

June 15, 2023

CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST FORM INITIAL STUDY (UP 23-01, IS 23-02)

1. Project Title: Vertical Bridge Tower; 150' tall Monopole

2. Permit Numbers: Major Use Permit UP 23-01

Initial Study IS 23-02

3. Lead Agency Name and Address: County of Lake

Community Development Department

Courthouse, 3rd Floor, 255 North Forbes Street

Lakeport, CA 95453

4. Contact Person: Eric Porter, Associate Planner

(707) 263-2221

5. Project Location(s): 3562 Big Valley Road, Kelseyville

APN: 008-038-51

6. Project Sponsor's Name & Address: Assurance Development / Melissa Keith

1499 Huntington Dr., #305 S. Pasadena, CA 91030

7. General Plan Designation: Industrial

8. Zoning: "M2-DR-WW-FF", Heavy Industrial – Design Review –

Waterway - Floodway Fringe

9. Supervisor District: District 4 and 5

10. Flood Zone: "AE", Kelsey Creek Flood Plain

11. Slope: Generally flat, some slope near Creek

12. Hazards: Flood Hazard

13. Earthquake Fault Zone: None mapped

14. Dam Failure Inundation Area: Not located within Dam Failure Inundation Area

15. Parcel Size: 10.10 Acres

16. Description of Project:

Major Use Permit (UP 23-01) to construct a new 150' tall monopine (designed to look like a pine tree) cell tower, including twelve (12) antennas, one (1) MW antenna, six (6) RRUS, one (1) GPS antenna, two (2) ground-mounted radio cabinets and 24' x 92' lease area to house equipment need to support the tower. The lease area will be enclosed by an 8' tall chain link fence. The applicant has attempted to co-locate the facility but was not able to find an existing tower within this area that would allow co-location.

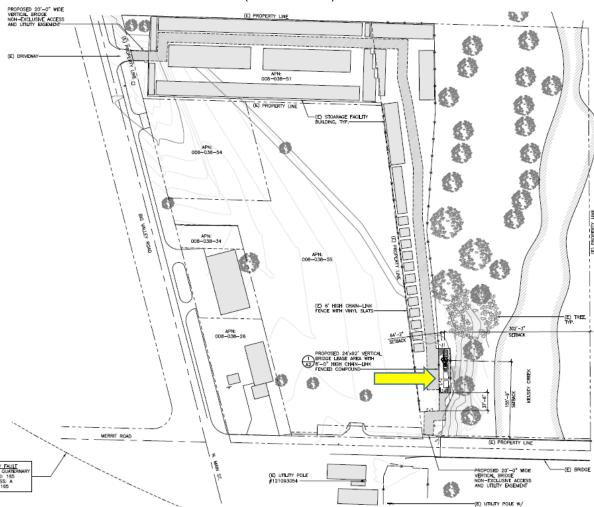


FIGURE 1 – PARTIAL SITE PLAN (PROPOSED)

Source: Material Submitted by Applicant

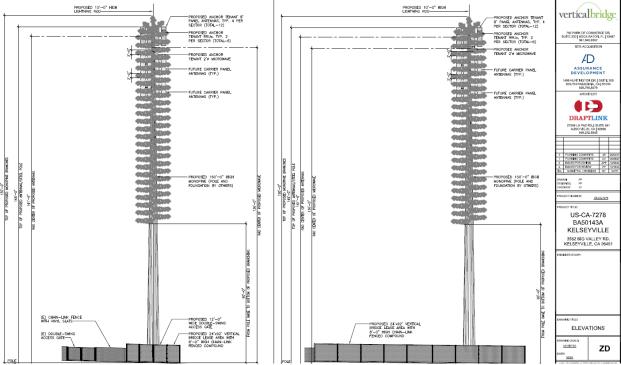
Construction

Equipment

The following equipment is expected to be required to construct the proposed project facilities:

- Excavator
- Backhoe
- Pickup trucks
- Auger (fence post holes)

FIGURE 2 - TOWER ELEVATIONS



Source: Material Submitted by Applicant

Construction Details

Construction is estimated to take two to three weeks. The County estimates that between 8 and 16 daily trips will result during construction, and 240 trips are projected during three weeks of construction. Construction would occur Monday through Friday, 7:00 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Post Construction

The tower is unmanned. It is anticipated that between 1 and 4 annual trips will result for routine maintenance of the tower.

Energy Usage

The tower will rely on 'grid power' from PG&E who were notified of this proposed project and had no issues. The grid is not at capacity in this location, and the tower will have minimal power demands.

Water Usage

The tower does not require water – no impact.

Solid Waste Management

The facility is unmanned; no impact to solid waste.

Wastewater Management

No new septic systems are needed since the tower is unmanned.

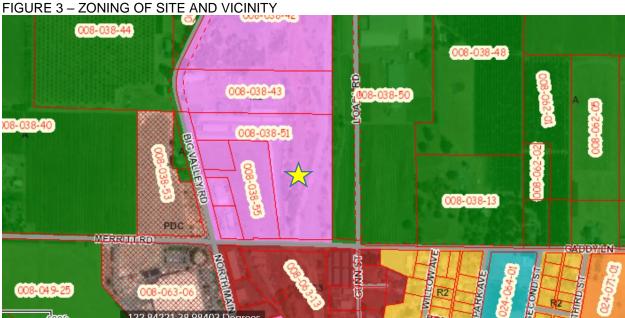
Stormwater Management

The applicant has submitted engineered Drainage and Erosion Control plans due to the close proximity of Kelsey Creek to the tower.

17. Surrounding Land Uses and Setting:

The sizes, zoning and status of neighboring properties is as follows;

- North: "M2-DR-FF-WW", Heavy Industrial Design Review Waterway Floodway Fringe.
 The parcel is 6.84 acres in size and is developed with an auto body shop.
- East: "A-WW-FF", Agriculture Waterway Floodway Fringe. Parcel is 26.92 acres in size and is developed with a vineyard.
- South: "C3-DR-WW-FF", Service Commercial Design Review Waterway Floodway Fringe. Parcel is 8.53 acres in size and is developed with multiple shop lease spaces.
- West: "M2-DR-WW-FF", Heavy Industrial Design Review Waterway Floodway Fringe. Parcel is 4.40 acres in size and is undeveloped.



Source: Lake County GIS Mapping

18. Other public agencies whose approval is required (e.g., Permits, financing approval, or participation agreement).

The extent of this environmental review falls within the scope of the Lead Agency, the Lake County Community Development Department, and its review for compliance with the Lake County General Plan, the Kelseyville Area Plan, the Lake County Zoning Ordinance, and the Lake County Municipal Code. Other organizations in the review process for permitting purposes, financial approval, or participation agreement can include but are not limited to:

- Lake County Community Development Department
- Lake County Department of Environmental Health
- Lake County Air Quality Management District

- Lake County Department of Public Works
- Lake County Department of Public Services
- Lake County Sheriff Department
- Kelseyville Fire Protection District,
- State Water Resources Control Board
- California Department of Fish & Wildlife (CDFW)
- California Department of Public Health
- California Department of Consumer Affairs
- California Department of Transportation (CalTrans)
- Federal Communications Commission (FCC)
- 19. Have California Native American tribes traditionally and culturally affiliated with the Project area requested consultation pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21080.3.1? If so, is there a plan for consultation that includes, for example, the determination of significance of impacts to tribal cultural resources, procedures regarding confidentiality, etc.?

Conducting consultation early in the CEQA process allows tribal governments, lead agencies, and Project proponents to discuss the level of environmental review, identify and address potential adverse impacts to tribal cultural resources, and reduce the potential for delay and conflict in the environmental review process, per Public Resources Code §21080.3.2. Information may also be available from the California Native American Heritage Commission's Sacred Lands File per Public Resources Code section 5097.96 and the California Historical Resources Information System administered by the California Office of Historic Preservation. Please also note that Public Resources Code section 21082.3 (c) contains provisions specific to confidentiality.

Lake County sent an AB52 notice to 11 Lake County-based Tribes on May 10, 2023, informing tribes of the proposed project and offering consultation under AB-52. As of June 14, 2023, only the Upper Lake Habematolel Tribe has responded, deferring to the Big Valley Tribe.

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.

\boxtimes	Aesthetics		Greenhouse Gas Emissions	Ш	Public Services	
	Agriculture & Forestry Resources		Hazards & Hazardous Materials		Recreation	
\boxtimes	Air Quality		Hydrology / Water Quality		Transportation	
\boxtimes	Biological Resources		Land Use / Planning	\boxtimes	Tribal Cultural Resources	
\boxtimes	Cultural Resources		Mineral Resources		Utilities / Service Systems	
	Energy	\boxtimes	Noise	\boxtimes	Wildfire	
	Geology / Soils		Population / Housing		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 sthere will not be a significant effect in this case because made by or agreed to by the Project proponent. A MITIC will be prepared.	e revisions in the Project have been
	I find that the proposed Project MAY have a significant ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.	t effect on the environment, and an
	I find that the proposed Project MAY have a "potential significant unless mitigated" impact on the environment adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant thas been addressed by mitigation measures based on attached sheets. An ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPonly the effects that remain to be addressed.	t, but at least one effect 1) has been o applicable legal standards, and 2) the earlier analysis as described on
	I find that although the proposed Project could have a secure all potentially significant effects (a) have bee EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION pursuant to applie avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR or NE revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed us further is required.	n analyzed adequately in an earlier cable standards and (b) have been GATIVE DECLARATION, including
Initial S	Study Prepared By: Eric Porter, Associate Planner	
Signat	ure: Eric J. Porter	Date: 6-14-2023
-	G. Turner, Director County Community Development Department	

SECTION 1

EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS:

- A brief explanation is required for all answers except "No Impact" answers that are adequately supported by the information sources a lead agency cites in the parentheses following each question. A "No Impact" answer is adequately supported if the referenced information sources show that the impact simply does not apply to Projects like the one involved (e.g., the Project falls outside a fault rupture zone). A "No Impact" answer should be explained where it is based on Project-specific factors as well as general standards (e.g., the Project will not expose sensitive receptors to pollutants, based on a Project-specific screening analysis).
- 2) All answers must take account of the whole action involved, including off-site as well as onsite, cumulative as well as Project-level, indirect as well as direct, and construction as well as operational impacts.
- 3) Once the lead agency has determined that a particular physical impact may occur, and then the checklist answers must indicate whether the impact is potentially significant, less than significant with mitigation, or less than significant. "Potentially Significant Impact" is appropriate if there is substantial evidence that an effect may be significant. If there are

one or more "Potentially Significant Impact" entries when the determination is made, an EIR is required.

- "Negative Declaration: Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated" applies where the incorporation of mitigation measures has reduced an effect from "Potentially Significant Impact" to a "Less Than Significant Impact." The lead agency must describe the mitigation measures, and briefly explain how they reduce the effect to a less than significant level (mitigation measures from Section XVII, "Earlier Analyses," may be cross-referenced).
- 5) Earlier analyses may be used where, pursuant to the tiering, program EIR, or other CEQA process, an effect has been adequately analyzed in an earlier EIR or negative declaration. Section 15063(c) (3) (D). In this case, a brief discussion should identify the following:
 - Earlier Analysis Used. Identify and state where they are available for review.
 - b) Impacts Adequately Addressed. Identify which effects from the above checklist were within the scope of and adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and state whether such effects were addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis.
 - c) Mitigation Measures. For effects that are "Less than Significant with Mitigation Measures Incorporated," describe the mitigation measures, which were incorporated or refined from the earlier document and the extent to which they address site-specific conditions for the Project.
- 6) Lead agencies are encouraged to incorporate into the checklist references to information sources for potential impacts (e.g., general plans, zoning ordinances). Reference to a previously prepared or outside document should, where appropriate, include a reference to the page or pages where the statement is substantiated.
- 7) Supporting Information Sources: A source list should be attached, and other sources used or individuals contacted should be cited in the discussion.
- 8) This is only a suggested form, and lead agencies are free to use different formats; however, lead agencies should normally address the questions from this checklist that are relevant to a Project's environmental effects in whatever format is selected.
- 9) The explanation of each issue should identify:
 - a) The significance criteria or threshold, if any, used to evaluate each question; and
 - b) The mitigation measure identified, if any, to reduce the impact to less than significance

l.	AESTHETICS	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Measures	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact	Source Number
	cept as provided in Public Resource Code Section 099, would the project:					
a)	Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?		\boxtimes			1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9
b)	Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?					2, 3, 4, 9

C)	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?			1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9
d)	Would the project create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?		\boxtimes	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9

a) The tower will be located on a flat portion of the project site. The 150' tower and site are not in a mapped scenic corridor, and the lot is not zoned as being in a Scenic Combining overlay district, which would not apply to commercial or industrial projects. Some screening of the equipment area is both proposed and required-the following mitigation measures are added:

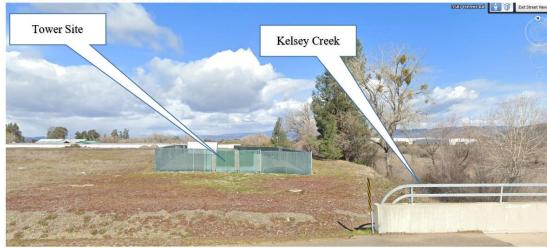
FIGURE 4 – VIEW OF SITE FROM MERRITT ROAD

PROPOSED



Source: Google Earth Pro 2023

FIGURE 5 – VIEW OF SITE FROM MERRITT ROAD



Source: Google Earth Pro 2023

- AES-1: Prior to operation, the applicant shall install a minimum 8' tall screening fence around the tower's lease area. Fabric screening shall not be used due to poor durability; the screening material shall be chain link with slats, or a solid wood or metal fence..
- AES-2: All lighting shall be downcast and shall not be directly visible from public roads or neighboring lots. All lighting shall comply with fixture recommendations found in darksky.org.
- AES-3: Approval is for a 150' tall Monopine cell tower. Any changes to the appearance of the tower will require a new use permit application.

Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Measure AES-1 through AES-3 incorporated

b) The proposed project will be highly visible from Big Valley Road, Merritt Road and Loasa Road, as well as from downtown Kelseyville, which is one to two blocks to the south of the tower. There are no trees, rock outcroppings or historic buildings on the project site.

Less than Significant Impact

c) The site is located in an urban area of the township of Kelseyville. The area contains heavy industrial and heavy commercial uses, however the tower will be highly visible from neighbors within the surrounding area. The applicant has made an attempt to disguise the tower by designing the tower to look like a pine tree.

Less Than Significant with mitigation measures added

d) The project has potential to create additional light based on FAA lighting that is typically required for certain cell towers. The lighting is for aircraft safety, and is exempt from County's dark skies lighting regulations; therefore this project is regarded as being 'less than significant' regarding security lighting.

Less than Significant Impact

П.	AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY RESOURCES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Measures	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact	Source Number
Wo	ould 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?				\boxtimes	1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 11, 13, 39
b)	Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?					1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 11, 13
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))?				\boxtimes	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 11, 13
d)	Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?					1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9
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?				\boxtimes	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 11, 13

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 Dept. 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.

a) The project site is zoned M2, Heavy Industrial. The site is developed with an industrial use, and no agriculture is proposed on site or in the vicinity, which is an urbanized area.

No Impact

b) The site is zoned Heavy Industrial and is not under a Williamson Act contract, nor are the neighboring sites.

No Impact

	c)	The project site is zoned "M2" Heavy Indunor has it been used historically for timber			l for forestla	ınd or tin	nberland,
		No Impact					
	d)	The project will not result in the loss or on timber production is occurring on the l		of forest la	nd to a nor	ı-forest ı	use since
		No Impact					
	e)	As proposed, this project would not induct its conversion to non-agricultural use.	e changes	to existing	farmland th	at would	d result in
		No Impact					
Ш	l. <i>i</i>	AIR QUALITY	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Measures	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact	Source Number
Wo	uld	the project:					
a)		onflict with or obstruct implementation of the oplicable air quality plan?					1, 3, 4, 5, 21, 24, 31, 36
b)	ar nc	esult in a cumulatively considerable net increase of by criteria pollutant for which the project region is on-attainment under and applicable federal or state inbient air quality standard?				\boxtimes	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 21, 24, 31, 36
c)		spose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant encentrations?				\boxtimes	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 10, 21, 24, 31, 36
d)	OC	esult in other emissions (such as those leading to lors or dust) adversely affecting a substantial limber of people?				\boxtimes	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 21, 24, 31, 36
Disc	cus	ssion:					
		e available, the significance criteria estable or air pollution control district may be rel					
	a)	The Project site is located within the Lak of the Lake County Air Quality Managem pollution regulations to all major stational Lake County Air Basin is in attainment with the	nent Distric ary pollution	t (LCAQME n sources a	D). The LCA and monitor	AQMD a	pplies air ality. The
		The project will have minimal site distured regarding air quality. Emissions that mathe tower will be insignificant.					
		No Impact					

b) The Project area is in the Lake County Air Basin, which is designated as in attainment for state and federal air quality standards for criteria pollutants (CO, SO₂, NO_x, O₃, PM₁₀, PM_{2.5}, VOC, ROG, Pb). Any Project with daily emissions that exceed any of the thresholds of significance for these criteria pollutants should be considered as having an individually and cumulatively significant impact on both a direct and cumulative basis.

The project will not generate significant levels of pollutants during construction or operations. The construction will take two to three weeks with a total estimated number of vehicle trips of up to 240 trips for construction-related traffic. The tower will be unmanned, and no daily vehicle trips other than occasional maintenance trips will result.

No Impact

c) Sensitive receptors (i.e., children, senior citizens, and acutely or chronically ill people) are more susceptible to the effects of air pollution than the general population. Land uses that are considered sensitive receptors typically include residences, schools, playgrounds, childcare centers, hospitals, convalescent homes, and retirement homes.

The project will not generate measurable pollutants. The construction traffic is estimated to consist of up to 240 vehicle trips over a two- to three-week period. Local contractors will likely be used to install the tower, resulting in few miles traveled.

According to the EPA, a typical vehicle produces 404 grams of CO2 emissions per vehicle mile traveled. The construction equivalent of 'vehicle miles' would be construction equipment operating over a three-week period for up to four hours per day. If a mile of travel were compared to on-site construction equipment preparing the site, one mile is roughly equal to fifteen minutes of vehicles idling. Assuming four vehicles operating at the same time (actual will probably be one vehicle at any given time), and assuming a four-hour run time for each vehicle, the 'worst case' scenario for emissions is four vehicle mile equivalent per vehicle per hour, or 16 vehicle miles per vehicle, or 64 vehicle miles per vehicle per week which equals about 196 vehicle miles over the course of construction.

The total projected amount of emissions would be 79,184 grams of CO₂ over the course of construction, which equals 0.079 tons of emissions over a three week construction period. No CO₂ emissions that are measurable would occur during operations.

Lake County Air Quality does not have thresholds of significance and uses Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) standards for thresholds of significance. BAAQMD levels of significance are 1,100 tons of CO₂ per project. At the projected emissions rate, it would take over 13,900 years for the project to meet 'thresholds of significance' for CO₂ emissions.

No Impact

d) The tower site is located in an industrial area of Kelseyville. The cell tower will not produce any odors or emissions following construction, and the construction-related impacts are negligible.

No Impact

I۱	. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Measures	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact	Source Number
Wo	ould 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?		\boxtimes			2, 5, 11, 12, 13, 16, 24, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 45
b)	Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, and regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?					1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 11, 12, 13, 16, 17, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 45
c)	Have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including, not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal wetlands, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?					1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 11, 12, 13, 16, 17, 21, 24, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 45
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?					13
e)	Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?					1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 11, 12, 13
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?				\boxtimes	1, 2, 3, 5, 6

a) A Biological Assessment (BA) of the Project Property was prepared by AJM Ecological Solutions, LLC, and is dated April 28, 2023. A ±4.2 acre portion of the ±10.10 acre site was evaluated; of the ±4.2 acres, ±3.7 acres are developed with buildings and pavement; ±0.27 acres are 'disturbed areas', and ±0.23 acres are riparian areas next to Kelsey Creek.

The BA concludes that the site is dominated by previously disturbed land but makes five mitigation measure suggestions that are incorporated into this document as required mitigation measures in order to protect sensitive species (none were observed) that might be on site.

The following mitigation measures are added to protect potentially sensitive species:

- BIO-1: Work should occur outside the rainy season October 15th (or the first measurable rainfall of 1 inch or greater) and March 15th when both species are most active.
- BIO-2: If work occurs during the rainy season, exclusion fencing should be installed between Kelsey Creek and the proposed work area. Employees and contractors performing construction related activities should receive environmental sensitivity training. Training will include a review of environmental laws and Avoidance and Minimization Measures (AMMs) that must be followed by all personnel to reduce or avoid effects on covered species during construction activities.
- of vegetation and the initiation of construction can be done in the non-breeding season between September and January. If these activities cannot be done in the non-breeding season, a qualified biologist shall perform pre-construction breeding bird surveys within 7 days of the onset of construction or clearing of vegetation. If active breeding bird nests are observed, no ground disturbance activities shall occur within a minimum 100-foot exclusion zone. These exclusion zones may vary depending on species, habitat, and level of disturbance. The exclusion zone shall remain in place around the active nest until all young are no longer dependent upon the nest. A biologist should monitor the nest site weekly during the breeding season to ensure the buffer is sufficient to protect the nest site from potential disturbances.
- BIO-4: To avoid the WOUS and riparian habitat, consideration should be given to relocating the proposed Merritt Road access route such that it does not result in fill activities to these jurisdictional features.
- BIO-5: If the proposed access from Merritt Road cannot be redesigned to avoid fill
 activities within jurisdictional features, a wetland delineation should be completed to
 determine the actual top of bank and extent of riparian habitat.

Less Than Significant Impact with mitigation measures added

b) The tower lease area is located about 10 feet from the top of bank for Kelsey Creek. It is not clear whether the applicant is proposing the removal of riparian vegetation to accommodate the project. The BA placed a mitigation measure on restrictions related to fill near the riparian area and recommended that the driveway shown from Merritt Road be relocated to a place where potential fill would not conflict with the Creek. This was added as a mitigation measure.

Less Than Significant Impact with mitigation measures added

c) There is a federally-protected wetland located about 10 feet from the edge of the lease area.

Less Than Significant Impact

d) The BA indicates that in-season site visits were made to survey for in-season floristic mapping, and aquatic resource identification. The surveying Biologist did not see any listed species according to the study but put mitigation measures in place in the event of

inadvertent discovery, which were added as mitigation measures BIO-1 through BIO-5. The Study Area was also assessed for the presence of potential jurisdictional water features, including riparian areas, isolated wetlands and vernal pools, and other biologically-sensitive aquatic habitats.

The Study concluded that "no critical habitat for any Federally-protected species occurs in the Project Area or surrounding Study Area during the field survey other than ephemeral watercourses.

Less than Significant Impact

e) The proposed project would be consistent with all Lake County ordinances related to the protection of biological resources, because there are no protected biological resources present on the project site. The proposed project would not affect any wetlands, ephemeral drainages, or other sensitive habitats protected by the Lake County Code and Zoning Ordinance. According to the material submitted and aerial photos of the site, no tree removal will be required, so no County tree removal policies or ordinances apply.

Less than Significant Impact

f) No adopted Habitat Conservation Plans, Natural Community Conservation Plans, or other local, regional, or state habitat conservation plans have been adopted for the Project area and no impacts are anticipated.

No Impact

V	. CULTURAL RESOURCES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Measures	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact	Source Number
Wo	ould the project:					
a)	Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to §15064.5?		\boxtimes			1, 3, 4, 5, 11, 14c, 15
b)	Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archeological resource pursuant to §15064.5?					1, 3, 4, 5, 11, 14, 15
c)	Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?		\boxtimes			1, 3, 4, 5, 11, 14, 15

a) A Cultural Resource Evaluation (CRE) was prepared for this project by EBI Consulting and is dated March 31, 2023.

The Evaluation also stated that although it is possible that some significant relics or artifacts may exist on the site that were not seen during the site survey, the project should proceed as planned. The Evaluation also stated that it was unlikely that human remains exist on the site, but stated that if inadvertent discovery were to occur, that the Tribe and a qualified Archaeologist be made aware of the discovery. The County also requires the Sheriff's Department to be notified in the event of such inadvertent discoveries; mitigation measures are added to address this occurrence if it were to happen.

The County sent all eleven tribes based on Lake County an AB 52 notice on September 4, 2020, informing tribes of the proposed project and offering consultation under AB-52. One of the 11 notified Tribes, the Upper Lake Habematolel Pomo Tribe, responded to the notice, deferring to the Big Valley Tribe. The Big Valley Tribe did not respond to the notice.

Because of the rich Tribal heritage present in Lake County, particularly near waterways such as Kelsey Creek, the following mitigation measures are added as a precautionary measure:

- CUL-1: Should any archaeological, paleontological, or cultural materials be discovered during site development, all activity shall be halted in the vicinity of the find(s), the applicant shall notify the culturally affiliated Tribe, and a qualified archaeologist to evaluate the find(s) and recommend mitigation procedures, if necessary, subject to the approval of the Community Development Director. Should any human remains be encountered, the applicant shall notify the Sheriff's Department, the culturally affiliated Tribe, and a qualified archaeologist for proper internment and Tribal rituals per Public Resources Code Section 5097.98 and Health and Safety Code 7050.5.
- CUL-2: All employees shall be trained in recognizing potentially significant artifacts
 that may be discovered during ground disturbance. If any artifacts or remains are
 found, the culturally affiliated Tribe shall immediately be notified; a licensed
 archaeologist shall be notified, and the Lake County Community Development
 Director shall be notified of such finds.

Less than Significant Impacts with Mitigation Measures CUL-1 and CUL-2 incorporated.

b) Site disturbance will take place as part of project and site preparation, so there is a potential for inadvertent discovery of as-of-yet undiscovered resources during project construction. Therefore, this impact is considered significant. Mitigation measures CUL-1 and CUL-2 will reduce potential effects of inadvertent discovery to less than significant levels.

Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Measures CUL-1 and CUL-2 incorporated.

c) The Project site does not contain a cemetery and no known formal cemeteries are located within the immediate site vicinity. In the event that human remains are discovered on the Project site, the Project would be required to comply with the applicable provisions of Health and Safety Code §7050.5, Public Resources Code §5097 et. seq. and CEQA Guidelines §15064.5(e). California Health and Safety Code §7050.5 states that no further disturbance shall occur until the County Coroner has made the necessary findings as to origin. Pursuant to California Public Resources Code §5097.98(b), remains shall be left in place and free from disturbance until a final decision as to the treatment and disposition has been made by the Coroner.

If the Coroner determines the remains to be Native American, the California Native American Heritage Commission must be contacted and the Native American Heritage Commission must then immediately notify the "most likely descendant(s)" of receiving notification of the discovery. The most likely descendant(s) shall then make recommendations within 48 hours, and engage in consultations concerning the treatment of the remains as provided in Public Resources Code §5097.98. Mandatory compliance with these requirements would ensure that potential impacts associated with the accidental discovery of human remains would be less than significant.

Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Measures CUL-1 and CUL-2 incorporated.

V	I.	ENERGY	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Measures	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact	Source Number		
Wo	Would the project:								
a)	im co	esult in potentially significant environmental pacts due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary insumption of energy resource, during construction operation?					5		
b)		onflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for newable energy or energy efficiency?			\boxtimes		1, 3, 4, 5		
Dis	cus	ssion:							
	a)	The project consists of a 150 foot tall renclosure. The tower and support equipminimal power demands, and there are	oment will	use 'on gri	d' power. (Cell tow			
		PG&E was notified of this project and sent a response on May 26, 2023 indicating that there were no grid capacity issues, and that the tower could be served by on-grid power.							
		Less than Significant Impact							
	b)	There are no requirements for renewable	energy for	cell towers	S.				
		Less Than Significant Impact							

V	II. GEOLOGY AND SOILS	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Measures	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact	Source Number
Wo	ould the project:					
a)	Directly or indirectly cause potentially 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?					1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 18, 19
b)	Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?			\boxtimes		1, 3, 4, 5, 19, 21, 24, 25, 30
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-site or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?					1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 9, 18, 21
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?			\boxtimes		5, 7, 39
e)	Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?					2, 4, 5, 7, 13, 39
f)	Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?			\boxtimes		1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 14, 15

a) The Project site is located in a seismically active area of California and is expected to experience moderate to severe ground shaking during the lifetime of the Project. That risk is not considered substantially different than that of other similar properties and projects in California.

Earthquake Faults (i)

According to the USGS Earthquake Faults map available on the Lake County GIS Portal, there are no mapped earthquake faults within two miles of the Project Property. Thus, no rupture of a known earthquake fault is anticipated and the proposed Project would not expose people or structures to an adverse effects related rupture of a known earthquake fault as no structures for human occupancy are being proposed. Further, the 150' tall tower is set back 155' from Merritt Road. If the tower were to collapse during an earthquake, it would not impede traffic movement on Merritt Road.

Seismic Ground Shaking (ii) and Seismic-Related Ground Failure, including liquefaction (iii) Lake County contains numerous known active faults. Future seismic events in the Northern California region can be expected to produce seismic ground shaking at the site. All proposed construction is required to be built under Current Seismic Safety Construction Standards.

Landslides (iv)

The Project site is flat where the cultivation activities will occur. According to the Landslide Hazard Identification Map prepared by the California Department of Conservation's Division of Mines and Geology, the area is considered generally stable. As such, the Project site is considered unlikely to be susceptible to landslides and will not likely expose people or structures to substantial adverse effects involving landslides, including losses, injuries or death.

Less Than Significant Impact

b) Some grading for tower and equipment pad preparation and utility trenching is likely to prepare the site for the tower and equipment. It is highly improbable that more than 50 cubic yards of earth will be disturbed, and no grading permit appears to be needed.

Less Than Significant Impact

c) The project property is generally flat except on the banks of Kelsey Creek, where there is some slope. According to the Landslide Hazard Identification Map, prepared by the California Department of Conservation, Division of Mines and Geology, the project parcel is not located within and/or adjacent to an existing known "landslide area".

Less Than Significant Impact

d) The soil on the site is type 248 soil, "Xerofluvents, Very Gravelly". This soil type is found next to waterways such as Kelsey Creek. This soil type is characterized by having slow runoff, rapid permeability, and is a poor soil for crop production. The soil type has no obvious detrimental aspects that might otherwise affect the proposed cell tower.

Less Than Significant Impact

e) The proposed project will be unmanned and will not have any need for plumbing, septic systems or on-site water sources.

No Impact

f) According to the Cultural Assessment submitted, the project site does not contain any known unique geologic feature or paleontological resources that might otherwise require protection or avoidance.

Less than Significant Impact

V	III. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Measures	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact	Source Number		
Wc	Would the project:							
a)	Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?			\boxtimes		1, 3, 4, 5, 36		
b)	Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?			\boxtimes		1, 3, 4, 5, 36		

Discussion:

a) The Project Property is located within the Lake County Air Basin, which is under the jurisdiction of the Lake County Air Quality Management District (LCAQMD). The LCAQMD applies air pollution regulations to all major stationary pollution sources and monitors countywide air quality. Climate change is caused by greenhouse gases (GHGs) emitted into the atmosphere around the world from a variety of sources, including the combustion of fuel for energy and transportation, cement manufacturing, and refrigerant emissions. GHGs are those gases that have the ability to trap heat in the atmosphere, a process that is analogous to the way a greenhouse traps heat. GHGs may be emitted as a result of human activities, as well as through natural processes. Increasing GHG concentrations in the atmosphere are leading to global climate change. The Lake County Air Basin is in attainment for all air pollutants and has therefore not adopted thresholds of significance for GHG emissions.

The proposed Project consists of a 150' tall cell tower inside a 24' x 92' enclosure that will contain mechanical equipment needed to serve the tower. The tower will be unmanned during operations, with an estimated 240 vehicle trips occurring over up to a three-week period of time for construction. Annual trips are anticipated to be one trip every three months for routine maintenance.

Lake County uses the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) thresholds of significance as a basis for determining the significance of air quality and GHG impacts. The BAAQMD threshold of significance for a project is 1,100 metric tons of CO₂ emissions per project. As stated in the Air Quality section of this document, the projected amount of CO₂ emissions is about 0.071 tons during construction, and virtually no emissions during operations.

Construction emissions and operational emissions were calculated using the California Emissions Estimator Model (CalEEMod®), Version 2016.3.2. Construction and operational CO₂ emissions are summarized above. The results are expressed as a range of potential emissions. To magnify any air quality impacts, the model was run using the worst-case

scenario of 240 total vehicle trips during construction, and emission estimates are reported here using the unmitigated emission values. Air emissions modeling performed for this project demonstrates that the project, in both the construction phase and the operational phase, would not generate significant quantities of greenhouse gases and does not exceed the project-level thresholds established by BAAQMD.

Less than Significant Impact

- b) For purposes of this analysis, the Project was evaluated against the following applicable plans, policies, and regulations:
 - The Lake County General Plan
 - The Lake County Air Quality Management District
 - AB 32 Climate Change Scoping Plan
 - AB 1346 Air Pollution: Small Off-Road Equipment

Policy HS-3.6 of the Lake County General Plan on Regional Agency Review of Development Proposals states that the "County shall solicit and consider comments from local and regional agencies on proposed projects that may affect regional air quality. The County shall continue to submit development proposals to the Lake County Air Quality Management District for review and comment, in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) prior to consideration by the County." The proposed Project was sent out for review from the LCAQMD and the only concern was restricting the use of an onsite generator to emergency situations only.

The Lake County Air Basin is in attainment for all air pollutants with a high air quality level, and therefore the LCAQMD has not adopted an Air Quality Management Plan, but rather uses its rules and regulations for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases. The proposed Project does not conflict with any existing LCAQMD or BAAQMD rules or regulations and would therefore have a less than significant impact.

The 2017 AB Climate Change Scoping Plan recognizes that local government efforts to reduce emissions within their jurisdiction are critical to achieving the State's long term GHG goals, which includes a primary target of no more than six (6) metric tons CO₂e per capita by 2030 and no more than two (2) metric tons CO₂e per capita by 2050. The Project will have up to three individuals working on site during construction, and no employees during operations.

On October 9, 2021, AB 1346 Air Pollution: Small Off-Road Equipment (SORE) was passed, which will require the state board, by July 1, 2022, consistent with federal law, to adopt cost-effective and technologically feasible regulations to prohibit engine exhaust and evaporative emissions from new small off-road engines, as defined by the state board. The bill would require the state board to identify and, to the extent feasible, make available funding for commercial rebates or similar incentive funding as part of any updates to existing applicable funding program guidelines to local air pollution control districts and air quality management districts to implement to support the transition to zero-emission small off-road equipment operations, and the applicant should be aware of and expected to make a transition away from SOREs by the required future date.

Less than Significant Impact

IX	MATERIALS	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Measures	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact	Source Number	
Wc	Would the project:						
a)	Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?				\boxtimes	1, 3, 5, 13, 21, 24, 29, 31, 32, 33, 34	
b)	Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonable foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?				\boxtimes	1, 3, 5, 13, 21, 24, 29, 31, 32, 33, 34	
c)	Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?				\boxtimes	1, 2, 5	
d)	Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?				\boxtimes	2, 40	
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?				\boxtimes	1, 3, 4, 5, 20, 22	
f)	Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?				\boxtimes	1, 3, 4, 5, 20, 22, 35, 37	
g)	Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires?				\boxtimes	1, 3, 4, 5, 20, 35, 37	

a) Chemicals

According to the applicant, no chemicals other than propane for the backup power generator will be stored on site. Spill containment during construction will be in place. Staging will occur on previously-disturbed areas on the site.

Solid Waste Management

The project will likely generate 200 to 300 pounds of solid waste during construction, and no solid waste during operations.

Site Maintenance

The site will be visited about every three months by a maintenance employee. The site is not expected to have any issues related to trash or other eyesores since it is fenced and unmanned. No Impact

b) The Project will not require any chemicals, fertilizers or other potentially harmful elements other than propane for the backup generator. The risk of the release of hazardous substances is extremely minimal.

No Impact

c) There are no schools located within one-quarter mile of the proposed Project site. The nearest school is Kelseyville High School, which is located about two miles south of the Project site.

No Impact

d) The California Environmental Protection Agency (CALEPA) has the responsibility for compiling information about sites that may contain hazardous materials, such as hazardous waste facilities, solid waste facilities where hazardous materials have been reported, leaking underground storage tanks and other sites where hazardous materials have been detected. Hazardous materials include all flammable, reactive, corrosive, or toxic substances that pose potential harm to the public or environment.

The following databases compiled pursuant to Government Code §65962.5 were checked for known hazardous materials contamination within ¼-mile of the project site:

- The SWRCB GeoTracker database
- The Department of Toxic Substances Control EnviroStor database
- The SWRCB list of solid waste disposal sites with waste constituents above hazardous waste levels outside the waste management unit.

The Project site is not listed in any of these databases as a site containing hazardous materials as described above.

No Impact

e) The Project site is located about five miles from Lampson Field, the nearest public airport. Lampson Field is administered by the Lake County Airport Land Use Commission, which has not adopted an Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan. There will be no hazard for people working in the Project area from a public airport.

No Impact

f) The Project would not impair or interfere with an adopted emergency response or evacuation plan. Following construction, the project will generate virtually no additional vehicle trips, and no change to the existing road network is needed.

No Impact

g) The Project site is not located within a mapped fire hazard severity zone. The entire site is located in an AE floodplain, and assuming the tower is approved, will need to meet specific anchoring requirements overseen by Lake County Building and Water Resource Departments. .

Less than Significant Impact

Y HYDDOLOGY AND WATED		Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Measures	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact	Source Number
Wo	ould the project:					
a)	Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or ground water quality?				\boxtimes	1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 29, 30
b)	Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?				\boxtimes	1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 29, 30, 45
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 that would: i) Result in substantial erosion or siltation on-site 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?					1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 15, 18, 29, 32, 45
d)	In any flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?					1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 9, 23, 32
e)	Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?					1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 29
ς.						

a) The Project will generate very little storm water runoff. The pad is 24' x 92' in total area (2,208 square feet / sf). Construction would occur during non-rainy season months depending on when the actual land use approval occurs.

Less Than Significant Impact

b) The Lake County Board of Supervisors passed an Urgency Ordinance (Ordinance 3106) on July 27, 2021, requiring land use applicants to provide enhanced water analysis during a declared drought emergency, however the tower will not require water; therefore there is no purpose served to requiring a Water Analysis and Drought Management Plan for this project.

Less Than Significant Impact

c)	c) The project will have 2,208 sf of non-permeable surface. Due to the small footprint of tower and equipment area, no additional stormwater plans are needed.							
	Less than Significant Impact							
d)	The Project site is not located in an area or tsunami. The Project site is located will be put in place for anchoring the tow review.	vithin an Al	E flood plai	n, and des	ign requ	irements		
	Less than Significant Impact							
e)	There are no groundwater management time.	plans for th	ne affected	groundwate	er basin	(s) at this		
	Less than Significant Impact							
XI.	LAND USE PLANNING	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Measures	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact	Source Number		
Would	I the project:							
a) Pl	hysically divide an established community?				\boxtimes	1, 2, 3, 5, 6		
ac	ause a significant environmental impact due to a onflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation dopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an anvironmental effect?			\boxtimes		1, 3, 4, 5, 20, 21, 22, 27		
Discus	ssion:							
a)	The Project Property is located in an incomer and support equipment would be further overall community in regards to divide	ully contain	ed on site,					
	No Impact							
b)	The proposed Project is consistent with the Plan, and would provide better cell photoassociated with the tower.							
	Less than Significant Impact							
XII.	MINERAL RESOURCES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Measures	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact	Source Number		
Would	I the project:							

a)	res	sult in the loss of availability of a known mineral source that would be of value to the region and the sidents of the state?				\boxtimes	1, 3, 4, 5, 26
b)	mir	esult in the loss of availability of a locally important neral resource recovery site delineated on a local neral plan, specific plan, or other land use plan?				\boxtimes	1, 3, 4, 5, 26
Disc	cus	sion:					
	a)	The soil type on this site is used in grave site for mineral resources.	el extraction	n, however	the site is	not on a	mapped
		Less Than Significant Impact					
	b)	The zoning of the site (heavy industrial) that can be used as base for roads and but on the site in the past, and none is being	ıildings, hov	•	•		•
		Less Than Significant Impact					
X	III.	NOISE	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Measures	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact	Source Number
Wo	uld	the project:					
a)	vic est ord	sult in the generation of a substantial temporary or rmanent increase in ambient noise levels in the inity of the project in excess of standards tablished in the local general plan or noise dinance, or applicable standards of other encies?			\boxtimes		1, 3, 4, 5, 13
b)		sult in the generation of excessive ground-borne ration or ground-borne noise levels?			\boxtimes		1, 3, 4, 5, 13
c)	air: pla pul exp	r a project located within the vicinity of a private strip or an airport land use plan or, where such a an has not been adopted, within two miles of a blic airport or public use airport, would the project pose people residing or working in the project ea to excessive noise levels?				\boxtimes	1, 3, 4, 5, 11, 14, 15
Disc	cus	sion:					
	a)	Some noise during construction will occu	ır. howeve	r constructi	on hours a	re limite	d to 7:00

a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, so the likelihood of noise-related impacts is minimal. The area contains industrial uses that are less susceptible to noise, and higher decibel levels are permitted on commercial and industrially-zoned land than in other zoning districts.

Less than Significant Impact

ŀ	b)	There are no known sources of ground-borne vibration or noise that affect the Project site such as railroad lines or truck routes. Therefore, the Project would not create any exposure to substantial ground-borne vibration or noise.									
		Less Than Significant Impact									
(c)	The Project site is located over five mile would not expose people residing or wor from air travel.									
		No Impact									
ΧI	V.	POPULATION AND HOUSING	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Measures	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact	Source Number				
Wo	uld	the project:									
a)	an ne ex	duce substantial unplanned population growth in area, either directly (for example, by proposing w homes and businesses) or indirectly (for ample, through extension of roads or other rastructure)?				\boxtimes	1, 3, 4, 5				
b)	ho	splace substantial numbers of existing people or using, necessitating the construction of placement housing elsewhere?				\boxtimes	1, 3, 4, 5				
Disc	us	sion:									
á	a)	The Project will not generate population	growth to th	ne area.							
		No Impact									
ŀ	b)	The Project will not displace any existing	housing.								
		No Impact									
X\	√.	PUBLIC SERVICES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Measures	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact	Source Number				
Wo	uld	the project:									
a)	as alt ph co en	esult in substantial adverse physical impacts sociated with the provision of new or physically ered governmental facilities, need for new or ysically altered governmental facilities, the instruction of which could cause significant vironmental impacts, in order to maintain ceptable service ratios, response times or other					1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 20, 21, 22, 23, 27, 28, 29, 32, 33, 34, 36, 37				

	services: 1) Fire Protection? 2) Police Protection? 3) Schools? 4) Parks? 5) Other Public Facilities?					
Disc	ussion:					
a	a) The Project has very little impact on publittle power to operate. The tower required demand on police or fire services. The which would be used by emergency services.	es no wate tower will p	r or sewer, provide add	and is unli	kely to p	olace any
	No Impact					
X۱	/I. RECREATION	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Measures	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact	Source Number
Wou	ald 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?				\boxtimes	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
	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?				\boxtimes	1, 3, 4, 5
Disc	ussion:					
a	a) The project places no demand on local p	arks.				
	No Impact					
t	o) The project does not include any recreat or expansion of existing recreational facilities.		ies and will	not require	the cor	struction
	No Impact					
X۷	/II. TRANSPORTATION	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Measures	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact	Source Number
Wou	uld the project:					
	Conflict with a program plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities?					1, 3, 4, 5, 9, 20, 22, 27, 28, 35

performance objectives for any of the public

b)	For a land use project, would the project conflict with or be inconsistent with CEQA guidelines section 15064.3, subdivision (b)(1)?			\boxtimes	1, 3, 4, 5, 9, 20, 22, 27, 28, 35
c)	For a transportation project, would the project conflict with or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3, subdivision (b)(2)?			\boxtimes	1, 3, 4, 5, 9, 20, 22, 27, 28, 35
d)	Substantially increase hazards due to geometric design features (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?			\boxtimes	1, 3, 4, 5, 9, 20, 22, 27, 28, 35
e)	Result in inadequate emergency access?		\boxtimes		1, 3, 4, 5, 9, 20, 22, 27, 28, 35

a) The site is accessed from Big Valley Road and Merritt Road, both paved County-maintained roads. No changes to these roads are needed to accommodate the project.

No Impact

b) State CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.3, Subdivision (b) states that for land use projects, transportation impacts are to be measured by evaluating the proposed Project's vehicle miles traveled (VMT).

Construction trips are projected to be up to 240 vehicle miles traveled, assuming one vehicle mile per trip.

To date, the County has not yet formally adopted its transportation significance thresholds or its transportation impact analysis procedures. As a result, the project-related VMT impacts were assessed based on guidelines described by the California Office of Planning and Research (OPR) in the publication *Transportation Impacts (SB 743) CEQA Guidelines Update and Technical Advisory*, 2018. The OPR Technical Advisory identifies several criteria that may be used to identify certain types of projects that are unlikely to have a significant VMT impact and can be "screened" from further analysis. One of these screening criteria pertains to small projects, which OPR defines as those generating fewer than 110 new vehicle trips per day on average. OPR specifies that VMT should be based on a typical weekday and averaged over the course of the year to take into consideration seasonal fluctuations.

The proposed Project would not generate or attract more than 110 trips per day during construction, and will generate up to four vehicle trips per year during operations.

No Impact

c) The Project is not a transportation project. The proposed use will not conflict with and/or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.3, subdivision (b)(2).

No Impact

d) The Project does not propose any changes to road alignment or other features, does not result in the introduction of any obstacles, nor does it involve incompatible uses that could increase traffic hazards. No Impact e) The proposed Project would not alter the physical configuration of the existing roadway network serving the area and will have no effect on access to local streets or adjacent uses, including access for emergency vehicles.

No Impact

X	VIII. TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Measures	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact	Source Number
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)?		\boxtimes			1, 3, 4, 5, 11, 14, 15
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, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe?					1, 3, 4, 5, 11, 14, 15

Discussion:

a) A Cultural Resource Evaluation (CRE) was prepared for this project by EBI Consulting and is dated March 31, 2023.

The summary indicated that no cultural resources were discovered within the project boundaries that were surveyed.

The Evaluation also stated that although it is possible that some significant relics or artifacts may exist on the site that were not seen during the site survey, the project should proceed as planned. The Evaluation also stated that it was unlikely that human remains exist on the site, but stated that if inadvertent discovery were to occur, that the Tribe and a qualified Archaeologist be made aware of the discovery. The County also requires the Sheriff's Department to be notified in the event of such inadvertent discoveries; mitigation measures are added to address this occurrence if it were to happen.

The County sent all eleven tribes based on Lake County an AB 52 notice on March 23, 2023, informing tribes of the proposed project and offering consultation under AB-52. Of the 11 notified Tribes, only the Upper Lake Habematolel Tribe responded to the notice and deferred to the Big Valley Tribe, who did not respond.

The County routinely places mitigation measures on any commercial project that involves earth disturbance. In this case, mitigation measures CUL-1 and CUL-2 have been added to further protect any potentially significant artifacts, relics or remains that may be inadvertently discovered during site disturbance.

Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Measures CUL-1 and CUL-2 incorporated.

b) No prehistoric sites were discovered during the field survey conducted for the CRE. The lead agency has determined that, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, no resources pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code section 5024.1 will be affected by the Project with implementation of mitigation measures CUL-1 and CUL-2.

Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Measures CUL-1 and CUL-2 added

X	IX. UTILITIES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Measures	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact	Source Number
Wo	ould 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?				\boxtimes	1, 3, 4, 5, 29, 32, 33, 34, 37, 45
b)	Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years?				\boxtimes	1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 22, 31, 45
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?				\boxtimes	1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 22
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?				\boxtimes	1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 35, 36
e)	Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?				\boxtimes	1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 35, 36

Discussion:

- a) The proposed Project will be served by on-grid power. No other public utilities are needed.
 - No Impact
- b) The tower does not require water to operate. No Impact

	c)	The Project will not require any on-site sthan on-grid power.	sewer, sept	ic, water o	r other pub	lic servi	ces other
		No Impact					
	d)	It is estimated that 200 to 300 pounds of would be generated during operations. T to accept the construction-related waste	he Lake Co	ounty landfi			
		No Impact					
	e)	The Project will be in compliance with fed statutes and regulations related to solid		, and local	manageme	ent and i	reduction
		No Impact					
X	X.	WILDFIRE	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Measures	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact	Source Number
clas	ssifi	ed in or near state responsibility areas or lands ed as very high fire hazard severity zones, would pject:					
a)		abstantially impair an adopted emergency sponse plan or emergency evacuation plan?				\boxtimes	1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 23, 25, 28, 29
b)	an the co	ould the project, due to slope, prevailing winds, d other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks, and ereby expose project occupants to pollutant ncentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled read of a wildfire?					1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 23, 25, 28, 29
c)	as en uti res	equire the installation or maintenance of sociated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, nergency water sources, power lines or other lities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may sult in temporary or ongoing impacts to the vironment?				\boxtimes	1, 2, 3, 5,
d)	ind lar	spose people or structures to significant risks, cluding downslope or downstream flooding or adslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope stability, or drainage changes?				\boxtimes	1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 21, 23, 32
		sion: The Project will not impair an adopted e	mergency	resnonse n	lan or evac	cuation r	olan The

Dis

Chapter 7, Subchapter 2, and Article 1 through 5 shall apply to this project; and all regulations of California Building Code, Chapter 7A, Section 701A, 701A.3.2.A.

No Impact

b) The Project site is not located in a mapped high fire area. No impact.

	c)	c) The proposed site improvements are limited to installing a 24' x 92' pad to house support equipment, and the 150' tall monopine cell tower.							
		No Impact							
	d)	There is little wildfire risk associated with	this projec	t.					
		No Impact							
Х	XI.	MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Measures	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact	Source Number		
a)	de rec a su an or an	pes the project have the potential to substantially agrade the quality of the environment, substantially duce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause fish or wildlife population to drop below self-staining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or imal community, substantially reduce the number restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or imal, or eliminate important examples of the major priods of California history or prehistory?		\boxtimes			ALL		
b)	lim eff co eff	bes the project have impacts that are individually nited, but cumulatively considerable? (incremental fects of a project are considerable when viewed in nnection with the effects of past projects, the fects of other current projects, and the effects of obable future projects)?		\boxtimes			ALL		
c)	wil	bes the project have environmental effects which Il cause substantial adverse effects on human ings, either directly or indirectly?		\boxtimes			ALL		
Disc	cus	ssion:							
	a)	The project proposes the installation of concrete pad with support equipment to		•	e cell towe	er on a	24' x 92'		
	The proposed Project does not 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 when mitigation measures are implemented.								
		Mitigation measures are listed herein to Biological Resources, and Cultural/Triba							
		Less than significant impact with mitigation	on measure	es added.					

b) Potentially significant impacts have been identified related to Aesthetics, Air Quality, Biological Resources, and Cultural / Tribal Resources. These impacts in combination with the impacts of other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future projects on the site could cumulatively contribute to significant effects on the environment.

Implementation of and compliance with the mitigation measures identified in each section as Project Conditions of Approval would avoid or reduce potential impacts to less than significant levels and would not result in any cumulatively considerable environmental impacts.

Less than significant impact with mitigation measures added

c) The proposed Project has the potential to result in adverse indirect or direct effects on human beings. In particular, Aesthetics, Air Quality, Biological Resources, and Cultural / Tribal Resources have the potential to impact human beings. Implementation of and compliance with the mitigation measures identified in each section as conditions of approval would not result in substantial adverse indirect or direct effects on human beings and impacts would be considered less than significant.

Less than significant with mitigation measures added

Impact Categories defined by CEQA

Source List

- 1. Lake County General Plan
- 2. Lake County GIS Database
- 3. Lake County Zoning Ordinance
- 4. Kelseyville Area Plan
- 5. Vertical Bridge Tower Application Major Use Permit.
- 6. U.S.G.S. Topographic Maps
- 7. U.S.D.A. Lake County Soil Survey
- 8. Lake County Important Farmland Map, California Department of Conservation Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program
- 9. Department of Transportation's Scenic Highway Mapping Program, (https://dot.ca.gov/programs/design/lap-landscape-architecture-and-community-livability/lap-liv-i-scenic-highways)
- 10. Lake County Serpentine Soil Mapping
- 11. California Natural Diversity Database (https://wildlife.ca.gov/Data/CNDDB)
- 12. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service National Wetlands Inventory
- 13. Biological Assessment (BA) of the Project Property, prepared by AJM Ecological Solutions, LLC, dated April 28, 2023.
- 14. Cultural Resource Evaluation (CRE), prepared by EBI Consulting, dated March 31, 2023.
- 15. California Historical Resource Information Systems (CHRIS); Northwest Information Center, Sonoma State University; Rohnert Park, CA.
- 16. Water Resources Division, Lake County Department of Public Works Wetlands Mapping.
- 17. U.S.G.S. Geologic Map and Structure Sections of the Clear Lake Volcanic, Northern California, Miscellaneous Investigation Series, 1995
- 18. Official Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone maps for Lake County

- Landslide Hazards in the Eastern Clear Lake Area, Lake County, California,
 Landslide Hazard Identification Map No. 16, California Department of Conservation,
 Division of Mines and Geology, DMG Open –File Report 89-27, 1990
- 20. Lake County Emergency Management Plan
- 21. Lake County Hazardous Waste Management Plan, adopted 1989
- 22. Lake County Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan, adopted 1992
- 23. California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection Fire Hazard Mapping
- 24. National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES)
- 25. FEMA Flood Hazard Maps
- 26. Lake County Aggregate Resource Management Plan
- 27. Lake County Bicycle Plan
- 28. Lake County Transit for Bus Routes
- 29. Lake County Environmental Health Division
- 30. Lake County Grading Ordinance
- 31. Lake County Natural Hazard database
- 32. Lake County Countywide Integrated Waste Management Plan and Siting Element, 1996
- 33. Lake County Water Resources
- 34. Lake County Waste Management Department
- 35. California Department of Transportation (Caltrans)
- 36. Lake County Air Quality Management District website
- 37. Lake County Fire Protection District
- 38. Site Visit June 3, 2023
- 39. United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service Web Soil Survey
- 40. Hazardous Waste and Substances Sites List,
- 41. State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) Cannabis Policy and General Order
- 42. Lake County Groundwater Management Plan, March 31st, 2006.
- 43. Lake County Rules and Regulations (LCF) for On-Site Sewage Disposal
- 44. Lake County Municipal Code: Sanitary Disposal of Sewage (Chapter 9: Health and Sanitation, Article III)