schools, day cares, cemeteries, and institutional uses.

### Butte County Zoning Ordinance

The Zoning Ordinance implements the goals and policies of the Butte County General Plan by regulating the uses of land and structures within the County. The zoning of the proposed project site and the intended uses of the site are as follows:

Public (PB)

The purpose of the PB zone is to allow for public and quasi-public facilities that serve Butte County residents and visitors and enhance the quality of life within the county. Permitted uses in the PB zone include public and private schools; parks and playgrounds; community centers; interpretive facilities; public libraries; governmental offices; and police and fire stations. Uses permitted with the approval of a Conditional Use Permit include hospitals, cultural institutions, religious facilities, and large scale facilities such as dams and reservoirs, landfills, cemeteries and mausoleums, correctional institutions, major utilities, and other similar public works projects. The maximum FAR in the PB zone is 0.5. The PB zone implements the Public land use designation in the General Plan.

## Discussion

**a) Physically divide an established community?**

No impact. No new parcels or substantial development would result from this project. The project proposes to collocate an antenna array with 9 panel antennas and 12 remote radio units (RRUS) at the 115-foot height, on an existing 155-foot monopole and expand the existing leased area by 300 square feet. The project would not divide any established community.

**b) Cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?**

Less than significant impact. The proposed project was reviewed for constancy with the zoning code. Wireless Communication Facilities are regulated by Article 26 of the Butte County Code. Collocations are regulated by Article 26 §24-184. Collocation normally require an Administrative Permit, but since the original tower and other collocation did not complete CEQA review, the zoning code requires this collocation to complete environmental review. The project will include conditions that will require the proposed collocation to be consistent with Article 26, including §24-184.

## 1.12 MINERAL RESOURCE

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XII. Mineral Resources.				
Would the project:				
a) 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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) 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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

### Discussion

- a) **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?**

Less than significant impact. There are no known economically viable sources of rock materials in the immediate vicinity of the project site. No mining operations have occurred on the project site or surrounding area, and the project would not preclude future extraction of available mineral resources.

- b) **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 impact. The project site is not within or near any designated locally-important mineral resource recovery site.

## 1.13 NOISE

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XIII.Noise.				
Would the project result in:				
a) Generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or in other applicable local, state, or federal standards?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) For a project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or 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 people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

## Environmental Setting

The project site is located in the valley floor in the Oroville Urban Area part of the County. The nearest noise sources to the project site are Lincoln Boulevard and Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR).

According to the Butte County General Plan 2030, noise is a concern throughout Butte County, but especially in the vicinity of noise-sensitive uses such as residences, schools, and churches. Noise is discussed in the Health and Safety Chapter of the Butte County General Plan 2030. Tables HS-2 and HS-3 in the County General Plan (included as Tables 1.13-1 and 1.13-2 below) outline the maximum allowable noise levels at sensitive receptor land uses.

Table 1.13-1. Maximum Allowable Noise Exposure Transportation Noise Sources

LAND USE	Exterior Noise Level Standard for Outdoor Activity Areas <sup>a</sup>		Interior Noise Level Standard	
	L <sub>dn</sub> /CNEL, dB	Leq, dBA <sup>b</sup>	L <sub>dn</sub> /CNEL, dB	Leq, dBA <sup>b</sup>
Residential	60 <sup>c</sup>	-	45	-
Transient Lodging	60 <sup>c</sup>	-	45	-
Hospitals, nursing homes	60 <sup>c</sup>	-	45	-
Theaters, auditoriums, music halls	-	-	-	35
Churches, meeting halls	60 <sup>c</sup>	-	-	40
Office Buildings	-	-	-	45
Schools, libraries, museums	-	70	-	45
Playgrounds, neighborhood parks	-	70	-	-

Source: Table HS-2, Butte County General Plan 2030

<sup>a</sup> Where the location of outdoor activity areas is unknown, the exterior noise-level standard shall be applied to the property line of the receiving land use.

<sup>b</sup> As determined for a typical worst-case hour during periods of use.

<sup>c</sup> Where it is not possible to reduce noise in outdoor activity areas to 60 dB Ldn/CNEL or less using a practical application of the best-available noise reduction measures, an exterior noise level of up to 65 dB Ldn/CNEL may be allowed, provided that available exterior noise-level reduction measures have been implemented and interior noise levels are in compliance with this table.

Table 1.13-2. Maximum Allowable Noise Exposure Non-Transportation Noise Sources

NOISE LEVEL DESCRIPTION	Daytime 7 am - 7 pm		Evening 7 pm - 10 pm		Night 10 pm - 7 am	
	Urban	Non-Urban	Urban	Non-Urban	Urban	Non-Urban
Hourly Leq (dB)	55	50	50	45	45	40
Maximum Level (dB)	70	60	60	55	55	50

Source: Table HS-3, Butte County General Plan 2030

Notes:

1. "Non-Urban designations" are Agriculture, Timber Mountain, Resource Conservation, Foothill Residential and Rural Residential. All other designations are considered "urban designations" for the purposes of regulating noise exposure.
2. Each of the noise levels specified above shall be lowered by 5 dB for simple tone noises, noises consisting primarily of speech or music, or for recurring impulsive noises. These noise level standards do not apply to residential units established in conjunction with industrial or commercial uses (e.g. caretaker dwellings).
3. The County can impose noise level standards which are up to 5 dB less than those specified above based upon determination of existing low ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project site.
4. In urban areas, the exterior noise level standard shall be applied to the property line of the receiving property. In rural areas, the exterior noise level standard shall be applied at a point 100 feet away from the residence. The above standards shall be measured only on property containing a noise sensitive land use. This measurement standard may be amended to provide for measurement at the boundary of a recorded noise easement between all affected property owners and approved by the County.

Table 1.13.1, above, identifies the maximum allowable noise exposure to a variety of land uses from transportation sources, including from roadways, rail and airports. Table 1.13-2 identifies the maximum allowable noise exposure from non-transportation sources. In the case of transportation noise sources, exterior noise level standards for residential outdoor activity areas are 60 dB (Ldn/CNEL). However, where it is not possible to reduce noise in an outdoor activity area to 60 dB Ldn/CNEL or less using a practical application of the best-available noise-reduction measures, an exterior noise level of up to 65 dB may be allowed, provided that available exterior noise-level reduction measures have been implemented and interior noise levels are in compliance with applicable standards.

Butte County Noise Ordinance

Chapter 41A, Noise Control, of the Butte County Code of Ordinance applies to the regulation of noise. The purpose of the noise ordinance is to protect the public welfare by limiting unnecessary, excessive, and unreasonable noise. Section 41A-7 specifies the exterior noise limits that apply to land use zones within the County, which are provided in Table 1.13-2.

The Butte County Noise Ordinance provides the County with a means of assessing complaints of alleged noise violations and to address noise level violations from stationary sources. The ordinance includes a list of activities that are exempt from the provisions of the ordinance; however, some noise-generating activities associated with future residential uses would not be considered to be exempt from the Noise Ordinance. Relevant information related to the exterior and interior noise limits set out by the Butte County Noise Ordinance are included below.

Chapter 41A-9 Exemptions

The following are exempted activities identified in Chapter 41A-9 that are applicable to the proposed project:

- (f) Noise sources associated with construction, repair, remodeling, demolition, paving or grading of any real property or public works project located within one thousand (1,000) feet of residential uses, provided said activities do not take place between the following hours:
- Sunset to sunrise on weekdays and non-holidays;
  - Friday commencing at 6:00 p.m. through and including 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, as well as not before 8:00 a.m. on holidays;
  - Saturday commencing at 6:00 p.m. through and including 10:00 a.m. on Sunday; and,
  - Sunday after the hour of 6:00 p.m.
- Provided, however, when an unforeseen or unavoidable condition occurs during a construction project and the nature of the project necessitates that work in process be continued until a specific phase is completed, the contractor or owner shall be allowed to continue work into the hours delineated above and to operate machinery and equipment necessary to complete the specific work in progress until that specific work can be brought to conclusion under conditions which will not jeopardize inspection acceptance or create undue financial hardships for the contractor or owner;
- (g) Noise sources associated with agricultural and timber management operations in zones permitting agricultural and timber management uses;
- (h) All mechanical devices, apparatus or equipment which are utilized for the protection or salvage of agricultural crops during periods of adverse weather conditions or when the use of mobile noise sources is necessary for pest control;
- (i) Noise sources associated with maintenance of residential area property, provided said activities take place between 7:00 a.m. to sunset on any day except Saturday, Sunday, or a holiday, or between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, Sunday, or a holiday; and, provided machinery is fitted with correctly functioning sound suppression equipment;

## Discussion

- a) **Generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or in other applicable local, state, or federal standards?**

Less than significant impact. No significant existing noise generating sources have been identified in the project area. Noise levels contributed by the proposed project would include construction noise during installation of the antenna array and ground related equipment. Construction noises associated with collocation and installation of the associated ground equipment would primarily be from the use of heavy equipment, generators, employee vehicle trips and power tools. Construction-related noises would be temporary and intermittent, and would not result in long-term noise impacts. Compliance with Butte County Code provisions that exempt construction noise would ensure construction activities occur during daytime hours, making potential impacts less than significant. The backup diesel generator, which will operate during power outages, which outlast the backup batteries, and during weekly testing (approximately 15 minutes). The noise generator during those times are exempt from Butte County Code Chapter 41A-9 e & f.

- b) **Generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?**

Less than significant impact. The proposed project would not include the development of land uses that would generate substantial ground-borne vibration or noise or use construction activities that would have such effects. No structures are proposed that would require heavy footings where the use of heavy pile drivers would be required.

- c) For a project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or 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 people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?

No impact No public use airports have been identified to be located within two miles of the project site. The closest commercial airport, Oroville Municipal Airport, is located approximately 3.3 miles to the west. The proposed project is located outside the compatibility zones for the area airports, and therefore, would not result in hazards or noise impacts to people residing on the project site.

## 1.14 POPULATION AND HOUSING

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XIV. Population and Housing.				
Would the project:				
a) Induce substantial unplanned 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)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

### Discussion

- a) **Induce substantial unplanned 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)?**

No impact. The project would not affect the population of the area because no new parcels would be created and no additional dwellings would be placed on the project site as a result of this project. The project is to collocate a new antenna array on an existing monopole and add in new ground equipment.

- b) **Displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?**

No impact. The project site is the Memorial Park Cemetery, with no residential dwellings.. The proposed project would not impact the operations of the cemetery.

## 1.15 PUBLIC SERVICES

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XV. Public Services.				
Would the project:				
a) Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, or the 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 any of the public services:				
Fire protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Police protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Schools?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Parks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other public facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

### Setting

The General Plan reflects Butte County's commitment to provide needed public services, infrastructure and facilities that are accessible to and benefit all county residents. Applicants pay adopted fee(s) at the time of building permit to pay a proportionate share of fire, police, school, parks, and other governmental services.

#### Fire Protection

The Butte County Fire Department (BCFD) and the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CALFIRE) provide fire and emergency services to the entire unincorporated county population, protecting over 1,600 square miles, with the exceptions of the Cities of Chico and Oroville, the Town of Paradise and the El Medio Fire Protection District. Services include the following; fire control for structural, vegetation, vehicular and other unwanted fires, emergency medical services and rescue response, hazardous materials response, flood control assistance, public safety education, vegetation management, and fire law enforcement/arson investigation.

#### Sheriff Services

The Butte County Sheriff's Office is responsible for law enforcement, criminal investigation, and crime prevention in the unincorporated areas of Butte County.

#### Schools/Public Education

The County Office of Education, Butte Community College, California State University, Chico and local school districts provide public education in Butte County. The local school districts provide elementary and secondary education to the municipalities and unincorporated areas of the county, while the Office of Education offers special education programs and other related services to the individual districts within the county. Butte Community College is a two-year junior college and California State University, Chico is a four-year university. School districts can be found on Figure PUB-1 of the General Plan.

## Parks

A wide variety of recreational facilities are found in Butte County, offering a variety of recreational opportunities to residents and visitors. Federal, State, and local recreation lands are depicted in Figure PUB-2 of the General Plan.

## Solid Waste

The Butte County Public Works Department assumed the daily operational responsibility of the Neal Road Landfill Facility in 2003. The Neal Road Landfill is permitted to accept municipal solid waste, inert industrial waste, demolition materials, and special wastes containing non-friable asbestos and septage. Current projections suggest the landfill has the operational capacity to last through 2034.

The Solid Waste Management Facility Overlay, which is described in the Land Use Element of the General Plan, is applied to the Neal Road Facility and its surrounding area. This Overlay permits uses that are accessory and/or related to solid waste and/or septage disposal, as well as uses that are compatible with landfill operations. Waste diversion programs, such as recycling, reuse and composting, are designed to reduce the environmental impacts and improve the economic efficiency of waste management operations. Recycling, an essential practice for diverting solid waste from landfills, is a fundamental part of the Butte County integrated waste management plan. Existing recycling activities and programs are overseen and operated by the County at the Neal Road Facility and by the private sector at other locations.

## General Governmental Services

Butte County provides a wide variety of mandated services to resident of both incorporated and unincorporated areas with the county. Services include behavioral health services, public health services, supportive services, social services, veterans' services, among many more.

## Discussion

- a) **Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, or the 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 any of the public services:**

### Fire protection?

Less than significant impact. The project is within the Local Responsibility Area of Butte County Fire Department /California Department of Forestry (CalFire). The project would not increase the level of fire protection service needed on the site because wireless communication facilities do not normally require such services.

### Police protection?

Less than significant impact. The proposal is not expected to result in an increase in demand for police services because wireless communication facilities do not normally require such services.

### Schools?

No impact. The communication facility is an unmanned facility and therefore will not result in an increase in demand for school facilities in the area.

### Parks?

No impact. The communication facility is an unmanned facility and therefore will not create an increase in park usage.

### Other public facilities?

No impact. The communication facility is an unmanned facility and therefore will not require other public services.

## 1.16 RECREATION

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XVI. Recreation.				
Would the project:				
a) Increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities that might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

### Environmental Setting

A wide range of recreational facilities and recreational programs are found in Butte County, offering numerous recreational opportunities to local residents and visitors. Federal, State and local recreation lands are displayed in General Plan Figure PUB-2.

### Discussion

- a) **Increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?**

No impact. The communication facility is an unmanned facility and therefore will not create an increase in park usage.

- b) **Include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities that might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?**

No impact. No recreational facilities are proposed under this proposal and none are located on the project site. No impacts on existing or future recreational facilities would occur.

# 1.17 TRANSPORTATION

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XVII. Transportation.				
Would the project:				
a) Conflict with a program, plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle, and pedestrian facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Result in inadequate emergency access?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

## Discussion

**a) Conflict with a program, plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle, and pedestrian facilities?**

No impact. The proposed project is a collocation on an existing tower and a small expansion of the ground equipment leased area. Other than during construction, and routine service maintenance, the facility is unmanned. The project does not impact the existing area circulation system or need to provide additional circulation improvements.

**b) Substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?**

No impact. The project design does not involve any modifications to project parcel access off of Lincoln Boulevard, therefore will nor create any additional hazards of safety concerns.

**c) Result in inadequate emergency access?**

No impact. Since the project is an unmanned facility and does not involve a substantial number of vehicle trips, the project will not result in inadequate emergency access.

## 1.18 TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XVIII. Tribal Cultural Resources.				
Has a California Native American Tribe requested consultation in accordance with Public Resources Code section 21080.3.1(b)?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No
Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is:				
a) Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code section 5020.1(k)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resource Code Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

### Environmental Setting

Tribal Cultural Resources are defined as a site feature, place, cultural landscape, sacred place or object, which is of cultural value to a Tribe and is either on or eligible for the California Historic Register, a local register, or a resource that the lead agency, at its discretion, chooses to treat as such (Public Resources Code Section 21074 (a)(1)).

Butte County contains a rich diversity of archaeological, prehistoric and historical resources. The General Plan 2030 EIR observes that the "archaeological sensitivity of Butte County is generally considered high, particularly in areas near water sources or on terraces along water courses" (Butte County General Plan EIR, 2010, p. 4.5-7).

A substantial adverse change upon a historically significant resource would be one wherein the resource is demolished or materially altered so that it no longer conveys its historic or cultural significance in such a way that justifies its inclusion in the California Register of Historical Resources or such a local register (CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5, sub. (b)(2)). Cultural resources include prehistoric and historic period archaeological sites; historical features, such as rock walls, water ditches and flumes, and cemeteries; and architectural features. Cultural resources consist of any human-made site, object (i.e., artifact), or feature that defines and illuminates our past. Often such sites are found in foothill areas, areas with high bluffs, rock outcroppings, areas overlooking deer migratory corridors, or near bodies of water.

## Discussion

Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is:

- a) **Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code section 5020.1(k)?**

Less than significant impact with mitigation incorporated. Per AB 52 Notification Request, Public Resources Code Section 21080.3(b), the County received two letters for notification. One was from the Torres Martinez Cahuilla Indians, located in southern California near the Salton Sea, and the other was from United Auburn Indian Community, located near the City of Auburn. It was determined through discussion with the Torres Martinez Cahuilla Indians that they do not identify lands within Butte County within their geographic area of traditional and cultural affiliation. The United Auburn Indian Community provided a map of their area of traditional and cultural affiliation, which did not include the project site.

Implementation of Mitigation Measure CUL-1, discussed in Section 1.5 – Cultural Resources, would avoid potential impacts to undiscovered prehistoric resources, historic resources, and human remains that may be uncovered during development activities.

- b) **A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resource Code Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe?**

Less than significant impact with mitigation incorporated. See response in a) above.

## 1.19 UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XIX. Utilities and Service Systems.				
Would the project:				
a) Require or result in the relocation or construction of construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or stormwater drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunication facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider that serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand, in addition to the provider's existing commitments?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Generate solid waste in excess of State or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

## Environmental Setting

### Solid Waste

Most municipal wastes are hauled to the Neal Road Recycling and Waste Facility, which is owned by Butte County and managed by the Butte County Department of Public Works. The Neal Road Facility is located at 1023 Neal Road, one mile east from State Highway 99, and seven miles southeast of Chico, on 190 acres owned by Butte County. The Neal Road Facility is permitted to accept municipal solid waste, inert industrial waste, demolition materials, special wastes containing nonfriable asbestos, and septage. Hazardous wastes, including friable asbestos, are not accepted at the Neal Road Facility or any other Butte County disposal facility, and must be transported to a Class I landfill permitted to receive untreated hazardous waste. The Facility has a design capacity of 25,271,900 cubic yards, and is permitted to accept 1,500 tons per day; however, the average daily disposal into the landfill is approximately 466 tons. As of November 2017, the remaining capacity of the Neal Road Facility is approximately 15,449,172 cubic yards, which would give the landfill a service life to the year 2048 (Neal Road Recycling & Waste Facility, 2017).

## Discussion

- a) **Require or result in the relocation or construction of construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or stormwater drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunication facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects?**

No impact. Implementation of the project would not require domestic water or wastewater treatment, or solid waste facilities. The project will tie into the existing electrical power currently serving the existing communication facility. Thus, the project would have no impact on any utilities or service systems.

- b) **Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years?**

No impact. Implementation of the project would not require domestic water.

- c) **Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider that serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand, in addition to the provider's existing commitments?**

No impact. Implementation of the project would not require wastewater treatment.

- d) **Generate solid waste in excess of State or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals?**

No impact. Implementation of the project would not generate solid waste, so therefore not impact the solid waste reduction goals.

- e) **Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?**

No impact. Implementation of the project would not generate solid waste.

## 1.20 WILDFIRE

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XX. Wildfire.				
Is the project located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as high fire hazard severity zones?				
If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the project:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
a) Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks, and thereby expose project occupants to pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Require the installation of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

### Environmental Setting

The project site has been designated as a very high fire hazard by the State Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. The project site is also within a Local Responsibility Area (LRA), which means that the Butte Fire/Cal Fire has fiscal responsibility for preventing and suppressing fires.

### Discussion

**a) Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?**

No impact. There would be no lane closures involved in the proposed project that would constrict emergency access or interfere with an emergency evacuation plan.

**b) Due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks, and thereby expose project occupants to pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire?**

No impact. The project site located the Memorial Park Cemetery, which is located in the Oroville Urban Area. The project is collocation on an existing communication facility, which is unmanned. The only time anyone would be at the facility will be during construction and during routine maintenance..

- c) **Require the installation of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment?**

No impact. No new infrastructure is proposed with approval of the project. Access to the site already exists.

- d) **Expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes?**

Less than significant impact. The proposed project will be to add a collocation to an existing communication facility and 300 square feet of leased area for the ground related equipment. The expansion area is flat and not subject to erosion or create an issue of downslope flooding.

## 1.21 MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XX. Mandatory Findings of Significance.				
a) Does the project have the potential to substantially degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of an endangered, rare, or threatened species, or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? (“Cumulatively considerable” means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Does the project have environmental effects that will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

### Discussion

- a) **Does the project have the potential to substantially degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of an endangered, rare, or threatened species, or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?**

Less than significant impact. The proposed project’s impacts on biological resources and cultural resources were analyzed in this Initial Study, and all direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts were determined to have no impact, a less than significant impact, or reduced to a less than significant impact with implementation of mitigation. No special status species were identified in the proposed development areas. The development of the proposed project would not cause fish or wildlife populations to drop below self-sustaining levels or restrict the movement/distribution of a rare or endangered species because potential impacts to special-status species habitat would be mitigated to less than significant levels with the implementation of Mitigation Measure BIO-1.

Development of the proposed project would not affect known historic, archaeological, or paleontological resources. There are no known unique ethnic or cultural values associated with the project site, nor are known religious or sacred uses associated with the project site. Mitigation Measure CUL-1 has been identified to confirm the presence or absence of subsurface cultural resources on the project site. Additionally, the project

applicant is required to comply with [California Code of Regulations \(CCR\) Section 15064.5\(e\)](#), [California Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5](#), and [Public Resources Code \(PRC\) Section 5097.98](#) as a matter of policy in the event human remains are encountered at any time. Adherence to Mitigation Measures CUL-1, as well as regulations governing human remains, would reduce potential impacts to cultural and paleontological resources to less than significant with implementation of mitigation.

**b) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? (“Cumulatively considerable” means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects.)**

Less than significant impact with mitigation incorporated. The proposed project has either no impact, a less than significant impact, or a less than significant impact with mitigation incorporated with respect to all environmental issues pursuant to CEQA. Due to the limited scope of direct physical impacts to the environment associated with the proposed project, the project’s impacts are primarily project-specific in nature.

The proposed project site is located within an area has been designated by the County for residential and agricultural uses. Short-term construction-related air quality impacts that would result from construction of the site improvements and build-out of the resultant parcels will be reduced to less than significant levels with implementation of Mitigation Measure AIR-1. Mitigation Measure GHG-1, identified in this Initial Study, would reduce potential impacts from the generation of greenhouse gas emissions to less than significant levels.

The cumulative effects resulting from build out of the Butte County General Plan 2030 were previously identified in the General Plan EIR. The type, scale, and location of the proposed project is consistent with County’s General Plan and zoning designation and is compatible with the pattern of development on adjacent properties. Because of this consistency, the potential cumulative environmental effects of the proposed project would fall within the impacts identified in the County’s General Plan EIR. Build-out of the resultant parcels is subject to required “fair share” development impact fees, which will be paid at the time of development.

**c) Does the project have environmental effects that will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?**

Less than significant impact with mitigation incorporated. There have been no impacts discovered through the review of this application demonstrating that there would be substantial adverse effects on human beings either directly or indirectly. However, the proposed project has the potential to cause both temporary and future impacts to the area by project-related impacts relating to biological and cultural resources. With implementation of mitigation measures included in this Initial Study, these impacts would be effectively mitigated to a less than significant level.

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Authority for the Environmental Checklist: Public Resources Code Sections 21083, 21083.5.

Reference: Government Code Sections 65088.4.

Public Resources Code Sections 21080, 21083.5, 21095; *Eureka Citizens for Responsible Govt. v. City of Eureka* (2007) 147 Cal.App.4th 357; *Protect the Historic Amador Waterways v. Amador Water Agency* (2004) 116 Cal.App.4th at 1109; *San Franciscans Upholding the Downtown Plan v. City and County of San Francisco* (2002) 102 Cal.App.4th 656.

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# Mitigation Measures and Monitoring Requirements

## AT&T Mobility Minor Use Permit (MUP20-0003)

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### Mitigation Measure BIO-1

If project construction activities, including site grubbing and vegetation removal, occur during the nesting season for birds protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) and California Department Fish & Game Code (CDFC) (approximately February 1 – August 31), the project proponent shall retain a qualified biologist to perform preconstruction surveys for nesting bird species. Surveys to identify active bird nests shall be conducted within and 250 feet around the footprint of proposed construction site. The survey shall be conducted within 7 days prior to the initiation of construction activities. In the event that an active nest is observed, a species protection buffer shall be established. The species protection buffer will be defined by the qualified biologist based on the species, nest type and tolerance to disturbance. Construction activity shall be prohibited within the buffer zones until the young have fledged or the nest fails. Nests shall be monitored by a qualified biologist once per week and a report submitted to the Butte County Department of Development Services.

**Plan Requirements:** Perform protocol-level surveys for migratory birds protected by the California Department Fish & Game Code and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Requirements of the condition shall be adhered to throughout all grading and construction periods.

**Timing:** Requirements of the condition shall be adhered to prior to and during construction activities planned to occur during nesting seasons for CDFC and MBTA species (between February 1 and August 31).

**Monitoring:** The Butte County Department of Development Services shall ensure the condition is met at the time of development and during construction activities.

### Mitigation Measure CUL-1

If grading activities reveal the presence of prehistoric or historic cultural resources (i.e., artifact concentrations, including arrowheads and other stone tools or chipping debris, cans glass, etc.; structural remains; human skeletal remains) work within 50 feet of the find shall immediately cease until a qualified professional archaeologist can be consulted to evaluate the find and implement appropriate mitigation procedures. If human skeletal remains are encountered, State law requires immediate notification of the County Coroner (530.538.7404). If the County Coroner determines that the remains are in an archaeological context, the Native American Heritage Commission in Sacramento shall be notified immediately, pursuant to State Law, to arrange for Native American participation in determining the disposition of such remains. The provisions of this mitigation shall be followed during the construction of all subdivision improvements, including land clearing, road construction, utility installation, and building site development.

**Plan Requirements:** This note shall be placed on all building and site development plans.

**Timing:** This measure shall be implemented during all site preparation and construction activities.

**Monitoring:** The applicant/developer shall notify the Planning Division if any cultural resources are uncovered. Should cultural resources be discovered, the Planning Division shall coordinate with the developer and appropriate authorities to avoid damage to cultural resources and determine appropriate action.

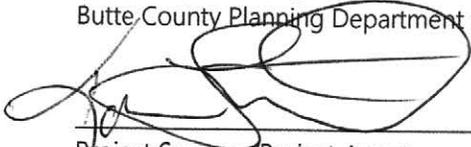
# Mitigation Measures and Monitoring Requirements

AT&T Mobility Minor Use Permit (MUP20-0003)

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## Project Sponsor(s) Incorporation of Mitigation into Proposed Project

I/We have reviewed the Initial Study for the AT&T Mobility Minor Use Permit (MUP20-0003) application and particularly the mitigation measures identified herein. I/We hereby modify the applications on file with the Butte County Planning Department to include and incorporate all mitigations set forth in this Initial Study.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Project Sponsor/Project Agent

6/23/20  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Project Sponsor/Project Agent

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date