

August 24, 2023

# CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST FORM INITIAL STUDY (UP 23-03, IS 23-07)

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

2. Permit Numbers: Major Use Permit UP 23-03

Initial Study IS 23-07

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): 6720 Leslie Place, Lucerne

APN: 006-003-01

6. Project Sponsor's Name & Address: Assurance Development / Kyle Benalcazar

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

7. General Plan Designation: Rural Lands

8. Zoning: "RL-WW", Rural Lands – Waterway

9. Supervisor District: District Three

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

11. Slope: Generally flat, some slope near Creek

12. Hazards: SRA Very High Fire Area

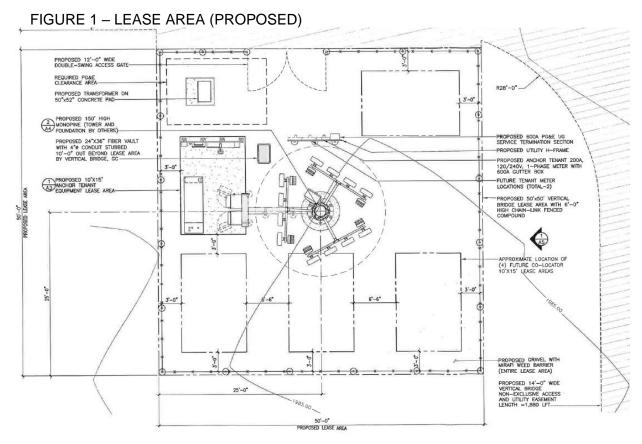
13. Earthquake Fault Zone: None mapped

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

15. Parcel Size: 47.97 Acres

16. Description of Project:

Major Use Permit (UP 23-03) 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 50' x 50' lease area to house equipment need to support the tower. The lease area will be enclosed by a 6' 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.



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)

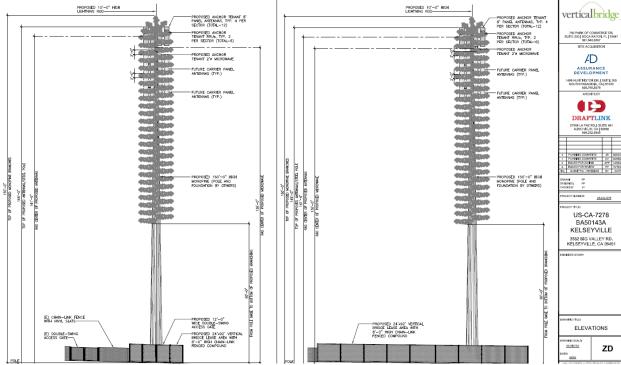
#### Construction Details

Construction is estimated to take two to three weeks. The County estimates that between 2 and 4 daily trips will result during construction, and 72 trips are projected during three weeks of construction. Construction would occur Monday through Saturday, 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.

# FIGURE 2 - TOWER ELEVATIONS



Source: Material Submitted by Applicant

# 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 that show Best Management Practices for erosion control on the relatively small (50' x 50') lease area.

# 17. Surrounding Land Uses and Setting:

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

- North: "RL-WW", Rural Lands Waterway; the parcel is 72.97 acres in size and is undeveloped.
- North: "O-WW-SC", Open Space Waterway Scenic Combining; vacant lot, 585 acres in size, owned by BLM.

- East: "APZ", Agricultural Preserve; parcel is 31.14 acres in size and is undeveloped.
- East: "APZ-WW", Agricultural Preserve Waterway; parcel is 47.01 acres in size and is developed with a dwelling and accessory buildings.
- South and West: "RR-SOS", Rural Residential Substandard Older Subdivision. Multiple small parcels that are undeveloped.

FIGURE 3 - ZONING OF SITE AND VICINITY



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 Building 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
- o Lake County Sheriff Department
- Northshore Fire Protection District
- CAL FIRE
- 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 August 24, 2023, informing tribes of the proposed project and offering consultation under AB-52. On August 24, 2023, the Upper Lake Habematolel Tribe contacted staff to request a copy of the Cultural Study that was submitted to the County.

#### **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.

$\boxtimes$	Aestnetics	Ш	Greennouse 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			
$\boxtimes$	<b>Cultural Resources</b>		Mineral Resources		Utilities / Service Systems			
	Energy		Noise	$\boxtimes$	Wildfire			
$\boxtimes$	Geology / Soils		Population / Housing	$\boxtimes$	Mandatory Findings of Significance			
	DETERMINATION: (To be completed by the lead Agency) On the basis of this initial evaluation:							
	I find that the proposed pro and a NEGATIVE DECLAR		COULD NOT have a signific ON will be prepared.	ant e	effect on the environment,			
	there will not be a signification	nt ef	d Project could have a signific fect in this case because revi pject proponent. A MITIGATE	sions	s in the Project have been			
	I find that the proposed Pre ENVIRONMENTAL IMPAC	-	MAY have a significant efference.	ct on	the environment, and an			
		-	t MAY have a "potentially sig		• •			

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 adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and 2) only the effects that remain to be addressed.

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

Initial Study Prepared By: Eric Porter, Associate Planner

gnature:

Date: 8-24-2023

Mireya G. Turner, Director Lake County Community Development Department

# **SECTION 1**

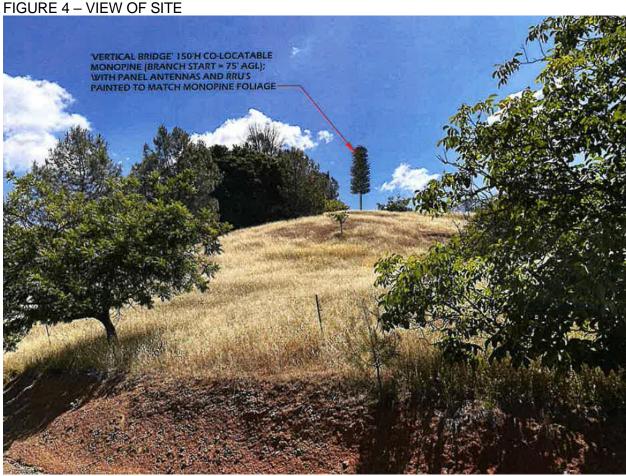
# **EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS:**

- 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 be explained where it is based on Project-specific factors as well as general standards A brief explanation is required for all answers except "No Impact" answers that are 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 e.g., the Project will not expose sensitive receptors to pollutants, based on a Projectspecific screening analysis). 7
- 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. 5
- 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 appropriate if there is substantial evidence that an effect may be significant. If there are than significant with mitigation, or less than significant. "Potentially Significant Impact" is one or more "Potentially Significant Impact" entries when the determination is made, an EIR is required. 3
- 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-"Negative Declaration: Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated" applies where 4

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

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)	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?					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 relatively 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. Some screening of the equipment area is both proposed and required-the following mitigation measures are added:



Source: Material Submitted by Applicant

- AES-1: Prior to operation, the applicant shall install a minimum 6' 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 not be highly visible from nearby lots or public roads due to the topography, tree coverage in the vicinity and the 'disguising' the tower to make it look somewhat like a pine tree.

Less than Significant Impact

c) The site is located in a rural portion of Lucerne on a hilltop; the area is characterized by large lots, SOS lots that are cost-prohibitive to develop, and the township of Lucerne which is located about 1/2 mile from the tower site. The area contains sparsely populated lots and SOS lots that likely would not develop due to the lack of public services available. The applicant has made an attempt to disguise the tower by designing the tower to look like a pine tree.

Less Than Significant Impact

d) The project has potential to create additional light based on FAA lighting that is typically required for cell towers for flight safety due to tower heights. The FAA safety lighting is exempt from County's dark skies lighting regulations; therefore this project is regarded as being 'less than significant' regarding federally-required lighting.

Less than Significant Impact

II.	AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY RESOURCES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Measures	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact	Source Number
Wo	uld 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?			$\boxtimes$		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))?					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?				$\boxtimes$	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 "RL", Rural Lands which allows agricultural crop production. No agriculture is proposed on site or in the immediate vicinity. The two lots to the south are zoned "APZ" Agricultural Preserve, however neither lot has agricultural activities occurring on them.

No Impact

b) The site is zoned "RL" Rural Lands and is not under a Williamson Act contract. The two lots to the south are zoned "APZ" Agricultural Preserve, but are not agriculturally productive. Should either or both of the southern "APZ" lots choose to grow crops, the use of the land for crop production would not interfere with the functionality of the tower, and the tower would have a neutral impact on crop production.

Less Than Significant Impact

c) The project site is zoned "RL" Rural Lands and is not zoned for forestland or timberland, nor has it been used historically for timber production.

Less Than Significant Impact

d) The project will not result in the loss or conversion of forest land to a non-forest use since no timber production is occurring on the land.

No Impact

e) As proposed, this project would not induce changes to existing farmland that would result in its conversion to non-agricultural use.

No Impact

П	I. AIR QUALITY	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Measures	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact	Source Number
Wc	ould the project:					
a)	Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?		$\boxtimes$			1, 3, 4, 5, 21, 24, 31, 36

b)	Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under and applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard?				1, 2, 3, 4 5, 21, 24 31, 36
c)	Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?			$\boxtimes$	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 10, 21, 24, 31, 36
d)	Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors or dust) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?		$\boxtimes$		1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 21, 24, 31, 36

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.

a) The Project site 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 air quality. The Lake County Air Basin is in attainment with both state and federal air quality standards.

The project will have minimal site disturbance associated with establishing the 50' x 50' lease area. The project would involve the removal of 38 trees, primarily oak trees, to accommodate the required access road. According to the Tree Removal and Protection Plan submitted, 11 of the trees are in good condition; 24 are in fair condition and three are in poor condition. There is some potential for dust / dirt impacts during access road preparation and tree removal, and the applicant will need to apply palliatives (water) to the ground prior to and during disturbance to minimize dust from the site work. Emissions that may result during site construction and operation of the tower will be insignificant as it is anticipated at between two and four ADT will result from the construction of the site.

 AQ-1: During site disturbance, the applicant shall apply palliatives (water) to the ground to minimize dust migration.

Less Than Significant Impact with mitigation measure AQ-1 added.

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, SO<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>x</sub>, O<sub>3</sub>, PM<sub>10</sub>, PM<sub>2.5</sub>, 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 operations, and will have limited impacts during access road preparation and tree removal. The construction will take two to three weeks with a total estimated number of vehicle trips of up to 72 trips for construction-related traffic. The tower will be unmanned, and no daily vehicle trips other than occasional maintenance trips will result.

Less Than Significant 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 72 vehicle trips over a two- to three-week period. Local contractors will likely be used to install the tower, resulting in fewer miles traveled than if contractors were brought in from outside Lake County.

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 CO<sub>2</sub> over the course of construction, which equals 0.079 tons of emissions over a three week construction period. No CO<sub>2</sub> 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 CO<sub>2</sub> <u>per project.</u> At the projected emissions rate, it would take over 13,900 years for the project to meet 'thresholds of significance' for CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

No Impact

d) The tower site is located in a rural and sparsely populated portion of Lucerne. The cell tower will not produce any odors or emissions following construction, and the construction-related impacts are negligible and can be mitigated with the application of water on the disturbed portions of the site during construction (AQ-1).

Less Than Significant Impact

I∖	. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Measures	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact	Source Number
Wo	uld 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?		$\boxtimes$		13
e)	Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?		$\boxtimes$		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 Lotis Environmental, LLC, and is undated. The applicant also submitted an Arborist Report and Tree Protection Plan (Plan), prepared by Davey Resource Group and dated August 2023.

The BA concludes that the site does not have any evidence of threatened or endangered species, and no mitigation measures were recommended. However the Plan submitted indicates that the project will require the removal of 38 trees, and no nesting surveys were undertaken for raptors, birds or bats during the preliminary site studies for the BA or the Plan.

The following mitigation measure is added to protect potentially sensitive raptors, birds and / or bats:

• BIO-1: Prior to removal of any tree(s), a qualified biologist shall perform preconstruction 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 50-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.

Less Than Significant Impact with mitigation measures added

b) There are no riparian areas identified in the BA or the Plan submitted.

No Impact

c) There are no federally-protected wetlands located on the portions of the lot that would be disturbed by this project.

No 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 BA, and no mitigation measures are recommended. The BA 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 and yielded negative results.

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. A nesting study is required by BIO-1 prior to the removal of any tree.

Less Than Significant Impact

e) The proposed project would be consistent with all Lake County ordinances related to the protection of biological resources since there are no protected biological resources present on the project site that were observed in either Biologically related study submitted. 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, a total of 38 trees (primarily oak species) will need to be removed for this project to occur.

The site is undeveloped and has no means of irrigating 'replacement trees' should they be required. Ordinarily the County requires a 3:1 replacement for any oak tree with a diameter greater than 5" that is removed, assuming the tree is in fair to good condition. However in this case it is impractical to require replacement trees on this land, particularly given that the tower will not require water and there are no means to irrigate the new trees, which have a high mortality rate under ideal circumstances.

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	uld 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 Environmental Assessment Specialists Inc. (EAS) and is dated August 1, 2023.

The CRE stated that the site has a low probability of containing significant historic or prehistoric artifacts, relics or remains given its location on a hilltop, which were traditionally not used as settlement areas, which are much more likely found near a water source. The CRE recommended that the project should proceed as planned.

The County sent all eleven tribes based on Lake County an AB 52 notice on August 24, 2023, 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, requesting a copy of the CRE, which was scanned and emailed to the Tribe on August 24, 2023.

Because of the rich Tribal heritage present in Lake County, the following mitigation measures are added as a precautionary measure in case of inadvertent discovery of significant items, relics, artifacts or remains:

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, particularly with the improvements required to the interior driveway and the removal of 38 trees, 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	Significant Impact	Significant with Mitigation Measures	Significant Impact	Impact	Source Number
Wo	uld the project:					
a)	Result in potentially significant environmental impacts due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resource, during construction or operation?			$\boxtimes$		5

b)	Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?			$\boxtimes$		1, 3, 4, 5				
Disc	Discussion:									
	<ul> <li>a) The project consists of a 150 foot tall enclosure. The tower and support equi minimal power demands, and there are</li> </ul>	pment will	use 'on gri	d' power. (	Cell tow					
	PG&E was notified of this project on Aughave been received to date.	PG&E was notified of this project on August 24, 2023. No adverse comments from PG&E have been received to date.								
	Less than Significant Impact									
	b) There are no requirements for renewable energy for cell towers.									
	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	uld 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?					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?			$\boxtimes$		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?			$\boxtimes$	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 more than ½ mile from the nearest dwelling and road, so the impact(s) from an earthquake would not affect any dwellings or roads as the result of the tower falling during an earthquake in the unlikely event that this were to occur.

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 where the tower will be placed. 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 equipment pad preparation, interior driveway improvements and tree removal will occur to prepare the site for the tower, an adequate interior driveway and the lease area for the tower. It is probable that more than 50 cubic yards of earth will be disturbed, and a grading permit will be required prior to the movement of any earth.
  - GEO-1: Prior to ground disturbance and/or tree removal, the applicant shall apply for a grading permit. The applicant shall submit an engineered Grading and

Erosion Control Plan to the County that estimates the amount of earth that will be moved, and how dust will be mitigated during the ground disturbance. The applicant shall complete the Nesting Survey required by BIO-1 prior to any ground disturbance, tree or vegetation removal.

Less Than Significant Impact with mitigation measure GEO-1 added

c) The project property is generally flat at the tower site, but is significantly sloped elsewhere on the property. 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 178 soil, "Millsholm-Bressa-Hopland association, 30 to 50 percent slopes". This soil type is found on hills; the vegetation is mainly brush and annual grasses. This soil type is characterized by having rapid runoff and severe erosion. This soil is typically used for grazing land and firewood production. This soil unit is classified as a Class VI soil, which is low value soil from a productivity standpoint.

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				
Wo	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 50' x 50' enclosure that will contain mechanical equipment needed to serve the tower. The tower will be unmanned during operations, with an estimated 72 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  $CO_2$  emissions per project. As stated in the Air Quality section of this document, the projected amount of  $CO_2$  emissions is negligible during construction, and would have 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 CO<sub>2</sub> 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 CO<sub>2</sub>e per capita by 2030 and no more than two (2) metric tons CO<sub>2</sub>e 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?					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?					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)	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?			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?			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 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 located on a hilltop on a steep sloped parcel, will be fenced and unmanned.

b) The Project will not require any chemicals, fertilizers or other potentially harmful elements other than propane for the backup generator and possibly some fuel for vehicles during construction. 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 located in Upper Lake, which is located about three miles north 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 fifteen 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

X	. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Measures	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact	Source Number	
Would 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;					1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 15, 18, 29, 32, 45	

	would exceed the capacity of existing planned stormwater drainage systems provide substantial additional sources polluted runoff; or iv) Impede or redirect flood flows?	or					
	any flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risease of pollutants due to project inundation?	sk 🔲			$\boxtimes$	1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 9, 23, 32	
qι	Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater						
Discus	ssion:						
a)	The Project will generate very little stor in total area (2,500 square feet / sf). months depending on when the actual	Construction	would occ	ur during n			
	Less Than Significant Impact						
b)	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)	The project will have 2,500 sf of non- tower and equipment area, no addition for the site and access driveway is additional to the site and access driveway access driveway and access driveway access driveway access driveway and access driveway access drivewa	nal stormwat	er plans ar	e needed.	Grading		
	Less than Significant Impact						
d)	The Project site is not located in an a or tsunami. The Project site is not located in an a				ndated k	oy seiche	
	Less than Significant Impact						
e)	There are no groundwater manageme time.	ent 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	

iii) Create or contribute runoff water which

Wo	ould	the project:					
a)	Pł	nysically divide an established community?				$\boxtimes$	1, 2, 3, 5, 6
b)	co ad	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 ovironmental effect?					1, 3, 4, 5, 20, 21, 22, 27
Dis	cus	ssion:					
	a)	The Project Property is located in a rural a and support equipment would be fully converall community in regards to dividing the support of the project Property is located in a rural and sup	ontained or	n site, and			
		No Impact					
	b)	The proposed Project is consistent with Communities Area Plan, and would provusing the network associated with the towns.	vide better				
		Less than Significant Impact					
X	II.	MINERAL RESOURCES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Measures	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact	Source Number
Wo	ould	the project:					
a)	re	esult 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)	mi	esult in the loss of availability of a locally important ineral resource recovery site delineated on a local eneral plan, specific plan, or other land use plan?				$\boxtimes$	1, 3, 4, 5, 26
Dis	cus	ssion:					
	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	a mapped
		Less Than Significant Impact					
	b)	The zoning of the site (heavy industrial) of minerals of any value, and no mining has					
		Less Than Significant Impact					

XI	III.	NOISE	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Measures	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact	Source Number		
Wo	uld	the project:							
a)	pe vic es	esult in the generation of a substantial temporary or armanent increase in ambient noise levels in the cinity of the project in excess of standards tablished in the local general plan or noise dinance, or applicable standards of other lencies?			$\boxtimes$		1, 3, 4, 5, 13		
b)		esult in the generation of excessive ground-borne oration or ground-borne noise levels?			$\boxtimes$		1, 3, 4, 5, 13		
c)	air pla pu ex	or a project located within the vicinity of a private strip or an airport land use plan or, where such a can 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	Discussion:								
	a)	Some noise during construction will occu a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Saturd minimal, particularly given the surroun uninhabited. The area contains scattered residing on the land.	ay, so the ding land,	likelihood most of	of noise-re which is u	elated in ndevelo	npacts is ped and		
	b)	Less than Significant Impact  There are no known sources of ground-to such as railroad lines or truck routes. The to substantial ground-borne vibration or respectively.	erefore, the				•		
		Less Than Significant Impact							
	c)	The Project site is located fifteen miles from not expose people residing or working in travel.							
		No Impact							
XI	IV.	POPULATION AND HOUSING	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Measures	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact	Source Number		

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Would 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)?					1, 3, 4, 5
b)	ho	splace substantial numbers of existing people or using, necessitating the construction of blacement housing elsewhere?				$\boxtimes$	1, 3, 4, 5
Dis	cus	sion:					
	a)	The Project will not generate population of	growth to th	ne area.			
		No Impact					
	b)	The Project will not displace any existing	housing.				
		No Impact					
X	V.	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: alter ph cor en acc pe						1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 20, 21, 22, 23, 27, 22, 33, 34, 36, 37
Dis	cus	sion:					
	a)	The Project has very little impact on publittle power to operate. The tower required demand on police or fire services. The twhich would be used by emergency services.	es no water tower will p	r or sewer, rovide add	and is unli itional cell	kely to p	olace any
		No Impact					

X'	VI. RECREATION	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Measures	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact	Source Number		
Wo	uld the project:							
a)	Increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?				$\boxtimes$	1, 2, 3, 4, 5		
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?				$\boxtimes$	1, 3, 4, 5		
Disc	cussion:							
	a) The project places no demand on local p	arks.						
	No Impact							
	b) The project does not include any recreational facilities and will not require the construction or expansion of existing recreational facilities.							
	No Impact							
X	No Impact	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Measures	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact	Source Number		
	·	Significant	Significant with Mitigation	Significant				
	VII. TRANSPORTATION	Significant	Significant with Mitigation	Significant				
Wo	VII. TRANSPORTATION  uld the project:  Conflict with a program plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit,	Significant	Significant with Mitigation	Significant	Impact	Number  1, 3, 4, 5, 9, 20, 22,		
Wo a)	vII. TRANSPORTATION  uld the project:  Conflict with a program plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities?  For a land use project, would the project conflict with or be inconsistent with CEQA guidelines section	Significant	Significant with Mitigation	Significant	Impact	Number  1, 3, 4, 5, 9, 20, 22, 27, 28, 35  1, 3, 4, 5, 9, 20, 22,		
Wo a) b)	vII. TRANSPORTATION  uld the project:  Conflict with a program plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities?  For a land use project, would the project conflict with or be inconsistent with CEQA guidelines section 15064.3, subdivision (b)(1)?  For a transportation project, would the project conflict with or be inconsistent with CEQA	Significant	Significant with Mitigation	Significant	Impact	1, 3, 4, 5, 9, 20, 22, 27, 28, 35  1, 3, 4, 5, 9, 20, 22, 27, 28, 35  1, 3, 4, 5, 9, 20, 22, 27, 28, 35		

a) The site is accessed from Leslie Place, a shared public access easement. No changes to this road is needed to accommodate the project. Improvements to the interior driveway are discussed in other sections of this report. Road profiles for the driveway have been submitted; total amounts of earth movement will be required with the Grading Permit that is required by mitigation measure GEO-1.

Less Than Significant 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 72 trips and an estimated 144 vehicle miles traveled over a two to three week period, assuming two vehicle miles 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

XVIII. 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?		$\boxtimes$			1, 3, 4, 5, 11, 14, 15

d) A Cultural Resource Evaluation (CRE) was prepared for this project by Environmental Assessment Specialists Inc. (EAS) and is dated August 1, 2023.

The CRE stated that the site has a low probability of containing significant historic or prehistoric artifacts, relics or remains given its location on a hilltop, which were traditionally not used as settlement areas, which are much more likely found near a water source. The CRE recommended that the project should proceed as planned.

The County sent all eleven tribes based on Lake County an AB 52 notice on August 24, 2023, 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, requesting a copy of the CRE, which was scanned and emailed to the Tribe on August 24, 2023.

Because of the rich Tribal heritage present in Lake County, the following mitigation measures are added as a precautionary measure in case of inadvertent discovery of significant items, relics, artifacts or remains.

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

a) 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	uld	the project:					
a)	ne sto tel rel	equire or result in the relocation or construction of w or expanded water, wastewater treatment or orm water drainage, electric power, natural gas, or ecommunications facilities, the construction or ocation of which could cause significant vironmental effects?				$\boxtimes$	1, 3, 4, 5, 29, 32, 33, 34, 37, 45
b)	pro de	ave sufficient water supplies available to serve the oject and reasonably foreseeable future velopment during normal, dry and multiple dry ars?				$\boxtimes$	1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 22, 31, 45
c)	tre pro	esult in a determination by the wastewater atment provider, which serves or may serve the oject that it has adequate capacity to serve the oject's projected demand in addition to the ovider's existing commitments?				$\boxtimes$	1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 22
d)	sta inf	enerate solid waste in excess of State or local andards, or in excess of the capacity of local rastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of lid waste reduction goals?				$\boxtimes$	1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 35, 36
e)	an	omply with federal, state, and local management d reduction statutes and regulations related to lid waste?					1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 35, 36
Disc	cus	sion:					
	a)	The proposed Project will be served by o	n-grid pow	er. No othe	r public utili	ities are	needed.
		No Impact					
	b)	The tower does not require water to oper	ate. No Im	pact			
	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
cla	ocated in or near state responsibility areas or lands ssified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would project:					
a)	Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?		$\boxtimes$			1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 23, 25, 28, 29
b)	Would the project, 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?		$\boxtimes$			1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 23, 25, 28, 29
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?		$\boxtimes$			1, 2, 3, 5, 6
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?		$\boxtimes$			1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 21, 23, 32

a) The Project site is in a Very High Fire Risk Area, and no fire mitigation measures are proposed with this application. The applicant will need to remove 38 trees to accommodate the interior driveway; this will help to reduce on-site fuel load to an extent. The applicant will be required to keep a water tender on site during construction; this is required by mitigation measure WILD-1 below. The project will not impair an adopted emergency response plan or evacuation plan, and the requirement to improve the interior driveway to meet Public Resource Code 4290 standards for width, surface material and slope will aid on-site fire mitigation if needed. The applicant shall adhere to all regulation of California Code Regulations Title 14, Division 1.5, 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.

The following mitigation measures are required:

- WILD-1: The applicant shall keep a water tender truck on site during site disturbance to reduce the impacts that might result from a spark creating a wildfire on site.
- WILD-2: Prior to operation, the applicant shall improve the interior driveway to meet Public Resource Code 4290 and 4291 driveway standards.

Less Than Significant Impact with mitigation measures added

b) The Project site is located in a mapped Very High Fire Risk area and has some potential to have a risk of wildfire. Mitigation measures are in place that will enable the site to be accessed by emergency service providers, and a water tender truck will be on site during site preparation in the event of a spark from site disturbance.

Less Than Significant Impact with mitigation measures added.

c) The proposed site improvements are limited to road improvements, installing a 50' x 50' pad to house support equipment, and the 150' tall monopine cell tower. There is some potential for sparks from construction equipment during site preparation; the County is requiring certain mitigation measures to help reduce the potential for fires occurring as the result of site disturbance.

Less Than Significant Impact with mitigation measures added

d) There is some wildfire risk associated with this project primarily during construction. This is addressed in mitigation measures WILD-1 and WILD-2

Less Than Significant Impact with mitigation measures added

X	XI. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Measures	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact	Source Number
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?		$\boxtimes$			ALL
b)	Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? (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)?		$\boxtimes$			ALL
c)	Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?		$\boxtimes$			ALL

#### Discussion:

a) The project proposes the installation of a 150' tall monopine cell tower on a 50' x 50' pad needed for the support equipment to serve the tower.

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 reduce impacts related to Aesthetics, Air Quality, Biological Resources, Cultural/Tribal Resources, Geology and Soils, and Wildfire to less than significant levels.

Less than significant impact with mitigation measures added.

b) Potentially significant impacts have been identified related to Aesthetics, Air Quality, Biological Resources, Cultural/Tribal Resources, Geology and Soils, and Wildfire. 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, Cultural/Tribal Resources, Geology and Soils, and Wildfire 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. Shoreline Communities 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 Lotis Environmental, LLC, undated. The applicant also submitted an Arborist Report and Tree Protection Plan (Plan), prepared by Davey Resource Group and dated August 2023
- 14. Cultural Resource Evaluation (CRE), prepared by Environmental Assessment Specialists Inc. (EAS) and is dated August 1, 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 Alguist-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 August 24, 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)