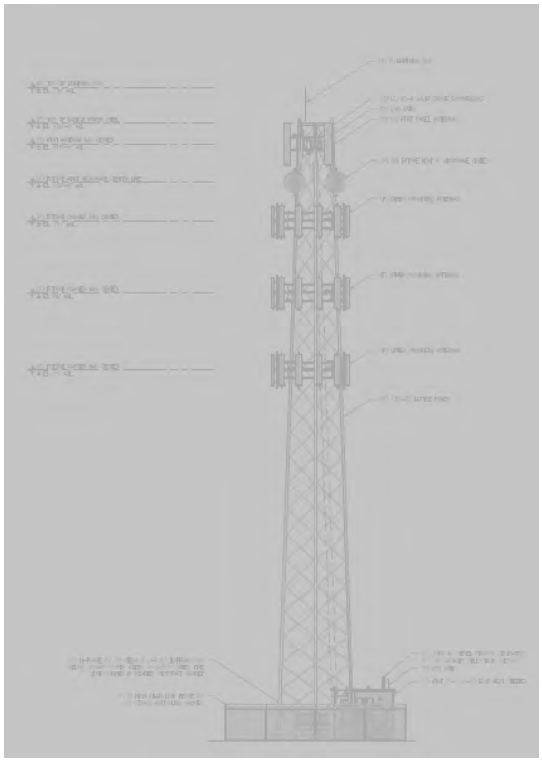
Draft

Initial Study & Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration

AT&T Downieville Cell Tower Project

Conditional Use Permit



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November 2020

DRAFT
Mitigated Negative Declaration

AT&T DOWNIEVILLE CELL TOWER PROJECT

Prepared for:

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NOVEMBER 2020

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APPENDICES

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1 Introduction

1.1 Project Overview

The proposed AT&T Cell Tower Project (Project) consists of the installation of a new, unmanned telecommunication facility on a property located at 160 Galloway Street in the unincorporated Community of Downieville, Sierra County. The proposed facility, which would be located within a fenced 35-foot by 35-foot lease area on the site, would consist of a 120-foot-tall lattice tower with 9 panel antennas and 24 remote radio heads/units, a pre-fabricated 8-foot by 8-foot walk-in equipment shelter with interior equipment, an emergency diesel back-up generator and back-up battery packs, and other ancillary equipment and hardware. Total disturbance area associated with the Project would be 0.17 acre. The Project would be a part of the greater effort of AT&T Wireless to improve the existing wireless network coverage in Sierra County. Project Plans are attached as Appendix A.

1.2 California Environmental Quality Act Compliance

The proposed Project is subject to review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). In accordance with Section 15051 of the CEQA Guidelines, "Criteria for Identifying the Lead Agency," Sierra County (County), as a public agency responsible for approving the proposed Project, is the Lead Agency.

This document is an Initial Study (IS) and proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) prepared by Sierra County pursuant to Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations, Section 15063 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines. Section 15063 of the Guidelines requires the Lead Agency to prepare an IS to analyze the potential environmental impacts associated with a Project to determine if the Project could have a significant effect on the environment. This IS/MND has been prepared (per CEQA Guidelines Sections 15070-15075) to identify potential environmental impacts of the proposed Project and to identify mitigation measures to avoid or reduce the significance of those impacts. CEQA requires the Lead Agency to adopt a mitigation monitoring and reporting program (MMRP) for all required mitigation measures. The draft MMRP is attached as Appendix B to this IS/MND.

1.3 Public Review Process

The proposed IS/MND is subject to a 30-day public review period. Consideration and adoption of the IS/MND will be considered by Sierra County's Board of Supervisors at a public hearing. The public is encouraged to provide written comments during the 30-day review, and/or attend the Board of Supervisors hearing.

Comments may be submitted to the County by email at bpangman@sierracounty.ca.gov or by U.S. mail at

Brandon Pangman
Sierra County Planning Department
P.O. Box 530
Downieville, California 95936

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2 Summary of Findings

2.1 Environmental Factors Potentially Affected

This Initial Study analyzes the environmental impacts of the Project consistent with the format and analysis prompts provided in Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines. The analysis determined that the Project would require mitigation measures for impacts associated with the following resource categories: Aesthetics, Air Quality, Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Geology and Soils, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, Hydrology and Water Quality, Land Use, Noise, Tribal Cultural Resources, Wildfire, and Mandatory Findings of Significance. The analysis determined that all impacts identified in this Initial Study would be less than significant with implementation of mitigation measures to avoid or minimize the impacts identified. Detailed analyses of impacts are provided under each resource section evaluated in this Initial Study.

2.2 Environmental Determination

The County finds that this Initial Study identifies potentially significant impacts, but that implementing the mitigation measures identified in Table 2-1 would avoid or minimize the impacts such that they would be less than significant. The proposed Project would result in no impacts that would remain significant following implementation of mitigation measures. All mitigation measures are identified by analysis topic in Table 2-1.

Table 2-1
Mitigation Measures

Number	Mitigation Measure
Aesthetics	
AES-1	The 120-foot telecommunications tower and all equipment installed on the tower shall be painted or coated in a non-reflective dark color to visually blend the tower into the shaded forest surroundings for the purpose of reducing the visibility of the tower as viewed from SR 49 and the community of Downieville. The Applicant shall provide samples of the proposed coating and demonstrate that the proposed coating is appropriately matched to the shaded forest surroundings to reduce the visibility of the tower. The Applicant shall prepare a maintenance plan to ensure that the paint or coating is appropriately maintained over the life of the tower. The plan shall specify that the Applicant/facility operator will repair and replace equipment and structural and aesthetic components as necessary to maintain the aesthetic quality of the facility and address damage caused by outdoor exposure and/or inclement weather. The Applicant/facility operator shall replace such components within 60 days of written notice by the County. The maintenance plan and proposed coating shall be submitted to the Sierra County Planning Department for review and approval prior to issuance of building permits. Ground equipment, including fencing around the tower pad equipment at the base of the tower, shall have a non-reflective finish. The proposed colors for ground equipment and fence design shall be submitted to and approved by the Planning Director prior to building permit issuance.
Air Quality	
AIR-1	The applicant shall consult with the NSAQMD in preparing a Dust Control Plan that shall be included in project plans and specifications for approval by Sierra County. The Dust Control Plan

	shall include measures for controlling dust during construction, which could include measures such as the following: ▪ Installation of track-out control devices at construction access points to ensure that material is not tracked onto roadways in the project area. ▪ Vegetative material removed from the project site shall be chipped and mulched onsite or removed for disposal offsite; open burning of vegetative materials is prohibited. ▪ All materials hauled away from the Project site shall be covered prior to leaving the site. Appropriate freeboard shall be provided to ensure that materials are completely covered and no materials escape during haul trips. ▪ Water or chemicals shall be applied to disturbed areas to control dust as necessary during grading and trenching operations; ▪ All materials stockpiles shall be covered or otherwise stabilized during inactive periods.
Biological Resources	
BIO-1	To avoid and/or minimize potential impacts to special-status plants and avoid direct and indirect impacts to the ephemeral channel and downstream waters, the applicant shall install temporary construction fencing or otherwise clearly mark the edge of the ephemeral channel to avoid any impacts to the channel during Project construction. A qualified specialist familiar with aquatic resources shall guide installation of the exclusion fencing to ensure adequate protection of the channel and bank. Appropriate Best Management Practices (BMPs) for erosion control and spill prevention shall be implemented to prevent indirect impacts to the channel during Project construction. Should indirect or direct impacts to the ephemeral channel be necessary for Project construction, the following measures shall be required: ▪ Prior to any disturbance within the channel or bank of the ephemeral feature a qualified biologist shall perform a rare plant survey in accordance with standard CDFW survey protocol to determine if any special-status plants occur within areas that would be disturbed by the Project. If any special-status plant species are observed during surveys, a suitable avoidance buffer shall be determined and flagged by the qualified biologist based on species, location and planned construction activity. If avoidance is not possible, consultation with CDFW and/or USFWS, depending on the status of the species, should be initiated to determine if transplantation, seed salvage, or other propagation measure are appropriate to conserve the species. ▪ Prior to any disturbance within the channel or bank of the ephemeral feature, the applicant shall obtain permit approval from the ACOE, RWQCB, and/or CDFW if a formal jurisdictional determination identifies the channel as subject to agency jurisdiction. Proof of permit approval shall be provided to Sierra County prior to ground disturbance.
BIO-2	To avoid and/or minimize potential impacts to nesting birds, ground-disturbing activities (including tree removal) shall occur between October 1 and March 1 to avoid the breeding season (i.e., March 1 through September 30). If construction activities must occur between March 1 and September 30, a qualified biologist shall conduct a preconstruction survey for nesting birds within one week prior to ground-disturbing activities on the Project site. If active bird nests are detected during the survey an appropriate non-disturbance buffer shall be established and maintained until the young have fledged or the biologist determines that the nest is no longer

	active.
BIO-3	All ground-disturbing activities (including tree removal) shall occur between August 16 and the end of February to avoid the "limited operating period" (i.e., breeding season; March 1 through August 15) for California spotted owl as stipulated by the U.S. Forest Service (1993). If construction activities must be carried out between March 1 and August 15, a qualified biologist shall conduct surveys for this species to determine if any breeding territories overlap the Project site prior to construction. Any active breeding territories, if detected during the surveys, shall be avoided.
BIO-4	To avoid and/or minimize potential impacts to bat roosts, ground-disturbing activities (including tree removal) shall be carried out between August 15 and May 1, which is outside of the maternity season (May through August 15). If not feasible, a qualified biologist shall conduct a preconstruction survey for active bat roosts within one week prior to ground-disturbing activities on the Project site. Any active maternity or overwintering roosts, if detected during the survey, shall be avoided until they are inactive.
Cultural Resources	
CUL-1	All employees shall be alerted with either a preconstruction meeting or preconstruction alert sheet to the potential to encounter archaeological material. In the event that cultural resources (sites, features, or artifacts) are exposed during work activities for the proposed Project, all ground disturbing work within 100 feet of the find shall immediately stop until a qualified specialist, meeting the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualification Standards, evaluates the significance of the find and determines whether additional study is warranted. Prehistoric archaeological deposits may be indicated by the presence of discolored or dark soil, fire-affected material, concentrations of fragmented or whole freshwater bivalve shells, burned or complete bone, non-local lithic materials, or other characteristics observed to be atypical of the surrounding area. Common prehistoric artifacts may include modified or battered lithic materials; lithic or bone tools that appeared to have been used for chopping, drilling, or grinding; projectile points; fired clay ceramics or non-functional items; and other items. Historic-age deposits are often indicated by the presence of glass bottles and shards, ceramic material, building or domestic refuse, mining materials, ferrous metal, or features such as concrete foundations or privies. Depending upon the significance of the find under CEQA (14 CCR 15064.5(f); PRC Section 21082), the archaeologist may simply record the find and allow work to continue. If the discovery proves significant under CEQA, additional work, such as preparation of an archaeological treatment plan, testing, or data recovery could be warranted.
CUL-2	In accordance with Section 7050.5 of the California Health and Safety Code, if human remains are found, the county coroner shall be immediately notified of the discovery. No further excavation or disturbance of the site or any nearby area reasonably suspected to overlie adjacent remains shall occur until the county coroner has determined, within 2 working days of notification of the discovery, the appropriate treatment and disposition of the human remains. If the county coroner determines that the remains are, or are believed to be, Native American, he or she shall notify the NAHC in Sacramento within 24 hours. In accordance with California Public Resources Code, Section 5097.98, the NAHC must immediately notify those persons it believes to be the most likely descendant from the deceased Native American. The most likely descendant shall complete his/her inspection within 48 hours of being granted access to the site. The designated Native American representative would then determine, in consultation with the property owner, the disposition of the human remains.
Geology and Soils	
GEO-1	A qualified geologist or geotechnical engineer approved by Sierra County shall prepare a geotechnical engineering report specific to the site and Project. Recommendations of the report shall be incorporated into the Project design as appropriate and to the satisfaction of Sierra

	County to minimize risk associated with site-specific geologic and soils conditions.
GEO-2	Areas disturbed during construction shall be stabilized during prolonged inactive construction periods and following construction to the satisfaction of the Sierra County Planning and Building Department. Stabilization measures shall be identified on project plans and specifications and could include reseeding, tarping materials stockpiles, and/or laying out mulch or gravel, or other measures subject to approval by the Sierra County Planning and Building Department. A certified weed-free seed mix shall be used to revegetate disturbed areas and reduce potential for erosion and sedimentation and shall be identified in project plans and specifications and approved by Sierra County staff. Additional erosion and sediment control BMPs shall be implemented as necessary throughout construction and shall be specified in an erosion control plan included on Project plans and specifications and approved by Sierra County. BMPs could include fiber wattles, mulching, track-out protection, silt fences, or other measures determined appropriate to the site and local seasonal conditions.
Hazards and Hazardous Materials	
HAZ-1	The following measures shall be implemented prior to and during construction and shall be incorporated into Project plans and specifications. ▪ All equipment shall be inspected by the contractor for leaks prior to the start of construction and regularly throughout Project construction. Leaks from any equipment shall be contained and the leak remedied before the equipment is again used on the site. ▪ BMPs for spill prevention shall be incorporated into Project plans and specifications and shall contain measures for secondary containment and safe handling procedures according to the product Material Safety Data Sheets. ▪ A spill kit shall be maintained on site throughout all construction activities and shall contain appropriate items to absorb, contain, neutralize, or remove hazardous materials stored or used in large quantities during construction. ▪ Project plans and specifications shall identify construction staging areas and designated areas where equipment refueling, lubrication, and maintenance may occur. Areas designated for refueling, lubrication, and maintenance of equipment shall be approved by the County. ▪ In the event of any spill or release of any chemical or wastewater during construction, the contractor shall immediately notify the County.
HAZ-2	To minimize the risk associated with accidental spill of diesel fuel stored on the Project site, the applicant shall prepare a Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasure Plan (SPCC Plan) and submit the SPCC Plan to the Sierra County Department of Environmental Health for review and approval before the issuance of a grading permit. The SPCC Plan shall specify measures for secondary containment of diesel fuel stored onsite, transport and refueling procedures, periodic inspections and./or leak detection devices, reporting to the Sierra County Department of Environmental Health, and other measures determined appropriate by Sierra County Department of Environmental Health to avoid spills or reduce the risk associated with accidental release of diesel fuel from the Project site.
HAZ-3	To minimize the risk of accidental ignition of surrounding wildlands, the applicant shall prepare a Fire Prevention Plan and include it in Project plans and specifications for approval by Sierra County. The Contractor and site maintenance activities shall abide by the requirements of the Fire Prevention Plan. Measures may include but are not limited to fire-prevention protocol for welding and blasting and fuels management activities; fire suppression equipment and training requirements; designating a fire supervisor on site; smoking and fire rules; maintaining appropriate clearance from vegetation; vegetation disposal requirements (no burning onsite);

	requirements for parking and equipment and materials storage and storage areas; and designating a fire patrol person. In addition, a fire extinguisher shall be installed in an accessible location with the facilities installed.
Noise	
NOISE-1	The project applicant/contractor shall restrict hours of construction activity to daytime hours of operation between 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Construction hours on Saturdays shall be from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., and on Sundays and observed holidays, construction may occur only between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.
NOISE-2	At commencement of Project construction, the project applicant shall provide a report prepared by a qualified noise consultant approved by Sierra County that includes measurements of noise generated by the onsite HVAC equipment and generator under typical load conditions at the nearest noise-sensitive land use. The facility shall not be operated until the report is reviewed and approved by Sierra County staff. Should noise levels measured exceed County standards, the applicant shall modify the design to achieve compliance with applicable County standards.
Tribal Cultural Resources	
TCR-1	Should a potential TCR be inadvertently encountered during construction, construction activities near the encounter shall be halted and the contractor shall notify the County. The County shall notify Native American tribes that have been identified by the NAHC to be traditionally and culturally affiliated with the geographic area of the Project. If the unanticipated resource is archaeological in nature, appropriate management requirements shall be implemented as outlined in Mitigation Measure CUL-1. If the County determines that the potential resource appears to be a TCR (as defined by California Public Resources Code, Section 21074), any affected tribe would be provided a reasonable period of time to conduct a site visit and make recommendations regarding future ground-disturbing activities as well as the treatment and disposition of any TCRs discovered. Depending on the nature of the potential resource and Tribal recommendations, review by a qualified archaeologist may be required. Implementation of proposed recommendations shall be made based on the determination by the County that the approach is reasonable and feasible. All activities would be conducted in accordance with regulatory requirements.

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3 Initial Study Checklist

1. **Project title:**

   AT&T Downieville Cell Tower

2. **Lead agency name and address:**

   Sierra County
   P.O. Box 530,
   Downieville, CA 95936

3. **Contact person and phone number:**

   Contact: Brandon Pangman, Planning Department
   Phone: 530-289-3251
   Email: bpangman@sierracounty.ca.gov

4. **Project location:**

   The 0.34-acre Project site is located at 160 Galloway Street within the unincorporated community of Downieville in Sierra County (Assessor's Parcel Number 002-150-010). The site, located 2,500 feet south of State Route (SR) 49, is accessed from Galloway Road via Nevada Street. The approximate center of the site corresponds to 39°33'21.1" North latitude and 120°49'47.1" West longitude. The site is located in Township 20 North, Range 10 East, and Section 35 of the Downieville U.S. Geological Survey 7.5-minute quadrangle. The Project location is shown in Figure 1 – Project Location, and Figure 2 – Project Site.

5. **Project sponsor's name and address:**

   Epic Wireless Group
   605 Coolidge Drive Suite 100,
   Folsom, CA 95630

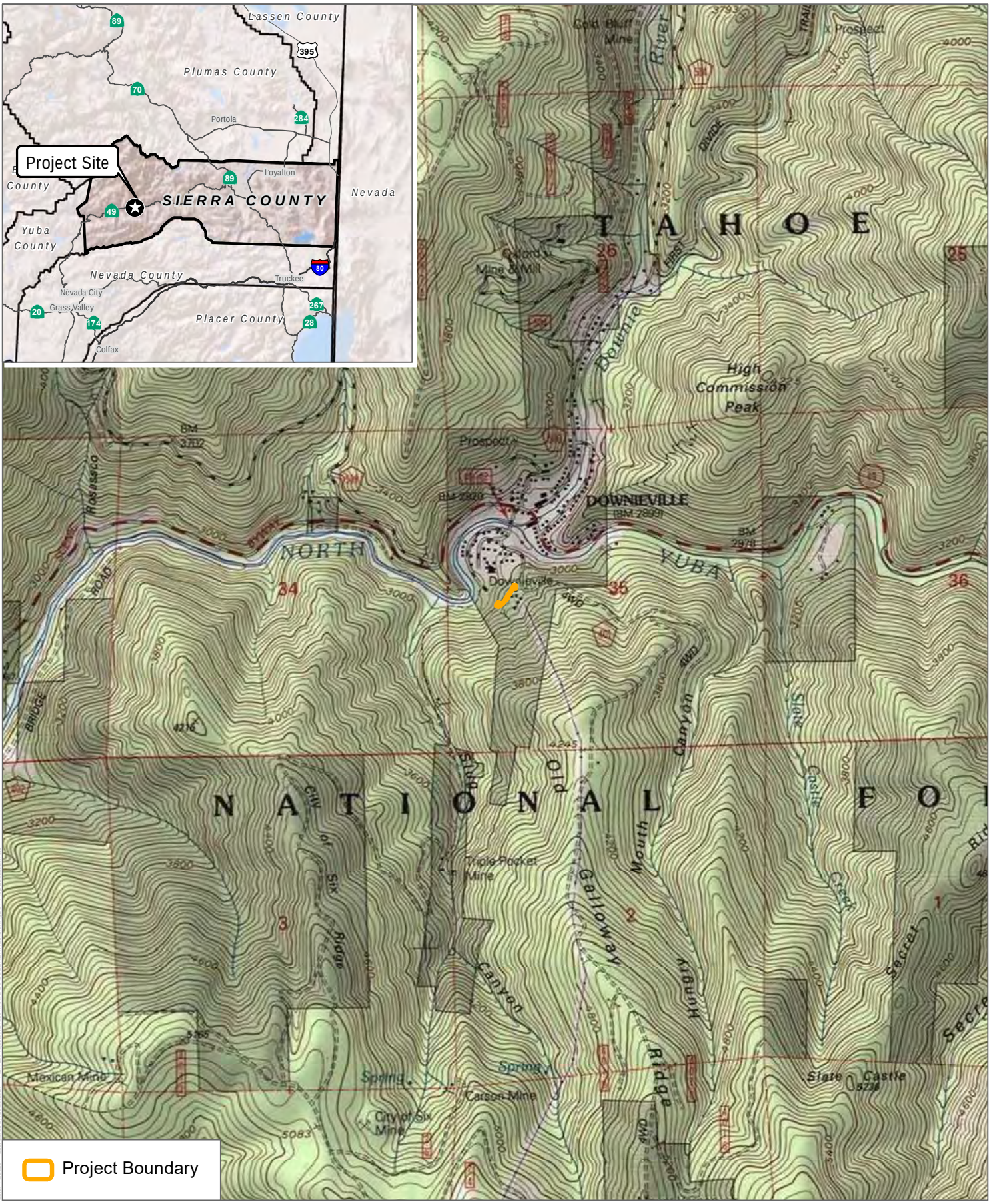
   Contact: Sara King
   Phone: 916.296.2011
   Email: sara.king@epicwireless.net

6. **General plan designation:**

   Forest (F), within Special Treatment Area (STA-Scenic Corridor)

7. **Zoning:**

   General Forest (GF), with Scenic Highway Corridor Overlay (GF-SC)



SOURCE: USGS 7.5-Minute Series Downieville Quadrangle

DUDEK

0 1,000 2,000 Feet
0 285 570 Meters
1:24,000

FIGURE 1

Project Location

AT&T Cell Tower Project

SOURCE: Bing 2020

DUDEK

0 50 100 Feet
0 12.5 25 Meters
1:1,200

FIGURE 2
Project Site
AT&T Cell Tower Project

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Telecommunication Facility

The proposed Project consists of the construction and operation of a new telecommunication facility with a 120-foot-tall cell tower and associated ground equipment. The Project would be a part of the greater effort of AT&T Wireless to improve the existing wireless network coverage in Sierra County; cell service is presently lacking in and around the community of Downieville and network capacity is substandard. The proposed tower would improve both regular phone call coverage service for the area as well as Wi-Fi internet for cell phones and homes with internet service around the tower; the tower would provide download speeds of 10 megabits per second (Mbps) and upload speeds of 1Mbps. The tower would also hold Firstnet specific equipment, which dedicates specific equipment to ensure that fire, police, and other emergency responders have priority service during emergencies. The telecommunication facility would also increase the network capacity in the area. The facility would be unmanned but would be in operation 12 months a year, 7 days a week, 24 hours a day providing wireless network coverage. Project plans are included as Appendix A to this Initial Study.

The telecommunication facility would be constructed within a 35-foot by 35-foot lease area within the 0.34-acre Project site. The base of the lease area would be surfaced with compacted gravel on portions not used for equipment installation. Total anticipated disturbance area associated with the Project would be 0.17 acre. The proposed 120-foot-tall cell tower would include 9 panel antennas and 24 remote radio heads/units. In addition to the tower, the Project would include the installation of a 30 kilowatt (kW) backup generator with acoustic enclosure on a 5-foot by 10-foot slab within the lease area. The generator would be operated approximately twice per month for no more than 30 minutes and only during daylight hours for testing to ensure that should an emergency occur and the generator be needed, it would function properly. The generator would have a 190-gallon capacity diesel tank and twelve (12) 12-volt battery packs for emergency reserve power. The battery packs would provide silent backup power during short power outages. The diesel generator would come on automatically during longer power outages when battery power runs low. The generator would operate only during power outages and periodic run-testing.

The Project includes installing an 8-foot by 8-foot pre-manufactured structure, 10 feet in height, to house communication equipment. The structure would be located to the west of the telecommunication lattice tower and within the lease area and would include an externally mounted HVAC unit. An approximately 6-foot-tall ice bridge would run from the tower to the equipment shelter. The northeast boundary of the lease area would include a 12-foot-wide access gate, adjacent to which would be a 3-foot by 5-foot telco vault. On the opposite side of the gate and attached to the fence would be a knox box to provide emergency access. The Project would install telecommunication lines along the asphalt drive that would connect to the existing telecommunication lines along Galloway Street.

Access

Access to the Project site for construction and operations and maintenance would be provided via an existing driveway off of Galloway Street. The driveway ranges from 6 feet to 15 feet in width. The Project includes the addition of a compacted and gravel-surfaced hammerhead turning area that would be approximately 54 feet long and would be graded to maintain a consistent 7 percent slope. Access to the proposed telecommunication facility would be restricted by a 6-foot-tall chain-link fence with a three -strand

anti-climb barrier and signs would be posted to discourage trespassing. All work along the access driveway would be completed to Caltrans Class II standards.

Construction Activities and Methods

The Project would result in approximately 0.17 acre of total ground disturbance, which includes grading for the cell tower base facility, vehicle turnaround, expanded access road, relocating utility poles, resurfacing the access road, and trenching for underground utilities. Construction activities and methodology would be consistent with the following:

- Clearing and grubbing of trees and grasses, including stumps within the footprint. Cleared and grubbed vegetation would be removed or disposed off-site at an approved location.
- Installation of an AT&T approved pre-manufactured equipment shelter with associated interior equipment.
- Construction of a 120-foot lattice tower, 6 antennas, and 12 proposed remote radio units[1] (RRUS).
- Installation of a 6-foot-tall chain-link fence around the perimeter of the 35-foot by 35-foot lease area.
- Installation of a 30kw diesel standby generator with acoustic enclosure and attached 190-gallon capacity tank and twelve (12), 12-volt battery packs for emergency power supply.
- Demobilization and reclamation of disturbed areas would include removing construction equipment and debris, removing temporary facilities, placing a layer of topsoil and seeding, fertilizing, and mulching the areas. Disturbed areas include areas impacted by construction activities, areas topped with erosion protection, and permanent access roads.
- It is assumed that construction activities would be performed continuously during daylight hours five days a week throughout a 2 month period.

Construction of the telecommunication facility would include the use of light trucks (pickups), heavy-duty diesel trucks, a crane to construct the tower, a bulldozer, and an excavator. Specifically, the project would require two light work trucks, three heavy-duty diesel trucks in order to transport the prefabricated shelter and the generator, and one crane to transport and raise the tower itself. Any heavy equipment would only remain on site for two days.

Construction would occur in four phases over the course of two months and each phase would consist of the following:

- Phase 1: Groundwork – prepare site, form and pour pads for equipment shelter and generator, and set anchor bolts in the tower foundations.
- Phase 2: Prepare site for fiber and power connections. Complete necessary inspections.

[1] Remote Radio Units (RRUs) are used to connect user units (cell phones) to the antenna communication system.

- Phase 3: Mobilize crane and receive tower and antenna mounts. Erect tower sections and install pre-assembled antenna mounts. Run electrical and fiber optic trunk lines.

- Phase 4: Complete testing and begin operations. Performance would be monitored for approximately 1 week and the construction site would be stabilized and cleaned up during this time.

Lighting

The equipment shelter associated with the proposed Project would include two shielded down-tilt lights with motion sensors and automatic shutoff timers. Lights would remain off unless triggered by motion or if required if maintenance is required outside daylight hours.

Grading and Tree Removal

The Project site is relatively flat. Construction of the proposed Project would require minimal grading or alteration and would not require excavation cuts or the export of cut materials offsite. The Project site is mainly grassland and construction of the proposed Project would require the removal of four pine trees and one oak tree. Tree debris would be removed from the Project site.

Materials Storage Areas and Equipment Staging

The proposed Project includes a 1,339 square-foot staging area within the project boundary. The equipment and materials staging would occur within existing disturbed areas and within the project footprint/disturbance area. After construction, the onsite equipment shelter would be used to store any materials required for operation and maintenance of the telecommunication facility.

Onsite Drainage and Erosion Control

The proposed Project would also implement commonly used best management practices for erosion control, including fiber wattles and silt fencing, covering exposed soil piles, mulching disturbed areas, and reseeding. The Project includes drainage dips to improve surface stormwater drainage and gravel surfacing improvements along the existing asphalt driveway.

Project Construction Schedule and Phasing

After a building permit has been secured from the Sierra County Building Department, construction of the telecommunication facility and associated structures would occur in four phases over a period of approximately 2 months.

9. Surrounding land uses and setting:

The Project site is located adjacent to three homes that share a single asphalt driveway off of Galloway Street and another residence down a steep embankment 390 feet north of the site off of Smokey Lane. Generally, to the north and east are residential land uses and Slug Canyon is to the west. The remainder of the surrounding land is forested and undeveloped. The County General Plan applies a Forest (F) land use designation to the site and it is within a Scenic Corridor Special Treatment Area. The site is within a General Forest (GF) zone district and within a Scenic Corridor (-SC) Overlay zone. The project site is just outside of

the Community Core area associated with the community of Downieville, as mapped by the County General Plan.

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

The following permits and approvals could be required to carry out the proposed Project:

- Sierra County: Conditional Use Permit, Site Plan Review for consistency with Scenic Corridor standards, Building Permit
- Federal Communications Commission, California Public Utilities Commission
- Northern Sierra AQMD; Permit to Operate

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.

☒ Aesthetics	☐ Agriculture and Forestry Resources	☒ Air Quality
☒ Biological Resources	☒ Cultural Resources	☐ Energy
☒ Geology and Soils	☐ Greenhouse Gas Emissions	☒ Hazards and Hazardous Materials
☒ Hydrology and Water Quality	☒ Land Use and Planning	☐ Mineral Resources
☒ Noise	☐ Population and Housing	☐ Public Services
☐ Recreation	☐ Transportation	☒ Tribal Cultural Resources
☐ Utilities and Service Systems	☒ Wildfire	☒ Mandatory Findings of Significance

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 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT or NEGATIVE DECLARATION pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT or NEGATIVE DECLARATION, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed Project, nothing further is required.

11/18/2020

Brandon Pangman, Assistant Director, Sierra County Building and Planning — Date

3.1 Aesthetics

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
I. AESTHETICS – Except as provided in Public Resources Code Section 21099, would the project:				
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	☐	☒	☐	☐
b) Substantially damage scenic resources including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state 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 point). If the project is in an urbanized area, would the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?	☐	☒	☐	☐
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	☐	☒	☐	☐

Setting

The Sierra County community of Downieville is situated at the confluence of the Downie and North Yuba Rivers in a deep canyon characterized by steep slopes and rugged, mountainous terrain (Figure 1). The project site is on a northwest-facing slope approximately 1,200 feet south of Main Street and at an elevation of approximately 3,100 feet, or approximately 200 feet higher than the elevation of downtown Downieville. While much of the Project site is an existing driveway, undeveloped portions of the site support vegetation comprised of patches of mixed conifer forest and annual grassland. The area immediately surrounding the Project site is characterized by dense and undeveloped conifer forest and structures associated with rural residential uses (Figure 2). Topography in the vicinity of the Project site generally slopes down to the northwest.

The Project site is accessed from Galloway Street, south of SR 49. SR 49 is designated as a federal, state, and/or county scenic route in the Project area. The Forest Service, Caltrans, and Sierra County each have jurisdiction over lands within the viewshed of SR 49 and may regulate development and advertising along the roadway, perform roadway or vegetation maintenance, and perform/regulate other improvements along the roadway. SR 49 is a designated State Scenic Highway from the Yuba / Sierra County line to Yuba Pass/Summit in Sierra County, though the portion of SR 49 through Downieville is excluded from the Scenic designation. Foreground and middle-ground views from SR 49 include forested inclines, intermittent views of rock cliffs, ridges, and peaks. The Project site is visible looking generally east from a portion of SR 49 that carries the State Scenic Highway designation just west of Downieville at Cannon Point, though dense forest obstructs any direct view to the site. The Project site is also visible looking south from within Downieville in the vicinity of the parking lot just south of the Downieville Grocery

Store on SR 49/Main Street. Views to the Project site from this location consist of a foreground that includes elements of Downieville's historic downtown with a background of dense forest and the tops of trees growing on and around the Project site. Trees in the vicinity of the project site are generally 80 feet to 100 feet in height, though some are nearly 140 feet tall. The site itself and structures adjacent to the site are not visible from within Downieville, as views to ground level are obstructed by dense forest. The Sierra County General Plan Visual Resources Element identifies Downieville as a Living Historic Community and as an Important Scenic Feature within the County and identified SR 49 as a County Scenic Highway. The General Plan identifies the rural visual quality of the County as a valuable scenic characteristic of the County that should be protected by avoiding visually obtrusive visual elements that are not in keeping with the rural character of the surroundings and that contribute to visual clutter within the viewshed of scenic corridors or important scenic features.

a) Would the project have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?

Please refer to (c) below.

b) Would the project substantially damage scenic resources including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?

Please refer to (c) below.

c) In non-urbanized areas, would the project 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 point). If the project is in an urbanized area, would the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?

For purposes of determining significance under CEQA, a "scenic vista" is defined as an expansive view of a scenic setting, whether that setting is natural or constructed. The Sierra County General Plan (County of Sierra 2012) characterizes the rural mountain setting and the historic communities and activities of a rural economy, including the historic setting and character of Downieville, as resources that contribute to the scenic quality of Sierra County; thus, changes in views of these resources may be considered to affect the existing visual character and quality of public views and overall scenic qualities of Sierra County.

The Project includes constructing a new telecommunications facility within an area characterized by mixed conifer forest and annual grasslands that contribute to the overall rural character and scenic qualities of the historic community of Downieville. Visual simulations of the proposed cell tower were prepared to evaluate changes in the visual environment that would result from implementing the Project. Viewpoints for the photosimulations prepared were selected by County staff based on visibility of the Project site and accessibility of the viewpoint to the public. Viewpoints for photosimulations included a site along the State Scenic Highway portion of SR 49 just west of Downieville, and a location just south of the Downieville Grocery Store within the community of Downieville. Refer to Figure 3 for viewpoint locations analyzed. It was determined that portions of the proposed cell tower above tree level could be visible from the two viewpoints analyzed in Downieville. Existing views from each viewpoint are shown in Figures 4a and 5a. Photosimulations of views of the proposed tower from each viewpoint analyzed are shown in Figures 4b and 5b. As discussed in the Setting section, the Project site is located within the middle-ground view of SR 49, a designated State Scenic Highway, and from within the historic community of Downieville. From the Downieville viewpoint, foreground views are dominated by one and two story structures along with

SOURCE: Esri Clarity Basemap 2020

DUDEK

0 150 300 Feet

FIGURE 3

Simulation Viewpoint Map

AT&T Cell Tower Project

Path: Z:\Projects\10453301\MAP\DOC\DOCUMENT\Visual

FIGURE 4.a

Existing Viewpoint 1

AT&T Cell Tower Project

DUDEK

FIGURE 4.b

Viewpoint 1 - Project Photosimulation (Gray / Unpainted Tower)

AT&T Cell Tower Project

DUDEK

FIGURE 5.a

Existing Viewpoint 2

AT&T Cell Tower Project

DUDEK

FIGURE 5.b

Viewpoint 2 - Project Photosimulation (Gray / Unpainted Tower)

AT&T Cell Tower Project

DUDEK

associated utility infrastructure and the Nevada Street bridge spanning the Yuba River. Background views consist mainly of forested peaks and valleys and occasional utility line clearance paths and roads.

During the construction of the Project, equipment and materials at ground level would not be visible from within the Scenic Corridor or from within the downtown area of Downieville. However, construction activities would be visible to the public in the immediate vicinity of the Project site and several residences off of Galloway Road. Views of active construction would be temporary and intermittent and limited to few people and would not affect designated scenic views in the area of the Project site. Construction of the Project would also entail the removal of four pine trees and one oak tree ranging in size from 5 inches to 8 inches in diameter at breast height (dbh). Although the Project would require the removal of five trees, the area surrounding the Project site would remain heavily forested and this would not change the overall character of the area surrounding the Project site. No rock outcroppings or historic buildings would be impacted by the Project. As such, Project-related construction activities and the minimal onsite tree removal would not significantly affect the overall visual character of the site or the existing scenic views experienced from SR 49 or the scenic qualities of the historic community of Downieville.

Upon completion of the Project, the proposed equipment shelter and other ground-level ancillary equipment would be screened from view along SR 49 and the greater surrounding Downieville area by topography and trees and would not result in visual inconsistencies with the existing scenic values of the historic community of Downieville or those experienced by the public from SR 49. However, the proposed 120-foot lattice tower would extend to a height above the surrounding trees in the area of the Project site and could represent a disjunct visual element in the otherwise forested landscape and would be visually inconsistent with the historical and rural visual character of the community of Downieville as viewed from SR 49 just west of downtown Downieville and from key locations within the downtown. Figure 4b is a photosimulation of the proposed tower and demonstrates the appearance of the tower as viewed from Viewpoint 1, which is along SR 49 just east of downtown Downieville. Figure 5b demonstrates the visibility of the proposed lattice tower as viewed from a point just south of the Downieville Grocery Store in the downtown parking area, which is a popular gathering place for Downieville residents and visitors. As shown in the visual simulation, a bare metal lattice tower would introduce a new use that would significantly contrast with the surrounding landscape. To minimize the visual contrast of the proposed tower and associated impact to visual character and scenic qualities in the Project area, Mitigation Measure AES-1 would require the tower to be painted or coated in a dark and non-reflective color to blend with shaded forest colors. Figures 6 and 7 demonstrate the appearance of the proposed tower with mitigation incorporated and indicate that Mitigation Measure AES-1 would substantially reduce the visibility of the proposed cell tower. While the overall function of the tower would remain the same, use of non-reflective dark colors to blend the tower into shaded elements of the forested area surrounding the site would ensure that visual impacts resulting from the proposed Project would be **less than significant with mitigation**.

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

The proposed Project would not create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the Project area. The equipment shelter would be equipped with two shielded down tilt lights with motion sensors and auto shutoff timers. As stipulated in Mitigation Measure AES-1, ground equipment and the ancillary equipment and hardware attached to the tower structure would be required to utilize a non-reflective finish. Mitigation Measure AES-1 would require the tower to be painted a non-reflective dark color to blend with the surrounding forested slopes and avoid any potential glare form

FIGURE 6

Viewpoint 1 - Project Photosimulation with Mitigation Implemented (Dark Painted Tower)

AT&T Cell Tower Project

DUDEK

FIGURE 7

Viewpoint 2 - Project Photosimulation with Mitigation Implemented (Dark Painted Tower)

AT&T Cell Tower Project

DUDEK

unpainted metal components. Figures 6 and 7 demonstrate the appearance of the proposed tower with mitigation incorporated and indicate that Mitigation Measure AES-1 would substantially reduce the visibility of the proposed cell tower and result in no substantial glare. Accordingly, impacts associated with light or glare would be less than **significant with mitigation**.

Mitigation Measures

AES-1 The 120-foot telecommunications tower and all equipment installed on the tower shall be painted or coated in a non-reflective dark color to visually blend the tower into the shaded forest surroundings for the purpose of reducing the visibility of the tower as viewed from SR 49 and the community of Downieville. The Applicant shall provide samples of the proposed coating and demonstrate that the proposed coating is appropriately matched to the shaded forest surroundings to reduce the visibility of the tower. The Applicant shall prepare a maintenance plan to ensure that the paint or coating is appropriately maintained over the life of the tower. The plan shall specify that the Applicant/facility operator will repair and replace equipment and structural and aesthetic components as necessary to maintain the aesthetic quality of the facility and address damage caused by outdoor exposure and/or inclement weather. The Applicant/facility operator shall replace such components within 60 days of written notice by the County. The maintenance plan and proposed coating shall be submitted to the Sierra County Planning Department for review and approval prior to issuance of building permits.

Ground equipment, including fencing around the tower pad equipment at the base of the tower, shall have a non-reflective finish. The proposed colors for ground equipment and fence design shall be submitted to and approved by the Planning Director prior to building permit issuance.

3.2 Agriculture and Forestry Resources

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
II. AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY RESOURCES – 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) prepared by the California Department of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. 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. Would the project:				
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?	☐	☐	☐	☒

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?	☐	☐	☐	☒
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))?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to 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?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Setting

The Project would occur on private land adjacent to the Tahoe National Forest. No Farmland designations apply to the Project site, according to review of the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program (CDC 2020). The Project site is within the General Forest (GF) zone district and the County's general plan applies a Forest (F) land use designation to the site.

a) Would the project 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?

The Project would occur on private land and adjacent to the boundaries of the Tahoe National Forest, adjacent to the unincorporated community of Downieville. The proposed Project area is under the General Forest designation and would not convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance, as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Department of Conservation, to non-agricultural use (CDC 2020). Therefore, the Project would have **no impact.**

b) Would the project conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?

The Project would occur on private land and adjacent to the boundaries of the Tahoe National Forest and would not conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use or a Williamson Act contract. Therefore, the Project would have **no impact.**

c) Would the project 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))?

The Project would occur on land zoned as General Forest. However, the completion of the Project would not necessitate rezoning and would not conflict with existing zoning, which allows for public utility distribution facilities. Therefore, there would be **no impact**.

d) Would the project result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?

The Project would require the removal of four pine trees and one oak tree to construct Project components including expanding the access road, and constructing a vehicle turnaround and the tower base and associated equipment. The project would result in no change in the underlying zoning and would result in additional development within lands zoned for forest use. However, zoning on the site permits utilities uses, so development associated with installation and operation of the tower site is consistent with existing zoning and no loss or conversion of land dedicated exclusively for forest land would occur. The project would require a Timber Harvest Plan exemption from CALFIRE for a conversion of less than 3 acres of forest land. All temporary disturbance areas associated with the project would be restored to a natural condition and would be available to support forest uses. The proposed Project would result in development of the project site with a utility use consistent with existing zoning applied to the site. Impacts associated with loss of forest land would be **less than significant**.

e) Would the project 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?

The Project would not result in the conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural use. Please refer to d), above, for a discussion of conversion of impacts associated with converting forest land to non-forest use. Therefore, **no impact** would occur associated with other changes in the existing environment not discussed under d), above.

Mitigation Measures

No mitigation measures are required.

3.3 Air Quality

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
III. AIR QUALITY – Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management district or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations. Would the project:				
a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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?	☐	☒	☐	☐
c) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d) Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Setting

The Project site is located within the Mountain Counties Air Basin (MCAB), within the jurisdiction of the Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District (NSAQMD). Sources of air pollution within the District are generally local motor vehicle emissions, and particulates from wood burning stoves, wildfire, and dust from ground disturbance. Air quality in the immediate Project vicinity is influenced by emissions from motor vehicles traveling area roadways and emissions from timber harvesting/logging/agricultural activities within the Tahoe National Forest, use of construction and landscaping equipment, wood-burning appliances, and seasonal wildfires. As required by the federal Clean Air Act, the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) established Ambient Air Quality Standards (AAQS) for six air pollutants: ozone, carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, sulfur dioxide, suspended particulate matter, and lead. These standards represent the levels of air quality necessary to protect the public health and welfare with an adequate margin of safety. The Federal Clean Air Act requires states to classify air basins (or portions thereof) as either in "attainment" or "non-attainment" with respect to whether the AAQS for each pollutant has been achieved. For areas designated as "non-attainment," the federal Clean Air Act requires states to prepare air quality plans containing emissions-reduction strategies. Sierra County is in attainment for state and national air quality standards for nitrogen dioxide and sulfur dioxide. The County is in non-attainment for state standards for respirable particulate matter (PM10) standards and is unclassified for fine particulate matter (PM2.5), ozone and carbon monoxide.

NSAQMD provides an outline on how to evaluate Air Quality impacts. The District relies on a tiered system to simplify mitigation necessities: Level A requires the most basic mitigations; Level B requires more extensive mitigations; and Level C requires the most extensive mitigations. The tiered thresholds are given in Table 3-1 below for a project's estimated emissions of criteria pollutants in lbs/day. Levels of exceedance of NOx and ROG indicate the relative size and scope of a project and the associated need for mitigation measures that are directed toward ensuring that a project does not contribute to the County's non-attainment status for PM10 (dust). Emissions are considered significant by NSAQMD if they exceed Level C thresholds with mitigation.

Table III-1
NSAQMD Air Pollutant Emissions Thresholds for Mitigation

Level A Thresholds		
NOx	ROG	PM10

<24	<24	<79
Level B Thresholds		
NOx	ROG	PM10
24-136	24-136	79-136
Level C Thresholds		
NOx	ROG	PM10
>136	>136	>136

NSAQMD has adopted rules that govern emissions of air pollutants in the MCAB. Those applicable to the proposed Project include the following:

Rule 205, Nuisance. This rule prohibits the discharge of air contaminants or other material from any source which cause injury, detriment, nuisance, or annoyance to any considerable number of persons, or to the public, or which endangers the comfort, repose, health, or safety of any such persons, or the public or which cause to have a natural tendency to cause injury or damage to business or property.

Rule 226, Dust Control. In part, this rule states, "A dust control plan must be submitted to and approved by the Air Pollution Control Officer before topsoil is disturbed on any project where more than one (1) acre of natural surface area is to be altered or where the natural ground cover is removed." The Dust Control Plan requirements are typically included by enforceable conditions included on the project grading plans (NSAQMD, 1994). The proposed Project would disturb less than one acre of land so would not be subject to Rule 226.

An Authority to Construct/Permit to Operate may be required from NSAQMD for diesel generators and other stationary emissions sources and project applicants are required to comply with the terms of the authorization and/or permit. Operators of diesel equipment are also required to comply with the Statewide Diesel Airborne Toxic Control Measure (ATCM) requirements. All on-road mobile, off-road mobile, portable and stationary diesel-powered equipment and vehicles must conform to the ATCM requirements.

a) Would the project conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?

The sources of air pollutants associated with the proposed Project would be in the form of emissions from vehicles and diesel-powered equipment, primarily during approximately 2 months of construction, and also for occasional emergency generator use and for routine maintenance and upkeep. Vehicles would be used to deliver construction crews and materials, and diesel engine powered equipment would be used during construction. Construction activities for the proposed Project would be limited in duration and extent. Following construction, the facility would be unmanned, and the standby generator would be used only during testing and infrequent and longer duration power outages. Operation of the diesel generator would be required to remain in compliance with the Permit to Operate and the Statewide Diesel ATCM. Construction activities would be required to be carried out in compliance with applicable NSAQMD rules, including Rule 205, which would apply to dust or other emissions with potential to be generated during construction. While Rule 226 would not apply to the project, since it would disturb less than 1 acre, standard dust control best management practices would be implemented to ensure compliance with Rule 205. Emissions due to construction and operation of the Project would be minimal and would not conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan. ***No impact.***

b) Would the project 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?

Sierra County is in non-attainment for state standards for respirable particulate matter (PM10) standards and is unclassified for fine particulate matter (PM2.5), ozone and carbon monoxide. Construction equipment and activities associated with proposed Project improvements would generate air contaminants, including oxides of nitrogen (NOx), reactive organic gases (ROG), carbon dioxide (CO2) and particulate matter (PM10), and fine particulate matter (PM2.5), in the form of engine exhaust and fugitive dust. However, the emissions emitted during construction would be limited and temporary. The site is generally flat, no substantial cuts or fills that would require import or export of large volumes of material and a high number of vehicle trips would not be required to construct the proposed project.

In addition, the Project contractor would be required to comply with NSAQMD's Rule 205, Nuisance by implementing best management practices to ensure that dust emissions (which includes particulate matter) are minimized to the extent feasible. The proposed Project would disturb less than one acre of land and would therefore not be subject to Rule 226 Dust Control. Therefore, Mitigation Measure AIR-1 is provided to ensure that the applicant consults with the NSAQMD and implements a Dust Control Plan during construction. By requiring measures such as covering open-bodied trucks when off-hauling any materials removed from the site, use of water or chemicals for control of dust during grading and trenching, stabilizing any materials stockpiles, and control of track-out onto paved street, Mitigation Measure AIR-1 would ensure that dust emissions contributing to PM10 emissions in the region are minimized during construction.

Following construction, the facility would be unmanned, and the standby diesel generator would be used only during testing and infrequent power outages and emissions of PM2.5 in the form of diesel particulate matter would be minimal. Additionally, operation of the diesel generator would be required to remain in compliance with the Permit to Operate obtained from NSAQMD and the Statewide Diesel ATCM. Since the proposed project includes use of an emergency back-up diesel generator, the applicant would be required to consult with the NSAQMD to determine appropriate permitting requirements. The Project would not result in considerable emissions of any criteria pollutants, and would be required to implement best management

practices in compliance with the NSAQMD Rules to minimize construction emissions. Thus, this impact would be **less than significant**.

c) Would the project expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?

The proposed Project would construct an unmanned wireless cell tower facility. As discussed above, use of construction equipment would generate pollutant emissions. However, the Project involves temporary and limited construction activities that would not generate substantial pollutant concentrations, and would include implementation of required best management practices to reduce emissions. Post-construction, the wireless communications facility would be unmanned and require only infrequent maintenance visits. The proposed 30kw diesel generator would be used only in the event of power failure to ensure continued operations and would be operated in compliance with the Permit to Operate obtained from NSAQMD and the Statewide Diesel ATCM. Therefore, the Project would have a **less than significant impact** associated with exposure of sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations.

d) Would the project result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?

It is possible that odors could be released intermittently during temporary construction activities associated with the Project. Diesel exhaust and reactive organic compounds would be emitted during construction activities from vehicle exhaust, application of coatings to equipment, and other construction activities. However, emissions would be common to construction activities and would disperse rapidly from the construction area, and thus would not be expected to reach an objectionable level at the nearby residences located off of Galloway Road, which are as close as 250 feet from the tower pad and represent the nearest sensitive receptors. The potential release of odors associated with construction equipment would be minor, temporary, and unlikely to impact people other than construction personnel in the immediate construction area; therefore, impacts are considered **less than significant**.

Common sources of odors include wastewater treatment plants, landfills, transfer stations, composting facilities, refineries, chemical plants, and food processing plants. The Project does not include any of these land uses or other land uses that would result odor-causing emissions. Therefore, the Project would not create any new sources of odor during operation and the impact from generation of offensive odors would be **less than significant**.

Mitigation Measures

AIR-1: The applicant shall consult with the NSAQMD in preparing a Dust Control Plan that shall be included in project plans and specifications for approval by Sierra County. The Dust Control Plan shall include measures for controlling dust during construction, which could include measures such as the following:

- Installation of track-out control devices at construction access points to ensure that material is not tracked onto roadways in the project area.
- Vegetative material removed from the project site shall be chipped and mulched onsite or removed for disposal offsite; open burning of vegetative materials is prohibited.

- All materials hauled away from the Project site shall be covered prior to leaving the site. Appropriate freeboard shall be provided to ensure that materials are completely covered and no materials escape during haul trips.
- Water or chemicals shall be applied to disturbed areas to control dust as necessary during grading and trenching operations;
- All materials stockpiles shall be covered or otherwise stabilized during inactive periods.

3.4 Biological Resources

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact 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 Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	☐	☒	☐	☐
b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	☐	☒	☐	☐
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?	☐	☒	☐	☐
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?	☐	☐	☒	☐
e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	☐	☐	☐	☒
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?	☐	☐	☐	☒

The discussions of existing conditions and analysis of potential impacts included in this section rely on information contained in a biological resources assessment prepared for the Project site, which is included as Appendix C to this Initial Study (Dudek 2020).

Setting

The Project site is located within the northern high Sierra Nevada geographic subdivision of the California Floristic Province (Jepson Flora Project 2020). The Project site is generally situated on a northwest-facing slope with elevations ranging from 3,090 to 3,150 feet above mean sea level. Topography in the Project site vicinity generally slopes downhill to the northwest, with the exception of more level disturbed and developed areas that support residential structures, driveways, and open grassland. The biological resources study conducted for the site mapped two vegetation communities and two non-vegetated land cover types in the Study Area, including one terrestrial and one aquatic cover type. It should be noted that the Study Area evaluated for biological resources includes all areas of potential ground disturbance within the Project site plus a 25-foot buffer surrounding the Project site.

Special-status biological resources present or potentially present in the Study Area were identified through a literature search using the following sources: the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) IPaC Trust Resource Report, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB), and the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) online Inventory of Rare and Endangered Vascular Plants. Dudek also reviewed current and historic aerial photography to identify any potentially jurisdictional aquatic resources based on aerial signatures, and reviewed the Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA 2020a) Web Soil Survey to identify soil types mapped on the Project site. The CNDDB was also queried for special-status species occurrences within five miles of the proposed Project site. Following the literature and database review, Dudek Biologist Allie Sennett conducted a reconnaissance-level survey of the Project site and adjacent areas on January 15, 2020. The survey was conducted on foot and included a visual survey of the Project site and all accessible areas within a buffer of 25 feet from the anticipated project footprint.

Special-Status Plants: Based on the literature and database review conducted as part of the biological resources study, 27 special-status plant species are known to occur within the nine USGS quadrangles included in the database search described in Section 2.1 of Appendix C, Literature and Database Review. Of these, 23 special-status plant species were removed from consideration due to lack of suitable habitat within the Project site, or because the Project site is outside of the species' known geographic or elevation range. The remaining four special-status plant species have a low potential to occur on the Project site; these species are Cantelow's lewisia (*Lewisia cantelovii*), Inundated bog club-moss (*Lycopodiella inundata*), Tall alpine-aster (*Oreostemma elatum*), and Closed-throated beardtongue (*Penstemon personatus*).. None of the four special-status plant species were detected during the January 2020 field survey, which was not conducted when these species would be evident and identifiable.

Special-Status Wildlife: Based on the literature and database review previously described, 17 special-status wildlife species are known to occur within the USGS quadrangles included in the database search. Of these, 13 special-status wildlife species were removed from consideration due to lack of suitable habitat within or adjacent to the Project site, or due to the site being outside of the species' known geographic or elevation range. The remaining four special-status wildlife species have some potential to occur in the Study Area; these species are Northern Goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*), Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), California Spotted Owl (*Strix occidentalis occidentalis*), and Native Bats [including Townsend's Big-Eared Bat (*Corynorhinus townsendii*)]. . Other protected wildlife species, such as native and migratory birds protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) and California Fish and Game Code 3503 and native bats protected by California Fish and Game Code 4150, are also discussed

below. No special-status wildlife species, nor their sign, were detected on the Project site or immediately surrounding area during the January 2020 field survey.

a) Would the project 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

There are no documented occurrences of special-status plants within or adjacent to the Project site. No special-status plants were identified during the January 2020 field survey. The Project site has been subject to past disturbance associated with residential development and lacks natural habitat with specific microhabitat features, such as seeps and rocky outcrops, preferred by special-status plants with a potential to occur in the Project region or is outside the known elevational limits of these special-status plant species. There is an ephemeral drainage channel adjacent to the Project site that provides marginal habitat for special-status plants. Disturbance within this area has potential to result in direct impacts to special-status plants if they occur in this area. Potential indirect impacts to special-status plants could occur as a result of sedimentation from adjacent grading activities, Mitigation Measure BIO-1 requires that impacts to the ephemeral channel be avoided and, if impacts to the ephemeral channel cannot be avoided, Mitigation Measure BIO-1 further requires that a survey for special-status plants be carried out during the appropriate season to determine if any rare plants occur within areas that would be disturbed by the Project. If special-status plants are identified, Mitigation Measure BIO-1 requires that protective measures be implemented to avoid or minimize impacts to special-status plants. With implementation of Mitigation Measure BIO-1, the Project would have a **less than significant impact to special-status plants**.

There are no documented occurrences of special-status wildlife within or adjacent to the Project site or the immediate vicinity of the Project site. No special-status wildlife species, nor their sign, were detected during the January 2020 field survey.

Habitat within and adjacent to the Project site provides suitable nesting habitat for native and migratory birds. If construction occurs during the typical breeding season for the Project region (March 1 through September 30), the Project could disturb nesting birds protected under the MBTA and California Fish and Game Code. To avoid and/or minimize potential impacts to nesting birds, Mitigation Measure BIO-2 requires surveys to be carried out prior to disturbance during the nesting season and protective measures in the event active nests are discovered. With implementation of Mitigation Measure BIO-2, the Project would have a **less than significant impact to native and migratory birds**.

The biological resources study determined that there are two recorded breeding occurrences of California spotted owl within 1 mile of the Project site, California spotted owl is a state species of special concern and U.S. Forest Service Sensitive Species impacts to active nests would represent a significant impact. Implementation of Mitigation Measure BIO-3 would ensure that disturbance to nesting California spotted owls is avoided by requiring that construction activities occur outside of the nesting season for this species and requiring preconstruction surveys and nesting territory avoidance if construction must occur during the nesting season. With implementation of Mitigation Measure BIO-3, the Project would have a **less than significant impact on California spotted owl**.

There is a potential for native bats to roost in trees or human-made structures within the general Project area. If overwintering or maternity roosts are present within the Project site, tree removal and other Project construction activities could impact native bats protected by California Fish and Game Code. To avoid and/or minimize potential impacts to bat roosts, the Project would implement Mitigation Measure BIO-4.

With implementation of Mitigation Measure BIO-4, the Project would have a **less than significant impact to roosting bats.**

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

There are no sensitive natural communities, such as wetlands or riparian corridors, within the proposed Project site. There is one ephemeral channel approximately 5 to 10 feet southwest of the anticipated disturbance area for the proposed cell tower base facility could meet criteria for a waters of the United States and/or state protected by the Clean Water Act (Sections 401 and 404), California Fish and Game Code (Section 1600), and/or the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act; however, there is no riparian corridor associated with this ephemeral channel. No direct impacts to the ephemeral channel are anticipated (see discussion under c), below for discussion of Mitigation Measure BIO-1. Construction of the proposed Project is not expected to result in direct impacts to special-status vegetation communities, since none are present on the Project site or within anticipated disturbance areas. Therefore, the proposed Project would have a **less than significant impact with mitigation**.

c) Would the project 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?

A formal jurisdiction determination of the Project site was not conducted. However, the ephemeral channel just southwest of the proposed cell tower base facility could meet criteria to fall under the jurisdiction of the ACOE, RWQCB, and/or CDFW as waters of the United States/State of California. When flowing, the ephemeral channel ends at a steep ravine approximately 350 feet uphill from the Middle Yuba River, which is tributary to the Middle Yuba River. Mitigation Measure BIO-1 requires installing exclusion fencing to ensure that no inadvertent impacts to the ephemeral channel occur during construction of the Project and would ensure that the channel is protected from construction impacts. Mitigation Measure BIO-1 further requires that erosion control best management practices be incorporated into project plans and specifications and approved by Sierra County to protect against indirect impacts from uncontrolled stormwater runoff and sediment delivery to offsite areas. While no impacts to the ephemeral channel are anticipated with the Project, Mitigation Measure BIO-1 requires notes that appropriate permitting would be required from State and Federal agencies for any impacts to the ephemeral channel. With implementation of Mitigation Measure BIO-1, the Project's impacts to state or federally protected wetlands would be **less than significant with mitigation**.

d) Would the project 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?

The Project site is within an area with existing rural residential development and is not within any known migratory corridor used by native resident or migratory wildlife. The Project includes no in-water components that could impede the movement of fish or other aquatic species. The Project would disturb less than an acre and would not create a linear barrier or result in substantial disturbance during operation that would impede wildlife movement and would not impede the use of any established or known native wildlife nursery sites. Project construction could temporarily disturb wildlife movement in the Project area

as wildlife are anticipated to avoid the site during construction activities. Impacts to wildlife movement and nursery sites would be **less than significant**.

e) Would the project conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?

No local policies or ordinances for the protection of biological resources apply to the Project and no conflict with local policies and ordinances protecting biological resources would occur. **No impact.**

f) Would the project 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 Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan applies to the Project site and activities. **No impact.**

Mitigation Measures

BIO-1*:* To avoid and/or minimize potential impacts to special-status plants and avoid direct and indirect impacts to the ephemeral channel and downstream waters, the applicant shall install temporary construction fencing or otherwise clearly mark the edge of the ephemeral channel to avoid any impacts to the channel during Project construction. A qualified specialist familiar with aquatic resources shall guide installation of the exclusion fencing to ensure adequate protection of the channel and bank. Appropriate Best Management Practices (BMPs) for erosion control and spill prevention shall be implemented to prevent indirect impacts to the channel during Project construction. Should indirect or direct impacts to the ephemeral channel be necessary for Project construction, the following measures shall be required:

- Prior to any disturbance within the channel or bank of the ephemeral feature a qualified biologist shall perform a rare plant survey in accordance with standard CDFW survey protocol to determine if any special-status plants occur within areas that would be disturbed by the Project. If any special-status plant species are observed during surveys, a suitable avoidance buffer shall be determined and flagged by the qualified biologist based on species, location and planned construction activity. If avoidance is not possible, consultation with CDFW and/or USFWS, depending on the status of the species, should be initiated to determine if transplantation, seed salvage, or other propagation measure are appropriate to conserve the species.

- Prior to any disturbance within the channel or bank of the ephemeral feature, the applicant shall obtain permit approval from the ACOE, RWQCB, and/or CDFW if a formal jurisdictional determination identifies the channel as subject to agency jurisdiction. Proof of permit approval shall be provided to Sierra County prior to ground disturbance.

BIO-2*:* To avoid and/or minimize potential impacts to nesting birds, ground-disturbing activities (including tree removal) shall occur between October 1 and March 1 to avoid the breeding season (i.e., March 1 through September 30). If construction activities must occur between March 1 and September 30, a qualified biologist shall conduct a preconstruction survey for nesting birds within one week prior to ground-disturbing activities on the Project site. If active bird nests are detected during the

survey an appropriate non-disturbance buffer shall be established and maintained until the young have fledged or the biologist determines that the nest is no longer active.

BIO-3: All ground-disturbing activities (including tree removal) shall occur between August 16 and the end of February to avoid the "limited operating period" (i.e., breeding season; March 1 through August 15) for California spotted owl as stipulated by the U.S. Forest Service (1993). If construction activities must be carried out between March 1 and August 15, a qualified biologist shall conduct surveys for this species to determine if any breeding territories overlap the Project site prior to construction. Any active breeding territories, if detected during the surveys, shall be avoided.

BIO-4: To avoid and/or minimize potential impacts to bat roosts, ground-disturbing activities (including tree removal) shall be carried out between August 15 and May 1, which is outside of the maternity season (May through August 15). If not feasible, a qualified biologist shall conduct a preconstruction survey for active bat roosts within one week prior to ground-disturbing activities on the Project site. Any active maternity or overwintering roosts, if detected during the survey, shall be avoided until they are inactive.

3.5 Cultural Resources

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact 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 §15064.5?	☐	☒	☐	☐
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5?	☐	☒	☐	☐
c) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of dedicated cemeteries?	☐	☒	☐	☐

The discussions of existing conditions and analysis of potential impacts included in this section rely on information contained in a cultural resources inventory report prepared for the Project site and included as Appendix D. The cultural resources inventory is confidential to protect sensitive information about known resources in the region. Non-confidential portions of the report may be reviewed upon request from Sierra County.

Setting

The cultural resources inventory report identified no prehistoric or historic resources within the Project site. As discussed in the cultural resources inventory report, a records search of the Project site and the surrounding one half-mile was completed by Dudek staff on January 16, 2020. No previously-recorded cultural resources intersect the proposed Project area. Seven previously-recorded cultural resources are located within one half-mile of the proposed Project. Dudek also reviewed historic aerial photographs, available from 1946 to 2016, and historic

maps, available from 1878 to 2018, to evaluate past uses and the history of development in the vicinity of the Project site to determine the potential for historic resources to be present on the Project site and in the surrounding area. Review of maps and images determined that the Project area was undeveloped forest up to the 1950s when multiple residences and associated outbuildings begin to appear in the Project area. A pedestrian survey of the Project site was also conducted as part of the cultural resources inventory; no archaeological or historical resources were identified during the survey.

a) Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to §15064.5?

No historical resources were identified by the cultural resources inventory conducted for the Project site. However, there is some potential for unknown cultural resources to be discovered during ground disturbance associated with construction of the Project. Mitigation Measure CUL-1 requires protective measures in the event that cultural resources are inadvertently discovered during construction of the Project. With implementation of Mitigation Measure CUL-1, impacts resulting from any substantial change to unknown cultural / historical resources would be **less than significant with mitigation incorporated**.

b) Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5?

As discussed in *Setting,* above, no archaeological resources were identified within the Project area or immediate vicinity as a result of intensive pedestrian survey, a search of pertinent records, and review of archival materials. Based on review of the Project setting, the inventory report concluded that the Project area has a relatively low potential to contain unanticipated cultural resources.

Dudek requested a NAHC search of their Sacred Lands File on January 9, 2020 for the Project site. Results of this search were provided by the NAHC on January 15, 2020, and identified no Native American cultural resources within the Project area. A list of traditionally culturally affiliated Native American tribal representatives who may have additional information related to cultural resources in the area was provided as part of this search and letters were sent to representatives.

Based on the results of the North Central Information Center (NCIC) records search, intensive pedestrian survey, NAHC and tribal correspondence, and review of previous technical studies for the Project area, the inventory report concluded that the likelihood of encountering unanticipated significant subsurface archaeological deposits or features is very low. As a precautionary measure, Mitigation Measure CUL-1 outlines the course of action in the event of an accidental archeological discovery to ensure appropriate actions are taken to minimize impacts to any unanticipated discovery that could occur during construction. Implementation of Mitigation Measure CUL-1 would ensure that the proposed Project would have a **less than significant impact with mitigation incorporated.**

c) Would the project disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of dedicated cemeteries?

While unlikely, there is some potential that earth disturbance associated with the Project could disturb or uncover human remains. With the implementation of Mitigation Measure CUL-2, which prescribes measures to appropriately address the inadvertent discovery of human remains, Project impacts from potential disturbance of human remains would be **less than significant with mitigation incorporated**.

Mitigation Measures

CUL-1: All employees shall be alerted with either a preconstruction meeting or preconstruction alert sheet to the potential to encounter archaeological material. In the event that cultural resources (sites, features, or artifacts) are exposed during work activities for the proposed Project, all ground disturbing work within 100 feet of the find shall immediately stop until a qualified specialist, meeting the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualification Standards, evaluates the significance of the find and determines whether additional study is warranted. Prehistoric archaeological deposits may be indicated by the presence of discolored or dark soil, fire-affected material, concentrations of fragmented or whole freshwater bivalve shells, burned or complete bone, non-local lithic materials, or other characteristics observed to be atypical of the surrounding area. Common prehistoric artifacts may include modified or battered lithic materials; lithic or bone tools that appeared to have been used for chopping, drilling, or grinding; projectile points; fired clay ceramics or non-functional items; and other items. Historic-age deposits are often indicated by the presence of glass bottles and shards, ceramic material, building or domestic refuse, mining materials, ferrous metal, or features such as concrete foundations or privies. Depending upon the significance of the find under CEQA (14 CCR 15064.5(f); PRC Section 21082), the archaeologist may simply record the find and allow work to continue. If the discovery proves significant under CEQA, additional work, such as preparation of an archaeological treatment plan, testing, or data recovery could be warranted.

CUL-2: In accordance with Section 7050.5 of the California Health and Safety Code, if human remains are found, the county coroner shall be immediately notified of the discovery. No further excavation or disturbance of the site or any nearby area reasonably suspected to overlie adjacent remains shall occur until the county coroner has determined, within 2 working days of notification of the discovery, the appropriate treatment and disposition of the human remains. If the county coroner determines that the remains are, or are believed to be, Native American, he or she shall notify the NAHC in Sacramento within 24 hours. In accordance with California Public Resources Code, Section 5097.98, the NAHC must immediately notify those persons it believes to be the most likely descendant from the deceased Native American. The most likely descendant shall complete his/her inspection within 48 hours of being granted access to the site. The designated Native American representative would then determine, in consultation with the property owner, the disposition of the human remains.

3.6 Energy

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact 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?	☐	☐	☒	☐

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
b) Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Setting

There are federal regulations addressing energy efficiency in the built environment, fuel efficiency for motor vehicles, energy sources used by the United States, and national conservation goals; none of these regulations and policies applies directly to the Project. Appendix F of the CEQA Guidelines calls for discussion of the potential energy impacts of proposed projects, with particular emphasis on avoiding or reducing inefficient, wasteful, and unnecessary consumption of energy. The State of California has passed several laws governing energy usage. AB 32 establishes regulatory, reporting, and market procedures to achieve quantifiable reductions in GHG emissions and a cap on statewide GHG emissions; the most significant proposed GHG reductions are recommended through improving emission standards for light-duty vehicles, implementation of the Low-Carbon Fuel Standard, energy efficiency measures in buildings and appliances, and a renewable portfolio standard for electricity production. Title 24 sets the energy efficiency standards for residential and nonresidential buildings and the 2019 California Green Building Standards Code, or CALGreen Code (24 CCR 11), which took effect on January 1, 2020, requires buildings to reduce energy and water consumption and establishes specific performance standards that appliances and fixtures must meet. Under Senate Bill 350, signed into law in October 2015, the Clean Energy and Pollution Reduction Act of 2015 updates the Renewables Portfolio Standard and applies to all electricity retailers in California.

a) Would the project result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation?

The Project would not result in a potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources during Project construction or operation. During construction of the Project, there would be a temporary consumption of petroleum required for the movement of equipment and materials and site preparation. Petroleum use during construction would be short-term and construction would be carried out using compliant vehicles that meet current standards for fuel efficiency. In the operational phase, the project would use power from the local power provider and would infrequently generate emergency power using a compliant generator; the Project includes no unusual characteristics or processes that would require the use of equipment that would be more energy intensive than is used for comparable projects. Impacts associated with unnecessary, wasteful, or inefficient use of energy would be **less than significant**.

b) Would the project conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?

The Project would require minimal electricity from the local provider sourced in compliance with applicable plans for renewable energy sources. The Project would not conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency. State and local agencies regulate the use and consumption of energy through various methods and programs. As a result of the passage of Assembly Bill 32 (AB 32) (the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006) which seeks to reduce the effects of Greenhouse Gas

(GHG) Emissions, a majority of the state regulations are intended to reduce energy use and GHG emissions. At the local level, the County's Building Department enforces the applicable requirements of the Energy Efficiency Standards and Green Building Standards in Title 24. Construction would be temporary and would be carried out using light-duty and heavy equipment operated in compliance with applicable fuel and emissions standards. Worker vehicles would meet the applicable standards of Assembly Bill (AB) 1493 (vehicles manufactured 2009 or later), which ensures that vehicles meet fuel efficiency standards and that older vehicles are replaced.The Project would result in **no impact** associated with any conflict or obstruction of a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency.

Mitigation Measures

No mitigation measures are required.

3.7 Geology and Soils

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact 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 Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.	☐	☒	☐	☐
ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?	☐	☒	☐	☐
iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?	☐	☒	☐	☐
iv) Landslides?	☐	☒	☐	☐
b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	☐	☒	☐	☐
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?	☐	☒	☐	☐
d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property?	☐	☒	☐	☐

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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?	☐	☐	☐	☒
f) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	☐	☒	☐	☐

Setting

Sierra County does not contain any known Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zones, as listed by the California Geological Survey. According to the Fault Activity Map of California and Adjacent Areas, the closest fault line is the Melones Fault Line (California Department of Conservation, 2010). The Melones Fault is a pre-quaternary fault that runs through Sierra County just east of Downieville and is not considered active. According to the Natural Resources Conservation Service's Web Soil Survey, the soil type onsite is Hurlbut-Deadwood-Rock outcrop complex with 30 to 75% slopes. The Hurlbut series consists of moderately deep, well-drained soils normally found on mountains with 2 to 75% slopes. Soils in this series are formed in material weathered from metamorphosed sedimentary rock. The Deadwood series consists of shallow, somewhat excessively drained soils normally found on mountainous uplands with 2 to 100% slopes. Soils in this series are formed in material weathered from metasedimentary rocks. This soil type is not included on the list of hydric soils maintained by the Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS 2020b), which are commonly associated with wetlands or other waters.

a) Would the project 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 Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.

ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?

iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?

iv) Landslides?

The Project would construct a wireless telecommunications facility and ancillary equipment. All Project components would be designed, engineered, and built in accordance with the California Building Code and local code requirements, which include standards specific to anticipated seismic events that could occur. Sierra County does not contain any known Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zones, as listed by the California Geological Survey. According to the Fault Activity Map of California and Adjacent Areas, no active faults are located on the Project site. The closest fault is the Melones Fault Zone, located east of Downieville adjacent to the Project site. The Sierra County General Plan Safety Element identifies soils susceptible to liquefaction

or collapse in the project area and General Plan Policy 14-8 restricts new development in these areas "…unless it can be proven that potential risk to persons and property can be minimized." To ensure that risks to persons and property associated with seismic events or unstable soils or geologic features, Mitigation Measure GEO-1 requires that a geotechnical report be prepared for the site and that site-specific design recommendations from the report be incorporated into the project design to ensure structural stability of the facility. Implementation of Mitigation Measure GEO-1 and compliance with applicable codes would ensure that risks associated with seismic-related activity such as rupture of a fault, strong ground shaking, and ground failure would be less than significant. The Project includes no elements that would increase the risk or susceptibility of the site to landslides. Risks associated with landslide or seismic activity would be **less than significant with mitigation**.

b) Would the project result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?

The Project would result in approximately 0.17 acres of ground disturbance for the purpose of materials and equipment staging and Project construction. All areas disturbed during construction would be stabilized in accordance with erosion-control BMPs included in GEO-2 and identified in Project plans and specifications for erosion control and spill prevention during and following construction. BMPs would include measures to stabilize work areas and could include fiber wattles, silt fencing, concrete washout areas, soil stabilizers, revegetation, or measures determined to be appropriate by the Project engineer and County staff. Revegetation of disturbed areas would be carried out using a certified weed-free seed mix, per Mitigation Measure GEO-2. With implementation of BMPs required by GEO-2, impacts from erosion would be **less than significant with mitigation**.

c) Would the project 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?

Project design and construction would be in accordance with the California Building Code and local code requirements, which take into account local conditions. As discussed under 3.7.a, above, the Sierra County General Plan Safety Element identifies soils susceptible to liquefaction or collapse in the project area and General Plan Policy 14-8 restricts new development in these areas "…unless it can be proven that potential risk to persons and property can be minimized." To ensure that risks to persons and property associated with unstable soils or geologic features, Mitigation Measure GEO-1 requires that a geotechnical report be prepared for the site and that site-specific design recommendations from the report be incorporated into the project design to ensure structural stability of the facility. Implementation of Mitigation Measure GEO-1 and compliance with applicable codes would ensure that risks associated with unstable geologic units or soils would be **less than significant with mitigation**.

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

Project design and construction would be in accordance with the current revision of the California Building Code and local codes, which allow that under certain circumstances a site-specific geotechnical investigation may be required to ensure that project design is appropriate for site conditions. No site-specific geotechnical investigation has been conducted for the Project or Project site to date. Mitigation Measure GEO-1 requires that a geotechnical report be prepared for the site to provide site-specific design recommendations. Final Project design would be required to incorporate design recommendations from

the geotechnical investigation, thereby ensuring that potential impacts from risks resulting from expansive soils would be **less than significant with mitigation**.

e) Would the project 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?

The Project would not include permanent work or living facilities and thus would not require the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems. Thus, there would be **no impact**.

f) Would the project directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?

No unique paleontological resources or unique geologic features were uncovered in the records search or the on-site visit. The geologic formation within the Project area is not suitable to support the presence of paleontological resources. However, unanticipated resources could be present within the Project area. Therefore, with the implementation of Mitigation Measure CUL-1, which prescribes measures to protect resources in the event of an inadvertent discovery, Project impacts associated with destruction of a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature would be **less than significant with mitigation**.

Mitigation Measures

GEO-1: A qualified geologist or geotechnical engineer approved by Sierra County shall prepare a geotechnical engineering report specific to the site and Project. Recommendations of the report shall be incorporated into the Project design as appropriate and to the satisfaction of Sierra County to minimize risk associated with site-specific geologic and soils conditions.

GEO-2: Areas disturbed during construction shall be stabilized during prolonged inactive construction periods and following construction to the satisfaction of the Sierra County Planning and Building Department. Stabilization measures shall be identified on project plans and specifications and could include reseeding, tarping materials stockpiles, and/or laying out mulch or gravel, or other measures subject to approval by the Sierra County Planning and Building Department. A certified weed-free seed mix shall be used to revegetate disturbed areas and reduce potential for erosion and sedimentation and shall be identified in project plans and specifications and approved by Sierra County staff. Additional erosion and sediment control BMPs shall be implemented as necessary throughout construction and shall be specified in an erosion control plan included on Project plans and specifications and approved by Sierra County. BMPs could include fiber wattles, mulching, track-out protection, silt fences, or other measures determined appropriate to the site and local seasonal conditions.

3.8 Greenhouse Gas Emissions

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact 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?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Setting

Greenhouse gases (GHGs) are gases that absorb infrared radiation in the atmosphere. The greenhouse effect is a natural process that contributes to regulating the Earth's temperature. Global climate change concerns are focused on whether human activities are leading to an enhancement of the greenhouse effect. Principal GHGs include carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, O3, and water vapor. If the atmospheric concentrations of GHGs rise, the average temperature of the lower atmosphere will gradually increase. Globally, climate change has the potential to impact numerous environmental resources though uncertain impacts related to future air temperatures and precipitation patterns. Although climate change is driven by global atmospheric conditions, climate change impacts are felt locally. Climate change is already affecting California: average temperatures have increased, leading to more extreme hot days and fewer cold nights; shifts in the water cycle have been observed, with less winter precipitation falling as snow, and both snowmelt and rainwater running off earlier in the year; sea levels have risen; and wildland fires are becoming more frequent and intense due to dry seasons that start earlier and end later (CAT 2010).

The effect each GHG has on climate change is measured as a combination of the mass of its emissions and the potential of a gas or aerosol to trap heat in the atmosphere, known as its global warming potential (GWP), which varies among GHGs. Total GHG emissions are expressed as a function of how much warming would be caused by the same mass of CO2. Thus, GHG emissions are typically measured in terms of pounds or tons of CO2 equivalent (CO2E).

a) Would the project generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?

The proposed Project would result in a temporary increase in localized GHG emissions during construction. However, the scope of the proposed Project improvements would not involve a significant number of equipment hours to complete and would not generate significant traffic volumes during construction.

Sierra County does not have established significance thresholds for GHG emissions and does not employ a specific strategy for mitigation of GHG emissions. The Project area is located within the jurisdiction of the

NSAQMD. NSAQMD has not established significance thresholds for GHG emissions and has no published guidance for evaluating the significance of GHG emissions.

The Project would construct a wireless cell tower facility and does not represent an introduction of a significant source of greenhouse gas emissions during operation. The facility would be unmanned and require only infrequent maintenance visits and occasional use of an automatic backup generator during weekly test cycles and utility power outages, which are not expected to generate significant GHG emissions. Therefore, the Project is not expected to generate GHG emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment. Therefore, the proposed Project would have a **less-than-significant** impact associated with GHG emissions under both Project construction and operation periods.

b) Would the project generate conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?

The CARB Scoping Plan, approved by California Air Resources Board (CARB) on December 12, 2008, provides a framework for actions to reduce California's GHG emissions and requires CARB and other state agencies to adopt regulations and other initiatives to reduce GHGs. As such, the Scoping Plan is not directly applicable to specific Projects. Relatedly, in the Final Statement of Reasons for the Amendments to the CEQA Guidelines, the California Natural Resources Agency observed that "[t]he [Scoping Plan] may not be appropriate for use in determining the significance of individual Projects because it is conceptual at this stage and relies on the future development of regulations to implement the strategies identified in the Scoping Plan" (CNRA 2009). Under the Scoping Plan, however, there are several state regulatory measures aimed at the identification and reduction of GHG emissions. CARB and other state agencies have adopted many of the measures identified in the Scoping Plan. Most of these measures focus on area source emissions (e.g., energy usage, high GWP GHGs in consumer products) and changes to the vehicle fleet (i.e., hybrid, electric, and more fuel-efficient vehicles) and associated fuels (e.g., Low Carbon Fuel Standard). To the extent that these regulations are applicable to the Project or its uses, the Project would comply with all regulations adopted in furtherance of the Scoping Plan to the extent required by law.

The Project would also not impede the attainment of the GHG reduction goals for 2030 or 2050 identified in Senate Bill (SB) 32 and Executive Order (EO) S-3-05, respectively. EO S-3-05 establishes the following goals: GHG emissions should be reduced to 2000 levels by 2010, to 1990 levels by 2020, and to 80% below 1990 levels by 2050. SB 32 establishes for a statewide GHG emissions reduction target whereby CARB, in adopting rules and regulations to achieve the maximum technologically feasible and cost-effective GHG emissions reductions, shall ensure that statewide GHG emissions are reduced to at least 40% below 1990 levels by December 31, 2030. While there are no established protocols or thresholds of significance for that future year analysis; CARB forecasts that compliance with the current Scoping Plan puts the state on a trajectory of meeting these long-term GHG goals, although the specific path to compliance is unknown (CARB 2014).

CARB has expressed optimism with regard to both the 2030 and 2050 goals. It states in the First Update to the Climate Change Scoping Plan that "California is on track to meet the near-term 2020 GHG emissions limit and is well positioned to maintain and continue reductions beyond 2020 as required by Assembly Bill (AB) 32" (CARB 2014). With regard to the 2050 target for reducing GHG emissions to 80% below 1990 levels, the First Update states the following (CARB 2014):

> This level of reduction is achievable in California. In fact, if California realizes the expected benefits of existing policy goals (such as 12,000 megawatts of renewable distributed generation by 2020, net zero energy homes after 2020, existing building retrofits under AB 758, and others) it could reduce emissions by 2030 to levels squarely in line with those needed in the developed world and to stay on track to reduce emissions to 80% below 1990 levels by 2050. Additional measures, including locally driven measures and those necessary to meet federal air quality standards in 2032, could lead to even greater emission reductions.

In other words, CARB believes that the state is on a trajectory to meet the 2030 and 2050 GHG reduction targets set forth in AB 32, SB 32, and EO S-3-05. This is confirmed in the Second Update, which states (CARB 2017):

> The Proposed Plan builds upon the successful framework established by the Initial Scoping Plan and First Update, while also identifying new, technologically feasibility and cost-effective strategies to ensure that California meets its GHG reduction targets in a way that promotes and rewards innovation, continues to foster economic growth, and delivers improvements to the environment and public health, including in disadvantaged communities. The Proposed Plan is developed to be consistent with requirements set forth in AB 32, SB 32, and AB 197.

The Project would be consistent with the applicable strategies and measures in the Scoping Plan and would not impede the state's trajectory toward future GHG reductions for 2030 or 2050. In addition, since the specific path to compliance for the state in regards to the long-term goals will likely require development of technology or other changes that are not currently known or available, specific additional mitigation measures for the Project would be speculative and cannot be identified at this time. The Project's consistency would assist in meeting the County's contribution to GHG emission reduction targets in California. With respect to future GHG targets under the SB 32 and EO S-3-05, CARB has also made clear its legal interpretation that it has the requisite authority to adopt whatever regulations are necessary, beyond the AB 32 horizon year of 2020, to meet EO S-3-05's 80% reduction target in 2050. This legal interpretation by an expert agency provides evidence that future regulations will be adopted to continue the state on its trajectory toward meeting these future GHG targets. As such, the Project would not conflict with an applicable plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of GHGs, and no mitigation is required. This impact would be **less than significant**.

Mitigation Measures

No mitigation measures are required.

3.9 Hazards and Hazardous Materials

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact 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?	☐	☒	☐	☐
b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?	☐	☒	☐	☐
c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Be located on a site that 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?	☐	☐	☐	☒
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?	☐	☐	☐	☒
f) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒
g) Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires?	☐	☒	☐	☐

Setting

Hazardous materials stored and used in the area surrounding the Project site would likely be associated with common materials used in utility work, residential uses, and recreational activities, such as paints, cleaning solvents, bonding agents, and small quantity petroleum fuels and lubricants. A search of the state Geotracker database determined that no hazardous materials cleanup sites are located on the Project site (SWRCB 2020). The nearest recorded hazardous materials sites included in the GeoTracker database are a Caltrans Maintenance Station, Downieville High School and 114 Main Street (Downieville Motors), which are each sites of past spills or leaking fuel storage tanks. Both the Caltrans Maintenance Station and Downieville High School cases have been

addressed and are closed. The 114 Main Street Case remains open as of March 2020. All of these known sites are at a lower elevation than the Project site and on the opposite side of the North Yuba River and no contamination from these sites is expected to pose a risk in the vicinity of the Project site. No school exists within 0.25 mile of the Project site and the site is not near any private airstrip or within the boundaries of an airport land use plan. The nearest fire hydrant is located on the southwest corner of Durgan Flat Way and Nevada Street, approximately 600 feet from the site via Nevada Street, Front Street and Galloway Street.

a) Would the project create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?

The Project would not require the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials. Construction activities would involve the use of common hazardous materials used in construction, including bonding agents, paints and sealant coatings, and petroleum-based fuels, hydraulic fluids, and lubricants used in vehicles and equipment. Large quantities of these materials would not be stored at or transported to the construction site. The Facility operator would contract with a fuel service contractor to refill the generator tank as needed. All construction waste materials would be disposed of in compliance with state and federal hazardous waste requirements and at appropriate facilities. Mitigation Measure HAZ-1 requires specific measures for spill prevention and containment of hazardous materials on the Project site during construction. Upon completion of construction, a 190-gallon capacity tank would store diesel fuel to power the backup generator during infrequent testing of the equipment and for emergency power generation purposes during power outages. Onsite, above-ground storage of diesel fuel and delivery of fuel to the site would be required to remain in compliance with Sierra County Environmental Health regulations. As the storage tank would have a capacity of less than 1,320 gallons of diesel the facility would not be a "Qualified Facility" subject to regulation under the Aboveground Petroleum Storage Act (APSA)(California Health and Safety Code, Chapter 6.67, Sections 25270 – 25270.13) and would not be required to prepare and implement a Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasures (SPCC) Plan under CFR, Title 40, Part 112. However, since the Project site is located in close proximity to the North Fork of the Yuba River and an ephemeral channel that drains to the North Fork of the Yuba River, a diesel fuel spill at the proposed cell tower facility would represent a risk to water quality and a potential hazard to the public and the environment. Mitigation Measure HAZ-2 requires preparation of a SPCC Plan that requires secondary containment of diesel fuel stored onsite, transport and refueling procedures, periodic inspections and./or leak detection devices, reporting to the Sierra County Department of Environmental Health, and other measures determined appropriate by Sierra County Department of Environmental Health. With implementation of Mitigation Measures HAZ-1 and HAZ-2, impacts associated with transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials would be **less than significant with mitigation**.

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

Construction of the Project would involve temporary use of hazardous materials, including fuel for construction equipment, paints, solvents, and sealants. Storage, handling, and use of these materials would occur in accordance with standard construction BMPs to minimize the potential for spill or release and ensure that any such spill or release would be controlled on site. Construction plans and specifications would include standard construction BMPs for handling, storage, use and disposal of hazardous materials, such as requirement to contain materials inside buildings or under other cover, vehicle specifications for hazardous material transport and disposal, procedures for safe storage, and training requirements for those handling hazardous materials. Mitigation Measures HAZ-1 and HAZ-2 require specific measures for

spill prevention and containment of hazardous materials on the Project site during construction and Project operation. Compliance with standard construction specifications and Mitigation Measures HAZ-1 and HAZ-2 would ensure that impacts would be **less than significant with mitigation**.

c) Would the project emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?

The Project site is not within ¼ mile of an existing or proposed school; thus, the Project would have **no impact.**

d) Would the project be located on a site that 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?

The Project site is not on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, therefore, would have **no impact**.

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?

There are neither airports nor airstrips within the vicinity of the Project site. **No impact**.

f) Would the project impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?

The Project would occur adjacent to the unincorporated community of Downieville. The Project would provide improved cell service in the Downieville area and would not impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan and, would result in **no impact**.

g) Would the project expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires?

In the operational phase, equipment at the facility would be enclosed in a structure and maintained to ensure that equipment is functioning properly and does not pose a risk of wildfire ignition. Appropriate defensible space would be maintained around the facility to further reduce the risk of wildfire. It is anticipated that the Project would result in no substantial increased risks associated with increased fire hazard in the operational condition. To further ensure against accidental ignition of wildfire as a result of the proposed cell tower facility, Mitigation Measure HAZ-2, below, and strict enforcement of CAL FIRE's PRC 4290-4291 State Responsibility Area (SRA) Fire Safe Regulations (14-CCR-1270 et seq.) would ensure that risks associated with risk of loss, injury or death involving exposure of people or structures to wildland fires as a result of operation of the Project would be **less than significant with mitigation**.

Construction of the Project would temporarily introduce potential sources of fire ignition as a result of equipment operation and other construction site activities, which would temporarily increase the risk of wildfire. The Project is within a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone where an increased risk of wildfire would represent a significant impact to the environment and surrounding development and

residents. To reduce the risk of wildfire ignition from construction activities, Mitigation Measure HAZ-3 requires the applicant to include a Fire Prevention Plan with project plans and specifications. The Fire Prevention Plan must include site-specific fire prevention measures and must be implemented throughout project construction. Through compliance with existing codes and implementation of the Fire Prevention Plan, as required by Mitigation Measure HAZ-3, risks associated with an elevated risk of wildfire would be **less than significant with mitigation**.

Mitigation Measures

HAZ-1: The following measures shall be implemented prior to and during construction and shall be incorporated into Project plans and specifications.

- All equipment shall be inspected by the contractor for leaks prior to the start of construction and regularly throughout Project construction. Leaks from any equipment shall be contained and the leak remedied before the equipment is again used on the site.
- BMPs for spill prevention shall be incorporated into Project plans and specifications and shall contain measures for secondary containment and safe handling procedures according to the product Material Safety Data Sheets.
- A spill kit shall be maintained on site throughout all construction activities and shall contain appropriate items to absorb, contain, neutralize, or remove hazardous materials stored or used in large quantities during construction.
- Project plans and specifications shall identify construction staging areas and designated areas where equipment refueling, lubrication, and maintenance may occur. Areas designated for refueling, lubrication, and maintenance of equipment shall be approved by the County.
- In the event of any spill or release of any chemical or wastewater during construction, the contractor shall immediately notify the County.

HAZ-2: To minimize the risk associated with accidental spill of diesel fuel stored on the Project site, the applicant shall prepare a Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasure Plan (SPCC Plan) and submit the SPCC Plan to the Sierra County Department of Environmental Health for review and approval before the issuance of a grading permit. The SPCC Plan shall specify measures for secondary containment of diesel fuel stored onsite, transport and refueling procedures, periodic inspections and./or leak detection devices, reporting to the Sierra County Department of Environmental Health, and other measures determined appropriate by Sierra County Department of Environmental Health to avoid spills or reduce the risk associated with accidental release of diesel fuel from the Project site.

HAZ-3: To minimize the risk of accidental ignition of surrounding wildlands, the applicant shall prepare a Fire Prevention Plan and include it in Project plans and specifications for approval by Sierra County. The Contractor and site maintenance activities shall abide by the requirements of the Fire Prevention Plan. Measures may include but are not limited to fire-prevention protocol for welding and blasting and fuels management activities; fire suppression equipment and training requirements; designating a fire supervisor on site; smoking and fire rules; maintaining appropriate clearance from vegetation; vegetation disposal requirements (no burning onsite); requirements for

parking and equipment and materials storage and storage areas; and designating a fire patrol person. In addition, a fire extinguisher shall be installed in an accessible location with the facilities installed.

3.10 Hydrology and Water Quality

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact 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 ground water quality?	☐	☒	☐	☐
b) Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?	☐	☐	☐	☒
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 erosion or siltation on or off site;	☐	☒	☐	☐
ii) substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on or off 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	☐	☒	☐	☐
iv) impede or redirect flood flows?	☐	☒	☐	☐
d) In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?	☐	☐	☒	☐
e) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Setting

The Project site is located within the northern high Sierra Nevada geographic subdivision of the California Floristic Province (Jepson Flora Project 2020). The Project site is situated on a northwest-facing slope with elevations ranging

from 3,090 to 3,150 feet above mean sea level. Topography in the Project site vicinity generally slopes down to the northwest, with the exception of more level disturbed areas supporting residential structures, driveways, or open grassland. The Project site is in the drainage area of the North Fork Yuba River within Hydrologic Unit Code 1802012503 (Middle North Fork Yuba River watershed), which drains approximately 73 square miles of land in Sierra County, as well as a small area in eastern Yuba County (USGS 2020). The North Fork Yuba River delivers flows to New Bullards Bar Reservoir in Yuba County.

There are no culverts or stormwater infrastructure on the Project site. During heavy runoff or precipitation events, surface runoff on the Project site flows west and downhill off the site or is collected in an ephemeral drainage channel several yards south of the Project site. The ephemeral channel conveys water toward the North Fork Yuba River, approximately 350 feet northwest of the Project site.

The USFWS National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) does not identify any previously mapped wetlands or waters within the Project site (USFWS 2020). The nearest hydrologic feature mapped by the NWI is the North Fork Yuba River, which is classified as riverine, upper perennial, unconsolidated bottom, permanently flooded (R3UBH) (USFWS 2020). According to the USGS National Hydrography Dataset (2020), there are two additional hydrologic features in the vicinity, including the ephemeral channel mentioned above, located adjacent to the Project site boundary (Dudek 2020).

a) Would the project violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or ground water quality?

The Project would implement stormwater quality BMPs during construction to ensure that runoff from the site does not violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements. As discussed in Section 3.7, Geology and Soils, implementation of BMPs, as specified in an Erosion Control Plan, would be required by Mitigation Measure GEO-1 to protect water quality during and following construction. Compliance with Mitigation Measure GEO-1 would ensure that impacts associated with violation of water quality standards or degradation of water quality would be **less than significant with mitigation**.

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

The Project includes no use of groundwater and would result in **no impact** associated with depletion of groundwater supply or recharge.

c) Would the project 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 erosion or siltation on or off site;

ii) substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on or off 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

iv) impede or redirect flood flows?

The Project would result in minor temporary changes in site hydrology resulting from construction disturbance such as grading and excavation, equipment use, and vegetation removal. As discussed in Section 3.7, construction disturbance could result in erosion of top soil and increased sedimentation. Implementation of BMPs and an Erosion Control Plan, as required by Mitigation Measure GEO-1, would ensure that erosion and sediment delivery to offsite areas and waterways would be minimized during construction. The Project would result in no substantial change in the pattern of drainage through the Project site and would result in no change in on- or off-site flooding, or create or contribute runoff that would exceed the capacity of stormwater drainage systems. The Project would result in no impact associated with a substantial alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces that would result in substantial erosion or siltation, a substantial increase in runoff leading to flooding, exceedance of capacity in an existing stormwater system, or substantial additional sources of polluted runoff.

As discussed in Section 3.9, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, construction of the Project would involve temporary use of common hazardous materials used for construction purposes. Implementation of appropriate materials handling and spill prevention measures required by Mitigation Measure HAZ-1, which requires measures to protect against spills or equipment leaks, would ensure that water quality would not be degraded by inappropriate handling storage, use, or spills of materials used during construction that could degrade water quality. Impacts would be **less than significant with mitigation.**

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

The Project site is not located in a coastal area subject to tsunami, near the shores of a body of water that could result in a seiche, or in areas with high susceptibility to mudflow (see Section 3.7 for a discussion of site geological conditions). Impacts associated with risk of inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow would be **less than significant**.

e) Would the project conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?

The proposed Project would have **no impact** on groundwater and would therefore have no impact associated with a conflict with or obstructing a groundwater management plan.

Mitigation Measures

No additional mitigation measures are required.

3.11 Land Use and Planning

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XI. LAND USE AND PLANNING – Would the project:				
a) Physically divide an 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?	☐	☒	☐	☐

Setting

The Project site is on private land and adjacent to the Tahoe National Forest and is zoned General Forest (GF) with a Scenic Highway Corridor Overlay (GF-SC). The Project site is within an area characterized by sparse rural residential development on large lots just outside of the Community Core area of Downieville. No natural community conservation plan or habitat conservation plan applies to the Project site.

a) Would the project physically divide an established community?

The Project would construct a wireless cell tower facility and includes no linear barriers or other components that would physically divide an established community. **No impact**

b) Would the project 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?

The Project would construct a wireless cell tower facility and would require a Conditional Use Permit and Site Plan Review entitlement from the County. The Project would be required to comply with applicable Sierra County land use and zoning standards, including provisions for the protection of scenic qualities along the scenic highway corridor of SR 49 in accordance with Sierra County Code Section 15.12.280. Sierra County regulations are utilized throughout this Initial Study as a basis for analyzing potential impacts that could result from the Project. Other regulatory standards imposed under the Clean Water Act and the California Fish and Game Code are also referenced in this Initial Study for the purpose of evaluating Project impacts.

The –SC Scenic Highway Corridor District overlay zone applied to the portion of SR 49 from which the cell tower would be visible is intended:

To protect the scenic qualities of public highways designated a scenic highway by the State of California and/or the Board of Supervisors. To protect the recreational, social and economic values derived from the protection and enhancement of the scenic qualities of the County for the benefit of residents and visitors. It is intended that this zone be an overlay zone, and that its provisions shall modify and supplement and provisions of the basic underlying zone to assure the inclusion of compatible uses and structures and perpetuation of scenic highway corridors. Further, it is intended that if any regulations specified in this zone are more restrictive than the regulations of the zone overlaid, the regulations of the SC or SH zone shall govern. [Sierra County Ordinance Code, Section 15.12.280]

Section 15.12.280(g) requires Planning Commission review and approval of site plans prior to the issuance of building permits for any building or structure within the SC overlay zone. Section 15.12.280(h) specifies that the Planning Commission shall review applications for site plan approval within the SC overlay zone and provides the following criteria that shall be considered during review and prior to approval, as well as provisions for modifications that may be considered and provisions for waiving requirements under certain circumstances:

1) *All elements of the proposed development shall be consistent with the intent and all requirements of the SC or SH zone.*

2) *Buildings and structures shall be so designed and located on the site as to create a generally attractive appearance and a harmonious relationship with surrounding development and the natural environment.*

3) *Buildings, structures and plant materials shall not be so constructed, installed or planted so as not to unnecessarily obstruct scenic views visible from the scenic highway.*

4) *Potentially unsightly features shall be located so as to be inconspicuous from the scenic highway or effectively screened from view by planting and/or fences, walls or grading.*

5) *Insofar as feasible, natural topography, vegetation and scenic features of the site shall be retained and incorporated into the proposed development.*

6) *Any grading or earth-moving operation in connection with the proposed development shall be planned and executed so as to blend with the existing terrain both on and adjacent to the site, and vegetation cover shall be provided to hide scars on the land resulting from such operations.*

7) *Upon completion of its review, the Planning Commission shall approve, conditionally approve or disapprove a site plan.*

8) *No building permit shall be issued, except for a one and two family dwelling or structure appurtenant thereto, for the construction of any building or structure in the SC or SH zone except pursuant to a site plan which has been approved by the Planning Commission.*

9) *The Planning Commission may waive the requirements of this section when it finds that the provisions of this zone have been or will be fulfilled by the conditions of a special use permit or by other means.*

10) Upon request of the applicant, modification of an approved site plan may be made by the Planning Commission if it finds that the modification is consistent with the intent and the requirements of the SC or SH zone.

11) Any approval of a site plan shall expire within one year of such approval except where construction and/or use in reliance on such site plan has commenced prior to its expiration. If construction and/or use in reliance thereupon has not commenced within the one-year period, said period may be extended by the Planning Commission at any time prior to the original expiration date. (Ord. 409, eff. 7/5/73, prior Section 86192-86199) [Sierra County Ordinance Code, Section 15.12.280(h)]

The Sierra County General Plan Visual Element provides Fundamental Goals and Policies intended to preserve the visual qualities and character of the County, including the following:

1) It is the County's most fundamental goal to maintain its culture, heritage, and rural character and preserve its rural quality of life.

2) It is the County's goal to defend its important natural features and functions; these have included and always will include, scenic beauty, pristine lakes and rivers, tall mountain peaks and rugged forested canyons, abundant and diverse plants and animals, and clean air, water, and watershed values.

3) It is the County's goal to foster compatible and historic land uses and activities which are rural and which contribute to a stable economy….

The Project would be subject to review by the Planning Commission under Section 15.12.280, as described above, and would thereby remain in compliance with the provisions of the SC overlay zone. Detailed analysis of impacts of the Project to visual resources, scenic qualities, and the existing visual character of the Project site and surrounding area is provided in Section 3.1.I of this Initial Study. The analysis provided in Section 3.1.I concluded that with implementation of Mitigation Measure AES-1, which requires that the proposed tower be painted with dark non-reflective finishes to blend with the surrounding forest, impacts to visual resources would be less than significant. With implementation of Mitigation Measure AES-1, the Project would be generally consistent with the Fundamental Goals and Policies identified in the General Plan as they pertain to protection of visual qualities and character and the provision of enhanced cell service or would not change the overall rural character of Downieville or Sierra County and would enhance emergency response and connectivity for local residents and businesses and could potentially contribute to the stability of the local rural economy. Project impacts resulting from any conflict with applicable plans, policies, or regulations of an agency with jurisdiction over the Project would be **less than significant with mitigation**.

Mitigation Measures

No additional mitigation measures are required.

3.12 Mineral Resources

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact 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?	☐	☐	☐	☒
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?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Setting

The Project involves the construction of a wireless cell tower facility. The Project area is adjacent to the Tahoe National Forest near the unincorporated community of Downieville. The Project site is within an area characterized by large lot rural residential development; and although the region was heavily mined during the California gold rush and for subsequent decades, there are currently no mineral extraction operations on or adjacent to the Project site and the site is not identified as an important mineral extraction site by the County's General Plan (Sierra County 2012).

a) Would the project 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?

Please refer to (b) below.

b) Would the project 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?

Mineral resources are known from the vicinity of Downieville and areas south of the North Fork Yuba River, but no mineral extraction activities occur on or adjacent to the Project site. The Project footprint is less than 0.5-acre within an existing property developed with residential uses and within an area of residential development and the Project would not be expected to result in loss of availability of any mineral resource recovery site and is not within an area defined as a mineral recovery site by planning documents. Thus, there would be **no impact**

Mitigation Measures

No mitigation measures are required.

3.13 Noise

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact 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 applicable standards of other agencies?	☐	☒	☐	☐
b) Generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?	☐	☐	☒	☐
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?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Setting

Sources of noise in the Project vicinity include existing rural residential land uses as well as SR 49 and Galloway Street, which are located along to the north and east of the Project site. Noises typical of rural residential and agricultural land uses in the Project area include those generated by motor vehicles, gas-powered maintenance equipment, timber activities, and temporary construction noise. Typical sources of noise on the Project site include vehicles and low levels of noise generated by residential activities.

Sierra County has no adopted noise ordinance, but the Noise Element of the General Plan provides a basis for comprehensive local noise policies and includes noise level standards for development projects. Noise level measurements taken throughout the County and provided by the General Plan indicate that average noise levels measured in the vicinity of Downievile were 47.5 dB Ldn, which is below maximum allowable levels. Table 7-4 of the General Plan provides land use compatibility guidelines for development and indicates that the maximum noise level for residential uses is 60 dB Ldn. There are no sources of continuous elevated noise generation in the proximity of the Project site other than noise generated by transportation sources in the area.

a) Would the project result in 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 applicable standards of other agencies?

Construction noise and vibration are temporary phenomena. Construction noise and vibration levels vary from hour-to-hour and day-to-day, depending on the equipment in use, the operations being performed, and the distance between the source and receptor.

The Federal Transit Administration has compiled data regarding the noise-generating characteristics of specific types of construction equipment. The typical noise levels for various pieces of construction equipment at a distance of 50 feet are presented in Table XIII-1.

Equipment operates in alternating cycles of full power and low power, thus producing noise levels less than the maximum level. The average sound level of construction activity also depends on the amount of time that the equipment operates and the intensity of the construction during that time period.

Table XIII-1 Construction Equipment Noise Emissions Levels

Equipment	Typical Sound Level (dBA) 50 Feet from Source
Air compressor	81
Backhoe	80
Compactor	82
Concrete mixer	85
Concrete pump	82
Concrete vibrator	76
Crane, derrick	88
Crane, mobile	83
Dozer	85
Generator	81
Grader	85
Impact wrench	85
Jackhammer	88
Loader	85
Paver	89
Pneumatic tool	85
Pump	76
Roller	74
Saw	76
Truck	88

Source: FTA 2006

The proposed Project would result in a temporary increase in ambient noise levels in the immediate vicinity of the active construction area during construction of the proposed Project. Mitigation Measure NOISE-1 limits noise-generating construction activities to Monday through Friday 7am to 7pm and provides further restrictions on weekends and holidays to reduce exposure and annoyance of residents in the Project area to elevated noise levels from construction activities. Implementation of Mitigation Measure NOISE-1 would

ensure that impacts associated with construction noise in excess of local policies would be **less than significant with mitigation**.

Post-construction, long-term noise levels would be generated from two main sources: the externally mounted HVAC unit of the walk-in equipment shelter and the emergency diesel generator. Based upon the noise level data obtained from the manufacturer, the Marvair SlimPac Environmental Control Unit model HVAC has a reference noise level of 45.6 dB at a distance of 50 feet (Marvair Aircel, Inc, 2001). The HVAC system would run as needed dependent upon ambient temperature. The emergency generator would operate only intermittently during emergencies and is not expected to result in substantial noise impacts to residents in the area. It should be noted that the facility would have battery backup power that would provide silent power in the event of an outage and that the diesel generator would only operate during outages of longer duration. Power outages in the Downieville area are generally of short duration and occur fewer than five times per year.

The generator is a Generac SD030 model and would be installed within an acoustic enclosure to reduce noise levels. According to manufacturer's specifications, the generator would produce up to 67 dB at 23 feet from the generator with no enclosure or sound mitigation, which is similar to a household air conditioning unit (Ldn Consulting, 2011). The noise produced by the generator with no enclosure would attenuate to approximately 46 dB at a distance of 250 feet, which is within existing ambient noise levels for Downieville identified in the General Plan and far below the maximum noise level allowable for residential uses (60 dB Ldn). The acoustic enclosure that would be installed around the generator would further reduce noise levels from generator operation. The generator would be used as a back-up power source in case of a power-outage and would be run-tested for approximately 15 minutes during daytime hours up to two times per month. Both sources of noise are fixed, and therefore, decrease at a rate of approximately 6 dBA for every doubling of distance. The nearest residence, at a distance of approximately 250 feet would be subject to noise levels far below noise level standards identified in the County's General Plan (60 dB Ldn) and noise generated would be intermittent. Accordingly, operation of both the generator and the HVAC equipment would be intermittent and are not expected to expose noise-senstive land uses to noise levels above standards identified in the General Plan, To ensure that post-construction conditions comply with noise level standards in the County's General Plan, Mitigation Measure NOISE-2 requires that noise level measurements be taken during operation of the HVAC and generator to verify noise levels are within standards and that additional controls be provided in the event that noise exceeds County standards. With implementation of Mitigation Measures NOISE-1 and NOISE-2, impacts associated with a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels would be **less than significant with mitigation**.

b) Would the project result in generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?

The Project would not have the potential to generate long-term groundborne vibration or noise. Ground vibrations from construction activities do not often reach the levels that can damage structures or affect activities that are not vibration-sensitive, although the vibrations may be felt by nearby persons in close proximity and result in annoyance (FTA 2006). As a guide, major construction activity within 200 feet and pile driving within 600 feet may be potentially disruptive to sensitive operations (Caltrans 2002). The Project construction activity would not include pile driving and noise and vibration from construction activities would be temporary and intermittent; operations of the cell tower would generate no detectable vibration to area residents except in the event of generator operations. Consequently, groundborne vibration impacts would be **less than significant**.

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?

The Project site is not within an airport land use plan or within two miles of a public airport or public use airport. Therefore, the Project would have **no impact**.

Mitigation Measures

NOISE-1: The project applicant/contractor shall restrict hours of construction activity to daytime hours of operation between 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Construction hours on Saturdays shall be from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., and on Sundays and observed holidays, construction may occur only between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.

NOISE-2: At commencement of Project construction, the project applicant shall provide a report prepared by a qualified noise consultant approved by Sierra County that includes measurements of noise generated by the onsite HVAC equipment and generator under typical load conditions at the nearest noise-sensitive land use. The facility shall not be operated until the report is reviewed and approved by Sierra County staff. Should noise levels measured exceed County standards, the applicant shall modify the design to achieve compliance with applicable County standards.

3.14 Population and Housing

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact 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)?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Setting

The Project area is just outside the Community Core area of Downieville in an area of sparse rural residential development. The 2010 Census reported a population of 282 persons in Downieville and a population of 3,240 for Sierra County overall. The Project site is on private land.

a) Would the project 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)?

Please refer to (b) below.

b) Would the project displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?

The Project would construct no new homes or businesses, or increase the capacity of existing facilities such that a change in population would be expected to occur. The Project requires no change in land use or zoning designations that would allow for greater development density, and does not extend public roads or other public infrastructure into areas where these facilities do not currently exist. The Project would not remove housing or displace people. The Project would have **no impact** associated with inducing population growth or displacing housing or people.

Mitigation Measures

No mitigation measures are required.

3.15 Public Services

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XV. PUBLIC SERVICES				
a) Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, 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?	☐	☐	☐	☒
Police protection?	☐	☐	☐	☒
Schools?	☐	☐	☐	☒
Parks?	☐	☐	☐	☒
Other public facilities?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Setting

The Project area is on private land just outside the Community Core of Downieville and adjacent to the boundaries of the Tahoe National Forest. There are four homes adjacent to the Project site.

a) *Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, 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?

Police protection?

Schools?

Parks?

Other public facilities?

The Project would result in no population growth in the area and thus would require no new or expanded facilities to support adequate fire or police protection, schools, parks or other public facilities. It is expected that the Project would result in no increased demand for public services and would result in **no impact** from physical impacts associated with providing new, expanded or modified public services facilities. The proposed cell phone tower would provide enhanced cell phone coverage and internet service for residents, visitors and emergency responders in the Downieville area.

Mitigation Measures

No mitigation measures are required.

3.16 Recreation

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XVI. RECREATION				
a) Would the project 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?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Setting

The Project site is within a private residential parcel within an area characterized by dense conifer forest on a steep hillside and rural residential land uses. The Project site and surrounding area are not intensively used by the public for recreation.

a) Would the project 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?

The Project includes no components that would result in any increased population or increased use of existing neighborhood parks or regional recreational resources such that deterioration of recreational facilities would occur. The Project would have **no impact** on existing neighborhood and regional parks.

b) Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities, which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?

The Project would result in no change in the existing population and does not include construction or expansion of recreational facilities and would not require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities. The Project would result in **no impact** from construction or expansion of recreational facilities.

Mitigation Measures

No mitigation measures are required.

3.17 Transportation

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact 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?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3, subdivision (b)?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c) Substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Result in inadequate emergency access?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Setting

Access to the Project site from SR 49 is via Nevada Street and Galloway Street. Nevada Street and Galloway Street are small local roadways that serve residential and commercial areas on the south side of the North Fork Yuba River in Downieville. Galloway Street provides access to eight homes near the Project site, as well as access into the Tahoe National Forest south of the Project site.

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

The proposed Project would generate few annual vehicle trips for infrequent maintenance on the cell tower facility and would not generate traffic volumes with potential to conflict with a program, ordinance or policy establishing measures of effectiveness for the performance of the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle, and pedestrian facilities. A technician will visit the site up to twice per month to inspect the facility for potential problems and inspect or run-test equipment such as the generator, HVAC unit, and fuel tank. The Project site is accessed from an existing driveway on Galloway Street. The wireless communications facility would be unmanned and require only infrequent maintenance visits. The Project would not generate enough traffic to significantly reduce the volume-to-capacity ratio of adjacent roadways to a reduced level of service. The proposed Project would not increase the population in the area or have any long-term effect on traffic levels on roadways serving the Project site and would result in no conflict with any program, plan, ordinance, or policy addressing transit, roadway, bicycle, or pedestrian facilities. Therefore, the proposed Project would have a **less than significant** impact.

b) Would the project conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3, subdivision (b)?

Per Senate Bill 743, CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.3 establishes vehicle miles traveled (VMT) as the most appropriate measure of transportation impacts, shifting away from the level of service (LOS) analysis that has generally been used to evaluate a project's impacts on traffic conditions on nearby roadways and intersections. Traffic generated by the proposed Project would be both temporary and nominal. During operation, the proposed Project would generate a negligible amount of traffic from infrequent visits by maintenance technicians along existing maintenance routes and does not include land uses that would result in a permanent substantial increase in VMT or involve the construction of a transportation project. Therefore, the project falls below any threshold for screening for VMTs and the proposed project would have a nominal effect on VMT during both construction and operation. Thus, the proposed Project would have a **less than significant** impact.

c) Would the project substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?

The proposed Project would not add roadways and does not propose uses that would be inconsistent with existing land use or zoning designations. The Project would improve an existing access road and add a vehicle turnaround on a private residential parcel and would generate few additional vehicle trips per year and would result in no change in public roadways serving the site and is not expected to result in any new hazard related to changes in roadway design. It is expected that the proposed Project would result in **no impact** associated with any roadway hazard from design changes or incompatible uses.

d) Would the project result in inadequate emergency access?

The proposed Project would be accessed via the existing driveway on Galloway Street. Access would be maintained to the Project site at all times during construction to provide access in the event of an emergency. In addition, the Project includes the addition of a hammerhead turnaround area that would be designed to meet emergency vehicle access requirements. Therefore, the proposed Project would have **no impact** resulting from inadequate emergency access.

Mitigation Measures

No mitigation measures are required.

3.18 Tribal Cultural Resources

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XVIII. TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES				
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), or	☐	☒	☐	☐
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?	☐	☒	☐	☐

Setting

The information in this section is taken from the Cultural Resources Evaluation that Dudek completed for the project site, which is attached to this Initial Study as Appendix D. The NAHC was contacted by Dudek on January 9, 2020 to request a search of the Sacred Lands File for all land within one mile of the Project site. The NAHC responded on January 15, 2020 indicating that the search had not identified Native American resources in the search area.

On November 1, 2019, pursuant to PRC §21080.3.1, the County sent notification of the Project to the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California and United Auburn Indian Community of the Auburn Rancheria (UAIC) and provided 30 days from the receipt of the letter to request formal consultation. On November 21, 2019, the County received a letter from the UAIC acknowledging receipt of the November 1st letter and declining further consultation as their Tribal Historic Preservation Department determined that there were no known tribal cultural resources in the Project area and a low likelihood of accidental discovery. To date, no response has been received from the Washoe Tribe.

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)?

Please refer to (b) below.

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?

An appropriate approach to potential impacts to tribal cultural resources (TCRs) is developed in response to the identified presence of a TCR by California Native American Tribes. A project with an effect that may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a TCR is a project that may have a significant effect on the environment (California Public Resources Code, Section 21084.2.). Consultation initiated by the County resulted in the identification of no TCRs within or near the Project site. No known geographically defined TCRs were identified within, or in the immediate vicinity of, the Project site. As such, it is anticipated that the Project would not impact TCRs. However, there is potential for inadvertent discovery of unknown resources to occur as a result of earth disturbance associated with Project activities. It is possible that resources inadvertently discovered could be determined to be TCRs upon evaluation by Native American tribes. Mitigation Measure TCR-1 would ensure that Native American tribes are notified of any inadvertent discovery of cultural resources and that appropriate measures are taken to protect any TCRs discovered. With implementation of Mitigation Measure TCR-1, impacts to TCRs would be **less than significant with mitigation**.

Mitigation Measures

TCR-1: Should a potential TCR be inadvertently encountered during construction, construction activities near the encounter shall be halted and the contractor shall notify the County. The County shall notify Native American tribes that have been identified by the NAHC to be traditionally and culturally affiliated with the geographic area of the Project. If the unanticipated resource is archaeological in nature, appropriate management requirements shall be implemented as outlined in Mitigation Measure CUL-1. If the County determines that the potential resource appears to be a TCR (as defined by California Public Resources Code, Section 21074), any affected tribe would be provided a reasonable period of time to conduct a site visit and make recommendations regarding future ground-disturbing activities as well as the treatment and disposition of any TCRs discovered. Depending on the nature of the potential resource and Tribal recommendations, review by a qualified archaeologist may be required. Implementation of proposed recommendations shall be made based on the determination by the County that the approach is reasonable and feasible. All activities would be conducted in accordance with regulatory requirements.

3.19 Utilities and Service Systems

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact 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 new or expanded water, wastewater treatment, or storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry, and multiple dry years?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider, which 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?	☐	☐	☐	☒
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?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Setting

The Project site is within an area of rural residential development on large lots adjacent to the Community Core boundary of Downieville. No water or sewer service is provided within the Project site. Stormwater drainage in the Project area is by natural drainages and roadside ditches.

a) Would the project require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment, or storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects?

Please refer to response (e) below.

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

Please refer to response (e) below.

c) Would the project result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider, which 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?

Please refer to response (e) below.

d) Would the project 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?

Please refer to response (e) below.

e) Would the project comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?

The Project would construct a wireless cell tower telecommunications facility, the impacts of which are evaluated throughout this Initial Study. The Project includes no new homes or businesses and would not extend public roads or other public infrastructure into areas where these facilities do not currently exist. The Project would not require water or sewer service and would not add to the population of the area and would therefore result in no increased demand for utilities or solid waste disposal such that new facilities would be required. All solid waste generated during construction or operations and maintenance activities would be removed from the site and disposed of at a solid waste disposal facility with adequate permitted capacity to accept construction debris. **No impact**.

Mitigation Measures

No mitigation measures are required.

3.20 Wildfire

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XX. WILDFIRE – If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the project:				
a) Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or 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?	☐	☒	☐	☐
c) Require the installation or maintenance 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?	☐	☐	☐	☒
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?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Setting

The Project area is characterized by mixed conifer forest, California annual grassland, and developed rural residential lots. The Project site is located within a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone as mapped by CAL FIRE (CAL FIRE 2007). The nearest fire hydrant is located on the southwest corner of Durgan Flat Way and Nevada Street, approximately 600 feet from the project site via Nevada Street, Front Street and Galloway Street.

a) Would the project substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?

The proposed Project would result in no change to existing roadways or other components that would impair implementation of an adopted emergency response or evacuation plan. A turnaround at the proposed facility would facilitate turning movements by large vehicles and could improve access and maneuvering space in the event of an emergency. The proposed wireless telecommunications facility would increase the communications capacity of local Emergency Medical Services providers and the public in the event of an emergency in this rural and secluded area. The Project would result in **no impact** related to impairment of an adopted emergency response or evacuation plan.

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

The Project consists of installing a new unmanned telecommunications facility. The Project site is located adjacent to three homes that share a single asphalt driveway off of Galloway Street, four other residences off of Galloway Street, and another residence 390 feet north of the site on Smokey Lane. The proposed Project includes fire department access to the facility via a fire department knox box attached to the fence and gate. The project would be required to be constructed and operated in strict compliance with CAL FIRE's PRC 4290-4291 State Responsibility Area (SRA) Fire Safe Regulations (14-CCR-1270 et seq.), which specify requirements for firefighting access, water supply, and defensible space. Please refer to Section 3.9(g) for further discussion of potential impacts related to exposure of people to risk of wildfire and Mitigation Measure HAZ-3, which requires preparation and implementation of a Fire Prevention Plan to reduce the risk of wildfire. With implementation of Mitigation Measure HAZ-3 increased risks of wildfire as a result of the proposed Project would be **less than significant with mitigation**.

c) Would the project require the installation or maintenance 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?

Please refer to the discussion in (b) above. The proposed Project would construct improvements to existing roads and would construct a wireless cell tower facility. In the operational phase, equipment at the facility would be enclosed in a structure and maintained to ensure that equipment is functioning properly and poses no risk of wildfire ignition. Appropriate vegetation management would be conducted within the cell tower base facility to further reduce the risk of wildfire and the facility would be constructed, operated and maintained in accordance with CAL FIRE's PRC 4290-4291 State Responsibility Area (SRA) Fire Safe Regulations. Access for operations and maintenance would be via existing roads and utility alignments and the facility would require few vehicle trips per year for inspections and maintenance. As such, it is anticipated that impacts associated with increased risk of wildland fire or impacts associated with actions required to reduce risk of wildland fire would be **less than significant impact**.

d) Would the project 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?

The proposed Project would construct a new unmanned telecommunication facility. All temporary disturbance areas would be returned to pre-Project conditions and the Project would not significantly alter the slopes, soils, or drainage of the Project site. Please refer to the analysis and impact discussion related to geologic and soil stability provided in Section 3.7, which identifies Mitigation Measure GEO-1 requiring a geotechnical report and site-specific design recommendations for the facility. While no known risks associated with post-fire conditions have been identified for the site and the surrounding area, the site is within an area of steep topography where a wildfire and subsequent conditions could result in some level of risk to downslope areas, including the Project site. However, the Project site is within an area of existing residential development and locating the Project on the site would represent little change in the existing condition with respect to risk to structures and people to post-wildfire conditions. It is anticipated that the proposed Project would result in **a less than significant impact** associated with exposure of people or structures to significant risks from post-fire flooding, soils or slope instability.

Mitigation Measures

No additional mitigation measures are required.

3.21 Mandatory Findings of Significance

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XXI. 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 a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?	☐	☒	☐	☐
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)?	☐	☒	☐	☐
c) Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	☐	☒	☐	☐

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 a rare or endangered plant or animal, or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?***

Please refer to (c) below.

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)?

Please refer to (c) below.

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

Sections 3.1 through 3.20 of this Initial Study provide an analysis of potential environmental impacts of the Project, including adverse effect on human beings. Mitigation measures to avoid, minimize, or compensate for potential impacts identified are included in Section 3.1, Aesthetics; Section 3.3, Air Quality; Section 3.4, Biological Resources; Section 3.5, Cultural Resources; Section 3.7, Geology and Soils; Section 3.9, Hazards and Hazardous Materials; Section 3.13, Noise; and Section 3.18, Tribal Cultural Resources. Regarding impacts associated with degrading the quality of the environment or damaging or eliminating important examples of cultural history or prehistory, the proposed Project would result in **less-than-significant impacts with mitigation**.

The proposed Project would construct an unmanned wireless cell tower on private land through a lease agreement. It would not require a change in land use or zoning designations and impacts would primarily be temporary during construction. The County conducted the impact analysis provided in this Initial Study in consideration of the cumulative impacts that would result from the proposed Project and other complete, pending and reasonably foreseeable projects in the area and determined that the proposed project would result in no cumulatively considerable impacts with incorporation of mitigation measures identified in this document.

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4 References and Preparers

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4.2 List of Preparers

Brandon Pangman, Assistant Planning Director, Sierra County Planning and Building Department

Markus Lang, Dudek (consultant)

Kaitlin Roberts, Dudek

Kimberly Asbury, Dudek

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Appendix A

Project Plans

SITE NUMBER: CVL02130

SITE NAME: DOWNIEVILLE

160 GALLOWAY STREET
DOWNIEVILLE, CA 95936
JURISDICTION: SIERRA COUNTY
APN: 002-150-010

SITE TYPE: LATTICE TOWER/EQUIPMENT SHELTER

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

PROPOSED SITE BUILD UNMANNED TELECOMMUNICATIONS FACILITY.

1. BRING POWER / TELCO / FIBER TO SITE LOCATION
2. 35'X35' FENCED LEASE AREA
3. INSTALL AT&T APPROVED PRE-MANUFACTURED 8'x8' EQUIPMENT SHELTER WITH ASSOCIATED INTERIOR EQUIPMENT
4. ADD (1) PROPOSED GPS UNITS
5. ADD 120'-0" LATTICE TOWER
6. ADD (6) ANTENNAS, (2) PER ALPHA, BETA, GAMMA SECTOR
7. ADD (12) PROPOSED RRUS
8. ADD (3) SURGE SUPPRESSORS
9. ADD 6'-0" HIGH CHAIN LINK FENCE
10. ADD 30KW AC DIESEL STANDBY GENERATOR W/ LEVEL 2 ACOUSTIC ENCLOSURE & ATTACHED 190 GAL CAPACITY BELLY TANK

CODE COMPLIANCE

ALL WORK AND MATERIALS SHALL BE PERFORMED AND INSTALLED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CURRENT EDITIONS OF THE FOLLOWING CODES AS ADOPTED BY THE LOCAL GOVERNING AUTHORITIES. NOTHING IN THESE PLANS IS TO BE CONSTRUCTED TO PERMIT WORK NOT CONFORMING TO THESE CODES:

1. 2016 CALIFORNIA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE, PART 1, TITLE 24, C.C.R. (CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS)
2. 2016 CALIFORNIA BUILDING CODE (CBC), PART 2, TITLE 24, C.C.R. (VOLUMES 1 & 2), (2015 INTERNATIONAL BUILDING CODE)
3. 2016 CALIFORNIA ELECTRICAL CODE (CEC), PART 3, TITLE 24, C.C.R., (2014 NATIONAL ELECTRICAL CODE)
4. 2016 CALIFORNIA MECHANICAL CODE (CMC), PART 4, TITLE 24, C.C.R., (2015 UNIFORM MECHANICAL CODE)
5. 2016 CALIFORNIA PLUMBING CODE (CPC), PART 5, TITLE 24, C.C.R., (2015 UNIFORM PLUMBING CODE)
6. 2016 CALIFORNIA ENERGY CODE (CEC), PART 6, TITLE 24, C.C.R.
7. 2016 CALIFORNIA HISTORICAL BUILDING CODE, PART 8, TITLE 24, C.C.R., (2015 INTERNATIONAL BUILDING CODE)
8. 2016 CALIFORNIA FIRE CODE, PART 9, TITLE 24 C.C.R., (2015 INTERNATIONAL FIRE CODE)
9. 2016 CALIFORNIA EXISTING BUILDING CODE, PART 10, TITLE 24, C.C.R., (2015 INTERNATIONAL BUILDING CODE)
10. 2016 CALIFORNIA GREEN BUILDING STANDARDS CODE, PART 11, TITLE 24 C.C.R., (CALGreen)
11. 2016 CALIFORNIA REFERENCED STANDARDS, PART 12, TITLE 24 C.C.R.
12. ANSI/EIA-TIA-222-G
13. ALONG WITH ANY OTHER APPLICABLE LOCAL & STATE LAWS AND REGULATIONS.

DISABLED ACCESS REQUIREMENTS

THIS FACILITY IS UNMANNED & NOT FOR HUMAN HABITATION. DISABLED ACCESS & REQUIREMENTS ARE NOT REQUIRED IN ACCORDANCE WITH CALIFORNIA STATE BUILDING CODE TITLE 24 PART 2, SECTION 11B-203.4

OCCUPANCY AND CONSTRUCTION TYPE

OCCUPANCY : U (UNMANNED)

CONSTRUCTION TYPE: V-B

PROJECT INFORMATION

PROPERTY INFORMATION:
SITE NAME: DOWNIEVILLE

SITE NUMBER: CVL02130

SEARCH RING: DOWNIEVILLE

FA#: 14511570

SITE ADDRESS: 160 GALLOWAY STREET
DOWNIEVILLE, CA 95936

A.P.N. NUMBER: 002-150-010

CURRENT USE: (GF) GENERAL FOREST

PROPOSED USE: (U) UNMANNED TELECOMMUNICATION FACILITY

JURISDICTION: SIERRA COUNTY

LATITUDE: N 39° 33' 21.14"

LONGITUDE: W 120° 49' 47.10"

GROUND ELEVATION: ± 3098.5' AMSL

PROPERTY OWNER:
PETER AND MARY BRYAN
1544 SHASTA AVENUE
NAPA, CA 94558

POWER AGENCY:
PG&E CORPORATION
1 MARKET STREET, SPEAR TOWER
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94105
PH: (800) 743-5000

TELEPHONE AGENCY:
AT&T
525 MARKET STREET, SPEAR TOWER
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94105
PH: 1-800-310-2355

RFDS DATED 12/20/18, ISSUE 1.00.00
REVISION 1.00.00

PROJECT TEAM

APPLICANT / LESSEE:
AT&T
5001 EXECUTIVE PARKWAY
SAN RAMON, CA 945834

RF ENGINEER:
AT&T CONTACT: ASAD SHAHBAZ
EMAIL: MS455V@ATT.COM

PROJECT MGR.:
EPIC WIRELESS
CONTACT: ANDREW LESA
EMAIL: ANDREW.LESA@EPICWIRELESS.NET
PH: (530) 368-2357

SITE ACQUISITION:
EPIC WIRELESS
CONTACT: CARL JONES (ZONING MGR.)
EMAIL: CARL.JONES@EPICWIRELESS.NET
PH: (916) 798-2275

CONSTRUCTION MGR.:
COMPANY: EPIC WIRELESS
CONTACT: ANDREW MEDINA
EMAIL: ANDREW.MADINA@EPICWIRELESS.NET
PH: (530) 574-4773

A&E DESIGN GROUP:
COMPANY: EPIC WIRELESS
CONTACT: CARL SYLVESTER
EMAIL: CARL.SYLVESTER@EPICWIRELESS.NET
PH: (530) 933-2763

ARCHITECT / ENGINEER:
ADAPTIVE RE-USE ENGINEERING
CONTACT: CRAIG HORNER, PE 84674
EMAIL: CRAIGMHORNER@YAHOO.COM
PH: (214) 407-3184

CIVIL VENDOR.:
VINCULUMS CM
CONTACT: FLOYED GREEN
EMAIL: FGREEN@VINCULUMS.COM
PH: (408) 528-1927

SHEET INDEX

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A-4.1	NEW LATTICE TOWER - NORTH & SOUTH ELEVATION	
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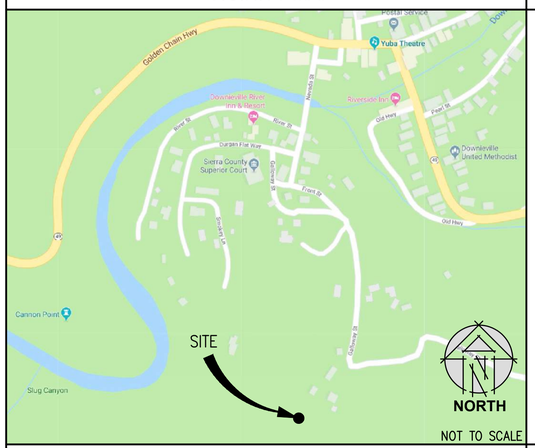
VICINITY MAP



DIRECTIONS FROM AT&T

DIRECTIONS FROM AT&T'S OFFICE AT 2600 CAMINO RAMON, SAN RAMON, CA

2600 CAMINO RAMON
SAN RAMON, CA 94583

1. DEPART EXECUTIVE PKWY TOWARD EXECUTIVE DRIVEWAY- 0.3 MI
2. TURN RIGHT ONTO CAMINO RAMON- 0.6 MI
3. TURN RIGHT ONTO BOLLINGER CANYON ROAD- 0.4 MI
4. TAKE RAMP RIGHT FOR I-680 NORTH TOWARD SACRAMENTO- 36.1 MI
5. TAKE RAMP RIGHT FOR I-80 EAST TOWARD SACRAMENTO- 41.4 MI
6. TAKE RAMP RIGHT FOR I-80 EAST TOWARD AIRPORT / RENO- 4.4 MI
7. TAKE RAMP RIGHT FOR I-5 NORTH TOWARD REDDING- 3.6 MI
8. AT EXIT 525B, TAKE RAMP RIGHT FOR CA-99 TOWARD MARYSVILLE / YUBA CITY- 12.5 MI
9. KEEP STRAIGHT ONTO CA-70 N- 22.0 MI
10. TURN RIGHT ONTO CA-20 / CA-70- 0.5 MI
11. TURN RIGHT ONTO CA-20 / 12TH ST- 11.8 MI
12. TURN LEFT ONTO MARYSVILLE RD- 11.4 MI
13. TURN RIGHT ONTO MARYSVILLE RD / CR-E20- 19.2 MI
14. TURN LEFT ONTO CA-49- 21.7 MI
15. TURN RIGHT ONTO NEVADA ST- 0.1 MI
16. TURN RIGHT ONTO DURGAN FLAT WAY, AND THEN IMMEDIATELY TURN LEFT ONTO GALLOWAY ST UNPAVED ROAD- 0.2 MI
17. ARRIVE AT GALLOWAY ST / COUNTY ROAD S40

160 GALLOWAY STREET
DOWNIEVILLE, CA 95936

1. ANCHOR BOLTS WET-SET INTO CONCRETE
2. EXPANSION BOLTS INTO EXISTING CONCRETE
3. HIGH STRENGTH BOLTING
4. WELDING
5. STEEL REINFORCEMENT / REBAR PLACEMENT
6. STEEL MATERIAL VERIFICATION

SOILS ENGINEER TO INSPECT DRILLED PIERS

APPROVALS

APPROVED BY:	INITIALS:	DATE:
AT&T:		
VENDOR:		
R.F.:		
LEASING / LANDLORD:		
ZONING:		
CONSTRUCTION:		
POWER / TELCO:		
PG&E:		

GENERAL CONTRACTOR NOTES

DO NOT SCALE DRAWINGS

THESE DRAWINGS ARE FORMATTED TO BE FULL SIZE AT 24" x 36". CONTRACTOR SHALL VERIFY ALL PLANS AND EXISTING DIMENSIONS AND CONDITIONS ON THE JOBSITE AND SHALL IMMEDIATELY NOTIFY THE ARCHITECT/ENGINEER IN WRITING OF ANY DISCREPANCIES BEFORE PROCEEDING WITH THE WORK OR MATERIAL ORDERS OR BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SAME.

DIGALERT
800-227-2600
Call 2 Full Working Days In Advance

Issued For:

DOWNIEVILLE

160 GALLOWAY STREET

DOWNIEVILLE, CA 95936

PREPARED FOR

at&t

2600 Camino Ramon, 4W850 N
San Ramon, California 94583

EPIC WIRELESS GROUP LLC
Connecting a Wireless World

AT&T SITE NO:	CVL02130
PROJECT NO:	14511570
DRAWN BY:	SAD
CHECKED BY:	CES

REV	DATE	DESCRIPTION
0	03/12/19	ZD 90%
0	03/22/19	ZD 100%
1	12/11/19	ZD 100% LATTICE TWR

Licensor:

REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER
CRAIG M. HORNER
No. 84674
CIVIL
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Engineer:

ADAPTIVE RE-USE ENGINEERING
Craig Horner, PE 84674
214-407-3184
3112 LEATHA WAY
SACRAMENTO, CA 95821
craigmhorner@yahoo.com

SHEET TITLE:

TITLE SHEET

SHEET NUMBER:

T-1

GENERAL CONSTRUCTION NOTES:

1. PLANS ARE INTENDED TO BE DIAGRAMMATIC OUTLINE ONLY, UNLESS NOTED OTHERWISE. THE WORK SHALL INCLUDE FURNISHING MATERIALS, EQUIPMENT, APPURTENANCES AND LABOR NECESSARY TO COMPLETE ALL INSTALLATIONS AS INDICATED ON THE DRAWINGS.

2. THE CONTRACTOR SHALL OBTAIN, IN WRITING, AUTHORIZATION TO PROCEED BEFORE STARTING WORK ON ANY ITEM NOT CLEARLY DEFINED OR IDENTIFIED BY THE CONTRACT DOCUMENTS.

3. CONTRACTOR SHALL CONTACT USA (UNDERGROUND SERVICE ALERT) AT (800) 227-2600, FOR UTILITY LOCATIONS, 48 HOURS BEFORE PROCEEDING WITH ANY EXCAVATION, SITE WORK OR CONSTRUCTION.

4. THE CONTRACTOR SHALL INSTALL ALL EQUIPMENT AND MATERIALS IN ACCORDANCE WITH MANUFACTURER'S RECOMMENDATIONS UNLESS SPECIFICALLY INDICATED OTHERWISE, OR WHERE LOCAL CODES OR REGULATIONS TAKE PRECEDENCE.

5. ALL CONSTRUCTION SHALL BE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CBC REQUIREMENTS REGARDING EARTHQUAKE RESISTANCE, FOR, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, PIPING, LIGHT FIXTURES, CEILING GRID, INTERIOR PARTITIONS, AND MECHANICAL EQUIPMENT. ALL WORK MUST COMPLY WITH LOCAL EARTHQUAKE CODES AND REGULATIONS.

6. REPRESENTATIONS OF TRUE NORTH, OTHER THAN THOSE FOUND ON THE PLOT OF SURVEY DRAWINGS, SHALL NOT BE USED TO IDENTIFY OR ESTABLISH BEARING OF TRUE NORTH AT THE SITE. THE CONTRACTOR SHALL RELY SOLELY ON THE PLOT OF SURVEY DRAWING AND ANY SURVEYOR'S MARKINGS AT THE SITE FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF TRUE NORTH, AND SHALL NOTIFY THE ARCHITECT / ENGINEER PRIOR TO PROCEEDING WITH THE WORK IF ANY DISCREPANCY IS FOUND BETWEEN THE VARIOUS ELEMENTS OF THE WORKING DRAWINGS AND THE TRUE NORTH ORIENTATION AS DEPICTED ON THE CIVIL SURVEY. THE CONTRACTOR SHALL ASSUME SOLE LIABILITY FOR ANY FAILURE TO NOTIFY THE ARCHITECT / ENGINEER.

7. THE BUILDING DEPARTMENT ISSUING THE PERMITS SHALL BE NOTIFIED AT LEAST TWO WORKING DAYS PRIOR TO THE COMMENCEMENT OF WORK, OR AS OTHERWISE STIPULATED BY THE CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICIAL HAVING JURISDICTION.

8. DO NOT EXCAVATE OR DISTURB BEYOND THE PROPERTY LINES OR LEASE LINES, UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.

9. ALL EXISTING UTILITIES, FACILITIES, CONDITIONS, AND THEIR DIMENSIONS SHOWN ON THE PLAN HAVE BEEN PLOTTED FROM AVAILABLE RECORDS. THE ARCHITECT / ENGINEER AND THE OWNER ASSUME NO RESPONSIBILITY WHATSOEVER AS TO THE SUFFICIENCY OR THE ACCURACY OF THE INFORMATION SHOWN ON THE PLANS, OR THE MANNER OF THEIR REMOVAL OR ADJUSTMENT. CONTRACTORS SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR DETERMINING EXACT LOCATION OF ALL EXISTING UTILITIES AND FACILITIES PRIOR TO START OF CONSTRUCTION. CONTRACTORS SHALL ALSO OBTAIN FROM EACH UTILITY COMPANY DETAILED INFORMATION RELATIVE TO WORKING SCHEDULES AND METHODS OF REMOVING OR ADJUSTING EXISTING UTILITIES.

10. CONTRACTOR SHALL VERIFY ALL EXISTING UTILITIES, BOTH HORIZONTAL AND VERTICALLY, PRIOR TO THE START OF CONSTRUCTION. ANY DISCREPANCIES OR DOUBTS AS TO THE INTERPRETATION OF PLANS SHOULD BE IMMEDIATELY REPORTED TO THE ARCHITECT / ENGINEER FOR RESOLUTION AND INSTRUCTION, AND NO FURTHER WORK SHALL BE PERFORMED UNTIL THE DISCREPANCY IS CHECKED AND CORRECTED BY THE ARCHITECT / ENGINEER. FAILURE TO SECURE SUCH INSTRUCTION MEANS CONTRACTOR WILL HAVE WORKED AT HIS/HER OWN RISK AND EXPENSE.

11. ALL PROPOSED AND EXISTING UTILITY STRUCTURES ON SITE AND IN AREAS TO BE DISTURBED BY CONSTRUCTION SHALL BE ADJUSTED TO FINISH ELEVATIONS PRIOR TO FINAL INSPECTION OF WORK.

12. ANY DRAIN AND/OR FIELD TILE ENCOUNTERED / DISTURBED DURING CONSTRUCTION SHALL BE RETURNED TO IT'S ORIGINAL CONDITION PRIOR TO COMPLETION OF WORK. SIZE, LOCATION AND TYPE OF ANY UNDERGROUND UTILITIES OR IMPROVEMENTS SHALL BE ACCURATELY NOTED AND PLACED ON "AS-BUILT" DRAWINGS BY GENERAL CONTRACTOR, AND ISSUED TO THE ARCHITECT / ENGINEER AT COMPLETION OF PROJECT.

13. ALL TEMPORARY EXCAVATIONS FOR THE INSTALLATION OF FOUNDATIONS, UTILITIES, ETC., SHALL BE PROPERLY LAID BACK OR BRACED IN ACCORDANCE WITH CORRECT OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH ADMINISTRATION (OSHA) REQUIREMENTS.

14. INCLUDE MISC. ITEMS PER AT&T SPECIFICATIONS

APPLICABLE CODES, REGULATIONS AND STANDARDS:

SUBCONTRACTOR'S WORK SHALL COMPLY WITH ALL APPLICABLE NATIONAL, STATE, AND LOCAL CODES AS ADOPTED BY THE LOCAL AUTHORITY HAVING JURISDICTION (AHJ) FOR THE LOCATION.

THE EDITION OF THE AHJ ADOPTED CODES AND STANDARDS IN EFFECT ON THE DATE OF CONTRACT AWARD SHALL GOVERN THE DESIGN.

SUBCONTRACTOR'S WORK SHALL COMPLY WITH THE LATEST EDITION OF THE FOLLOWING STANDARDS:

- AMERICAN CONCRETE INSTITUTE (ACI) 318, BUILDING CODE REQUIREMENTS FOR STRUCTURAL CONCRETE
- AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF STEEL CONSTRUCTION (AISC), MANUAL OF STEEL CONSTRUCTION, ASD, FOURTEENTH EDITION
- TELECOMMUNICATIONS INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION (TIA) 222-G, STRUCTURAL STANDARD FOR STRUCTURAL ANTENNA TOWER AND ANTENNA SUPPORTING STRUCTURES
- INSTITUTE FOR ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONICS ENGINEERS (IEEE) 81, GUIDE FOR MEASURING EARTH RESISTIVITY, GROUND IMPEDANCE, AND EARTH SURFACE POTENTIALS OF A GROUND SYSTEM IEEE 1100 (1999) RECOMMENDED PRACTICE FOR POWERING AND GROUNDING OF ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT.
- IEEE C62.41, RECOMMENDED PRACTICES ON SURGE VOLTAGES IN LOW VOLTAGE AC POWER CIRCUITS (FOR LOCATION CATEGORY "C3" AND "HIGH SYSTEM EXPOSURE")

TIA 607 COMMERCIAL BUILDING GROUNDING AND BONDING REQUIREMENTS FOR TELECOMMUNICATIONS TELCORDIA GR-63 NETWORK EQUIPMENT-BUILDING SYSTEM (NEBS): PHYSICAL PROTECTION
TELCORDIA GR-347 CENTRAL OFFICE POWER WIRING
TELCORDIA GR-1275 GENERAL INSTALLATION REQUIREMENTS
TELCORDIA GR-1503 COAXIAL CABLE CONNECTIONS

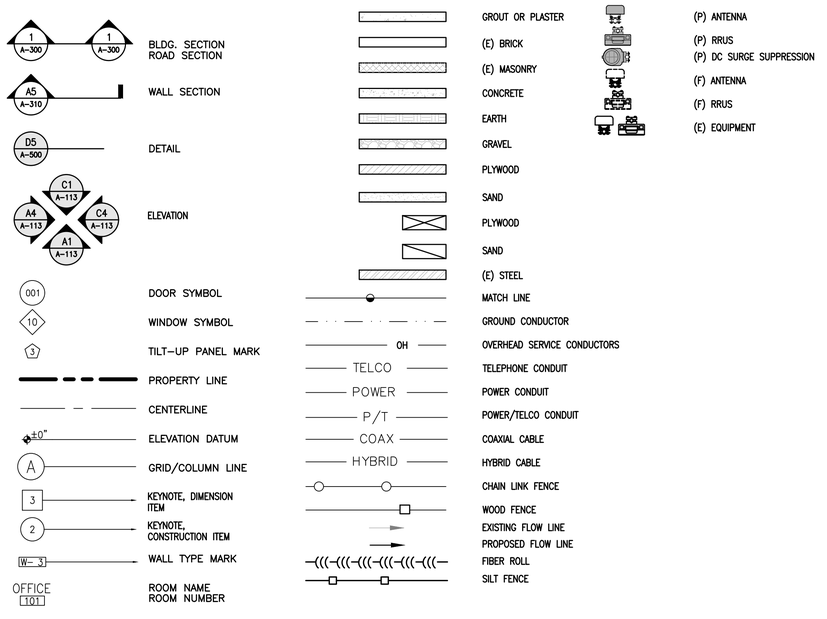
ANY AND ALL OTHER LOCAL & STATE LAWS AND REGULATIONS

FOR ANY CONFLICTS BETWEEN SECTIONS OF LISTED CODES AND STANDARDS REGARDING MATERIAL, METHODS OF CONSTRUCTION, OR OTHER REQUIREMENTS, THE MOST RESTRICTIVE SHALL GOVERN. WHERE THERE IS CONFLICT BETWEEN A GENERAL REQUIREMENT AND A SPECIFIC REQUIREMENT, THE SPECIFIC REQUIREMENT SHALL GOVERN.

ABBREVIATIONS

A.B.	ANCHOR BOLT
ABV.	ABOVE
ACCA	ANTENNA CABLE COVER ASSEMBLY
ADD'L	ADDITIONAL
A.F.F.	ABOVE FINISHED FLOOR
A.F.G.	ABOVE FINISHED GRADE
ALUM.	ALUMINUM
ALT.	ALTERNATE
ANT.	ANTENNA
APPRX.	APPROXIMATE(LY)
ARCH.	ARCHITECT(URAL)
AWG.	AMERICAN WIRE GAUGE
BLDG.	BUILDING
BLK.	BLOCK
BLKG.	BLOCKING
BM.	BEAM
B.N.	BOUNDARY NAILING
BTCW.	BARE TINNED COPPER WIRE
B.O.F.	BOTTOM OF FOOTING
B/U	BACK-UP CABINET
CAB.	CABINET
CANT.	CANTILEVER(ED)
C.I.P.	CAST IN PLACE
CLG.	CEILING
CLR.	CLEAR
COL.	COLUMN
CONC.	CONCRETE
CONN.	CONNECTION(OR)
CONST.	CONSTRUCTION
CONT.	CONTINUOUS
d	PENNY (NAILS)
DBL.	DOUBLE
DEPT.	DEPARTMENT
D.F.	DOUGLAS FIR
DIA.	DIAMETER
DIAG.	DIAGONAL
DIM.	DIMENSION
DWG.	DRAWING(S)
DWL.	DOWEL(S)
EA.	EACH
EL.	ELEVATION
ELEC.	ELECTRICAL
ELEV.	ELEVATOR
EMT.	ELECTRICAL METALLIC TUBING
E.N.	EDGE NAIL
ENG.	ENGINEER
EQ.	EQUAL
EXP.	EXPANSION
EXST.(E)	EXISTING
EXT.	EXTERIOR
(F)	FUTURE
FAB.	FABRICATION(OR)
F.F.	FINISH FLOOR
F.G.	FINISH GRADE
FIN.	FINISH(ED)
FLR.	FLOOR
FDN.	FOUNDATION
F.O.C.	FACE OF CONCRETE
F.O.M.	FACE OF MASONRY
F.O.S.	FACE OF STUD
F.O.W.	FACE OF WALL
F.S.	FINISH SURFACE
FT.(')	FOOT (FEET)
FTG.	FOOTING
G.	GROWTH (CABINET)
GA.	GAUGE
GI.	GALVANIZE(D)
G.F.I.	GROUND FAULT CIRCUIT INTERRUSPTER
GLB. (GLU-LAM)	GLUE LAMINATED BEAM
GPS	GLOBAL POSITIONING SYSTEM
GRND.	GROUND
HDR.	HEADER
HGR.	HANGER
HT.	HEIGHT
ICGB.	ISOLATED COPPER GROUND BUS
IN. (")	INCH(ES)
INT.	INTERIOR
LB.(#)	POUND(S)
L.B.	LAG BOLTS
L.F.	LINEAR FEET (FOOT)
L.	LONG(ITUDINAL)
MAS.	MASONRY
MAX.	MAXIMUM
M.B.	MACHINE BOLT
MECH.	MECHANICAL
MFR.	MANUFACTURER
MIN.	MINIMUM
MISC.	MISCELLANEOUS
MTL.	METAL
(N)	PROPOSED
NO.(#)	NUMBER
N.T.S.	NOT TO SCALE
O.C.	ON CENTER
OPNG.	OPENING
(P)	PROPOSED
P/C	PRECAST CONCRETE
PCS	PERSONAL COMMUNICATION SERVICES
PLY.	PLYWOOD
PPC	POWER PROTECTION CABINET
PRC	PRIMARY RADIO CABINET
P.S.F.	POUNDS PER SQUARE FOOT
P.S.I.	POUNDS PER SQUARE INCH
P.T.	PRESSURE TREATED
PWR.	POWER (CABINET)
QTY.	QUANTITY
RAD.(R)	RADIUS
REF.	REFERENCE
REINF.	REINFORCEMENT(ING)
REQ'D/	REQUIRED
RGS.	RIGID GALVANIZED STEEL
SCH.	SCHEDULE
SHT.	SHEET
SIM.	SIMILAR
SPEC.	SPECIFICATIONS
SQ.	SQUARE
S.S.	STAINLESS STEEL
STD.	STANDARD
STL.	STEEL
STRUC.	STRUCTURAL
TEMP.	TEMPORARY
THK.	THICK(NESS)
T.N.	TOE NAIL
T.O.A.	TOP OF ANTENNA
T.O.C.	TOP OF CURB
T.O.F.	TOP OF FOUNDATION
T.O.P.	TOP OF PLATE (PARAPET)
T.O.S.	TOP OF STEEL
T.O.W.	TOP OF WALL
TYP.	TYPICAL
U.G.	UNDER GROUND
U.L.	UNDERWRITERS LABORATORY
U.N.O.	UNLESS NOTED OTHERWISE
V.I.F.	VERIFY IN FIELD
W	WIDE (WIDTH)
w/	WITH
WD.	WOOD
W.P.	WEATHERPROOF
WT.	WEIGHT
C	CENTERLINE
P	PLATE, PROPERTY LINE

SYMBOLS LEGEND



Issued For:

DOWNIEVILLE

160 GALLOWAY STREET

DOWNIEVILLE, CA 95936

PREPARED FOR

at&t

2600 Camino Ramon, 4W850 N
San Ramon, California 94583

EPIC WIRELESS GROUP LLC
Connecting a Wireless World

AT&T SITE NO:	CVL02130
PROJECT NO:	14511570
DRAWN BY:	SAD
CHECKED BY:	CES

REV	DATE	DESCRIPTION
0	03/12/19	ZD 90%
0	03/22/19	ZD 100%
1	12/11/19	ZD 100% LATTICE TWR

Licensor:

REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER
CRAIG M. HORNER
No. 84674
CIVIL
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Engineer:

ADAPTIVE RE-USE ENGINEERING
Craig Horner, PE 84674
214-407-3184
3112 LEATHA WAY
SACRAMENTO, CA 95821
craigmhorner@yahoo.com

SHEET TITLE:

GENERAL NOTES

SHEET NUMBER:

GN-1

BOUNDARY SHOWN IS BASED ON MONUMENTATION FOUND AND RECORD INFORMATION. THIS IS NOT A BOUNDARY SURVEY. THIS IS A SPECIALIZED TOPOGRAPHIC MAP WITH PROPERTY LINES AND EASEMENTS BEING A GRAPHIC DEPICTION BASED ON INFORMATION GATHERED FROM VARIOUS SOURCES OF RECORD AND AVAILABLE MONUMENTATION FOUND DURING THE FIELD SURVEY. NO EASEMENTS WERE RESEARCHED OR PLOTTED. PROPERTY LINES AND LINES OF TITLE WERE NOT INVESTIGATED NOR SURVEYED. NO PROPERTY MONUMENTS WERE SET.

DATE OF SURVEY: 12-12-18

SURVEYED BY OR UNDER DIRECTION OF: KENNETH D. GEIL, R.C.E. 14803

LOCATED IN THE COUNTY OF SIERRA, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

BEARINGS SHOWN ARE BASED UPON MONUMENTS FOUND AND RECORD INFORMATION. THIS IS NOT A BOUNDARY SURVEY.

ELEVATIONS SHOWN ON THIS PLAN ARE BASED UPON U.S.G.S. N.A.V.D. 88 DATUM. ABOVE MEAN SEA LEVEL.

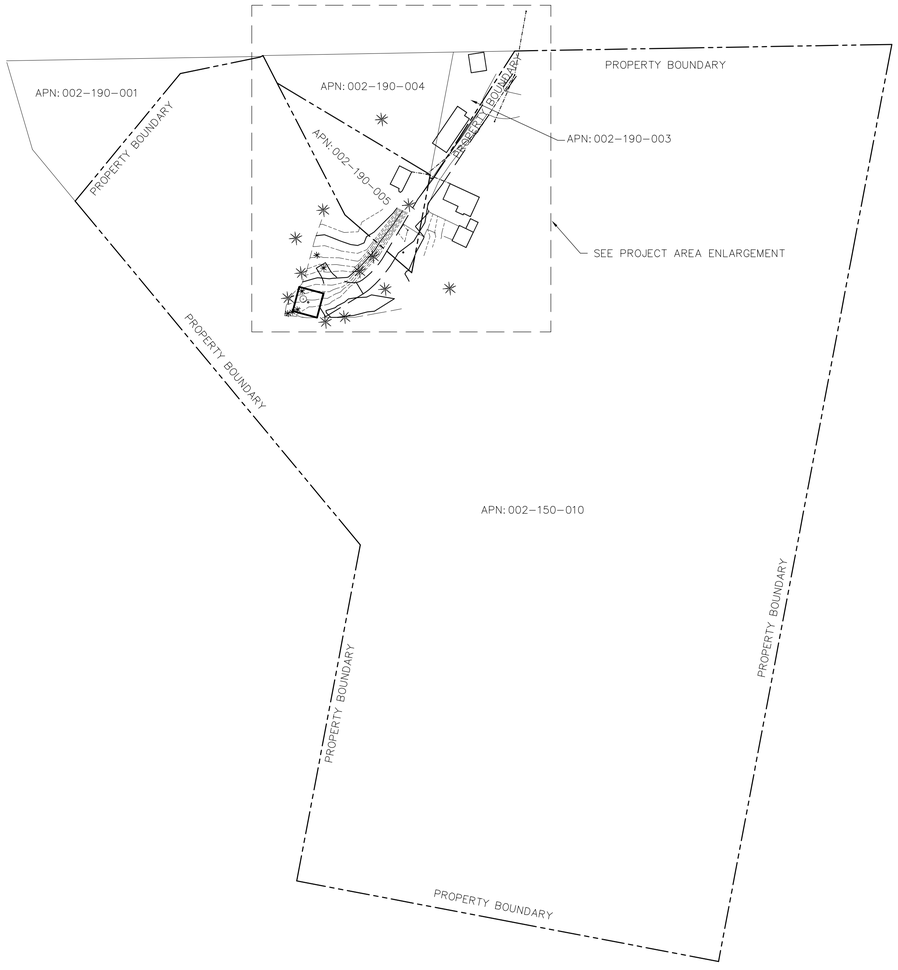
N.G.V.D. 1929 CORRECTION: SUBTRACT 3.03' FROM ELEVATIONS SHOWN.

CONTOUR INTERVAL: 1'

CONTRACTOR IS RESPONSIBLE TO VERIFY LEASE AREA PRIOR TO CONSTRUCTION.

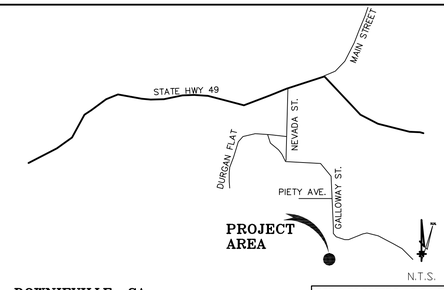
ASSESSOR'S PARCEL NUMBER: 002-150-010

OWNER(S): PETER AND MARY BRYAN
1544 SHASTA AVENUE
NAPA, CA 94558



SCALE 1" = 100'

OVERALL SITE PLAN



DOWNIEVILLE, CA

VICINITY MAP

Geil Engineering
Engineering * Surveying * Planning
1226 High Street
Auburn, California 95603-5015
Phone: (530) 885-0426 * Fax: (530) 823-1309

A.T.& T. Mobility

Project No./Name: CVL02130 / DOWNIEVILLE

Project Site Location: 160 Galloway Street
Downieville, CA 95936
Sierra County

Date of Observation: 12-12-18

Equipment/Procedure Used to Obtain Coordinates: Trimble Pathfinder Pro XL post processed with Pathfinder Office software.

Type of Antenna Mount: Proposed Lattice Tower

Coordinates (Tower)
Latitude: N 39° 33' 21.14" (NAD83) N 39° 33' 21.51" (NAD27)
Longitude: W 120° 49' 47.10" (NAD83) W 120° 49' 43.29" (NAD27)

ELEVATION of Ground at Structure (NAVD88) 3098.5' AMSL

CERTIFICATION: I, the undersigned, do hereby certify elevation listed above is based on a field survey done under my supervision and that the accuracy of those elevations meet or exceed 1-A Standards as defined in the FAA ASAC Information Sheet 91:003, and that they are true and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Kenneth D. Geil California RCE 14803

Lease Area Description

All that certain lease area being a portion of the Oro #2 Millsite as is described in that certain Deed filed for record at Book 127 of Official Records, Page 5218, Sierra County Records, located in the County of Sierra, State of California, and being a portion of Section 35, Township 20 N., Range 10 E., M.D.B.& M, and being more particularly described as follows:

Commencing at a found 6"x 6" concrete monument set most Southerly corner of Lot 2 as is shown on that certain Record of Survey filed for record at Book 13 of Maps at Page 34, Official Records of Sierra County, from which a 5/8" Rebar w/ Aluminum Cap bears North 49°10'00" West 123.43 feet; thence from said point of commencement South 64°36'21" West 146.54 feet to the True Point of Beginning; thence from said point of beginning North 75°00'00" West 35.00 feet; thence North 15°00'00" East 35.00 feet; thence South 75°00'00" East 35.00 feet; thence South 15°00'00" West 35.00 feet to the point of beginning.

Together with a non-exclusive easement for access and utility purposes fifteen feet in width the centerline of which is described as follows: beginning at a point which bears the following two courses from the most Southerly corner of the above described lease area: 1) North 15°00'00" East 15.10 feet and 2) South 31°11'15" East 6.33 feet and running thence from said point of beginning North 58°48'45" East 60.47 feet; thence through a tangent curve to the left having a radius of 119.00 feet through an arc distance of 58.17 feet; thence tangent to last curve North 30°48'11" East 53.16 feet; thence North 30°47'51" East 40.00 feet; thence North 36°34'43" East 35.61 feet; thence North 33°53'19" East 73.25 feet; thence North 33°55'10" East 15.59 feet to a point hereafter defined as Point "A"; thence continuing North 33°55'10" East 16.24 feet; thence North 33°51'48" East 13.11 feet more or less the the public right of way more commonly known as Galloway Street and a point hereafter defined as Point "B". Also to include the Hammerhead Turn Around and Turn-out areas as indicated hereon.

Also together with a non-exclusive easement for utility purposes six feet in width the centerline of which is described as follows: beginning at Point "A" as previously defined and running thence South 56°06'22" East 8 feet more or less to the existing utility pole.

Also together with a non-exclusive easement for utility purposes six feet in width the centerline of which is described as follows: beginning at Point "B" as previously defined and running thence North 41°34'39" East 40.87 feet; thence North 35°55'39" East 25 feet more or less to the existing utility pole.

DEPT | APPROVED | DATE
A&C
RE
RF
INT
EE\VLN
OPS
FE\OUT

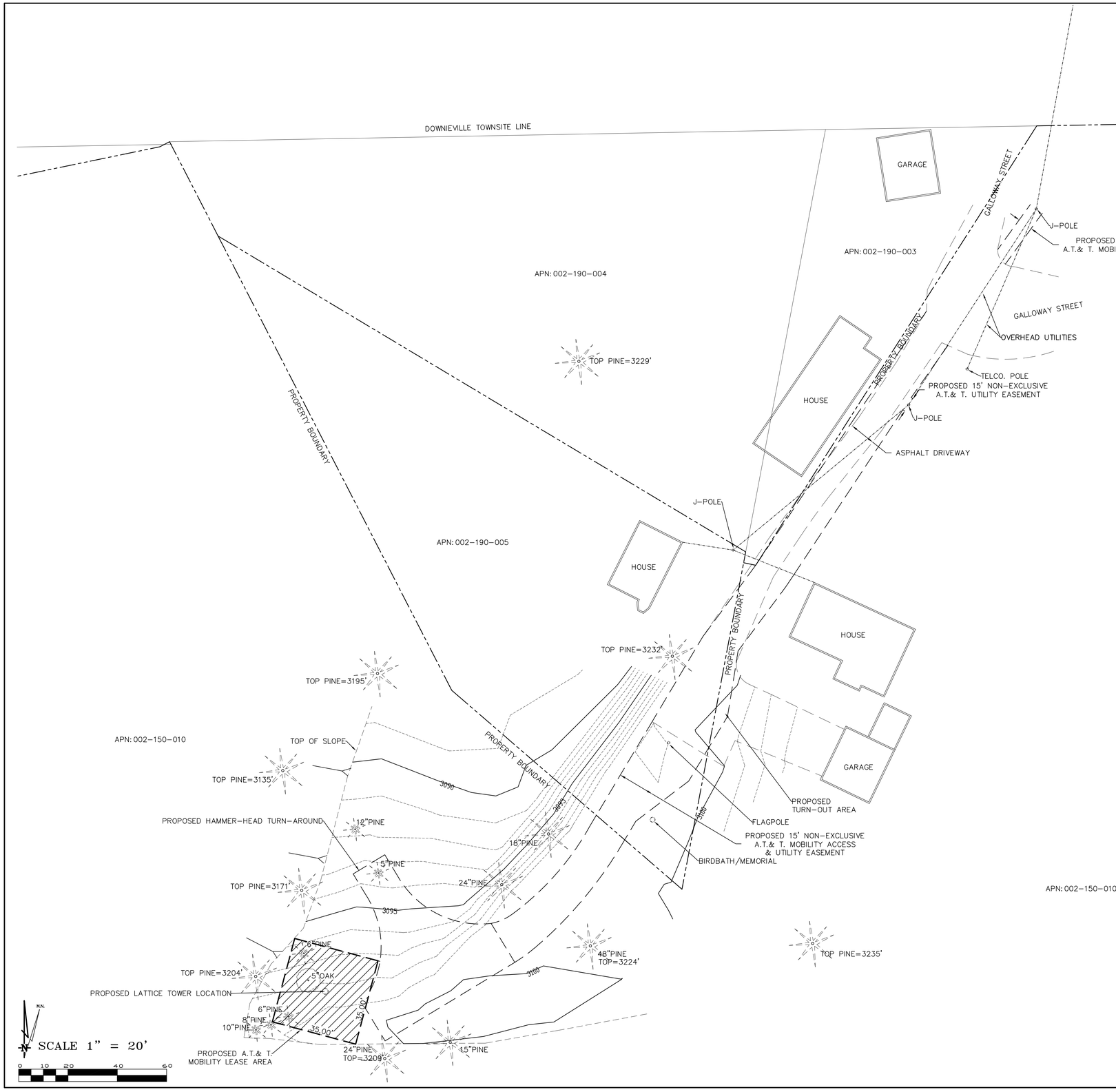
Surveyor
GEIL ENGINEERING
ENGINEERING * SURVEYING * PLANNING
1226 HIGH STREET
AUBURN, CALIFORNIA 95603
phone: (530) 885-0426
fax: (530) 823-1309

at&t MOBILITY

CVL02130
DOWNIEVILLE
160 GALLOWAY STREET
DOWNIEVILLE, CA 95936
PLOT PLAN AND
SITE TOPOGRAPHY

REVISIONS
REV 12-14-18 N. ROHDE PRELIMINARY DRAWING
REV 12-17-18 N. ROHDE BOUNDARY UPDATE
REV 03-01-19 N. ROHDE LEASE AREA PLACED
REV 03-08-19 N. ROHDE TURN-OUT ADDED
REV

Sheet
C-1



BOUNDARY SHOWN IS BASED ON MONUMENTATION FOUND AND RECORD INFORMATION. THIS IS NOT A BOUNDARY SURVEY. THIS IS A SPECIALIZED TOPOGRAPHIC MAP WITH PROPERTY LINES AND EASEMENTS BEING A GRAPHIC DEPICTION BASED ON INFORMATION GATHERED FROM VARIOUS SOURCES OF RECORD AND AVAILABLE MONUMENTATION FOUND DURING THE FIELD SURVEY. NO EASEMENTS WERE RESEARCHED OR PLOTTED. PROPERTY LINES AND LINES OF TITLE WERE NOT INVESTIGATED NOR SURVEYED. NO PROPERTY MONUMENTS WERE SET.

DEPT	APPROVED	DATE
A&C		
RE		
RF		
INT		
EE\IN		
OPS		
EE\OUT		

Surveyor

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Architect

at&t MOBILITY

CVL02130
DOWNIEVILLE
160 GALLOWAY STREET
DOWNIEVILLE, CA 95936
PLOT PLAN AND
SITE TOPOGRAPHY

Sheet
C-2

PROJECT AREA ENLARGEMENT

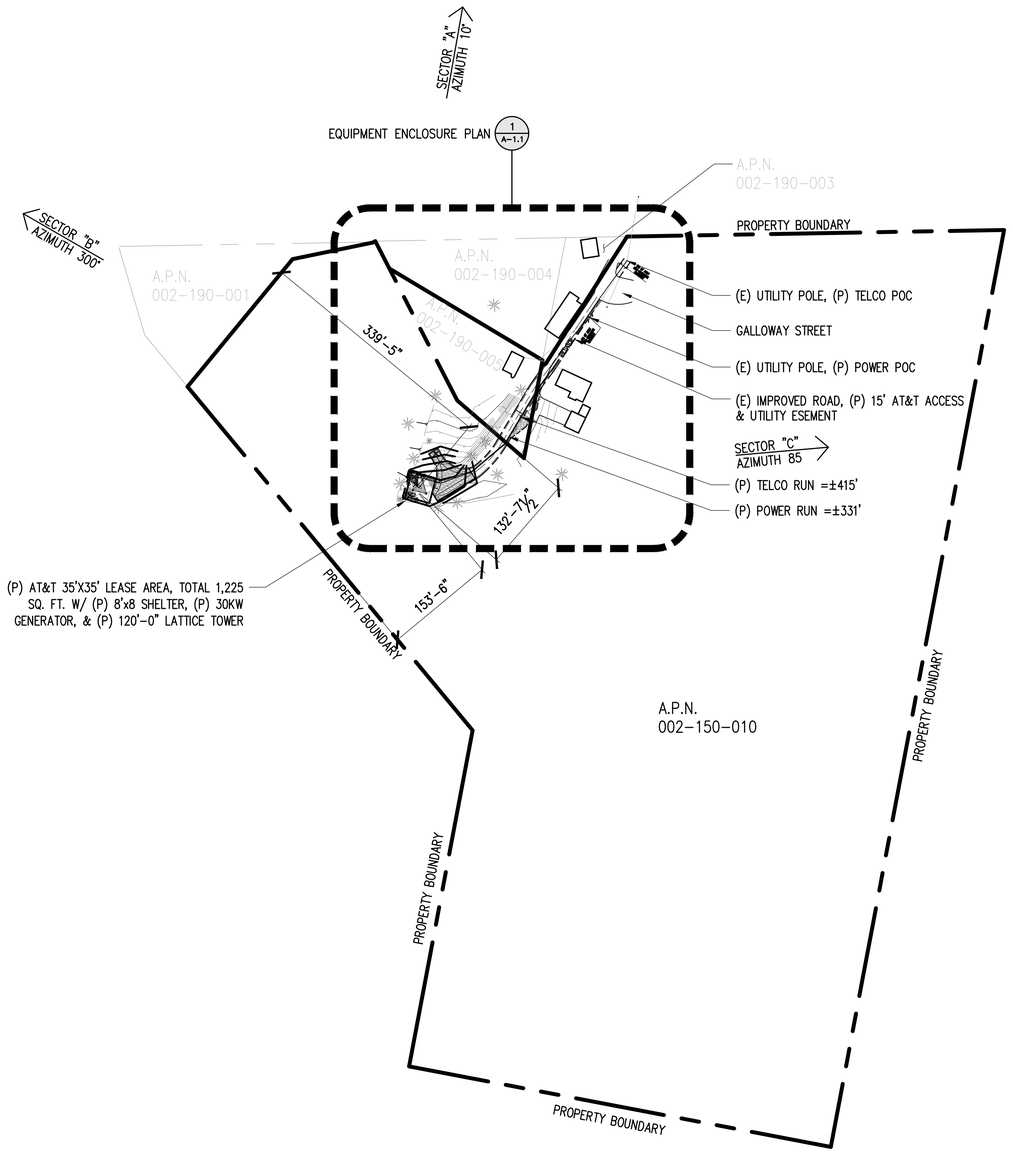
THIS IS NOT A SITE SURVEY

ALL PROPERTY BOUNDARIES, ORIENTATION OF TRUE NORTH AND STREET HALF-WIDTHS HAVE BEEN OBTAINED FROM A TAX PARCEL MAP AND EXISTING DRAWINGS AND ARE APPROXIMATE.

NOTES:

1. NO GRADING OR PERMANENT CONSTRUCTION SHALL OCCUR WITHIN DRIP LINES OF TREES THAT ARE TO REMAIN WITHOUT ARBORIST APPROVAL.

2. PRIOR TO CONSTRUCTION, GENERAL CONTRACTOR TO CONTACT DIGALERT TO MARK OUT EXISTING UNDERGROUND UTILITIES. IN THE EVENT OF CONFLICTS, CONTRACTOR TO CONTACT PDC.



PLAN NORTH

NORTH

100' 50' 0 100' 200'

1" = 100'-0"

1 OVERALL SITE PLAN
1"=100'-0"

SITE TYPE:LATTICE TOWER/EQUIPMENT SHELTER

Issued For:

DOWNIEVILLE

160 GALLOWAY STREET

DOWNIEVILLE, CA 95936

PREPARED FOR

at&t

2600 Camino Ramon, 4W850 N
San Ramon, California 94583

EPIC WIRELESS GROUP LLC
Connecting a Wireless World

AT&T SITE NO:	CVL02130
PROJECT NO:	14511570
DRAWN BY:	SAD
CHECKED BY:	CES

REV	DATE	DESCRIPTION
0	03/12/19	ZD 90%
0	03/22/19	ZD 100%
1	12/11/19	ZD 100% LATTICE TWR

Licensor:

REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER
CRAIG M. HORNER
No. 84674
CIVIL
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Engineer:

ADAPTIVE RE-USE ENGINEERING
Craig Horner, PE 84674
214-407-3184
3112 LEATHA WAY
SACRAMENTO, CA 95821
craigmhorner@yahoo.com

SHEET TITLE:

OVERALL SITE PLAN

SHEET NUMBER:

A-1

THIS IS NOT A SITE SURVEY

ALL PROPERTY BOUNDARIES, ORIENTATION OF TRUE NORTH AND STREET HALF-WIDTHS HAVE BEEN OBTAINED FROM A TAX PARCEL MAP AND EXISTING DRAWINGS AND ARE APPROXIMATE.

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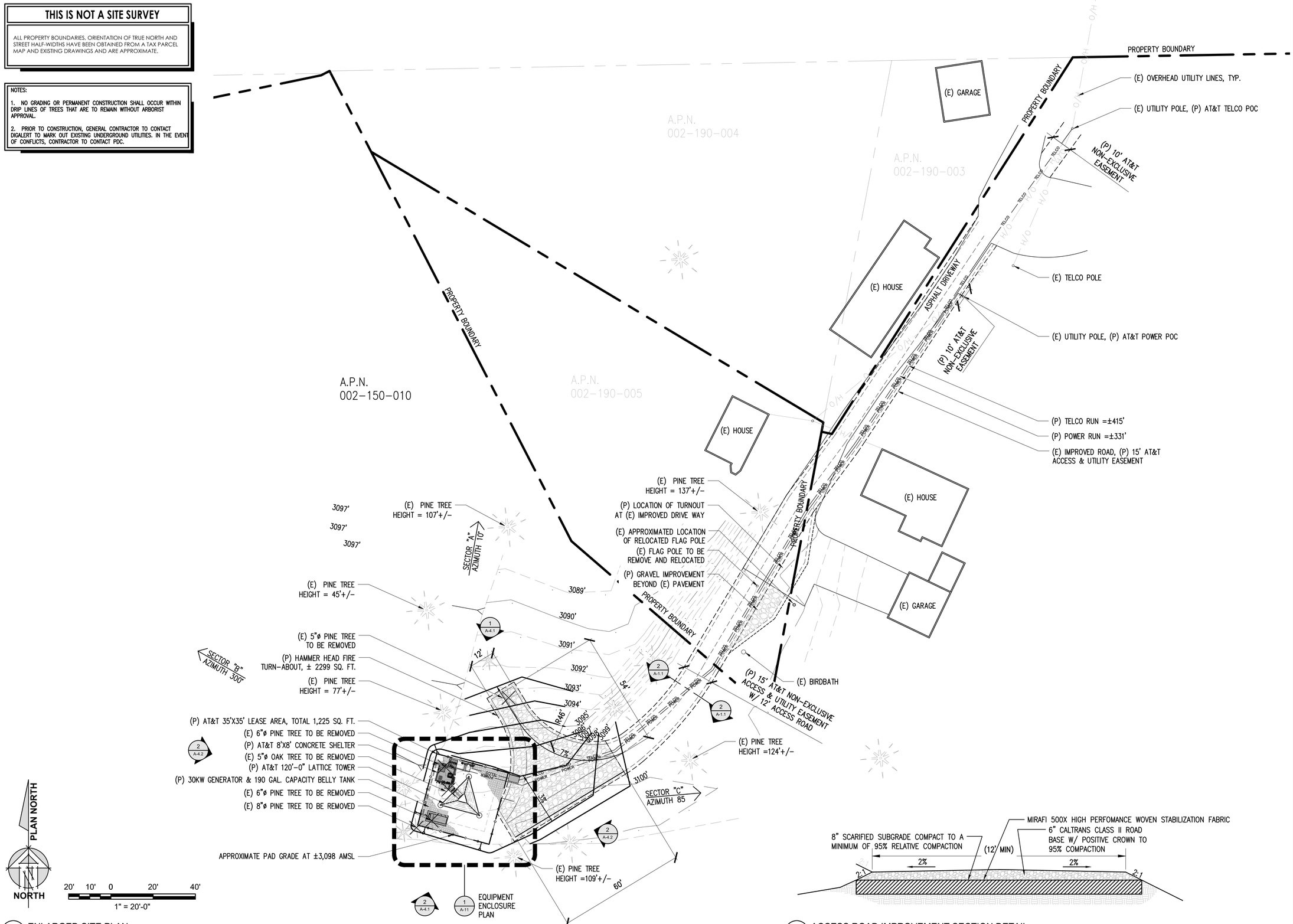

1 ENLARGED SITE PLAN
1"=20'-0"

2 ACCESS ROAD IMPROVEMENT SECTION DETAIL
NOT TO SCALE

SITE TYPE:LATTICE TOWER/EQUIPMENT SHELTER

Issued For:

DOWNIEVILLE

160 GALLOWAY STREET

DOWNIEVILLE, CA 95936

PREPARED FOR

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3112 LEATHA WAY
SACRAMENTO, CA 95821
craigmhorner@yahoo.com

SHEET TITLE:

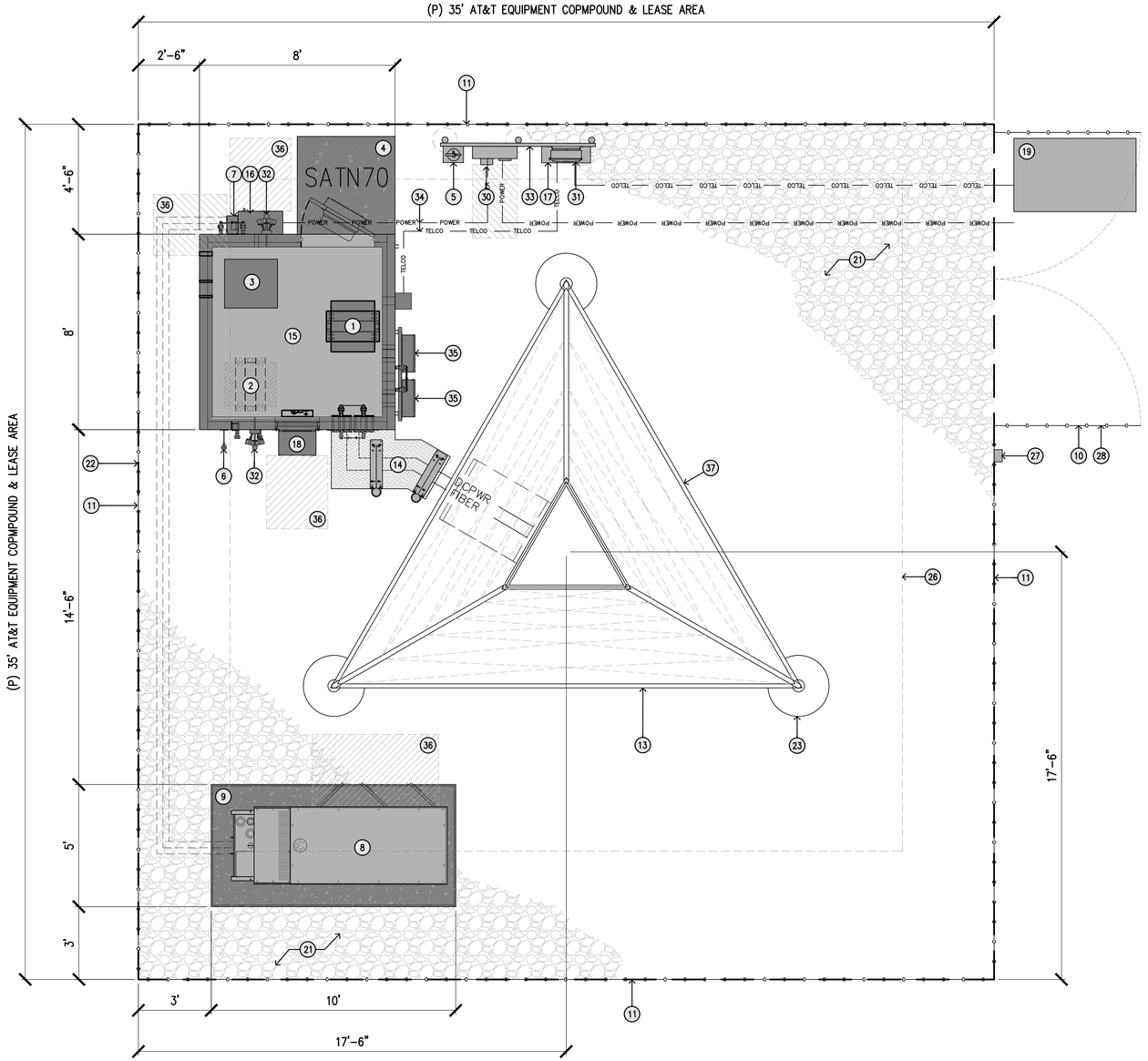
ENLARGED SITE PLAN

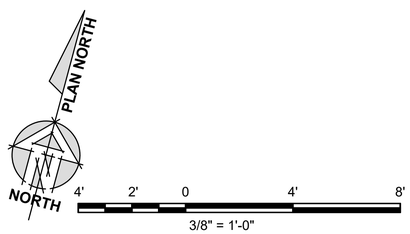
SHEET NUMBER:

A-1.1

KEYNOTES

1. (P) RF RACK #1
2. (P) RF RACK #2
3. (P) POWER PLANT RACK W/ (3) STRING OF BATTERIES
4. (P) 4'X4' CONCRETE STOOP
5. (P) 2A:20BC RATED FIRE EXTINGUISHER IN WEATHER RESISTANT CABINET
6. (P) GPS UNIT
7. (P) CAMLOCK GENERATOR INTERFACE
8. (P) 30KW AC DIESEL STANDBY GENERATOR W/ 190 GALLON CAPACITY BELLY TANK
9. (P) 5'X10' GENERATOR SLAB
10. (P) 12'-0" WIDE ACCESS GATE
11. (P) 6'-0" CHAIN LINK FENCE w/ 3 STRAND ANTI CLIMB BARRIER
12. NOT USED
13. (P) 150'-00" AT&T LATTICE TOWER
14. (P) ± 6'-0" ICE BRIDGE
15. (P) AT&T 8'x8' EQUIPMENT SHELTER
16. (P) 200A PANEL W/ MAIN DISCONNECT & AUTOMATIC TRANSFER SWITCH
17. (P) HOFFMAN BOX BELOW CIENNA
18. (P) HVAC UNIT PROVIDED WITH WALK IN EQUIPMENT SHELTER
19. (P) 3'X5' TELCO VAULT
20. NOT USED
21. (P) GRAVEL BED OVER MARIFI WEED BARRIER THROUGHOUT AT&T COMPOUND
22. (P) AT&T 35'X35' LEASE AREA
23. (P) TOWER PIER (BY OTHERS)
24. NOT USED
25. NOT USED
26. (P) U/G TOWER MATT SLAB (DESIGN BY OTHERS)
27. (P) FIRE DEPARTMENT KNOX BOX
28. (P) CARRIER CONTACT SIGNAGE AT GATE
29. NOT USED
30. (P) 200A ELECTRICAL METER/WITH MAIN DISCONNECT AND TEST BYPASS FACILITIES ON (P) H-FRAME
31. (P) CIENNA CABINET BY AT&T LANDLINE ON (P) H-FRAME
32. (P) SHIELDED DOWN TILT LIGHT WITH MOTION SENSOR AND AUTO SHUTOFF TIMER PROVIDED WITH WALK IN EQUIPMENT SHELTER
33. (P) UTILITY H-FRAME
34. (P) UNDERGROUND UTILITY CONDUITS
35. (P) SURGE SUPPRESSORS, TYP OF (3) STACKED, TOTAL
36. NEC CLEAR WORKING AREA TYPICAL
37. (P) AT&T 2B "CAUTION SIGN" AT BASE OF TOWER





3/8" = 1'-0"

1 EQUIPMENT ENCLOSURE PLAN - EXTERIOR WALK IN EQUIPMENT CABINET
3/8"=1'-0"

SITE TYPE: LATTICE TOWER/EQUIPMENT SHELTER

Issued For:

DOWNIEVILLE

160 GALLOWAY STREET

DOWNIEVILLE, CA 95936

PREPARED FOR

at&t

2600 Camino Ramon, 4W850 N
San Ramon, California 94583

EPIC WIRELESS GROUP LLC
Connecting a Wireless World

AT&T SITE NO:	CVL02130
PROJECT NO:	14511570
DRAWN BY:	SAD
CHECKED BY:	CES

REV	DATE	DESCRIPTION
0	03/12/19	ZD 90%
0	03/22/19	ZD 100%
1	12/11/19	ZD 100% LATTICE TWR

Licensor:

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Engineer:
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214-407-3184
3112 LEATHA WAY
SACRAMENTO, CA 95821
craigmhorner@yahoo.com

SHEET TITLE:
EQUIPMENT AREA PLAN

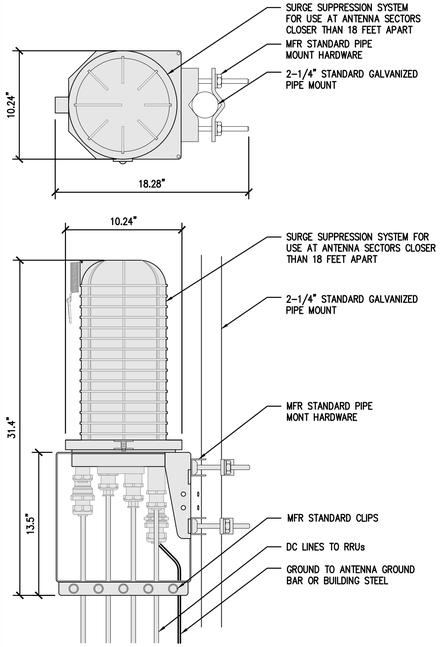
SHEET NUMBER:
A-2

RAYCAP DC9-48-60-24-8C SURGE SUPPRESSION SOLUTION

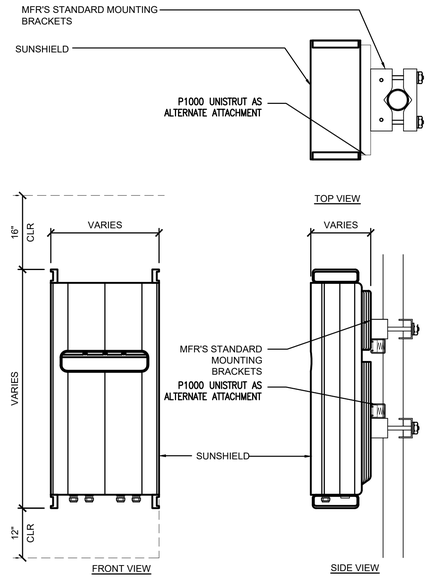
COLOR: BLACK/SILVER

ENCLOSURE DIMENSIONS: 18.28"X 10.24 X 31.41"

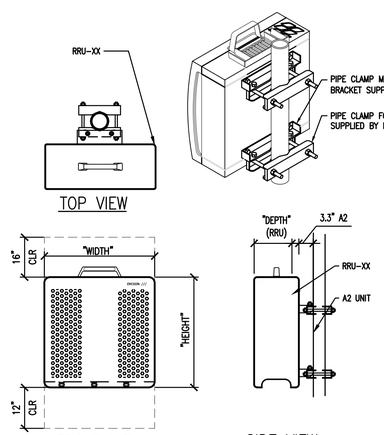
WEIGHT: 26.2 LBS. (INCLUDING MOUNTING HARDWARE)



1 DC SURGE SUPPRESSION (SQUID)
1 1/2"=1'-0"

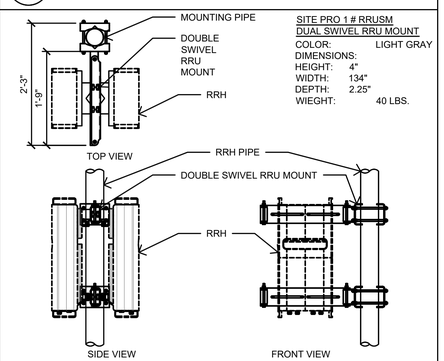


2 TYPICAL RRH MOUNTING DETAIL
1 1/2"=1'-0"



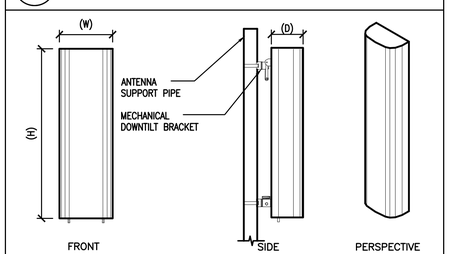
TYPE	HEIGHT	WIDTH	DEPTH	WEIGHT
RRUS-4415 B25	16.6"	13.5"	5.9"	44.0 LBS
RRUS-4449 B5/B12	17.9"	13.2"	10.6"	74.8 LB
RRUS-4478 B14	18.2"	13.2"	7.9"	56.1 LBS
RRUS-8843 B2/B66	15"	13.2"	10.9"	71.7 LB

3 ERICSSON RRUS- REMOTE RADIO UNIT
1 1/2"=1'-0"



SITE PRO 1 # RRUSM
DUAL SWIVEL RRU MOUNT
COLOR: LIGHT GRAY
DIMENSIONS:
HEIGHT: 4"
WIDTH: 134"
DEPTH: 2.25"
WIEGHT: 40 LBS.

4 DOUBLE SIDED RRH MOUNT
3/4"=1'-0"



ANTENNA = CCI TPA-45R-KU8AA-K
WIND AREA = 10.55 SQ.FT.
WEIGHT = 79.4 LBS
DIMENSIONS = 98" (H) x 15.4 (W) x 8.2" (D)

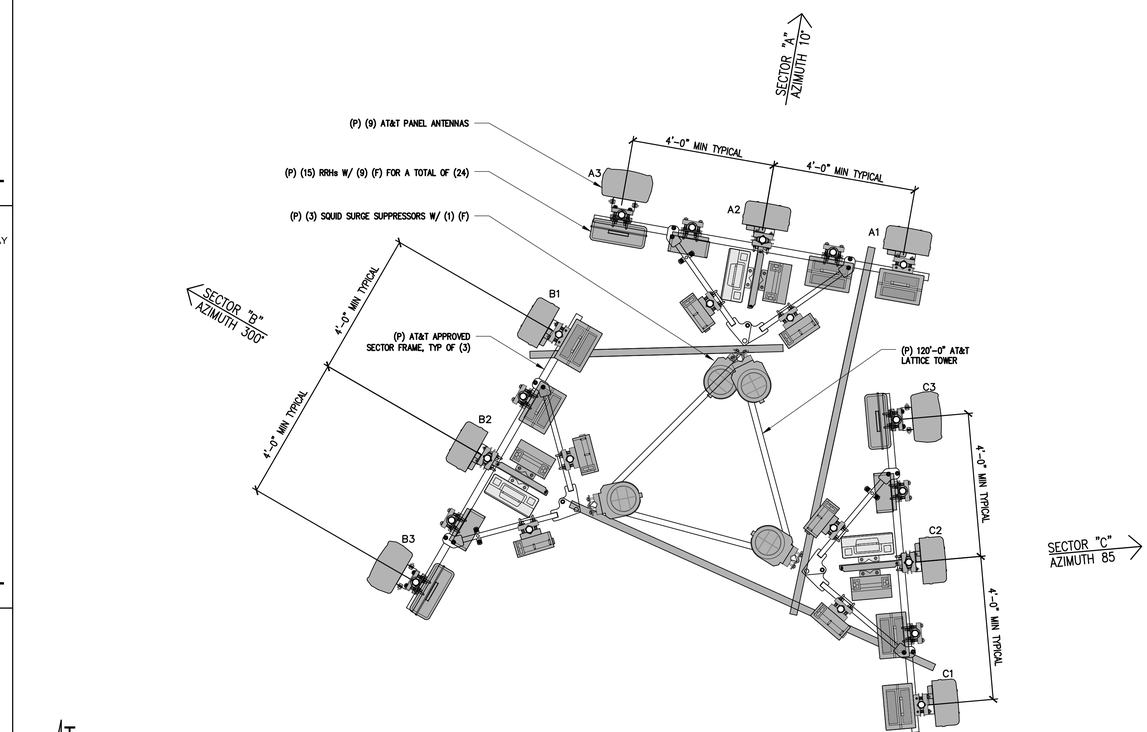
ANTENNA = QUINTEL QS8458-5
WIND AREA = 10.8 SQ.FT.
WEIGHT = 124.7 LBS
DIMENSIONS = 92" (H) x 16.9" (W) x 9.6" (D)

5 ANTENNA SPEC
3/4"=1'-0"

RF SCHEDULE

SECTOR		ANTENNA MODEL NO.	TECHNOLOGY	AZIMUTH	RAD CENTER	RRU	DIPLEXER	FIBER LENGTH	COAX LENGTH	FIBER NO.
ALPHA	A1	CCI TPA-45R-KU8AA-K	700/800/PCS1/AWS1	10°	±116'-0"	(2) RRUS	N/A	± 184'	± N/A	TRUNK 1
	A2	CCI TPA-45R-KU8AA-K	B14/PCS2	10°	±116'-0"	(2) RRUS	N/A	± 184'	± N/A	TRUNK 1
	A3	QUINTEL QS8458-5	B29	10°	±116'-0"	(1) RRUS	N/A	± 184'	± N/A	TRUNK 1
									± N/A	
BETA	B1	CCI TPA-45R-KU8AA-K	700/800/PCS1/AWS1	300°	±116'-0"	(2) RRUS	N/A	± 184'	± N/A	TRUNK 2
	B2	CCI TPA-45R-KU8AA-K	B14/PCS2	300°	±116'-0"	(2) RRUS	N/A	± 184'	± N/A	TRUNK 2
	B3	QUINTEL QS8458-5	B29	300°	±116'-0"	(1) RRUS	N/A	± 184'	± N/A	TRUNK 2
GAMMA	C1	CCI TPA-45R-KU8AA-K	700/800/PCS1/AWS1	85°	±116'-0"	(2) RRUS	N/A	± 184'	± N/A	TRUNK 3
	C2	CCI TPA-45R-KU8AA-K	B14/PCS2	85°	±116'-0"	(2) RRUS	N/A	± 184'	± N/A	TRUNK 3
	C3	QUINTEL QS8458-5	B29	85°	±116'-0"	(1) RRUS	N/A	± 184'	± N/A	TRUNK 3
	RF DATA SHEET v1.00.00 DATED 12/20/18					(P) (15) RRUS TOTAL				
						(F) (9) RRUS TOTAL				
						(24) RRUS TOTAL				
	(F) (2) 4' MICROWAVE DISHES				±108'-6"					

6 RF SCHEDULE
NOT TO SCALE



UPPER ANTENNA PLAN AT 116'-0"

7 ENLARGED ANTENNA PLAN
1/2"=1'-0"

SITE TYPE: LATTICE TOWER/EQUIPMENT SHELTER

Issued For:

DOWNIEVILLE

160 GALLOWAY STREET

DOWNIEVILLE, CA 95936

PREPARED FOR

at&t

2600 Camino Ramon, 4W850 N
San Ramon, California 94583

EPIC WIRELESS GROUP LLC
Connecting a Wireless World

AT&T SITE NO:	CVL02130
PROJECT NO:	14511570
DRAWN BY:	SAD
CHECKED BY:	CES

REV	DATE	DESCRIPTION
0	03/12/19	ZD 90%
0	03/22/19	ZD 100%
1	12/11/19	ZD 100% LATTICE TWR

Licensor:

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STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Engineer:
ADAPTIVE RE-USE ENGINEERING
Craig Horner, PE 84674
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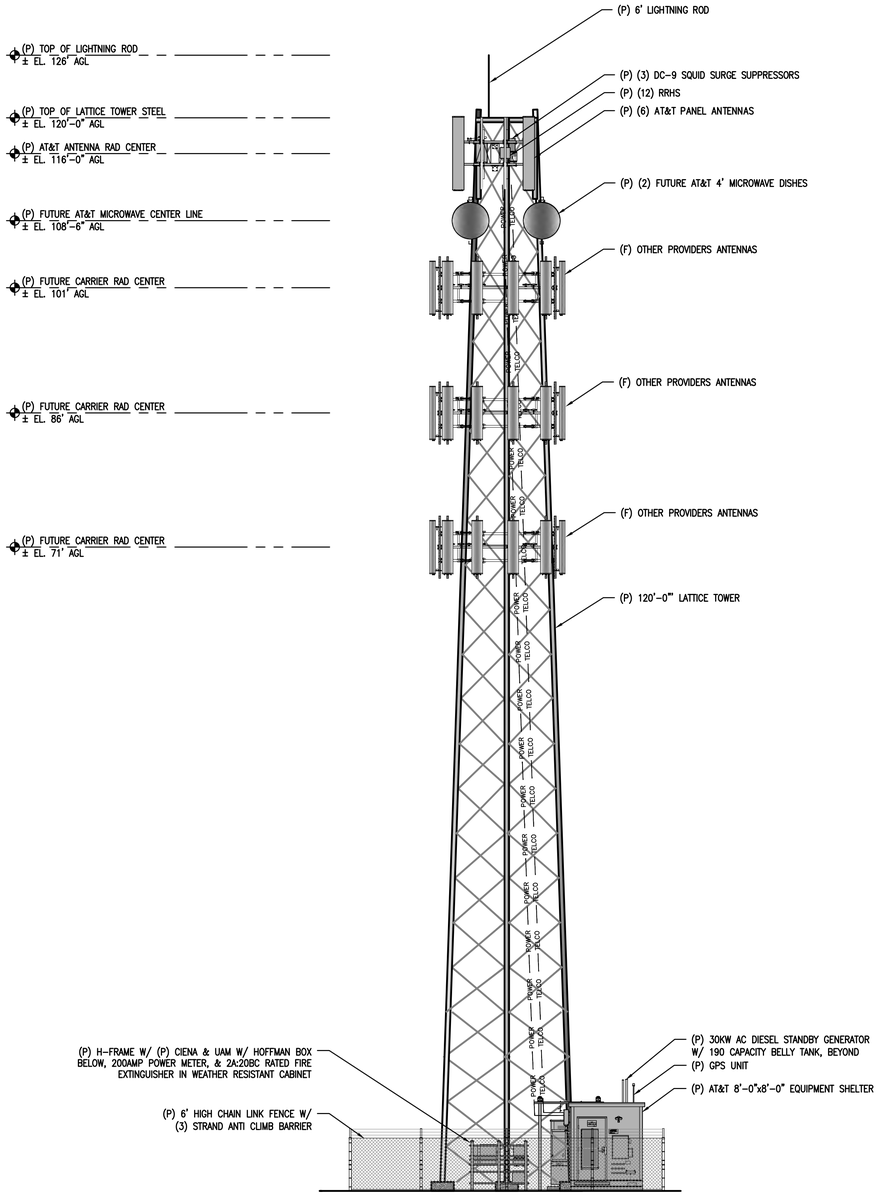
3112 LEATHA WAY
SACRAMENTO, CA 95821
craigmhorner@yahoo.com

SHEET TITLE:
ANTENNA PLAN & DETAILS

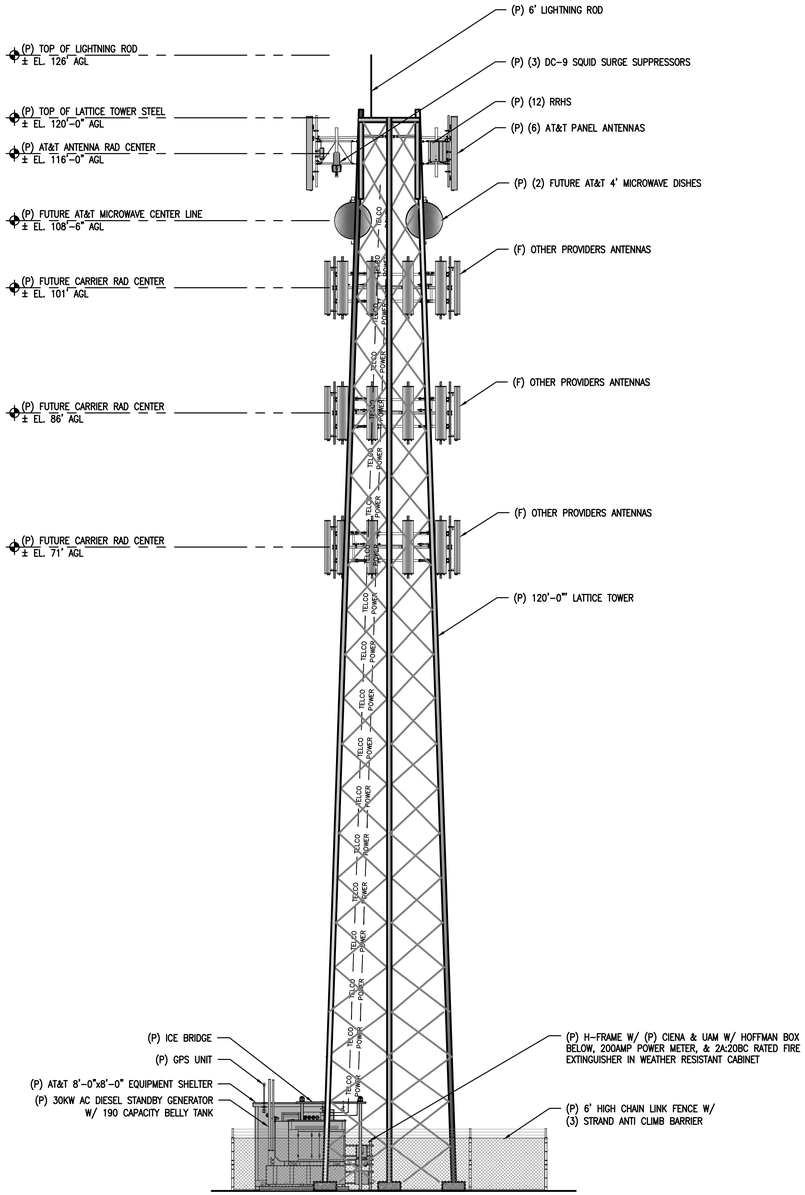
SHEET NUMBER:
A-3



8' 4' 0 8' 16'

1/8" = 1'-0"

1 PROPOSED NORTH ELEVATION
3/16"=1'-0"



8' 4' 0 8' 16'

1/8" = 1'-0"

2 PROPOSED SOUTH ELEVATION
3/16"=1'-0"

SITE TYPE: LATTICE TOWER/EQUIPMENT SHELTER

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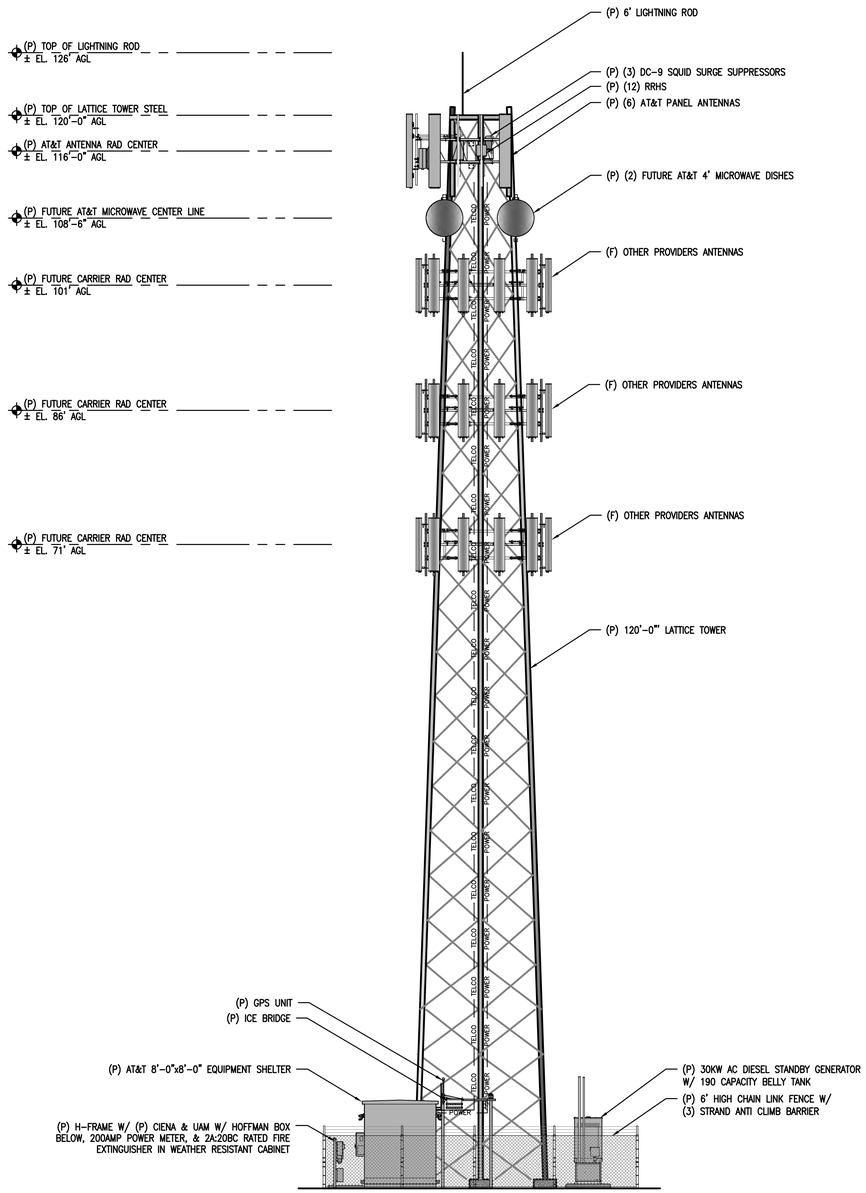
craigmhorner@yahoo.com

SHEET TITLE:

PROPOSED LATTICE TOWER
-
NORTH & SOUTH ELEVATION

SHEET NUMBER:

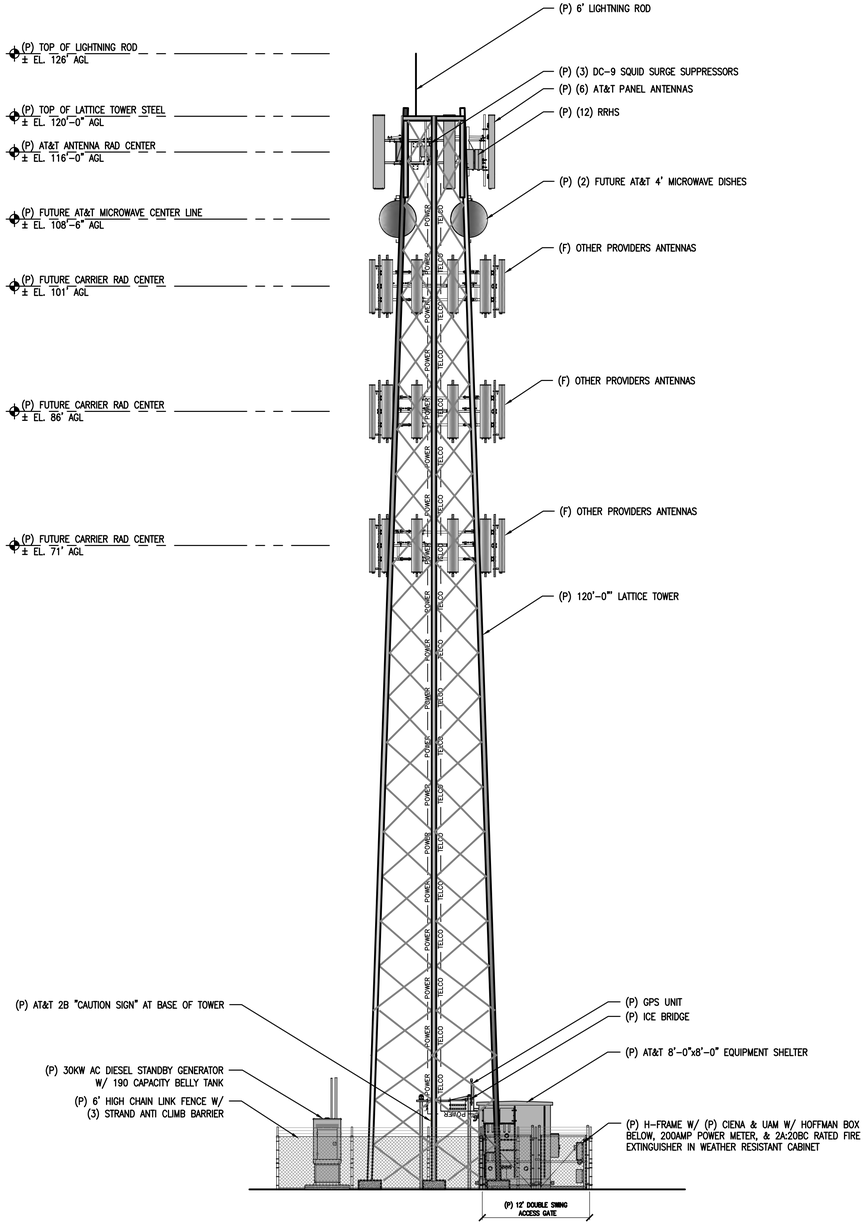
A-4.1



8' 4' 0 8' 16'

1/8" = 1'-0"

1 PROPOSED WEST ELEVATION
3/16"=1'-0"



8' 4' 0 8' 16'

1/8" = 1'-0"

2 PROPOSED EAST ELEVATION
3/16"=1'-0"

SITE TYPE: LATTICE TOWER/EQUIPMENT SHELTER

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PREPARED FOR

at&t

2600 Camino Ramon, 4W850 N
San Ramon, California 94583

EPIC WIRELESS GROUP LLC
Connecting a Wireless World

AT&T SITE NO:	CVL02130
PROJECT NO:	14511570
DRAWN BY:	SAD
CHECKED BY:	CES

REV	DATE	DESCRIPTION
0	03/12/19	ZD 90%
0	03/22/19	ZD 100%
1	12/11/19	ZD 100% LATTICE TWR

Licensor:

REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER
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Engineer:

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SHEET TITLE:
PROPOSED LATTICE TOWER WEST & EAST ELEVATION

SHEET NUMBER:
A-4.2

Appendix B

Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan

DRAFT AT&T CELL TOWER PROJECT MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requires that when a lead agency adopts a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND), it shall prepare a mitigation monitoring and reporting program (MMRP) for all required mitigation measures (CEQA Guidelines Section 15097). This MMRP identifies the monitoring program for mitigation measures identified by the IS/MND to reduce or avoid impacts associated with implementing the proposed AT&T Downieville Cell Tower Project. The MMRP shall be maintained by the County of Sierra (County).

Number	Mitigation Measure	Implementation Responsibility	Monitoring Responsibility	Mitigation Timing	Performance Evaluation Criteria
AES-1	The 120-foot telecommunications tower and all equipment installed on the tower shall be painted or coated in a non-reflective dark color to visually blend the tower into the shaded forest surroundings for the purpose of reducing the visibility of the tower as viewed from SR 49 and the community of Downieville. The Applicant shall provide samples of the proposed coating and demonstrate that the proposed coating is appropriately matched to the shaded forest surroundings to reduce the visibility of the tower. The Applicant shall prepare a maintenance plan to ensure that the paint or coating is appropriately maintained over the life of the tower. The plan shall specify that the Applicant/facility operator will repair and replace equipment and structural and aesthetic components as necessary to maintain the aesthetic quality of the facility and address damage caused by outdoor exposure and/or inclement weather. The Applicant/facility operator shall replace such components within 60 days of written notice by the County. The maintenance plan and proposed coating shall be submitted to the Sierra County Planning Department for review and approval prior to issuance of building permits. Ground equipment, including fencing	Applicant/Operator	County	• Prior to sign-off of building permit.	• Measures implemented and accepted by the County

	around the tower pad equipment at the base of the tower, shall have a non-reflective finish. The proposed colors for ground equipment and fence design shall be submitted to and approved by the Planning Director prior to building permit issuance				
AIR-1	The applicant shall consult with the NSAQMD in preparing a Dust Control Plan that shall be included in project plans and specifications for approval by Sierra County. The Dust Control Plan shall include measures for controlling dust during construction, which could include measures such as the following: ▪ Installation of track-out control devices at construction access points to ensure that material is not tracked onto roadways in the project area. ▪ Vegetative material removed from the project site shall be chipped and mulched onsite or removed for disposal offsite; open burning of vegetative materials is prohibited. ▪ All materials hauled away from the Project site shall be covered prior to leaving the site. Appropriate freeboard shall be provided to ensure that materials are completely covered and no materials escape during	Applicant	County	• Prior to issuance of grading permit	• Preparation and implementation of a Dust Control Plan

	haul trips. ▪ Water or chemicals shall be applied to disturbed areas to control dust as necessary during grading and trenching operations; ▪ All materials stockpiles shall be covered or otherwise stabilized during inactive periods				
BIO-1	To avoid and/or minimize potential impacts to special-status plants and avoid direct and indirect impacts to the ephemeral channel and downstream waters, the applicant shall install temporary construction fencing or otherwise clearly mark the edge of the ephemeral channel to avoid any impacts to the channel during Project construction. A qualified specialist familiar with aquatic resources shall guide installation of the exclusion fencing to ensure adequate protection of the channel and bank. Appropriate Best Management Practices (BMPs) for erosion control and spill prevention shall be implemented to prevent indirect impacts to the channel during Project construction. Should indirect or direct impacts to the ephemeral channel be necessary for Project construction, the following measures shall be required: ▪ Prior to any disturbance within the channel or bank of the ephemeral feature a	Applicant/Contractor	County	• Prior to and during construction	• Impacts to special-status plants and ephemeral channel avoided or proof of permit coverage for impacts to jurisdictional areas

	qualified biologist shall perform a rare plant survey in accordance with standard CDFW survey protocol to determine if any special-status plants occur within areas that would be disturbed by the Project. If any special-status plant species are observed during surveys, a suitable avoidance buffer shall be determined and flagged by the qualified biologist based on species, location and planned construction activity. If avoidance is not possible, consultation with CDFW and/or USFWS, depending on the status of the species, should be initiated to determine if transplantation, seed salvage, or other propagation measure are appropriate to conserve the species. ▪ Prior to any disturbance within the channel or bank of the ephemeral feature, the applicant shall obtain permit approval from the ACOE, RWQCB, and/or CDFW if a formal jurisdictional determination identifies the channel as subject to agency jurisdiction. Proof of permit approval shall be				

	provided to Sierra County prior to ground disturbance.				
BIO-2	To avoid and/or minimize potential impacts to nesting birds, ground-disturbing activities (including tree removal) shall occur between October 1 and March 1 to avoid the breeding season (i.e., March 1 through September 30). If construction activities must occur between March 1 and September 30, a qualified biologist shall conduct a preconstruction survey for nesting birds within one week prior to ground-disturbing activities on the Project site. If active bird nests are detected during the survey an appropriate non-disturbance buffer shall be established and maintained until the young have fledged or the biologist determines that the nest is no longer active.	Applicant/Contractor	• Contractor • County	• Within one week prior to construction if construction activities must occur between March 1 and September 30	• Completion of survey • Disturbance of nesting birds avoided
BIO-3	All ground-disturbing activities (including tree removal) shall occur between August 16 and the end of February to avoid the "limited operating period" (i.e., breeding season; March 1 through August 15) for California spotted owl as stipulated by the U.S. Forest Service (1993). If construction activities must be carried out between March 1 and August 15, a qualified biologist shall conduct surveys for this species to determine if any breeding territories overlap the Project site prior to construction. Any active breeding territories, if detected during the	Applicant/Contractor	• Contractor • County	• Throughout construction activity	• Impacts avoided to California spotted owl

	surveys, shall be avoided				
BIO-4	To avoid and/or minimize potential impacts to bat roosts, ground-disturbing activities (including tree removal) shall be carried out between August 15 and May 1, which is outside of the maternity season (May through August 15). If not feasible, a qualified biologist shall conduct a preconstruction survey for active bat roosts within one week prior to ground-disturbing activities on the Project site. Any active maternity or overwintering roosts, if detected during the survey, shall be avoided until they are inactive	Applicant/Contractor	• Contractor • County	• Prior to and throughout construction activity	• Impacts avoided to roosting bats
CUL-1	All employees shall be alerted with either a preconstruction meeting or preconstruction alert sheet to the potential to encounter archaeological material. In the event that cultural resources (sites, features, or artifacts) are exposed during work activities for the proposed Project, all ground disturbing work within 100 feet of the find shall immediately stop until a qualified specialist, meeting the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualification Standards, evaluates the significance of the find and determines whether additional study is warranted. Prehistoric archaeological deposits may be indicated by the presence of discolored or dark soil, fire-affected material, concentrations of fragmented or whole freshwater bivalve shells, burned or complete	Applicant/Contractor	• Contractor • County	• Throughout construction activity	• Impacts avoided to unanticipated archaeological resources

	bone, non-local lithic materials, or other characteristics observed to be atypical of the surrounding area. Common prehistoric artifacts may include modified or battered lithic materials; lithic or bone tools that appeared to have been used for chopping, drilling, or grinding; projectile points; fired clay ceramics or non-functional items; and other items. Historic-age deposits are often indicated by the presence of glass bottles and shards, ceramic material, building or domestic refuse, mining materials, ferrous metal, or features such as concrete foundations or privies. Depending upon the significance of the find under CEQA (14 CCR 15064.5(f); PRC Section 21082), the archaeologist may simply record the find and allow work to continue. If the discovery proves significant under CEQA, additional work, such as preparation of an archaeological treatment plan, testing, or data recovery could be warranted.				
CUL-2	In accordance with Section 7050.5 of the California Health and Safety Code, if human remains are found, the county coroner shall be immediately notified of the discovery. No further excavation or disturbance of the site or any nearby area reasonably suspected to overlie adjacent remains shall occur until the county coroner has determined, within 2 working days of notification	Contractor/County	• Contractor • County	• Throughout construction activity	• Mitigation measure implemented in the event of human remains discovery

	of the discovery, the appropriate treatment and disposition of the human remains. If the county coroner determines that the remains are, or are believed to be, Native American, he or she shall notify the NAHC in Sacramento within 24 hours. In accordance with California Public Resources Code, Section 5097.98, the NAHC must immediately notify those persons it believes to be the most likely descendant from the deceased Native American. The most likely descendant shall complete his/her inspection within 48 hours of being granted access to the site. The designated Native American representative would then determine, in consultation with the property owner, the disposition of the human remains.				
GEO-1	A qualified geologist or geotechnical engineer approved by Sierra County shall prepare a geotechnical engineering report specific to the site and Project. Recommendations of the report shall be incorporated into the Project design as appropriate and to the satisfaction of Sierra County to minimize risk associated with site-specific geologic and soils conditions.	Applicant/Contractor	• County	• Prior to issuance of grading permit	• Recommendations of geotechnical report implemented
GEO-2	Areas disturbed during construction shall be stabilized during prolonged inactive construction periods and following construction to the satisfaction of the Sierra County Planning and Building Department. Stabilization measures shall be	Applicant/Contractor	• Contractor • County	• During and following construction	• Disturbed areas revegetated or stabilized with mulch or gravel

	identified on project plans and specifications and could include reseeding, tarping materials stockpiles, and/or laying out mulch or gravel, or other measures subject to approval by the Sierra County Planning and Building Department. A certified weed-free seed mix shall be used to revegetate disturbed areas and reduce potential for erosion and sedimentation and shall be identified in project plans and specifications and approved by Sierra County staff. Additional erosion and sediment control BMPs shall be implemented as necessary throughout construction and shall be specified in an erosion control plan included on Project plans and specifications and approved by Sierra County. BMPs could include fiber wattles, mulching, track-out protection, silt fences, or other measures determined appropriate to the site and local seasonal conditions.				
HAZ-1	The following measures shall be implemented prior to and during construction and shall be incorporated into Project plans and specifications. • All equipment shall be inspected by the contractor for leaks prior to the start of construction and regularly throughout Project construction. Leaks from any equipment shall be contained and the leak remedied before the equipment is again used on the site.	Applicant/Contractor	• Contractor • County	• Prior to and during construction	• Implementation of spill prevention and containment measures.

	• BMPs for spill prevention shall be incorporated into Project plans and specifications and shall contain measures for secondary containment and safe handling procedures according to the product Material Safety Data Sheets. • A spill kit shall be maintained on site throughout all construction activities and shall contain appropriate items to absorb, contain, neutralize, or remove hazardous materials stored or used in large quantities during construction. • Project plans and specifications shall identify construction staging areas and designated areas where equipment refueling, lubrication, and maintenance may occur. Areas designated for refueling, lubrication, and maintenance of equipment shall be approved by the County. • In the event of any spill or release of any chemical or wastewater during construction, the contractor shall immediately notify the County.				
HAZ.2	To minimize the risk associated with accidental spill of diesel fuel stored on the Project site, the applicant shall prepare a Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasure Plan (SPCC Plan) and submit the SPCC Plan to the Sierra County Department of Environmental Health for review and	Applicant/Contractor	• Contractor • County	• Prior to and during construction	• Approval and implementation of Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasure Plan

	approval before the issuance of a grading permit. The SPCC Plan shall specify measures for secondary containment of diesel fuel stored onsite, transport and refueling procedures, periodic inspections and./or leak detection devices, reporting to the Sierra County Department of Environmental Health, and other measures determined appropriate by Sierra County Department of Environmental Health to avoid spills or reduce the risk associated with accidental release of diesel fuel from the Project site.				
HAZ-3	To minimize the risk of accidental ignition of surrounding wildlands, the applicant shall prepare a Fire Prevention Plan and include it in Project plans and specifications for approval by Sierra County. The Contractor and site maintenance activities shall abide by the requirements of the Fire Prevention Plan. Measures may include but are not limited to fire-prevention protocol for welding and blasting and fuels management activities; fire suppression equipment and training requirements; designating a fire supervisor on site; smoking and fire rules; maintaining appropriate clearance from vegetation; vegetation disposal requirements (no burning onsite); requirements for parking and equipment and materials storage and storage areas; and designating a fire patrol person.	Applicant/Contractor	• Contractor • County	• Prior to and during construction	• Approval and implementation of Fire Prevention Plan • Installation of fire extinguisher onsite

	In addition, a fire extinguisher shall be installed in an accessible location within the base facilities area.				
NOISE-1	The project applicant/contractor shall restrict hours of construction activity to daytime hours of operation between 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Construction hours on Saturdays shall be from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., and on Sundays and observed holidays, construction may occur only between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.	Applicant/Contractor	• Contractor • County	• Throughout construction	• Construction hours between 7a.m. and 7p.m. on weekdays, between 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m on Saturdays and between 10:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m on Sundays
NOISE-2	At commencement of Project construction, the project applicant shall provide a report prepared by a qualified noise consultant approved by Sierra County that includes measurements of noise generated by the onsite HVAC equipment and generator under typical load conditions at the nearest noise-sensitive land use. The facility shall not be operated until the report is reviewed and approved by Sierra County staff. Should noise levels measured exceed County standards, the applicant shall modify the design to achieve compliance with applicable County standards	Applicant/Contractor	• County	• Prior to sign-off of building permit	• Noise levels verified to be within County standards
TCR-1	Should a potential TCR be inadvertently encountered during construction, construction activities near the encounter shall be halted and the contractor shall notify the County. The County shall notify Native American tribes that have	Applicant/Contractor	• Contractor • County	• Throughout the construction process	• Mitigation measure implemented in the event of TCR discovery

	been identified by the NAHC to be traditionally and culturally affiliated with the geographic area of the Project. If the unanticipated resource is archaeological in nature, appropriate management requirements shall be implemented as outlined in Mitigation Measure CUL-1. If the County determines that the potential resource appears to be a TCR (as defined by California Public Resources Code, Section 21074), any affected tribe would be provided a reasonable period of time to conduct a site visit and make recommendations regarding future ground-disturbing activities as well as the treatment and disposition of any TCRs discovered. Depending on the nature of the potential resource and Tribal recommendations, review by a qualified archaeologist may be required. Implementation of proposed recommendations shall be made based on the determination by the County that the approach is reasonable and feasible. All activities would be conducted in accordance with regulatory requirements.				

Appendix C

Biological Resources Analysis

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MEMORANDUM

From:	Allie Sennett, Dudek
Subject:	Biological Resources Memorandum for the Downieville AT&T Cell Tower Project, Downieville, California
Date:	June 30, 2020
CC:	Markus Lang, Dudek
Attachment(s):	Figures: Figure 1 – Project Location Figure 2 – Project Site Figure 3 – California Natural Diversity Database Occurrences Figure 4 – Vegetation Communities and Land Cover Types Att. A – Special-Status Species Potential to Occur in the Project Region Att. B – Representative Site Photos Att. C – Plant and Wildlife Species Observed

Dudek conducted a biological resources assessment to identify any potential biological constraints to the implementation of the Downieville AT&T Cell Tower Project (proposed project), located in the community of Downieville, Sierra County, California. The purpose of this memorandum is to identify and characterize existing biological resources within and adjacent to the proposed project site, with particular focus on the potential of the site to support special-status plant and wildlife species and other sensitive resources, such as riparian habitat and aquatic resources (i.e., wetlands and other waters of the United States or state). The memo also evaluates and provides recommendations for avoiding potential impacts on these resources from eventual implementation of the proposed project.

1 Site Location and Description

The approximately 0.34-acre project site is located at 160 Galloway Street within the community of Downieville in Sierra County, California (see Figure 1, Project Location). The project site is approximately 2,500 feet south of State Route (SR) 49 and approximately 350 feet southeast of the Middle Yuba River. The center of the project site corresponds 39°33'21.1" north latitude and 120°49'47.1" west longitude, in Township 20 North, Range 10 East, Section 35 of the "Downieville, California" U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5-minute quadrangle. The proposed project site is adjacent to three homes that share a single asphalt driveway off of Galloway Drive (see Figure 2, Project Site).

For the purposes of this assessment, the Study Area analyzed herein consists of all areas of potential ground disturbance within the 0.34-acre project site (as determined by the project engineering plans; dated December 11, 2019), plus a 25-foot buffer surrounding the project site. The boundary of the overall 1.06-acre Study Area is shown in Figure 4, Vegetation Communities and Land Cover Types.

2 Methods

Information regarding biological and potentially jurisdictional aquatic resources present in the Study Area was obtained through a review of pertinent literature, publically available natural resource databases, and other information, as well as a biological field survey; all are described in detail below.

2.1 Literature and Database Review

Special-status biological resources present or potentially present in the Study Area were identified through a literature search using the following sources: the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) IPaC Trust Resource Report, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB), and the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) online Inventory of Rare and Endangered Vascular Plants. Dudek also reviewed current and historical aerial photography to identify any potentially jurisdictional aquatic resources based on aerial signatures, and reviewed the Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA 2020a) Web Soil Survey to identify soil types mapped on the project site. The CNDDB was also queried for special-status species occurrences within five miles of the proposed project site (See Figure 3, California Natural Diversity Database Occurrences).

2.2 Field Reconnaissance

Following the literature and database review, Dudek Biologist Allie Sennett conducted a reconnaissance-level survey of the Study Area on January 15, 2020. The survey was conducted on foot and included a visual survey of the Study Area. The potential for special-status plant and wildlife species to occur in the Study Area was evaluated based on the vegetation communities and soils present, the overall habitat quality of the these communities in the Study Area, and on the known habitat requirements and geographic range of the special-status species identified during the literature and database review. Vegetation communities and land cover types in the Study Area were mapped in the field using a combination of field notes and a georeferenced map of the project site.

All plant species encountered during the field survey were identified to the lowest taxonomic group possible and recorded directly into a field notebook. Common and scientific names for plant species with a California Rare Plant Rank (CRPR, formerly CNPS List) follow the CNPS online Inventory of Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Plants of California (CNPS 2020). Nomenclature for all other plant species observed in the Study Area follow The Jepson Manual, Vascular Plants of California, Second Edition (Jepson Flora Project 2020). Wildlife species detected during the field surveys by sight, calls, tracks, scat, or other signs were recorded directly into a field notebook. The Study Area was also scanned with binoculars to aid in the identification of wildlife. In addition to species detected during the surveys, expected wildlife use of the Study Area was determined by known habitat preferences of local species and knowledge of their relative distributions in the area. Because the field survey was conducted outside the blooming period for most special-status plant species potentially occurring in the Study Area, and outside of the breeding season for many special-status wildlife species potentially occurring in the Study Area, focused protocol-level surveys for special-status species were not conducted.

Dudek also evaluated the potential for aquatic resources potentially under state and/or federal jurisdiction to occur in the Study Area. Potentially jurisdictional aquatic resources include the following:

- Waters of the United States, including wetlands, under the jurisdiction of the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) pursuant to Section 404 of the federal Clean Water Act (CWA)

- Waters of the State, including wetlands, under the jurisdiction of the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) pursuant to Section 401 of the CWA and the Porter–Cologne Water Quality Control Act
- Waters of the State under the jurisdiction of CDFW, pursuant to Section 1602 of the California Fish and Game Code

Pursuant to the federal CWA, ACOE- and RWQCB-regulated areas include those supporting all three wetlands criteria described in the ACOE Manual: hydric soils, hydrology, and hydrophytic vegetation. Areas regulated by the RWQCB are generally coincident with the ACOE areas, but may also include isolated features pursuant to the state Porter–Cologne Water Quality Control Act that are not regulated by the ACOE. CDFW-regulated areas typically include those supporting a predominance of hydrophytic vegetation (i.e., 50% cover or greater) where associated with a stream channel.

During the January 2020 field survey conducted by Dudek, the Study Area was searched for any water features that potentially meet the criteria described above and for which a formal delineation would be needed to confirm whether or not the features are under federal and/or state jurisdiction.

3 Results

3.1 Site Description

The project site is located within the northern high Sierra Nevada geographic subdivision of the California Floristic Province (Jepson Flora Project 2020). The project site is situated on a northwest-facing slope with elevations ranging from 3,090 to 3,150 feet above mean sea level. Topography in the project site vicinity generally slopes southeast to northwest, with the exception of more level disturbed areas supporting residential structures, driveways, or open grassland.

3.1.1 Soils

There is one soil type mapped on the project site: Hurlbut-Deadwood-Rock outcrop complex, 30 to 75% slopes (USDA 2020a). This soil type primarily consists of the Hurlbut series (40%), with lesser inclusions of Deadwood (20%) and rock outcrop (15%). The Hurlbut series consists of moderately deep, well-drained soils normally found on mountains with 2 to 75% slopes. Soils in this series are formed in material weathered from metamorphosed sedimentary rock. The Deadwood series consists of shallow, somewhat excessively drained soils normally found on mountainous uplands with 2 to 100% slopes. Soils in this series are formed in material weathered from metasedimentary rocks. This soil type is not included on the list of hydric soils maintained by the Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS 2020b), which are commonly associated with wetlands or other waters.

3.1.2 Hydrology

The project site is in the Middle North Fork Yuba River watershed (Hydrologic Unit Code 1802012503), which drains approximately 73 square miles of land in Sierra County, as well as a small area in eastern Yuba County (CDFW 2020b). The Middle North Fork Yuba River watershed is drained primarily by the Middle Yuba River and its tributaries, as well as a short segment of the North Yuba River, where the Middle Yuba converges with it.

There are no culverts or stormwater infrastructure on the project site. During heavy runoff or precipitation events, surface runoff on the project site flows west and downhill of the site or is collected in an ephemeral channel that parallels the south to southeast perimeter of the project site. The ephemeral channel conveys water toward the Middle Fork Yuba River, approximately 350 feet northwest of the project site. A more detailed discussion of the ephemeral channel is in Section 3.1.3, Vegetation Communities and Land Cover Types.

The USFWS National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) does not identify any previously mapped wetlands or waters within the project site (USFWS 2020). The nearest waters mapped by the NWI is the Middle Fork Yuba, which is classified as riverine, upper perennial, unconsolidated bottom, permanently flooded (R3UBH) (USFWS 2020). The USGS National Hydrography Dataset (2020) maps two additional waters in the vicinity of the project site and depicts the ephemeral channel, mentioned above, within the southern portion of the Study Area. However, the site visit determined that the ephemeral channel is actually southwest of the project site and would be outside of the disturbance area associated with the project, as shown in Figure 4 Vegetation Communities and Land Cover Types.

3.1.3 Vegetation Communities and Land Cover Types

Dudek mapped two vegetation communities and two non-vegetated land cover types in the Study Area, including one terrestrial and one aquatic cover type (see Figure 4, Vegetation Communities and Land Cover Types). The vegetation communities and land cover types documented onsite are summarized in Table 1 and described in further detail following the table. Representative site photographs of the project site are presented in Attachment B.

Table 1. Vegetation Communities and Land Cover Types in the Project Site and Study Area

Vegetation Community/ Land Cover Type	Acreage (or Linear Feet) in Project Site	Acreage (or Linear Feet) in Study Area
Vegetation Communities		
Mixed Conifer Forest	0.17	0.61
California Annual Grassland	0.08	0.17
Developed	0.09	0.28
Ephemeral Channel*	(--)	(64.8 linear feet)
Total	**0.34**	**1.06**

* The ephemeral channel was not delineated during the field survey. Approximately 65 linear feet of the channel intersects the Study Area according to USGS (2020). The channel does not occur within the proposed project site/project footprint.

Mixed Conifer Forest. This vegetation community dominates the generally undisturbed areas in the Study Area. The overstory is moderately dense and dominated by incense cedar (*Calocedrus decurrens*) and Ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*), with lesser abundance of black oak (*Quercus kelloggii*) and bigleaf maple (*Acer macrophyllum*). The shrub layer is sparse to absent, with the exception of scattered incense cedar saplings, and the herbaceous layer is mostly covered by leaf and pine litter. Where present, vegetation includes a similar assemblage as documented in the California annual grassland community (discussed below). Invasive Himalayan blackberry (*Rubus armeniacus*) is present in this community near the center and southwest corner of the Study Area.

California Annual Grassland. This vegetation community occurs in the mostly undeveloped, open areas of the Study Area. The tree and shrub layers are generally absent from this community. Herbaceous dominants include clover (*Tifolium* sp.), narrowleaf plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*), sedge (*Carex* sp.), and multiple grass species not identifiable during the January 2020 field survey. This vegetation community appears to be occasionally mowed based on conditions observed in the field.

Developed. This land cover type is limited to developed areas that have been completely altered by anthropogenic activities. The paved driveway and residential structures in the Study Area are included in this cover type.

Ephemeral Channel. There is one ephemeral channel south of the project site within the Study Area that, when inundated, flows roughly west, presumably emptying into the Middle Yuba River approximately 350 feet northwest of the site. The channel was not formally delineated, but is estimated to be approximately 5 to 10 feet from the project site boundary and outside of the project disturbance area. The channel contains a break in slope that transitions into a more incised channel where it terminates at a steep ravine northwest of the project site. Young riparian trees, including pacific dogwood (*Cornus nuttallii*), are rooted on both edges of the channel where it appears to pool more frequently; these trees are sparsely-spaced and do not make up a defined riparian corridor (see Attachment B, Photo 7).

The ephemeral channel was not flowing during the January 2020 field survey, but did contain three pools of standing water approximately 2 to 3 inches deep. Groundwater seepage at the base of a hillside approximately 15 feet south of the channel appears to provide seasonal hydrologic inputs to the channel (see Attachment B, Photos 9 and 10).

3.1.4 Common Plants and Wildlife

Dudek's biologist recorded 16 vascular plant species in the Study Area during the January 2020 field survey. The field assessment was conducted early in the growing season, at a time when many plants are not evident and identifiable. As such, floristic surveys conducted at the appropriate time of the growing season would likely yield a greater number of identifiable species.

The Dudek biologist directly observed, or documented via call, five bird species in the Study Area during the field survey, including American crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*), Steller's jay (*Cyanocitta stelleri*), and American robin (*Turdus migratorius*). Many wildlife species common to the region are mobile, cryptic, and/or active during limited periods of day, and could therefore be easily missed during a single daytime survey. A list of plant and wildlife species detected during the field survey is included as Attachment C, Plant and Wildlife Species Observed.

3.2 Special-Status Species

3.2.1 Special-Status Plants

Based on the literature and database review previously described, 27 special-status plant species are known to occur within the nine USGS quadrangles included in the database search described in Section 2.1, Literature and Database Review (see Attachment A, Special-Status Species Potential to Occur in the Project Region). Of these, 23 special-status plant species were removed from consideration due to lack of suitable habitat within the Study Area, or because the Study Area is outside of the species' known geographic or elevation range. The remaining four special-status plant species have a low potential to occur on the project site and are discussed in more detail below.

None of the four special-status plant species were detected during the January 2020 field survey, which was not conducted when these species would be evident and identifiable.

Cantelow's lewisia (*Lewisia cantelovii*) is a CRPR 1B.2 species with a low potential to occur in the Study Area. Cantelow's lewisia is a perennial herb found in mesic or granitic substrates, or sometimes serpentine seeps, in broadleafed upland forest, chaparral, cismontane woodland, and lower coniferous forest from approximately 1,080 to 4,490 feet above mean sea level. It blooms May through October (CNPS 2020). There are multiple documented occurrences of Cantelow's lewisia growing on mossy rocks and boulders along the Middle Yuba River, approximately 0.2 to 1 mile west of the Study Area (CDFW 2020a). However, the Study Area is generally disturbed and lacks microhabitat features (e.g., mossy rocks, serpentine seeps) preferred by this species.

Inundated bog club-moss (*Lycopodiella inundata*) is a CRPR 2B.2 species with a low potential to occur in the Study Area. Inundated bog club-moss is found in coastal bogs and fens, mesic lower montane coniferous forest, lake margins, marshes and swamps, and muddy depressions from approximately 1,080 to 4,490 feet above mean sea level. It is evident and identifiable June through September (CNPS 2020; Jepson Flora Project). There are no documented occurrences of inundated bog club-moss within 10 miles of the project site (Calflora 2020; CDFW 2020a). Although the project site lacks mesic habitat, there are surface depressions (associated with the ephemeral channel) in the Study Area that could provide habitat, so long as they remain sufficiently saturated during the blooming season. Standing water approximately 2 to 3 inches deep was present in the ephemeral channel during the January 15, 2020 field survey; however, approximately 2 inches of precipitation was recorded in the area between January 1 and January 15, 2020. Therefore, hydrologic conditions at the site were likely wetter than what is typical during the bloom season. Few emergent vegetation and riparian species occupy the ephemeral channel indicating that the channel likely dries up by spring or summer.

Tall alpine-aster (*Oreostemma elatum*) is a CRPR 1B.2 species with a low potential to occur in the Study Area. Tall alpine-aster is a perennial herb found in bogs and fens, meadows and seeps, and mesic upper montane coniferous forest from approximately 3,295 to 6,885 feet above mean sea level. It blooms June through August and sometimes September (CNPS 2020). There are no documented occurrences of tall alpine aster within 10 miles of the Study Area (Calflora 2020; CDFW 2020a). The ephemeral channel within the Study Area less than 10 feet south of the project site provides poor quality habitat as the feature is expected to dry out by spring or summer (see details in prior species write-up above).

Closed-throated beardtongue (*Penstemon personatus*) is a CRPR 1B.2 with a low potential to occur in the Study Area. Closed-throated beardtongue is a perennial herb usually found on north-facing slopes containing metavolcanic soils in chaparral, lower montane coniferous forest, and upper montane coniferous forest from approximately 3,490 to 6,955 feet above mean sea level. It blooms June through September and sometimes October (CNPS 2020). The nearest documented occurrence of closed-throated beardtongue is for at least 500 plants observed growing approximately 5 miles east-southeast of the Study Area (Calflora 2020; CDFW 2020a). The Study Area is about 340 feet below the species' known elevation range, lacks undisturbed forested habitat on north-facing slopes, and therefore provides poor quality habitat for closed-throated beardtongue.

3.2.2 Special-Status Wildlife

Based on the literature and database review previously described, 17 special-status wildlife species are known to occur within the USGS quadrangles included in the database search (Attachment A, Special-Status Species Potential to Occur in the Project Region). Of these, 13 special-status wildlife species were removed from

consideration due to lack of suitable habitat within or adjacent to the project site, or due to the site being outside of the species' known geographic or elevation range. The remaining four special-status wildlife species have some potential to occur in the Study Area and are discussed in more detail below. Other protected wildlife species, such as native and migratory birds protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) and California Fish and Game Code 3503 and native bats protected by California Fish and Game Code 4150, are also discussed below. No special-status wildlife species, nor their sign, were detected in the Study Area during the January 2020 field survey.

Northern Goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*). Northern goshawk is a state species of special concern with a low potential to nest within the Study Area. Northern goshawk prefers to nest in remote forests with meadows and riparian habitat, away from paved roads. The nearest documented occurrence is for three nesting territories documented just west of Jackson Meadows Reservoir in 1992, 1993, 1994, 1996, 1997, 1998, and 1999, approximately 12 miles southeast of the Study Area (CDFW 2020a). The Study Area is located on a partially-developed residential parcel that experiences regular human disturbance. Northern goshawk is unlikely to nest in or adjacent the project site due to limited undisturbed, nesting habitat.

Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*). Bald eagle is a state fully-protected and endangered species with a low potential to nest within the Study Area. Bald eagle typically nest in large trees with open branchwork in remote forested areas adjacent to large bodies of water, including rivers and large lakes. They winter near large water bodies in lowlands and mountains. The nearest documented occurrence is for a nesting site detected near Milton Reservoir in 1996, located approximately 13 miles east-southeast of the Study Area (CDFW 2020a). Forested areas in the Study Area provide poor quality nesting habitat as they are fragmented by, or abutting, residential development. Therefore, bald eagle is unlikely to nest or overwinter in the Study Area.

California Spotted Owl (*Strix occidentalis occidentalis*). California spotted owl is a state species of special concern with a moderate potential to nest in the vicinity of the Study Area. California spotted owl usually nest in dense, old-growth conifer forests with multiple canopy layers and within 1,000 feet of permanent water. There are two documented activity centers (associated with nest sites and/or breeding detections) approximately 0.5 mile southeast and 0.7 mile southwest of the Study Area (CDFW 2020a). Despite nearby activity centers, it is unlikely that California spotted owl would nest in the Study Area due to its proximity to regular human disturbance and lack of complex old-growth forest habitat.

Native Bats [including Townsend's Big-Eared Bat (*Corynorhinus townsendii*)]. Trees with exfoliating bark, crevices, and/or sufficient foliage in the Study Area provide roosting habitat for native bats protected by California Fish and Game Code Section 4150, such as long-eared myotis (*Myotis evotis*). In addition, Townsend's big-eared bat is a state species of special concern with a low potential to roost within the Study Area. Townsend's big-eared bat is most abundant in mesic habitats and require caves, mines, tunnels, buildings, or other human-made structures for roosting. Townsend's big-eared bat is extremely sensitive to disturbance of roosting sites. The nearest documented occurrence of Townsend's big-eared bat is for a single bat identified in Plumas Eureka State Park in June 2002, approximately 9 miles east of the Study Area (CDFW 2020a). The Study Area provides poor quality roosting habitat for Townsend's big-eared bat as it lacks rocky outcrops, mines, tunnels, and riparian corridors and is located in an area of regular human disturbance. No roosting bats or their sign were identified during the field survey. However, neither a focused survey for roosting bats nor a formal habitat assessment was conducted during the survey for bat species.

Nesting and Migratory Birds and Birds of Prey. Trees, shrubs, and manmade structures within the Study Area provide nesting habitat for a number of local and migratory bird species. As previously noted, common and migratory birds

were observed during the January 2020 site visit, but no active nests or nesting behavior were observed. A focused survey for nesting birds and birds of prey was not conducted during the field survey. The field survey was conducted outside of the generally recognized nesting season, when nest sites are generally unused by birds in this region.

3.3 Sensitive Natural Communities and Aquatic Resources

There are no sensitive natural communities, such as wetlands or riparian corridors, within the proposed project site. There is one ephemeral channel located in the Study Area approximately 5 to 10 feet south of the project site boundary that is likely a waters of the United States and/or state protected by the Clean Water Act (Sections 401 and 404), California Fish and Game Code (Section 1600), and/or the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act. There is no riparian corridor associated with the ephemeral channel.

3.4 Wildlife Movement Corridors and Habitat Linkages

Wildlife corridors are landscape features, usually linear in shape, that facilitate the movement of animals (or plants) over time between two or more patches of otherwise disjunct habitat. Corridors can be small and even human made (e.g., highway underpasses, culverts, bridges), narrow linear habitat areas (e.g., riparian strips, hedgerows), or wider landscape-level extensions of habitat that ultimately connect larger core habitat areas. Depending on the size and extent, wildlife corridors can be used during animal migration, foraging events, and juvenile dispersal. They ultimately serve to facilitate genetic exchange between core populations, provide avenues for plant seed dispersal, enable increased biodiversity and maintenance of ecosystem integrity within habitat patches, and help offset the negative impacts of habitat fragmentation (Hilty et al. 2006). Natural areas throughout the project site may provide value as potential wildlife corridors or habitat linkages between the surrounding rural, natural areas.

The California Essential Habitat Connectivity Project, developed by CDFW and the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), intends to describe and depict a functional network of connected wildlands that is essential to the continued support of California's diverse natural communities in the face of human development and climate change (Caltrans et al. 2010). The Essential Habitat Connectivity Project identifies large, relatively natural habitat blocks (Natural Landscape Blocks) in California that support native biodiversity and depict the relative permeability of areas to provide some level of ecological connectivity (Essential Connectivity Areas) between these habitat blocks. The Essential Connectivity Map indicates that the Study Area is not located within an area that provides connectivity between similar habitat patches (CDFW 2020a). The proposed project is limited to the construction of a single cell tower, which when completed is not expected to result in significant impacts to local or regional wildlife movements.

4 Conclusions and Recommendations

4.1 Special-Status Species

4.1.1 Special-Status Plants

There are no documented occurrences of special-status plants within the Study Area. No special-status plants were identified during the January 2020 field survey. The project site itself is mostly disturbed and lacks natural habitat with specific microhabitat features, such as seeps and rocky outcrops, preferred by special-status plants with a potential to occur in the project region. There is one ephemeral channel in the Study Area adjacent to the proposed project site that provides marginal habitat for special-status plants. To avoid and/or minimize potential impacts to special-status plants,

Dudek recommends measures to ensure that the ephemeral channel is not impacted and implementing measures as identified under Section 4.2, below, to protect against indirect impacts. If it is determined that the project would impact the ephemeral channel, preconstruction surveys for special-status plants should be performed by a qualified biologist and appropriate protective measures should be implemented if special-status plants are identified during surveys. Potential indirect impacts to special-status plants could include sedimentation from adjacent grading activities, and direct impacts could include destruction of plants if present within the disturbance limits during project construction.

4.1.2 Special-Status Wildlife

There are no documented occurrences of special-status wildlife within the Study Area. No special-status wildlife species, nor their sign, were detected during the January 2020 field survey. Based on the analysis presented herein, the proposed project is not expected to impact bald eagle, northern goshawk, or Townsend's big-eared bat as breeding and overwintering habitat for these species within the Study Area is absent or of poor quality (see explanations in Section 3.2.2 above).

Nesting and Migratory Birds (including California Spotted Owl). There is a potential for native and migratory birds to nest in the Study Area. If constructed during the typical breeding season for this region (March 1 through September 31), the proposed project has the potential to impact nesting birds protected by the MBTA and California Fish and Game Code. To avoid and/or minimize potential impacts to nesting birds, Dudek recommends that ground-disturbing activities (including tree removal) occur sometime between October through February to avoid the breeding season (i.e., March through September). If not feasible, Dudek recommends that a biologist conduct a preconstruction survey for nesting birds within one week prior to ground-disturbing activities on the project site. Any active bird nests, if detected during the survey, would need to be avoided through establishment and enforcement of nest buffers.

Given that there are two recorded breeding occurrences of California spotted owl within 1 mile of the project site, Dudek recommends that ground-disturbing activities (including tree removal) occur sometime after August 15 to avoid the "limited operating period" (i.e., breeding season; March 1 through August 15) for California spotted owl as stipulated by the U.S. Forest Service (1993). If not feasible, Dudek recommends that qualified biologists conduct surveys for this species to determine if any breeding territories overlap the project site prior to construction. Any active breeding territories, if detected during the surveys, would need to be avoided.

Native Bats. There is a potential for native bats to roost in trees or human-made structures within the Study Area. Therefore, the proposed project has the potential to impact native bats protected by California Fish and Game Code, if overwintering or maternity roosts are present within the Study Area during construction. To avoid and/or minimize potential impacts to bat roosts, Dudek recommends that the proposed project conduct ground-disturbing activities (including tree removal) sometime between August 15 and April 30, outside of the maternity season (i.e., May through August 15). If not feasible, Dudek recommends that a qualified biologist conduct a preconstruction survey for active bat roosts within one week prior to ground-disturbing activities on the project site. Any active maternity or overwintering roosts, if detected during the survey, would need to be avoided.

4.2 Sensitive Natural Communities and Aquatic Resources

A formal aquatic resources delineation has not been conducted at the project site; however, the ephemeral channel within the Study Area just south of the project site may be considered potentially jurisdictional by the ACOE, RWQCB, and/or CDFW. When flowing, the ephemeral channel ends at a steep ravine approximately 350 feet uphill from the Middle Yuba River. Dudek recommends that silt fencing or other barriers be installed between the ephemeral channel

and the limits of project construction to ensure that ground disturbance does not inadvertently result in impacts to the channel or areas downstream of the channel. A qualified specialist familiar with aquatic resources should guide installation of the exclusion fencing to ensure adequate protection of the channel. Appropriate Best Management Practices (BMPs) for erosion control and spill prevention should also be implemented to prevent indirect impacts to the channel during project construction. Any indirect or direct impacts to the ephemeral channel would most likely require permit approval from the ACOE, RWQCB, and/or CDFW.

4.3 Wildlife Movement Corridors and Habitat Linkages

As discussed in Section 4.3, Wildlife Movement Corridors and Habitat Linkages, no substantial direct impacts to local or regional wildlife movements are expected to occur as a result of project implementation.

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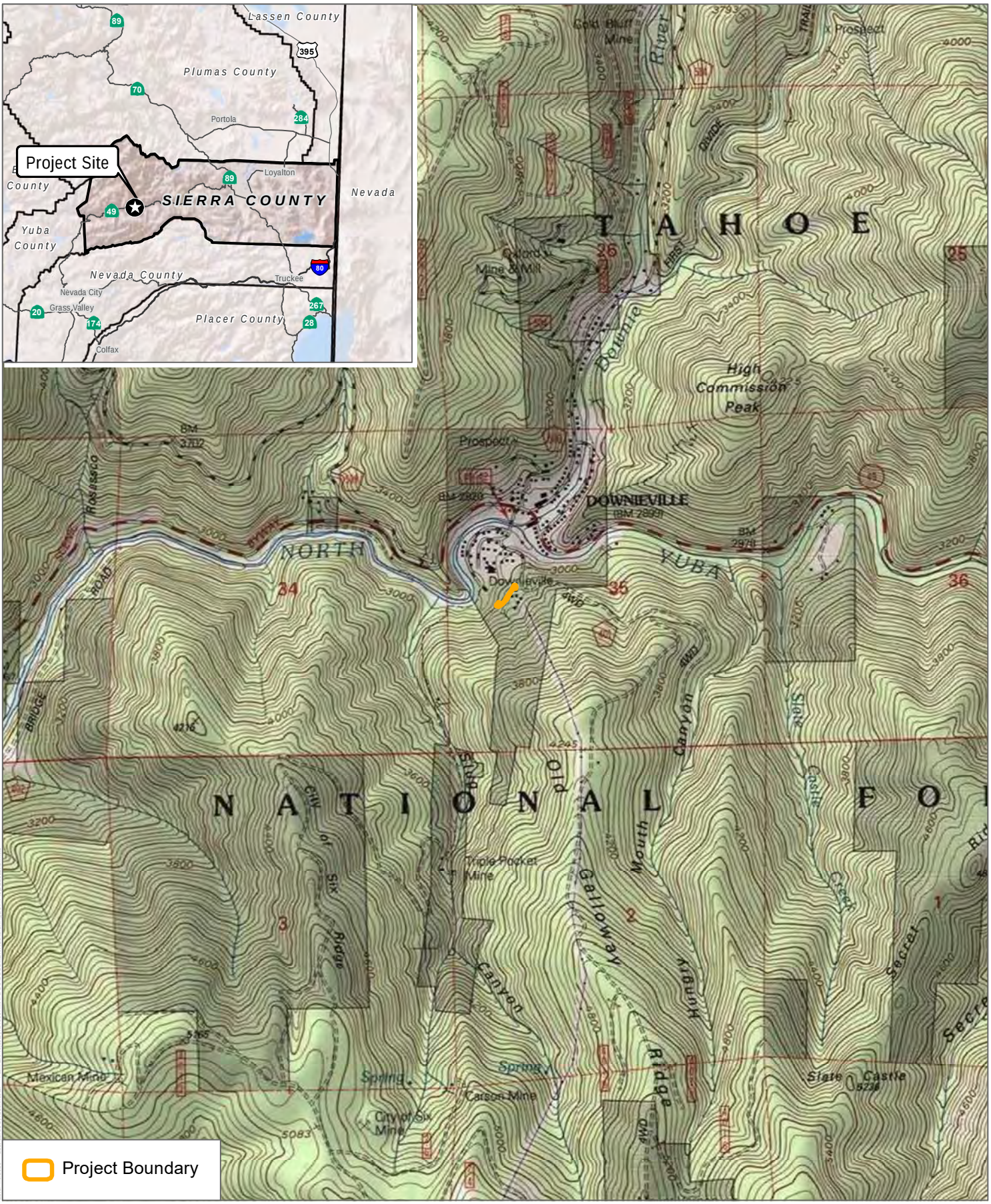
Figures 1-4



SOURCE: USGS 7.5-Minute Series Downieville Quadrangle

DUDEK

0 1,000 2,000 Feet
0 285 570 Meters
1:24,000

FIGURE 1

Project Location

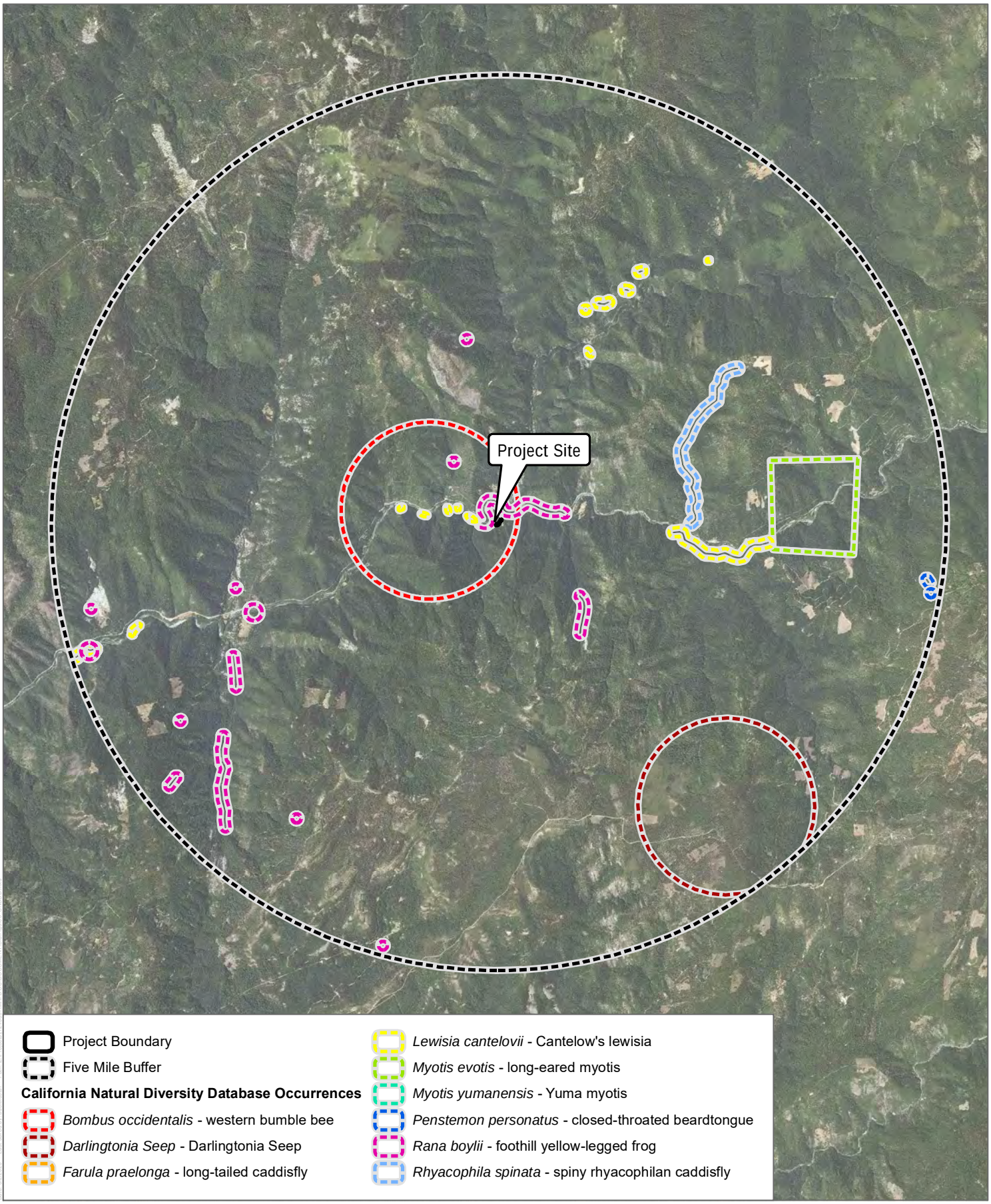
AT&T Cell Tower Project

SOURCE: Bing 2020

DUDEK

0 50 100 Feet
0 12.5 25 Meters
1:1,200

FIGURE 2
Project Site
AT&T Cell Tower Project



SOURCE: CDFW 2020, USDA 2017

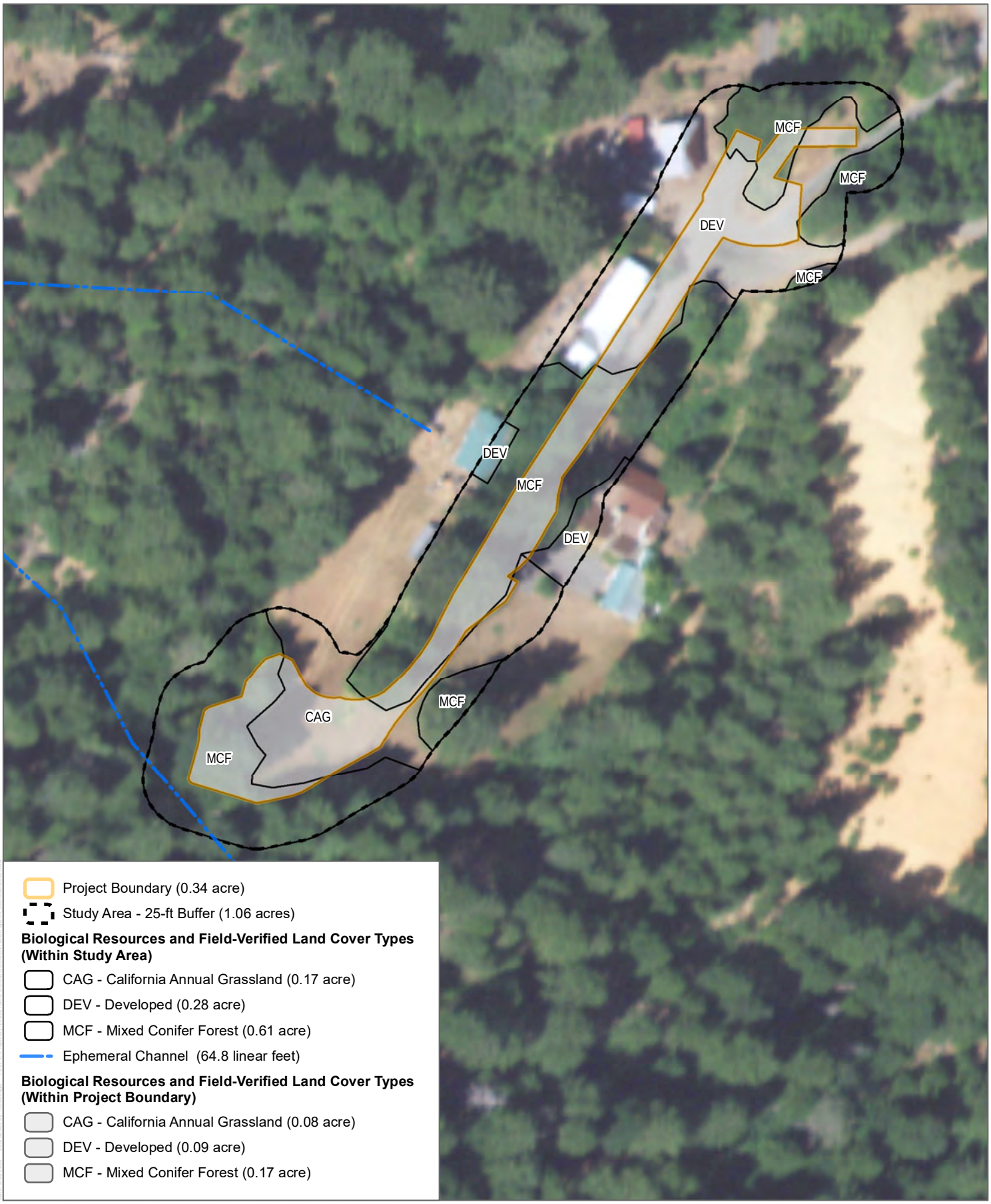
DUDEK

0 3,850 7,700 Feet
0 1,050 2,100 Meters
1:91,062

FIGURE 3

California Natural Diversity Database Occurrences

AT&T Cell Tower Project



SOURCE: USGS 2020, USDA 2017

DUDEK

0 35 70 Feet
0 10 20 Meters
1:840

FIGURE 4

Vegetation Communities and Land Cover Types

AT&T Cell Tower Project

Attachment A

Special-Status Species Potential to Occur in the Project Region

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status (Federal/State/CRPR)	Primary Habitat Associations/ Life Form/ Blooming Period/ Elevation Range (feet)	Potential to Occur in the Project Site
Plants				
Asplenium viride	green spleenwort	None/None/2B.3	Subalpine coniferous forest (rocky, carbonate or granitic)/perennial rhizomatous herb/June–Aug/6,725–6,725	**Not expected to occur.** The project site lacks habitat and is outside of the species' known elevation range. There are no documented occurrences within 7 miles of the project site (Calflora 2020; CDFW 2020a).
Boechera constancei	Constance's rockcress	None/None/1B.1	Chaparral, lower montane coniferous forest, upper montane coniferous forest; serpentinite, rocky/perennial herb/May–July/3,195–6,640	**Not expected to occur.** The project site lacks rocky serpentine substrate, and there are no documented occurrences within 10 miles of the project site (Calflora 2020; CDFW 2020a).
Botrychium crenulatum	scalloped moonwort	None/None/2B.2	Bogs and fens, lower montane coniferous forest, meadows and seeps, marshes and swamps (freshwater), upper montane coniferous forest/perennial rhizomatous herb/June–Sep/4,160–10,760	**Not expected to occur.** The project site is outside of the species' known elevation range, and there are no documented occurrences within 5 miles of the project site (Calflora 2020; CDFW 2020a).
Botrychium minganense	Mingan moonwort	None/None/2B.2	Bogs and fens, lower montane coniferous forest, meadows and seeps (edges), upper montane coniferous forest; mesic/perennial rhizomatous herb/July–Sep/4,770–7,150	**Not expected to occur.** The project site is outside of the species' known elevation range, and there are no documented occurrences within 10 miles of the project site (Calflora 2020; CDFW 2020a).
Botrychium montanum	western goblin	None/None/2B.1	Lower montane coniferous forest, meadows and seeps, upper montane coniferous forest; mesic/perennial rhizomatous herb/July–Sep/4,805–7,150	**Not expected to occur.** The project site is outside of the species' known elevation range, and there are no documented occurrences within 5 miles of the project site (Calflora 2020; CDFW 2020a).

Carex lasiocarpa	woolly-fruited sedge	None/None/2B.3	Bogs and fens, marshes and swamps (freshwater, lake margins)/perennial rhizomatous herb/June–July/5,575–6,885	**Not expected to occur.** The project site is outside of the species' known elevation range, and there are no documented occurrences within 10 miles of the project site (Calflora 2020; CDFW 2020a).
Corallorhiza trifida	northern coralroot	None/None/2B.1	Lower montane coniferous forest, meadows and seeps (edges); mesic/perennial rhizomatous herb (achlorophyllous)/June–July/4,490–5,725	**Not expected to occur.** The project site is outside of the species' known elevation range, and there are no documented occurrences within 10 miles of the project site (Calflora 2020; CDFW 2020a).
Erigeron lassenianus var. deficiens	Plumas rayless daisy	None/None/1B.3	Lower montane coniferous forest; gravelly, sometimes serpentinite, sometimes disturbed sites/perennial herb/June–Sep/4,460–6,495	**Not expected to occur.** The project site is outside of the species' known elevation range, and there are no documented occurrences within 5 miles of the project site (Calflora 2020; CDFW 2020a).
Erigeron miser	starved daisy	None/None/1B.3	Upper montane coniferous forest (rocky)/perennial herb/June–Oct/6,035–8,595	**Not expected to occur.** The project site is outside of the species' known elevation range, and there are no documented occurrences within 9 miles of the project site (Calflora 2020; CDFW 2020a).
Eriogonum umbellatum var. *ahartii*	Ahart's buckwheat	None/None/1B.2	Chaparral, cismontane woodland; serpentinite, slopes, openings/perennial herb/June–Sep/1,310–6,560	**Not expected to occur.** The project site lacks open serpentine slopes or openings, and there are no documented occurrences within 5 miles of the project site (Calflora 2020; CDFW 2020a).
Frangula purshiana ssp. *ultramafica*	Caribou coffeeberry	None/None/1B.2	Chaparral, lower montane coniferous forest, meadows and seeps, upper montane coniferous forest; serpentinite/ perennial deciduous shrub/May–July/2,705–6,330	**Not expected to occur**. This species was not identified in the project area during the biological survey. This species is a perennial shrub that is evident

				and identifiable year-round. There are no documented occurrences within 10 miles of the project site (Calflora 2020; CDFW 2020a).
Hemieva ranunculifolia	buttercup-leaf suksdorfia	None/None/2B.2	Meadows and seeps, upper montane coniferous forest; mesic, rocky, granitic/perennial herb/June–Aug/4,920–8,200	**Not expected to occur.** The project site is outside of the species' known elevation range, and there are no documented occurrences within 10 miles of the project site (Calflora 2020; CDFW 2020a).
Lewisia cantelovii	Cantelow's lewisia	None/None/1B.2	Broadleafed upland forest, chaparral, cismontane woodland, lower montane coniferous forest; mesic, granitic, sometimes serpentinite seeps/perennial herb/May–Oct/1,080–4,490	**Low potential to occur.** There are multiple documented occurrences for hundreds to thousands of plants growing on mossy boulders and rocky outcrops along the Middle Yuba River in 1992, 1998, 1999, and 2002, approximately 0.2 to 1 mile west of the project site (CDFW 2020). However, the project site and adjacent areas are generally disturbed and lack microhabitat features (e.g., mossy rocks, serpentine seeps) preferred by this species.
Lycopodiella inundata	inundated bog club-moss	None/None/2B.2	Bogs and fens (coastal), lower montane coniferous forest (mesic), marshes and swamps (lake margins), muddy depressions/perennial rhizomatous herb/June–Sep/15–3,280	**Low potential to occur.** Although the project site lacks habitat, there is an ephemeral channel south of the site that could provide habitat, so long as it remains sufficiently saturated during the blooming season. There are no documented occurrences within 10 miles of the project site (Calflora 2020; CDFW 2020a).

Meesia uliginosa	broad-nerved hump moss	None/None/2B.2	Bogs and fens, meadows and seeps, subalpine coniferous forest, upper montane coniferous forest; damp soil/moss/July,Oct/3,965–9,195	**Not expected to occur.** The project site is outside of the species' known elevation range and there are no documented occurrences within 10 miles of the project site (Calflora 2020; CDFW 2020a).
Oreostemma elatum	tall alpine-aster	None/None/1B.2	Bogs and fens, meadows and seeps, upper montane coniferous forest; mesic/perennial herb/June–Aug(Sep)/3,295–6,885	**Low potential to occur.** Although the project site lacks habitat, there is an ephemeral channel south of the site that could provide habitat, so long as it remains sufficiently saturated during the blooming season. There are no documented occurrences within 10 miles of the project site (Calflora 2020; CDFW 2020a).
Penstemon personatus	closed-throated beardtongue	None/None/1B.2	Chaparral, lower montane coniferous forest, upper montane coniferous forest; metavolcanic, usually north-facing slopes/perennial herb/June–Sep(Oct)/3,490–6,955	**Low potential to occur.** The project site is about 340 feet below the species' known elevation range and lacks undisturbed forested habitat on north-facing slopes. The nearest documented occurrence is for at least 500 plants observed growing approximately 5 miles east-southeast of the project site (Calflora 2020; CDFW 2020a).
Phacelia stebbinsii	Stebbins' phacelia	None/None/1B.2	Cismontane woodland, lower montane coniferous forest, meadows and seeps; gravelly soils/annual herb/May–July/2,000–6,590	**Not expected to occur.** The project site lacks undisturbed forested habitat with gravelly soils. This species is not known from Sierra County (CNPS 2020), and there are no documented occurrences within 10 miles of the project site (Calflora 2020; CDFW 2020a).

Rhamnus alnifolia	alder buckthorn	None/None/2B.2	Lower montane coniferous forest, meadows and seeps, riparian scrub, upper montane coniferous forest/perennial deciduous shrub/May–July/4,490–6,985	**Not expected to occur**. The project site is outside of the species' known elevation and there are no documented occurrences within 10 miles of the project site (CDFW 2020a).
Rhynchospora alba	white beaked-rush	None/None/2B.2	Bogs and fens, meadows and seeps, marshes and swamps (freshwater); open areas/perennial rhizomatous herb/June–Aug/195–6,690	**Not expected to occur.** The project site lacks open, freshwater habitats. This species is not known from Sierra County (CNPS 2020), and there are no documented occurrences within 10 miles of the project site (Calflora 2020; CDFW 2020a).
Rhynchospora capitellata	brownish beaked-rush	None/None/2B.2	Lower montane coniferous forest, meadows and seeps, marshes and swamps, upper montane coniferous forest; mesic, open areas/perennial herb/July–Aug/145–6,560	**Not expected to occur.** The project site lacks open mesic habitat. This species is not known from Sierra County (CNPS 2020), and there are no documented occurrences within 10 miles of the project site (Calflora 2020; CDFW 2020a).
Schoenoplectus subterminalis	water bulrush	None/None/2B.3	Bogs and fens, marshes and swamps (montane lake margins)/perennial rhizomatous herb (aquatic)/June–Aug(Sep)/2,460–7,380	**Not expected to occur.** The project site lacks appropriate aquatic habitat. This species is not known from Sierra County (CNPS 2020), and there are no documented occurrences within 10 miles of the project site (Calflora 2020; CDFW 2020a).
Stachys pilosa	hairy marsh hedge-nettle	None/None/2B.3	Great Basin scrub (mesic), meadows and seeps/perennial rhizomatous herb/June–Aug/3,935–5,805	**Not expected to occur.** The project site lacks is 785 feet below the species' known elevation range, and there are no documented occurrences within 10 miles of the project site (Calflora 2020; CDFW 2020a).

Streptanthus tortuosus ssp. *truei*	True's mountain jewelflower	None/None/1B.1	Lower montane coniferous forest; partial shade on steep rocky slopes/perennial herb/June–July(Sep)/2,505–2,820	**Not expected to occur.** The project site lacks steep, rocky slopes and is outside of the species' known elevation range. This species is only known from Nevada County, and there are no documented occurrences within 10 miles of the project site (Calflora 2020; CDFW 2020a).
Stuckenia filiformis ssp. *alpina*	slender-leaved pondweed	None/None/2B.2	Marshes and swamps (assorted shallow freshwater)/ perennial rhizomatous herb (aquatic)/May–July/980–7,050	**Not expected to occur.** The project site lacks appropriate aquatic habitat, and there are no documented occurrences within 7 miles of the project site (Calflora 2020; CDFW 2020a).
Tauschia howellii	Howell's tauschia	None/None/1B.3	Subalpine coniferous forest, upper montane coniferous forest; granitic, gravelly/perennial herb/June–Aug/5,590–8,200	**Not expected to occur.** The project site is outside of the species' known elevation range, and there are no documented occurrences within 7 miles of the project site (Calflora 2020; CDFW 2020a).
Trichodon cylindricus	cylindrical trichodon	None/None/2B.2	Broadleafed upland forest, meadows and seeps, upper montane coniferous forest; sandy, exposed soil, roadbanks/moss/N.A./160–6,565	**Not expected to occur.** The project site lacks sandy, exposed soil or roadbanks. There are no documented occurrences within 9 miles of the project site (Calflora 2020; CDFW 2020a).

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status (Federal/State)	Habitat	Potential to Occur
Invertebrates				
Bombus occidentalis	western bumble bee	None/PSE	Require meadows and grasslands with abundant floral resources. Historically known throughout the mountains and northern coast of California. Currently found in high-elevation sites and a few records on the Northern California coast.	**Not expected to occur.** The project site lacks open areas with abundant floral resources. No potential nest sites, such as burrows, were

			Requires suitable nesting sites for colonies, nectar, and pollen resources available through spring, summer, and fall, and suitable overwintering sites. Typically nests in underground cavities in open west/southwest-facing slopes bordered by trees. Occasionally found in above-ground locations such as logs. Common host plant genera include *Cirsium, Erigonum, Solidago, Aster,* and *Ceanothus.*	documented in or adjacent to the project site during the biological survey.
Fishes				
Hypomesus transpacificus	Delta smelt	FT/SE	Euryhaline species (tolerant of a wide salinity range) that occur in the Sacramento–San Joaquin Delta, and seasonally in Suisun Bay, Carquinez Strait, and San Pablo Bay. They spend a majority of their one year life span along the freshwater edge of the mixing zone (saltwater-freshwater interface).	**Not expected to occur.** The project site lacks aquatic habitat and is outside of the species' known geographic range.
Oncorhynchus clarkii henshawi	Lahontan cutthroat trout	FT/None	Occupies a variety of coldwater habitats, including large terminal alkaline lakes, alpine lakes, slow meandering rivers, mountain rivers, and small headwater tributary streams.	**Not expected to occur.** The project site lacks aquatic habitat and is outside of the species' known geographic range.
Amphibians				
Ambystoma macrodactylum sigillatum	southern long-toed salamander	None/SSC	Occurs in the Sierra Nevada from the vicinity of the Stanislaus River north through the mountains of CA. Found primarily in yellow pine, mixed conifer, and red fir forests associated with mountain meadows from near sea level to approximately 9,180 feet. Adults are mostly subterranean except during breeding migrations. Breeds primarily in temporary ponds formed by winter and spring rains and snowmelt. Higher elevation populations may require permanent ponds due to slow larvae development.	**Not expected to occur.** The project site and vicinity lacks breeding habitat and upland refugia (i.e., small mammal burrows, rotted logs). There are no documented occurrences within 5 miles of the project site (CDFW 2020a).
Hydromantes platycephalus	Mount Lyell salamander	None/WL	Generally restricted to alpine or subalpine vegetation associations with extensive rock outcrops and scattered boulders from approximately 4,130 to 11,940 feet above mean	**Not expected to occur.** The project site lacks habitat and is outside of the species' known elevation and

			sea level. Requires free surface water in the form of seeps, drips, or spray. The known range extends from the Smith Lake area (El Dorado Co.) to the Franklin Pass area (Tulare Co.) in the Sierra Nevada Mountains. An isolated population is present on the Sierra Buttes, Sierra Co.	geographic range. There are no documented occurrences within 5 miles of the project site (CDFW 2020a).
Rana boylii	foothill yellow-legged frog	None/SSC, ST	Found in or near rocky streams in a variety of habitats, including valley-foothills hardwood, valley-foothill hardwood-conifer, valley-foothill riparian, ponderosa pine, mixed conifer, coastal scrub, mixed chaparral, and wet meadow types. Egg clusters are attached to gravel or rocks in moving water near stream margins. This species is rarely encountered (even on rainy nights) far from permanent water.	**Not expected to occur.** There is a documented occurrence for one adult observed in the middle Yuba River in August 1996, less than 300 feet northwest of the project site (CDFW 2020a). However, the project site lacks aquatic habitat for this species, and there is no surface water connection (or suitable aquatic habitat) between the Middle Yuba River and the project site.
Rana draytonii	California red-legged frog	FT/SSC	Inhabits ponds, quiet pools of streams, marshes, and riparian areas with dense, shrubby, or emergent vegetation from near sea level to approximately 5,200, although most sightings occur below 3,500 feet. Requires permanent or nearly permanent pools for larval development, but may use ephemeral water bodies for breeding if permanent water is nearby.	**Not expected to occur.** The project site lacks aquatic habitat and upland refugia (i.e., small mammal burrows, rotted logs), and there are no documented occurrences within 15 miles of the project site (CDFW 2020a).
Rana sierrae	Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog	FE/ST, WL	Occurs above 4,500 feet in the Sierra Nevada Mountains from Plumas Co. south to the ridge dividing the middle and south forks of Kings River in Fresno Co. Found in streams, lakes, and ponds in montane riparian, lodgepole pine, sub-alpine conifer, and wet meadow habitat types. Always encountered within a few feet of water.	**Not expected to occur.** The project site lacks aquatic habitat, and there are no documented occurrences within 8 miles of the project site (CDFW 2020a).
Birds				
Accipiter gentilis (nesting)	northern goshawk	None/SSC	Prefers nesting in middle and higher elevations immature, dense conifer forests. Habitat	**Low potential to occur.** Mature trees in and adjacent

			requirements include meadows and riparian habitat. Usually nests near water on north slopes in the densest parts of vegetation stands, staying close to openings. Nest stands consistently have larger trees, greater canopy cover, and relatively more open understories than stands lacking nests. Goshawks generally do not nest near areas of human habitation or paved roads.	to the project site provide poor quality nesting habitat as they are located in an area of regular human disturbance. There are no documented occurrences within 10 miles of the project site (CDFW 2020a).
Haliaeetus leucocephalus (nesting & wintering)	bald eagle	FDL, BCC/FP, SE	Nests in remote forested areas adjacent to large bodies of water, including seacoasts, rivers, swamps, large lakes; winters near large bodies of water in lowlands and mountains. Prefers large trees with open branchwork for building platform nests.	**Low potential to occur.** Forested areas in and adjacent to the project site and vicinity provide poor quality nesting habitat as they are fragmented by residential development. There are no documented occurrences within 10 miles of the project site (CDFW 2020a).
Setophaga petechia (nesting)	yellow warbler	BCC/SSC	Breeds in riparian woodlands from coastal and desert lowlands up to 8,000 feet in the Sierra Nevada. Also breeds in montane chaparral, and in open ponderosa pine and mixed conifer habitats with substantial amounts of brush. Usually found in riparian deciduous habitats in summer. In migration, visits woodland, forest, and shrub habitats.	**Not expected to occur.** The project site lacks riparian nesting habitat, and there are no documented occurrences within 10 miles of the project site (CDFW 2020a).
Strix occidentalis occidentalis	California spotted owl	None/SSC	Occurs in dense, old-growth conifer forests with multiple canopy layers. May move into oak habitats in winter, or reside in oak habitats in southern California. Roosts most often in dense canopy on north facing slopes, usually within 1,000 feet of permanent water. Resides mostly in the southern Cascade Range of northern California, along the west slope of the Sierra Nevada, and in the mountains of central and southern California south to the Mexican border.	**Moderate potential to occur.** Forested areas in and adjacent to the project site and vicinity provide poor quality nesting habitat as they are fragmented by residential development. There are two documented activity centers (associated with nest sites and/or breeding detections) approximately 0.5 mile

				southeast and 0.7 miles southwest of the project site (CDFW 2020a).
Mammals				
Aplodontia rufa californica	Sierra Nevada mountain beaver	None/SSC	Uncommon in the Sierra Nevada. Occurs in dense riparian-deciduous and open brushy stages of most forest types. Typical habitat in the Sierra Nevada is montane riparian. They require deep, friable soils and a cool, moist microclimate for burrowing. Burrows are located in dense thickets, preferably near a stream or spring.	**Not expected to occur.** The project site lacks habitat, and there are no documented occurrences within 5 miles of the project site (CDFW 2020a).
Corynorhinus townsendii	Townsend's big-eared bat	None/SSC	Most abundant in mesic habitats. Requires caves, mines, tunnels, buildings, or other human-made structures for roosting. Hibernation sites are located in cold, but not freezing, environments. Maternity roosts are located in warm environments. Extremely sensitive to disturbance of roosting sites. Shows high site fidelity if undisturbed.	**Low potential to occur.** The project site provides poor quality roosting habitat as it is located in an area of regular human disturbance, and there are no documented occurrences within 8 miles of the project site (CDFW 2020a).
Martes caurina sierrae	Sierra marten	None/None	Found in mature coniferous and mixed species forest with dense overstory and sufficient understory for hiding and denning. Usually den in rotten logs, but also rock slides and slash piles. Prefer hunting in dense, succulent understory vegetation. May also hunt for prey in open meadows if there is sufficient cover for hiding.	**Not expected to occur.** The project site lacks complex forested habitat with denning options, and there are no documented occurrences within 8 miles of the project site (CDFW 2020a).
Pekania pennanti	fisher - West Coast DPS	None/SSC, ST	Uncommon permanent resident of Sierra Nevada, Cascades, Klamath Mountains, and the north Coast Range. Occurs above 3,200 feet in the Sierra Nevada and Cascades. Prefers coniferous or deciduous riparian habitats with intermediate to large trees and closed canopies. Canopy closure must be greater than 50% to be suitable habitat. Dens in a variety of protected cavities, brush piles, logs, and upturned trees. Hollow logs, trees, and snags are especially important.	**Not expected to occur.** The species' current distribution in California is represented by two populations: northwestern California and southern Sierra Nevada. Fishers apparently no longer inhabit the area between the Pit River in the northern Sierra Nevada/Cascades to the Merced River in the

				southern Sierra Nevada, a separation of approximately 270 miles. There is little empirical evidence that fishers previously inhabited this gap in the Sierra Nevada (CDFG 2010). The nearest documented occurrence is for a single sighting in 1976, approximately 8 miles northeast of the project site (CDFW 2020a).
Vulpes vulpes necator	Sierra Nevada red fox	FC/ST	Found in the Cascades in Siskiyou County, and from Lassen County south to Tulare County. Found in a variety of habitats, including alpine dwarf-shrub, wet meadow, subalpine conifer, aspen, montane chaparral, montane riparian, and mixed conifer forest. Most sightings in the Sierra Nevada are above 7,000 feet, with a range of 3,900 to 11,900 feet above mean sea level. Den sites include rock outcrops; hollow logs and stumps; and burrows in deep, loose soil. Prefers forests interspersed with meadows or alpine fell-fields. Edge habitats are used extensively.	**Not expected to occur.** The project site lacks habitat due to its proximity to regular human activity. In addition, there are only two populations known to exist: one near Lassen Peak and the other near Sonora Pass (CDFW 2020b). There are no documented occurrences within 10 miles of the project site (CDFW 2020a).

Status Legend:

CRPR 1B: Plants rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere
CRPR 2B: Plants rare, threatened, or endangered in California but more common elsewhere
.1 Seriously threatened in California (over 80% of occurrences threatened/high degree and immediacy of threat)
.2 Moderately threatened in California (20–80% occurrences threatened/moderate degree and immediacy of threat)
.3 Not very threatened in California (<20% of occurrences threatened/low degree and immediacy of threat or no current threats known)
FE: Federally Endangered
FT: Federally Threatened
FC: Federal Candidate
FDL: Federally Delisted
BCC: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Bird of Conservation Concern
SSC: California Species of Special Concern
FP: California Fully Protected Species
WL: California Watch List Species

SE: State Endangered
ST: State Threatened
PSE: Proposed State Endangered

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Attachment B

Representative Site Photographs

Photo 1. View facing northeast at the paved access road to the proposed project site.

Photo 2. View facing southwest at the project site where the tower pad access road is proposed.

Photo 3. View facing northeast at the project site where the tower access road and hammerhead turnaround are proposed.

Photo 4. View facing southwest at the project site where the tower pad is proposed.

Photo 5. View facing south at trees proposed for removal at the tower pad site. There is an ephemeral drainage partially visible behind the trees.

Photo 6. View facing east at the area adjacent to the proposed tower pad site. The red line indicates approximate location of the ephemeral drainage.

Photo 7. View facing east at the segment of ephemeral drainage just south of the proposed tower pad.

Photo 8. View facing west where the ephemeral drainage drops off a steep slope into a ravine.

	
Photo 9. View facing west at the segment of ephemeral drainage just south of the proposed tower pad. Hydrological inputs from the seep are indicated by the red arrow.	**Photo 10.** View facing south where water is emerging from the seep at the base of a hillside/ravine south of the ephemeral channel.

Attachment C

Plant and Wildlife Species Observed

VASCULAR PLANTS

EUDICOTS

APIACEAE—Carrot Family
- Torilis arvensis—spreading hedgeparsley*

ARALIACEAE—Ginseng Family
- Hedera helix—English ivy*

CORNACEAE—Dogwood Family
- Cornus nuttallii—Pacific dogwood

FABACEAE—Legume Family
- Lathyrus latifolius—perennial pea*
- Trifolium sp.—clover

FAGACEAE—Oak Family
- Quercus kelloggii—California black oak

HYPERICACEAE—St. John's Wort Family
- Hypericum calycinum—Aaron's beard*

PLANTAGINACEAE—Plantain Family
- Plantago lanceolata—narrowleaf plantain*

ROSACEAE—Rose Family
- Rubus armeniacus—Himalayan blackberry*
- Rubus ursinus—California blackberry

SAPINDACEAE—Soapberry Family
- Acer macrophyllum—bigleaf maple

GYMNOSPERMS AND GNETOPHYTES

CUPRESSACEAE—Cypress Family
- Calocedrus decurrens—incense cedar

PINACEAE—Pine Family
- Pinus ponderosa—Ponderosa pine
- Pseudotsuga menziesii—Douglas fir

MONOCOTS

CYPERACEAE—Sedge Family
- Carex sp.—sedge

BIRDS

JAYS, MAGPIES & CROWS

CORVIDAE—CROWS & JAYS
- Corvus brachyrhynchos—American crow
- Cyanocitta stelleri—Steller's jay

NEW WORLD VULTURES

CATHARTIDAE—NEW WORLD VULTURES
- Cathartes aura—turkey vulture

THRUSHES

TURDIDAE—THRUSHES
Turdus migratorius—American robin
NEW WORLD SPARROWS
PASSERELLIDAE—NEW WORLD SPARROWS
Junco hyemalis—dark-eyed junco

*Non-native species

Appendix D

Cultural Resources Inventory Report (Confidential)