



State of California – Natural Resources Agency
 DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
 Northern Region
 601 Locust Street
 Redding, CA 96001
www.wildlife.ca.gov

GAVIN NEWSOM, Governor
CHARLTON H. BONHAM, Director



November 4, 2020

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

Lio Salazar, Senior Planner
 Planning Division
 Department of Resource Management
 1855 Placer Street
 Suite 103
 Redding, CA 96001

Nov 04 2020

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

Subject: Review of the Mitigated Negative Declaration for Use Permit 19-0012 (AT&T Mobility), State Clearinghouse Number 2020109007, Burney, Shasta County

Dear Lio Salazar:

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) has reviewed the Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) dated October 8, 2020, for the above-referenced project (Project). As a trustee for the State's fish and wildlife resources, the Department has jurisdiction over the conservation, protection, and management of fish, wildlife, native plants, and their habitat. As a responsible agency, the Department administers the California Endangered Species Act and other provisions of the Fish and Game Code that conserve the State's fish and wildlife public trust resources. The Department offers the following comments and recommendations on this Project in our role as a trustee and responsible agency pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act, California Public Resources Code section 21000 et seq. The Department commented on this Project March 9, 2020, during the early consultation period. The Department appreciates the incorporation of our comments into the MND.

Project Description

The Project as proposed is "a use permit application to construct, operate, and maintain a wireless telecommunication facility within a 30-foot by 40-foot lease area. The lease area would be surfaced with gravel and surrounded by a six-foot tall screen fence topped with a three-strand barbed wire anti-climb barrier and a 12-foot wide access gate. Proposed improvements consist of a 110-foot-tall monopine tower with a single tri-sector antenna mount outfitted with 3 panel antennas per sector, two microwave dishes, and ancillary equipment; an 8-foot by 8-foot pre-fabricated concrete equipment shelter; a 30-kilowatt diesel generator mounted on a 5-foot by 10-foot concrete slab with a level 2 sound enclosure and integrated 190-gallon fuel tank; and an ancillary equipment pedestal. Landscaping would consist of 5-gallon holly bushes planted 15 feet on center within an 8-foot wide landscaping easement surrounding the lease area. The proposal also includes the improvement of an approximately 350-foot gravel access road within a 15-foot access and utility easement (approximately 310 feet of the access road would be constructed over an existing dirt driveway); an approximately 360-foot underground utility run from an existing power pole and transformer; and an approximately 760-foot fiber-optic cable run from an existing telecommunications point of connection. Construction would consist of site preparation activities, including clearing, grubbing, and grading, including the removal of an 18-inch diameter pine tree and 6-inch diameter oak tree; trenching, excavation and backfilling for installation of all facility structures, ancillary equipment, fencing, utilities (electricity and fiber optic), and landscaping; application of a gravel surface over the access road and within the

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lease area; and reapplication of paving over a portion of the gas station paved parking area that would have to be saw cut to excavate the trench for the fiber-optic run.” The Project is located at 38389 State Highway 299 East, Burney, California.

Comments and Recommendations

The Department has the following recommendations and comments as they pertain to biological resources.

Mitigation Measures

Mitigation Measure IV.a.5.B. discusses measures to avoid impacts to nesting birds and/or raptors. The Department recommends the following sentence reads as follows with changes in bold:

*“These surveys shall be conducted by a qualified biologist within **one (1) week** prior to vegetation removal or construction activities during the nesting season.”*

Trenching

According to the MND, trenching will occur for all facility structures, ancillary equipment, fencing, utilities, and landscaping. If the trench remains open at the end of the workday, it should be covered securely, or a ramp should be provided in the trench to prevent wildlife entrapment. If pipes are left out onsite, they should be inspected for animals prior to burying, capping, moving, or filling. The Department recommends a mitigation measure be developed and included in the final MND.

If you have any questions, please contact Amy Henderson, Senior Environmental Scientist (Specialist), at (530) 598-7194, or by e-mail at Amy.Henderson@wildlife.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:
Curt Babcock
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Curt Babcock

Habitat Conservation Program Manager
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