



**California Environmental Quality Act**  
**NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR THE**  
**NIPTON COMMUNICATION SITE PROJECT**

**LEAD AGENCY:** California Department Fish and Wildlife

**CONTACT:** Julia Karo (909) 278-2950

**SUBJECT:** Notice of Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration pursuant to Sections 21092 and 21092.3 of the Public Resources Code and CEQA Guidelines Section 15072

**PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD:** March 25, 2022, through April 24, 2022

**Project Location:** The proposed Nipton Communication Site Project (Project) is located in eastern San Bernardino County, California, approximately 10 miles south of the California-Nevada state line, 1.25 miles southwest of the junction of I-15 and Nipton Road (refer to Figure 1).

**Project Description:** InterConnect Towers, LLC's (the Applicant's), proposed Project would include construction, operations and maintenance, and decommissioning of a communication site, ancillary components, and an access road (totaling approximately 6.13 acres). The Project components, including the access road, would occur entirely on Bureau of Land Management-administered land. The Project would be a multi-tenant wireless communication facility designed to accommodate a minimum of four national carriers, as well as government agencies including police, fire, and highway patrol. The Project is within the California Desert Conservation Area Plan Utility Corridor "BB," which permits the expansion of utility facilities for the purpose of telecommunication, electricity, gas, water, and other commodities.

Construction is anticipated to take 4 months, and would likely occur from late 2022 to early 2023. During construction, a new extension of the existing access road (8,953 feet long by 14 feet wide) entering the communication site would be constructed to accommodate construction equipment. The staging area, an already disturbed area, is located adjacent to the I-15/Nipton Road interchange and is currently used for vehicle parking. Direct permanent impacts of Project construction would occur to 5.82 acres. Upon completion of construction, temporary disturbance areas would be restored.

The Applicant has applied for an Incidental Take Permit (ITP) to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) for the Mojave desert tortoise (*Gopherus agassizii*). The ITP, if issued by CDFW subject to certain conditions, would remain in effect for 30 years. In addition, the Applicant submitted a Lake and Streambed Alteration (LSA) Agreement notification to CDFW which would have a term of 5 years or less. The ITP and LSA are collectively referred to as "the permits." CDFW, consistent with their obligation as the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) lead agency, has analyzed and disclosed the environmental effects of the proposed Project as part of the "whole of the action" in the Draft Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND). Notwithstanding the proposed exercise of CDFW's regulatory authority under the California Fish and Game Code, the MND addresses other potential environmental impacts across the resource spectrum that may result from construction, operations and maintenance, and decommissioning of the Project over the 30-year period and are relevant under CEQA.

**Location of Mitigated Negative Declaration Available for Public Review.** The Draft IS/MND may be viewed online at <https://wildlife.ca.gov/Notices/CEQA>.

**Public Comment Period:** By this notice, CDFW is announcing the opening of the 30-day comment period (March 25, 2022, to April 24, 2022). All written comments must be received by April 24, 2022, by 5:00 p.m. (end of the 30-day public review period).

**Commenting on Mitigated Negative Declaration:** Written comments on the MND must be addressed to:

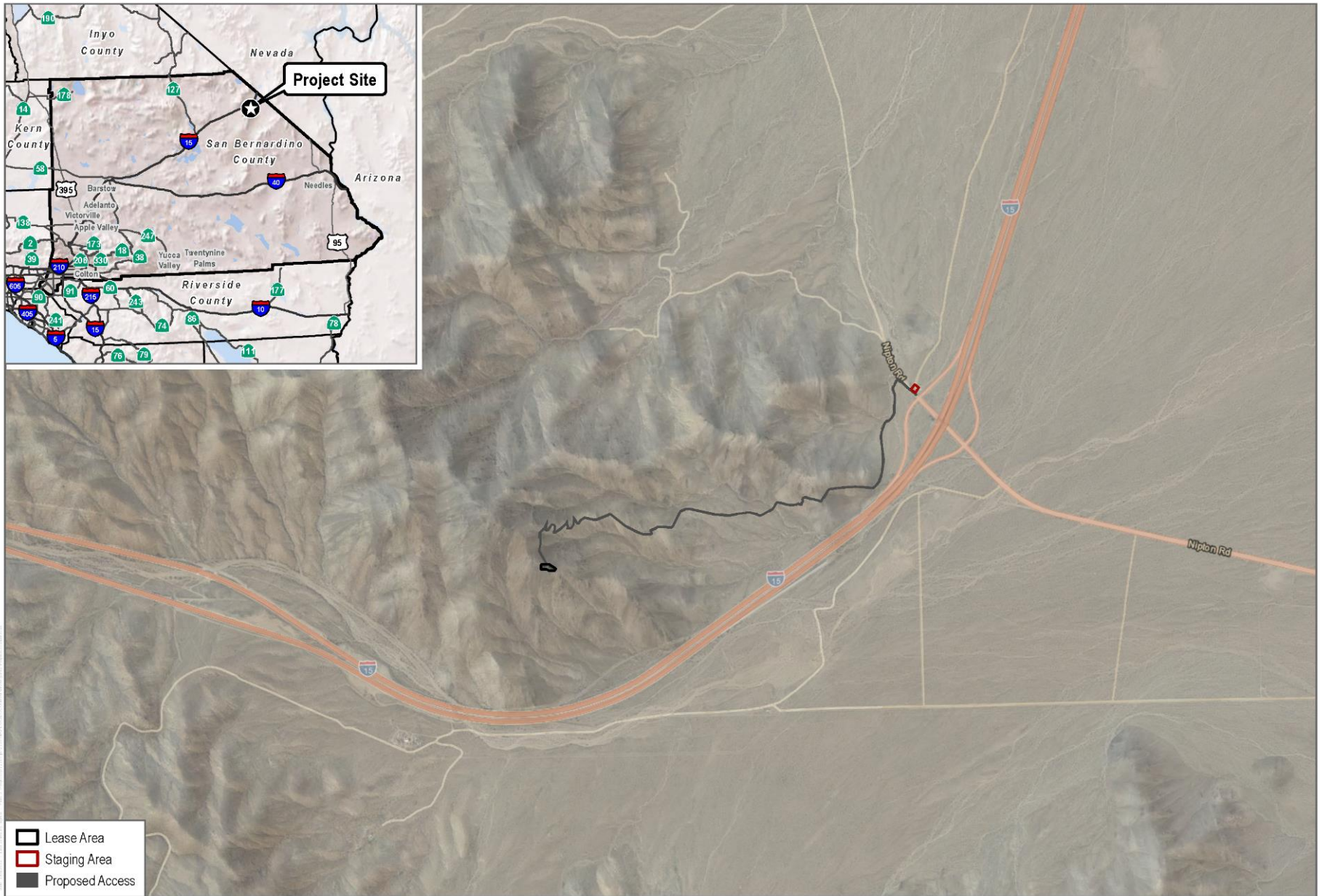
**California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Inland Deserts Region**

**Attention:** Julia Karo, Project Manager

**Mailing Address:** 3602 Inland Empire Boulevard, Suite C-220, Ontario, California 91764

OR via email: [Julia.Karo@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Julia.Karo@wildlife.ca.gov) (subject line: "Nipton Project MND Comments").

The Project is not located on any list of places formally recorded as containing hazardous materials.



SOURCE: InterConnect Towers, LLC; County of San Bernardino; Bing Maps

**FIGURE 1**

**Project Location**

Nipton Communication Site Project

