



# **County of Calaveras Department of Planning**

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Initial Study / Mitigated Negative Declaration  
Review Period: February 21, 2025, through March 24, 2025

# **Initial Study ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST**

For: New Cingular Wireless PCS  
Administrative Use Permit 2023-069  
Assessor's Parcel No. 048-018-014

1. Project Title: 2023-069 – Administrative Use Permit for New Cingular Wireless PCS
2. Lead Agency Name and Address: Calaveras County Planning Department  
891 Mountain Ranch Road  
San Andreas, CA 95249
3. Contact Person and Phone Number: Madeleine Flandreau, (209) 754-6394
4. Project Location: 10039 Camanche Parkway, Wallace, CA  
APN: 048-018-014  
Section 14, T4N, R9E, MDB&M
5. Project Sponsor's Name and Address: New Cingular Wireless PCS  
2700 Watt Avenue Room #2240-082  
Sacramento, CA 95821
6. General Plan Designation: Rural Transition B (RTB)
7. Zoning: General Agriculture (A1)
8. Project Description: An application has been received by the Calaveras County Planning Department requesting an Administrative Use Permit (AUP) to install a new unmanned wireless telecommunications tower (monopole) and supporting ground equipment. The request includes installation of a new 125-foot (ft.) stealth mono-elm with twelve (12) antennas, an emergency back-up generator, and associated small equipment. All facility equipment will be contained within a 40 ft. by 30 ft. fenced lease area located approximately 100 ft. from the nearest property boundary and approximately 400 feet from the nearest inhabited structure.

9. Surrounding land uses and setting:

Location	General Plan Designation	Zoning	Land Use
North	Rural Transition B	General Agriculture	Residential
South	Working Lands, Rural Transition B	Residential Agriculture, Rural Residential	Residential
East	Working Lands, Rural Transition B	General Agriculture, Rural Residential	Residential, Commercial Cannabis Cultivation
West	Working Lands, Rural Transition B	General Agriculture, Residential Agriculture	Residential, undeveloped

10. Other public agencies whose approval is required: NONE

11. Have California Native American Tribes traditionally and culturally affiliated with the project area requested consultation pursuant to Public Resources Code §21080.3.1? **NO** 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.? **N/A**

**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.

- |  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aesthetics                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural and Forestry Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Air Quality                          |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Biological Resources | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cultural Resources       | <input type="checkbox"/> Energy                               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Geology/Soils                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Greenhouse Gas Emissions            | <input type="checkbox"/> Hazards & Hazardous Materials        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hydrology/Water Quality         | <input type="checkbox"/> Land Use / Planning                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Mineral Resources                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Noise                           | <input type="checkbox"/> Population / Housing                | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Services                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Recreation                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation                      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tribal Cultural Resources |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Utilities/Service Systems       | <input type="checkbox"/> Wildfire                            | <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory Findings of Significance   |

**DETERMINATION (To be completed by 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 original scope of the proposed project **COULD** have had a potentially significant effect on the environment, there **WILL NOT** be a significant effect because revisions/mitigations to the project have been made by or agreed to by the applicant. A **MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION** will be prepared.

I find that the proposed project **MAY** have a potentially significant effect on the environment and an **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT** or its functional equivalent will be prepared.

I find that the proposed project **MAY** have a potentially significant impact on the environment. However, at least one impact has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document, pursuant to applicable legal standards, and has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis, as described in the report's attachments. An **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT** is required, but it must analyze only the impacts not sufficiently addressed in previous documents.

I find that, although the proposed project could have had a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects have been adequately analyzed in an earlier EIR or Negative Declaration, pursuant to applicable standards, and have been avoided or mitigated, pursuant to an earlier EIR, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project, all impacts have been avoided or mitigated to a less-than-significant level and no further action is required.

*Madeleine Flandreau*

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Madeleine Flandreau  
Project Planner

\_\_\_\_\_  
2/18/2025  
Date

## EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

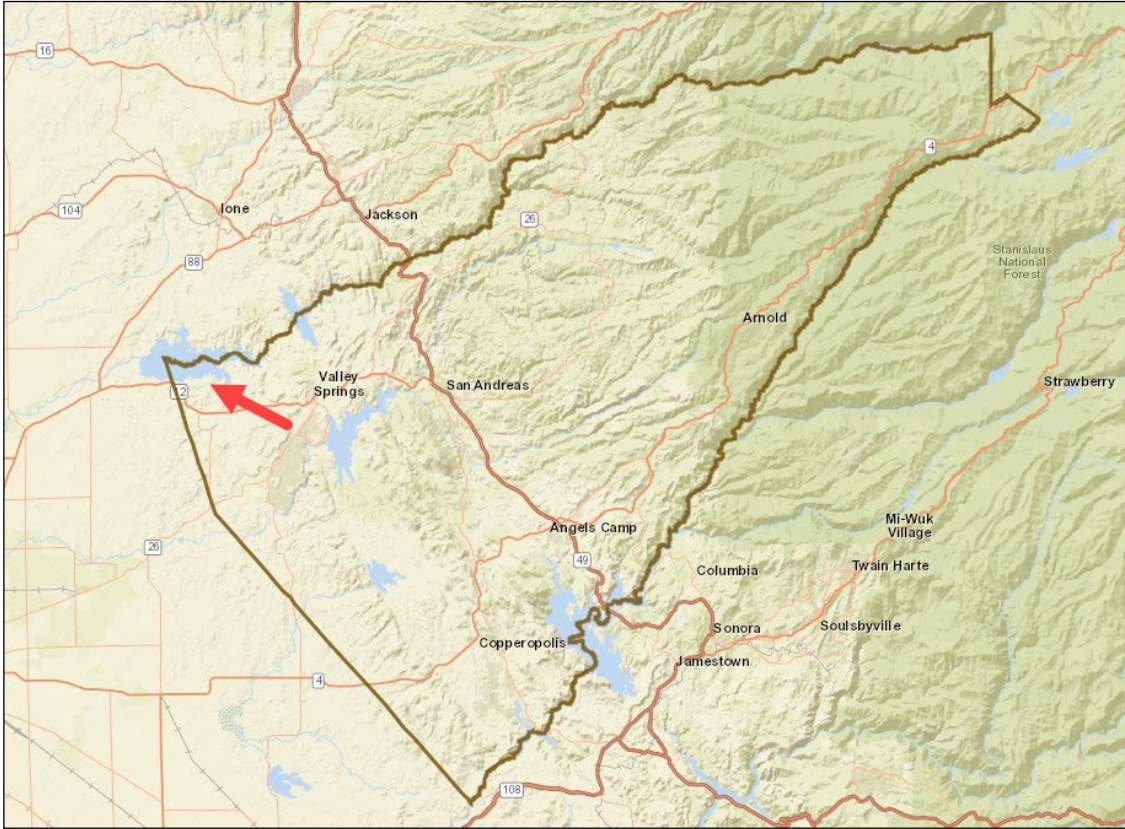
1. A brief explanation is required for all answers except "No Impact" answers that are adequately supported by the information sources a lead agency cites in the parentheses following each question. A "No Impact" answer is adequately supported if the referenced information sources show that the impact 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 on-site, 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, 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.
4. "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 "Earlier Analyses," as described in (5) below, 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:
  - 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

## **Environmental Impact Analysis:**

This Initial Study has been prepared for Administrative Use Permit 2023-069 – New Cingular Wireless PCS which proposes to install a new 125-foot (ft.) stealth mono-elm with twelve (12) antennas, a 30kw diesel powered emergency back-up generator with a 190-gallon tank and appurtenant ground equipment. All facility equipment will be contained within a 40 ft. by 30 ft. fenced lease area surrounded by 6 ft. chain link fence, in the northern portion of the parcel, located approximately 75 ft. from the nearest property boundary. The Project site is 8.46-acres in size and currently developed with a single-family residence and accessory structures in the southern portion of the parcel. The parcel currently takes access off of Camanche Parkway, which is a county right-of-way. An existing dirt road provides access to the site and will require improvements.

The Project site has a land use designation of Rural Transition B and is zoned General Agriculture (A1). The A1 zone is intended to be the main resource production zone. It is to classify areas for general farming and ranching practices and assign such uses the primary emphasis for the area. It is the purpose of the A1 zone that residential uses are placed in a position of secondary importance when compared to the commercial scale production of food and fiber. Telecommunications facilities are allowed in the A1 zone with approval of an Administrative Use Permit (AUP).

The purpose of an Administrative Use Permit is to allow uses that are generally low impact to the community and environment. The Planning Director may impose requirements and conditions with respect to location, siting, construction, maintenance, operation, duration, and overall development as deemed reasonable and necessary for the protection of the public health, safety, and general welfare, and must make the findings in Section 17.83.020 in the Calaveras County Code.



**Figure 1- Project Location in Calaveras County**

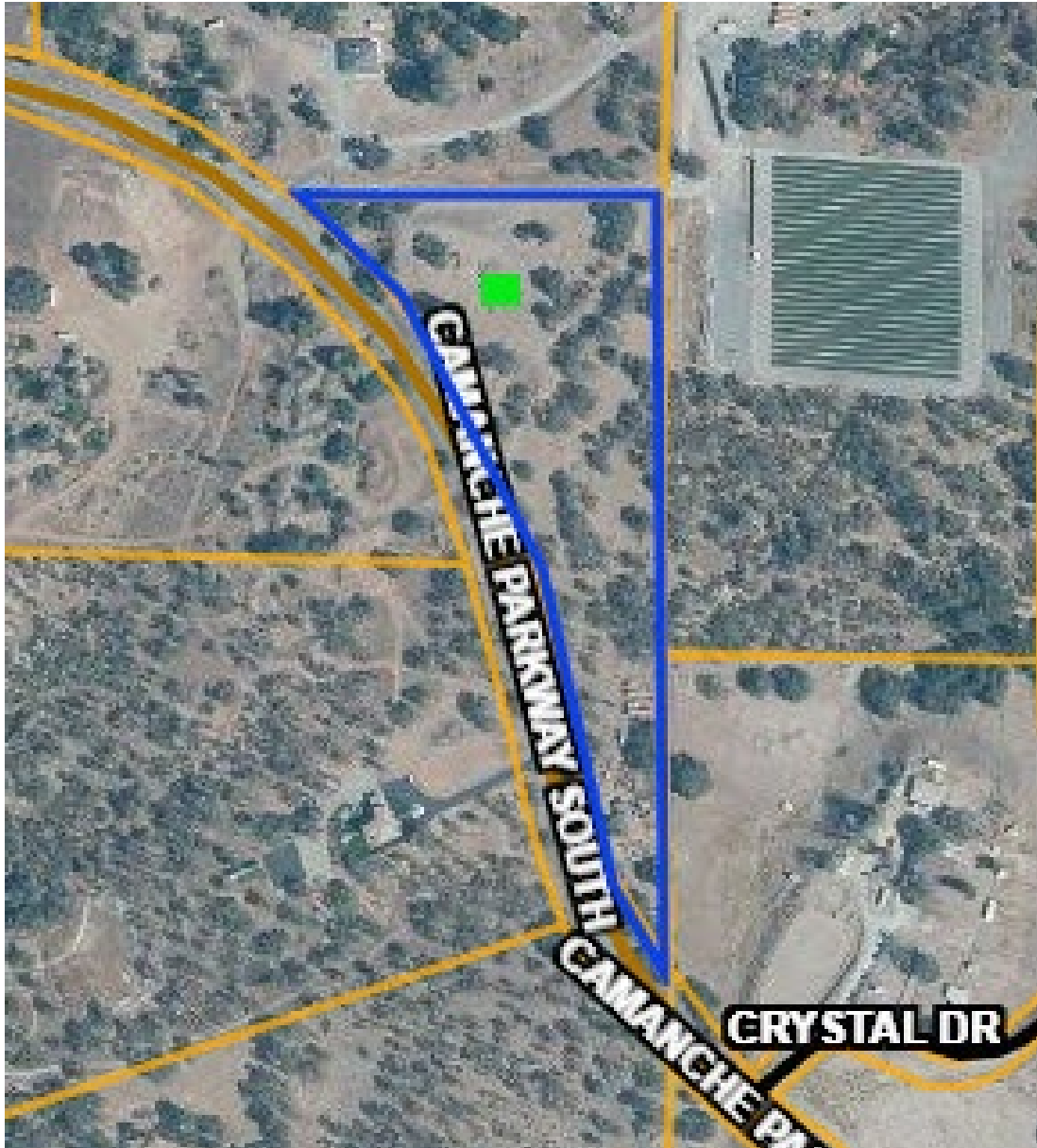


Figure 2- Aerial Photo with Approximate Site Location (boundary lines shown are approximate)

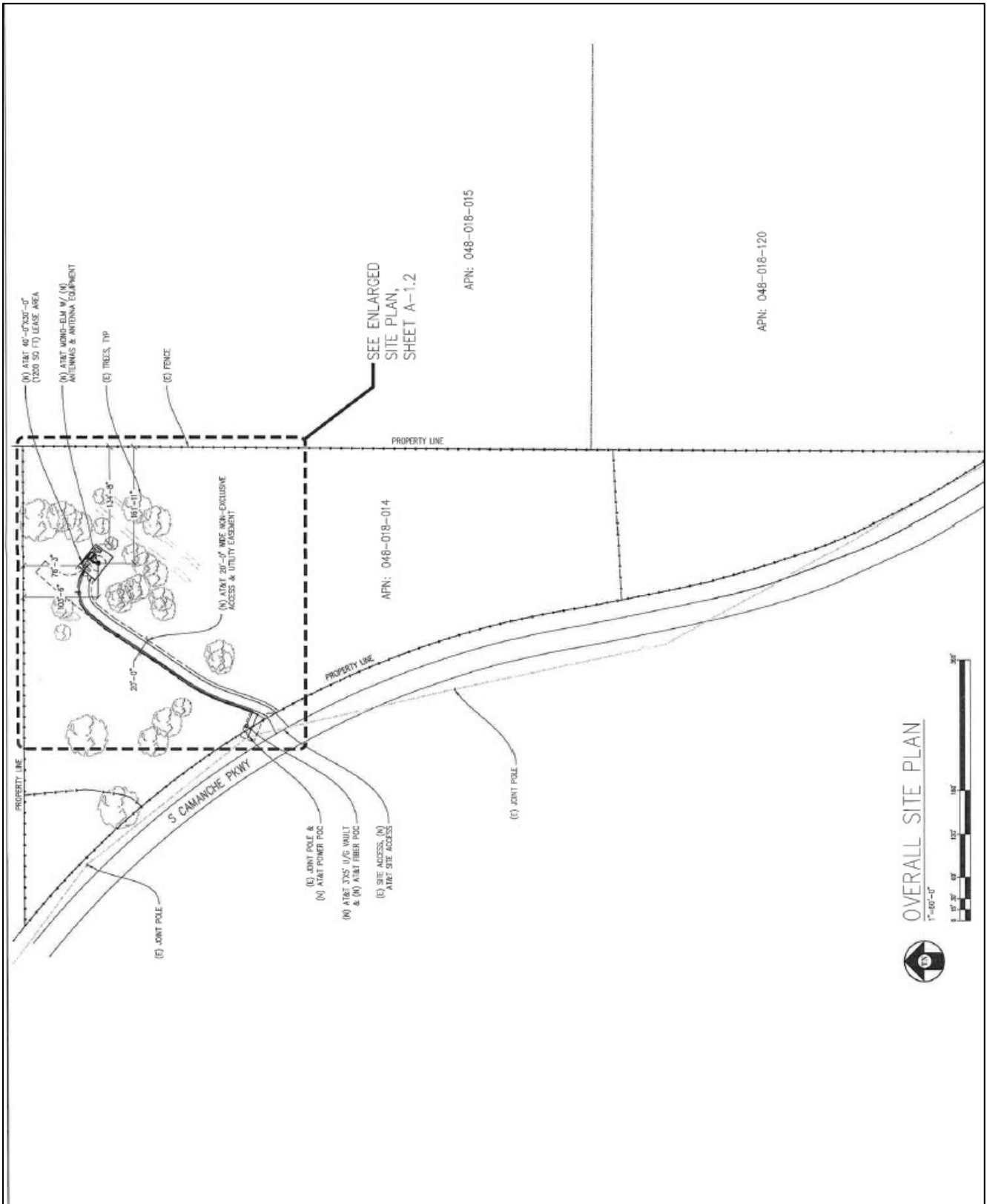


Figure 3 – Telecommunications Facility Site Development Plan







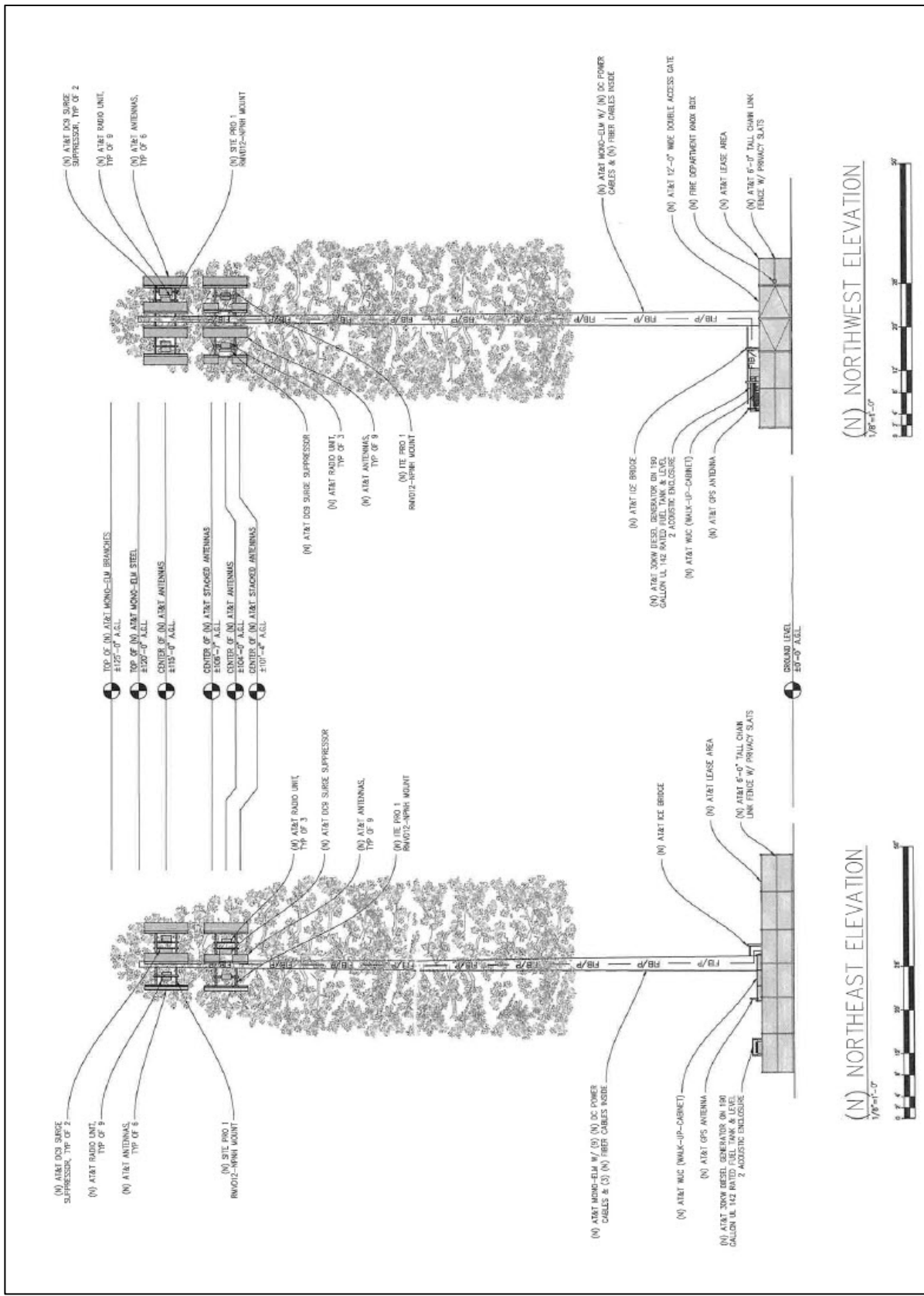
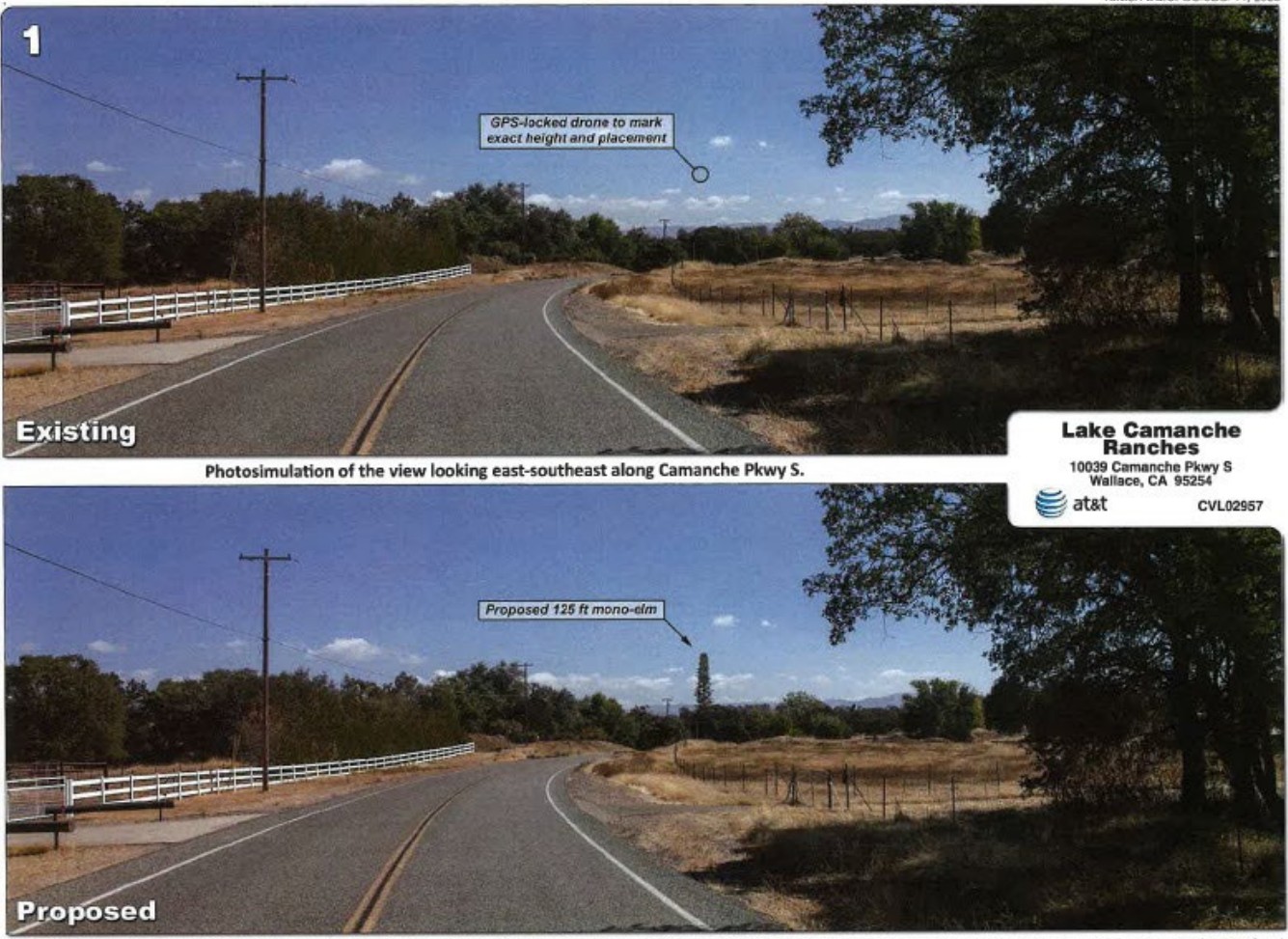


Figure 6 – Elevations



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**Figure 7 – Photo Simulation looking E-SE along Camanche Parkway South**



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**Figure 8 – Photo Simulation from Camanche Parkway South**

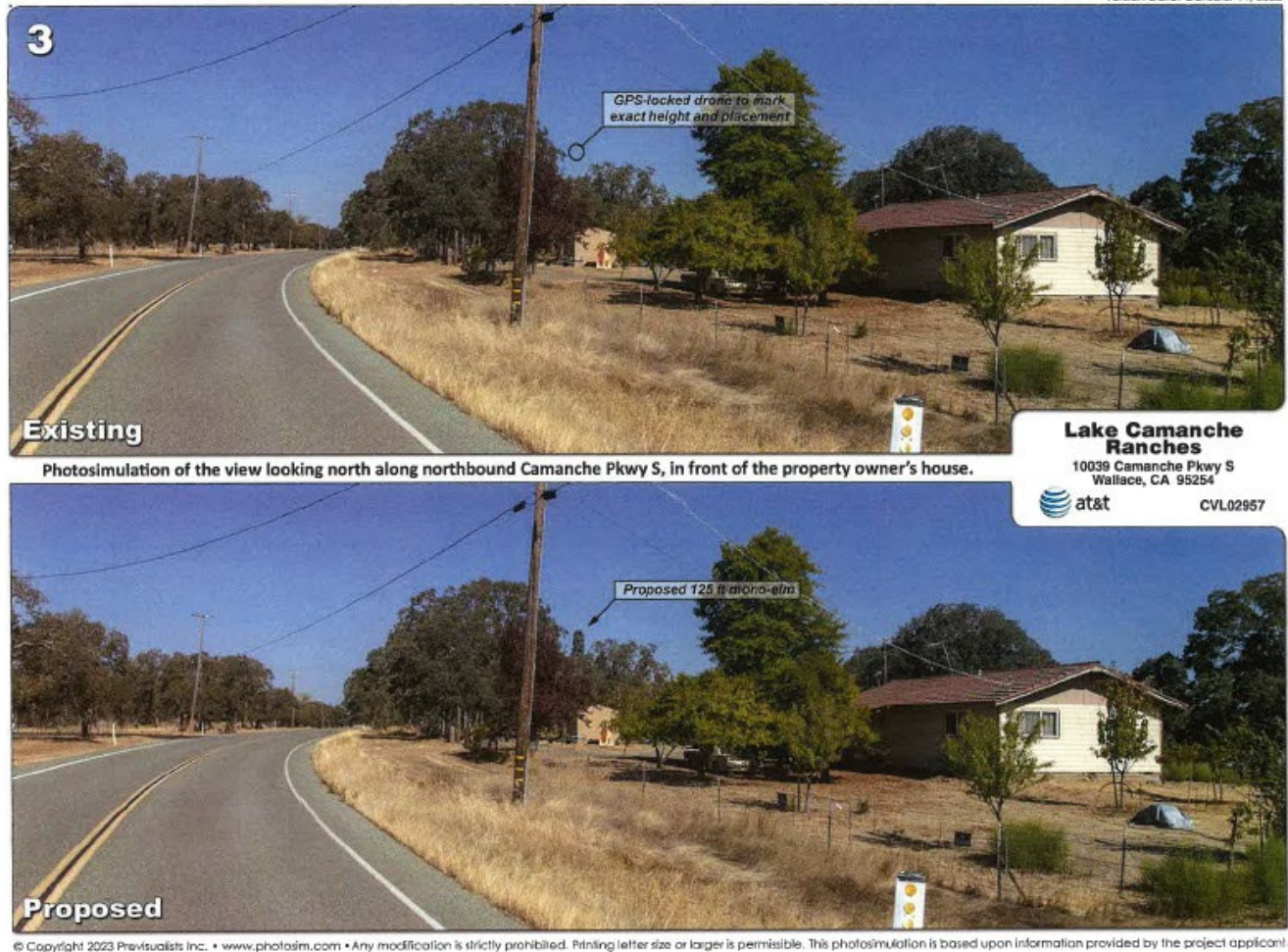


Figure 9 – Photo Simulation looking north along Camanche Parkway South near the on-site residence

# I. AESTHETICS

	<u>POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT</u>	<u>LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT WITH MITIGATION</u>	<u>LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT</u>	<u>NO IMPACT</u>
Except as provided in Public Resources Code §21099, would the project:				
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) In non-urbanized areas, substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings? (Public views are those that are experienced from publicly accessible vantage points). If the project is in an urbanized area, would the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

a) **Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation** – A scenic vista is an area that is designated, signed, and accessible to the public for the express purposes of viewing and sightseeing. The Project site located off of Camanche Parkway South, a public road, on an 8.4-acre parcel developed with a single-family residence and accessory structures. The Project site is on a relatively flat area with a cluster of native oak surrounding it. No trees will be removed as part of this project. The surrounding parcels range from 10 to 30 acres in size most of which are developed with single-family residences. The Project site is not designated as a scenic vista by the County General Plan, nor does it contain any unique or distinguishing features that would qualify the site for designation as a scenic vista.

Since the 125-foot-tall cell tower will be visible in all directions it will have an effect on the local vista. This impact could be considered to be significant from an aesthetics standpoint. Submitted photo simulations (Figures 7-9 above) indicate that the proposed mono-elm tower appears to blend well with the existing landscape. While likely not completely screening the tower, the tree appearance will appreciably reduce the aesthetic impact to a level that is less than significant with this mitigation. By disguising the tower as a tree, and thus blending in more with surrounding vegetation, the proposed Project will have a less than significant impact to the existing visual character or quality of public views of the

site and its surroundings will not be substantially degraded with the proposed mitigation measure below.

**Mitigation Measure AES-1 (Aesthetics):**

The 125-foot telecommunications tower will be constructed as a mono-elm in order to better blend in with the surrounding vegetation. Stealth poles of this nature are now required by ordinance as part of the updated zoning code in order to minimize aesthetic impacts of cell towers, and requiring the same of this applicant as mitigation will achieve the same goal.

- b) **Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation-** The County General Plan’s Conservation and Open Space Element notes that the County’s scenic resources are some of its most valued assets and include forests, rolling hills, ranches, agricultural land, historic landscapes, oak woodlands, rock formations and other unique topographical features, river corridors, lakes, and streams. The Project site contains native oak trees, but no trees will be removed as part of this project; therefore, the proposed Project will not substantially degrade these scenic resources. There are no other scenic resources on-site as defined by the General Plan. The Project site is also not located within view of a state scenic highway. The nearest officially designated State Scenic Highway is the portion of State Route 4 (SR 4) known as Ebbetts Pass National Scenic Byway, located approximately 49 miles east of the Project site (Caltrans, 2022). By disguising the tower as an elm tree, and thus blending in more with surrounding vegetation, the proposed Project will have a less than significant impact to the scenic resources on the site will not be substantially degraded with the proposed mitigation measure AES-1 above.
- c) **Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation-** The subject parcel is located off of Camanche Parkway in the town of Wallace, which is a “non-urbanized area” and, based on the simulations in Figures 7-9 above, the tower will be visible from public roads. By disguising the tower as a tree, and thus blending in more with surrounding vegetation, the public view of the site will not be substantially degraded with the proposed mitigation measure AES-1 above.
- d) **No Impact** – Pursuant to Title 47 Section 17.7 and 17.21 of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) code of regulations, telecommunication towers that are less than 200 feet in height above the ground do not require FAA notification and therefore no lighting nor painting is required. The proposed tower is 125 feet high, with antennas to be attached at 90 ft. All new lighting will adhere to Calaveras County Code 17.36.060(C) which states that exterior lighting shall be shielded and directed in such a manner that it does not shine directly into adjoining residences. With the adherence to outdoor lighting regulations at the time of development, the proposed Project would not create new sources of substantial lighting or glare that would generate a significant impact.

## **II. AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY RESOURCES**

In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental



effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California 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.

Would the project:

	<u>POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT</u>	<u>LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT WITH MITIGATION</u>	<u>LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT</u>	<u>NO IMPACT</u>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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))?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

a) **No Impact** – The subject parcel is designated by the County General Plan as Rural Transition B which is not land classified as high capability agriculture, and there are no agricultural activities occurring within its boundary. The California Department of Conservation Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program has published map data for Calaveras as of 2022. The California Important Farmland Finder tool was used to identify land surrounding the project parcel. This land is categorized as “Grazing Land”, defined

as “Land on which the existing vegetation is suited to the grazing of livestock. This category is used only in California and was developed in cooperation with the California Cattlemen’s Association, University of California Cooperative Extension, and other groups interested in the extent of grazing activities”, and “Farmland of Local Importance” which is defined as “Land of importance to the local agricultural economy as determined by each county’s board of supervisors and a local advisory committee.” This indicates this area including the project parcel, is not a prime farmland, unique farmland, or farmland of Statewide importance. Therefore, the proposed Project will not result in the loss of agricultural land within the meaning of this impact category.

- b) **No Impact** – The proposed Project site is not restricted by a Williamson Act contract, nor are any of the adjacent parcels under a Williamson Act contract. There will therefore be no impact related to a Williamson Act contract.
- c) **No Impact** – There is no timberland located on the Project site or within the vicinity of the Project. The proposal is for an Administrative Use Permit on a parcel zoned General Agriculture. The Project will not conflict with the parcel’s existing zoning, nor will it result in rezoning of any forestland.
- d) **No Impact** – The County’s General Plan and Zoning Ordinance does not consider the project site to be high capability timberland or a timber production zone, therefore, the proposed project would not result in loss or conversion of forest land to a non-forest use.
- e) **No Impact** – The approximately 1,200 square foot lease area is a small portion of a residentially developed parcel and, 1) is not considered forest land or farmland, and 2) would not be incompatible with a surrounding agricultural use of the parcel. Thus, the proposed Project will not result in a conversion of farmland or forest land. In addition, no trees are proposed to be removed as part of this project. Therefore, no impact will occur.

### III. AIR QUALITY

Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations.

	<u>POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT</u>	<u>LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT WITH MITIGATION</u>	<u>LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT</u>	<u>NO IMPACT</u>
Would the project:				
a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

- d) Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?

a&b) **Less than Significant Impact** – Calaveras County is part of the Mountain Counties Air Basin (MCAB). Air quality within the County is under the jurisdiction of the Calaveras County Air Pollution Control District (CCAPCD). CCAPCD manages the County’s air quality through education and enforcement of CCAPCD rules and California Air Resources Board (CARB) measures and regulations. The subject parcel is approximately 8.4 acres in size and is surrounded by similarly sized properties. Emissions that could be created by the proposed project would result not from the operation of the telecommunications tower but from temporary impacts during construction of the cell tower, with the exception of the use of the back-up generator when necessary.

The County has been classified as a non-attainment area for the State and Federal ozone standards (1-hour and 8-hour) and Particulate Matter standards (PM2.5 and PM10). An area is designated in attainment for the Federal standards if concentration for the specified pollutant is not exceeded on average more than once per year. The primary source of secondary particulate matter (i.e., ROG and NOx) is mobile sources, including cars, trucks, buses, construction equipment, and agricultural equipment. Common sources of particulate matter pollution in the County include residential, development, and land management related activities such as woodstoves, windblown dust and/or diesel from construction activities, and forestry management burning. Limited, temporary, on-site construction activities would occur within the boundaries of the existing site. Construction would include grading for the new 12-foot-wide gravel access road, a hammerhead turnaround, and concrete pad in the lease area.

These construction activities are not substantial or prolonged enough to create emissions that would violate applicable air quality standards or substantially contribute to an existing or projected air quality violation. Therefore, the Project would have a less than significant impact related to the potential to conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan, or to result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or State ambient air quality standard.

c) **Less than Significant Impact** – Sensitive receptors include those individuals within the population that have an increased sensitivity to air pollution or environmental contaminants. They include children, the elderly, and those with pre-existing serious health problems affected by air quality, and sensitive receptor locations include schools, parks and playgrounds, day care centers, nursing homes, hospitals, and residences. The closest sensitive receptor to the project site is the single-family residence located across the northern property boundary, approximately 450’ from the Project site.

The expected estimate of maintenance trips for the tower is once per month. A single-family residence can generate up to an average of 10 vehicle trips per day before it is considered significant. The maintenance of the tower should not be greater than the number of trips a residence would generate. A generator is proposed as part of this project. The permitting process would include compliance with air quality, building, fire, noise standards and plans.

Therefore, the proposed project will have a less than significant impact on sensitive receptors.

- d) **Less than Significant Impact** – Odors or other emissions due to construction and operation of the proposed telecommunications facility with one back-up generator, would have a less significant impact to the surrounding area.

#### IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

	<u>POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT</u>	<u>LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT WITH MITIGATION</u>	<u>LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT</u>	<u>NO IMPACT</u>
Would the project:				
a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or US Fish and Wildlife Service?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

- a) **Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation** – Two Biological Assessments were completed for the project. The first, the Natural Resources Review (NRR) prepared by EBI Consulting was completed in January of 2024. A review of the CNDDDB and the CNPS

Electronic Inventory of Rare and Endangered Vascular Plants resulted in a list of 14 sensitive wildlife species, 1 sensitive plant community, and 9 sensitive plant species that occur. The records search yielded 3 listed wildlife species with the potential to occur on the Project Site: the California tiger salamander (CTS), Western spadefoot (WESP), both of which are listed as threatened under the Federal Endangered Species Act. Only the CTS was found by EBI to have the potential to occur on the Project site due to the presence of potential habitat, although the subject parcel is located over 3 miles northwest of the area designated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as Critical Habitat for the CTS. The NRR recommended that a species-specific biological assessment be completed for the CTS.

On July 25, 2024, a Biological Assessment (BA) was prepared by AJM Ecological Solutions which evaluated the Project's potential effects on the CTS and the WESP. As part of the BA, an additional records search was conducted for threatened or endangered plant and wildlife species that could potentially occur in the vicinity of the Project Area and a site visit was conducted on May 2, 2024. The BA identified habitat on the subject parcel as grassland with patches of oaks, with the southern portion of the subject parcel as highly disturbed from construction of a residence and accessory structures.

Ground disturbance required for the proposed project will occur on the undeveloped pasture area in the northern portion of the subject parcel. The proposed trenching route and access road will follow the existing dirt access road. The areas of the proposed telecommunication facility, trenching route, access road, and equipment compound installation were observed on foot for the above listed wildlife and plant species and sensitive community and none were observed. According to the application and BA, no trees will be removed as a part of this project.

Evidence of surface disturbance on and in the immediate vicinity of the site has greatly reduced the potential for sensitive plant and wildlife species to occupy the area. However, given documented occurrences of CTS and WESP and potential habitat in the vicinity of the Project site, the following mitigation measures were recommended by AJM:

**Mitigation Measure BR-1 (Biological Resources)**

To the maximum extent practicable, no construction activities will occur during rain events or within 24 hours following a rain event. Prior to construction activities resuming, a qualified biologist will inspect the action area and all equipment/materials for the presence of CTS and WSP and other listed species.

**Mitigation Measure BR-2 (Biological Resources)**

Pre-construction surveys for CTS and WESP and other listed species will be performed immediately prior to groundbreaking activities. Surveys will be conducted by a qualified biologist. If at any point, construction activities cease for more than 5 consecutive days, additional preconstruction surveys will be conducted prior to the resumption of these actions.

**Mitigation Measure BR-3 (Biological Resources)**

A qualified biologist shall remain on site during all ground-disturbing activities. If the biologist observes a CTS or WESP, or other listed species within the project area,

construction activities will stop, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will be contacted immediately.

**Mitigation Measure BR-4 (Biological Resources)**

Employees and contractors performing construction related activities will receive environmental sensitivity training. Training will include methods of identifying CTS and WESP and 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.

**Mitigation Measure BR-5 (Biological Resources)**

All excavated holes or trenches deeper than 6 inches will be covered at the end of each workday to prevent wildlife from becoming entrapped; if covering is not feasible, exit ramps will be installed using earth fill or wooden planks. All excavations will be inspected prior to backfill or grading to ensure that no individuals are trapped within.

**Mitigation Measure BR-6 (Biological Resources)**

Pipes, culverts, and similar materials greater than four inches in diameter, will be stored covered so as to prevent wildlife species from using these as temporary refuges.

**Mitigation Measure BR-7 (Biological Resources)**

Before the start of work each morning, all equipment such as vehicles and stored pipes will be inspected.

**Mitigation Measure BR-8 (Biological Resources)**

Best management practices (BMP's) (e.g., straw waddle, exclusion fence) should be employed to prevent excavated material from entering any wetland features.

**Mitigation Measure BR-9 (Biological Resources)**

Vehicles and equipment will be parked on pavement, existing roads, and previously disturbed areas to the greatest extent possible.

**Mitigation Measure BR-10 (Biological Resources)**

All equipment will be maintained such that there will be no leaks of automotive fluids such as gasoline, oils, or solvents.

**Mitigation Measure BR-11 (Biological Resources)**

All foods and food-related trash items will be enclosed in sealed trash containers at the end of each day and removed completely from the site once every three days.

**Mitigation Measure BR-12 (Biological Resources)**

No pets will be allowed anywhere in the project site during construction.

With adherence to the above mitigation measures, the proposed project will have a less than significant impact on CTS and WESP.

- b) **No Impact** – No riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or

US Fish and Wildlife Service is known to be on or directly near the subject property, nor will the proposed project impact one. The nearest watercourse is an unnamed intermittent stream that connects Lake Camanche (to the north of the project site) with the spillway (to the southwest). This stream is located approximately 400 feet to the west of the which passes through the eastern most portion of the parcel. The Project is proposed to be approximately 450 to the east of the intermittent stream, and therefore, the Project would not result in any impacts to this resource.

- c) **No Impact** – The Project site and surrounding area contain plant species commonly found in oak woodland communities. No hydrophytic plants were observed on the Project site; therefore, it was not necessary to examine for hydrology and soils, since all three criteria must be met where wetlands are present. No jurisdictional wetlands will be impacted by the installation of the proposed facility.
- d) **Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation** – The Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) protects all common wild birds in the United States except a select few species. California Fish and Game Code 3503 makes it illegal to destroy any bird nests or eggs protected under the MBTA. The Biological Resources Impact Analysis<sup>6</sup> determined that no avian nests or activity was observed during the study. However, the trees in the nearby vicinity provide suitable nesting habitat for several avian species. Therefore, pursuant to the codes stated above, installation of the proposed tower is recommended to be outside the nesting season generally extending from early February through September including yearly variability due to weather conditions.

**Mitigation Measure BR-13 (Biological Resources)**

If facility installation occurs within the bird nesting season (February 1 – September 30), a qualified biologist shall conduct a nesting bird survey to identify nesting activity. If active nests are observed, construction activity must be prohibited within a 500-foot buffer around the nest until the nestlings have fledged. All construction in the vicinity of the nest(s) must be in the presence of a qualified biological monitor. Construction activity may encroach into the buffer area at the discretion of the biological monitor.

- e-f) **No Impact** – The Project site is not located within the boundaries of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or State habitat conservation plan. Therefore, the Project would not conflict with any local policies, ordinances or plans protecting biological resources, and no impact would occur.

**V. CULTURAL RESOURCES**

	<u>POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT</u>	<u>LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT WITH MITIGATION</u>	<u>LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT</u>	<u>NO IMPACT</u>
Would the project:				
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to § 15064.5?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

- |  |                          |                                     |                          |                          |
|--|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to § 15064.5? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of dedicated cemeteries?                        | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

a-c) **Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation** – A Cultural Resources Assessment was conducted by EBI Consulting on May 2, 2024. A field survey was conducted on January 9, 2024, and records search with the Central California Information Center. The investigation found no cultural or historic resources within the Direct Area of Potential Effects, meaning the area where the telecommunications facility would be built. The Indirect Area of Potential Effects, the area within a ½ mile radius of the proposed facility, was also researched. There are seven (7) cultural resources recorded in this radius; however, these will not be affected by the construction of the Project. Local tribes were contacted as part of the study, and no responses were received with concerns within the project area.

Future development would be required to comply with the required procedures of conduct following the accidental discovery of human remains as mandated in the Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5, Public Resources Code Section 5097.98 and the California Code of Regulations Section 15064.5(e) (CEQA).

In the event of accidental discovery of human remains, the procedures pursuant to Title 14 section 15064.5 of CA Code of Regulations should be followed. There was no evidence of cultural resources in the project area, therefore, no impact to historical, cultural, or archaeological resources would occur.

Section 7050.5 of the California Health and Safety Code states that if human remains are found during construction activities, all operations are to cease until the County coroner has determined that the remains are not subject to the provisions of law concerning investigation of the circumstances in the manner provided in Section 5097.98 of the Public Resources Code. The potential exists to possibly uncover previously unidentified resources; therefore, it is concluded that there is a less than significant impact with mitigation measure incorporated.

**Mitigation Measure CR-1 (Cultural Resources)**

If subsurface deposits believed to be cultural or human in origin are discovered during construction, all work must halt within a 100-foot radius of the discovery. A qualified professional archaeologist, meeting the Secretary of the Interior’s Professional Qualification Standards for prehistoric and historic archaeologist, shall be retained to evaluate the significance of the find, and shall have the authority to modify the no-work radius as appropriate, using professional judgment. The following notifications shall apply, depending on the nature of the find:

- If the professional archaeologist determines that the find does not represent a cultural resource, work may resume immediately and no agency notifications are required.
- If the professional archaeologist determines that the find does represent a cultural resource from any time period or cultural affiliation, he or she shall immediately notify



the lead federal agency, the lead CEQA agency, and applicable landowner. The agencies shall consult on a finding of eligibility and implement appropriate treatment measures if the find is determined to be eligible for inclusion in the NRHP or CRHR. Work may not resume within the no-work radius until the lead agencies, through consultation as appropriate, determine that the site either:

- A. is not eligible for the NRHP or CRHR; or
- B. that the treatment measures have been completed to their satisfaction.

- If the findings include human remains, or remains that are potentially human, he or she shall ensure reasonable protection measures are taken to protect the discovery from disturbance (Assembly Bill [AB] 2641). The archaeologist shall notify Glenn County Coroner (as per § 7050.5 of the Health and Safety Code). The provisions of § 7050.5 of the California Health and Safety Code, § 5097.98 of the California PRC, and AB 2641 will be implemented. If the Coroner determines the remains are Native American and not the result of a crime scene, the coroner will notify the NAHC, which then will designate a Native American Most Likely Descendant (MLD) for the Project (§ 5097.98 of the PRC). The designated MLD will have 48 hours from the time access to the property is granted to make recommendations concerning treatment of the remains. If the landowner does not agree with the recommendations of the MLD, the NAHC can mediate (§ 5097.94 of the PRC). If no agreement is reached, the landowner must rebury the remains where they will not be further disturbed (§ 5097.98 of the PRC). This will also include either recording the site with the NAHC or the appropriate Information Center; using an open space or conservation zoning designation or easement; or recording a reinternment document with the county in which the property is located (AB 2641). Work may not resume within the no-work radius until the lead agencies, through consultation as appropriate, determine that the treatment measures have been completed to their satisfaction.

## VI. ENERGY

	<u>POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT</u>	<u>LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT WITH MITIGATION</u>	<u>LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT</u>	<u>NO IMPACT</u>
Would the project:				
a) Result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

a-b) **No Impact** – The proposed telecommunications facility will use electric power directly from the grid. Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E) was notified of the proposed project and responded that the proposed Project did not appear to directly interfere with existing PG&E facilities. The applicant chose this location because of existing, adequate access and power for the

proposed site. The project would provide wireless service to an under-served area, and therefore, the operation of the telecommunication facility would not represent a wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources. Calaveras County has not adopted a local renewable energy or energy efficient plan. The proposed telecommunications facility will be built to all applicable energy codes, to prevent energy waste and unnecessary consumption. Calculations will be required to be certified by a licensed engineer in compliance with applicable State and Federal energy standards. Per these regulations, the project will not have an impact on renewable energy nor energy efficiency.

## VII. GEOLOGY AND SOILS

	<u>POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT</u>	<u>LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT WITH MITIGATION</u>	<u>LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT</u>	<u>NO IMPACT</u>
Would the project:				
a) Directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:				
i. Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
ii. Strong seismic ground shaking?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
iii. Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
iv. Landslides?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

f) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?

- a) **No Impact** – Calaveras County lies within the Sierra Block, an area of historically low seismicity. Though ground shaking from earthquakes with epicenters located elsewhere have been felt, no major earthquakes have been recorded within the County. The closest known source of large earthquakes is the Sierra Frontal Fault System along the eastern margin of the Sierra Nevada, which includes the Carson Valley Fault. This fault is located east of the County and has been evaluated as capable of generating earthquakes of up to magnitude 7.0. However, the risk of surface rupture is not considered sufficient to restrict the development found in the County. The parcel and surrounding area were checked for faults using the “EQ Zapp: California Earthquake Hazards Zone Application” online map. No local faults are noted on the map. Sites in Calaveras County with liquefaction potential would be those on alluvial deposits having groundwater and sand or silt layers of uniform grain sizes within about 30 feet of the surface. Such conditions are not found on the subject parcel and are generally not present in the County. No impact would occur.
  
- b-c) **Less Than Significant Impact** – The areas of landslide concern are those that include high elevations with steep ravines and gulches associated with river and stream channels. Located at approximately 350 feet in elevation, the parcel has no ravines or gulches associated with rivers or stream channels. According to the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service soils maps, the subject parcel contains soils classified as “Pardee cobbly loam.” The parcel is relatively flat and vegetated which increases the stability of the soil creating less probability of erosion. If erosion of soils were to occur, the risk of loss, injury or death is low because the development potential is limited. Utilization of best management practices to reduce the risk of erosion is a requirement of all grading and building in the County. Based on the stable soil types and shallow bedrock in this soil type, this project will have a less than significant impact to soil erosion, topsoil, and instability.
  
- d) **Less Than Significant Impact** – According to the USDA National Cooperative Soil Survey, the soil complex consists of “shallow, well-drained soils” with colluvium over residuum weathered from conglomerate or tuff that can be found as close as 10 inches in depth. Therefore, these soils are not considered expansive soils and project will have a less than significant impact.
  
- a) **No Impact** – A well and on-site septic system currently exist on the subject parcel in the southern portion where the residence is located. Installation of an unmanned telecommunications facility will not create an increased need or use of this infrastructure. No impact would occur.
  
- b) **No Impact** – There are no known unique paleontological resources or sites or unique geologic features on or near the subject parcel. No impact would occur.

## VIII. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

	<u>POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT</u>	<u>LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT WITH MITIGATION</u>	<u>LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT</u>	<u>NO IMPACT</u>
Would the project:				
a) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

a-b) **Less than Significant Impact** – Construction emissions would be limited to the construction employees travelling to the site, creation, construction, and installation of proposed improvements. These emissions associated with this project are minimal and result in a less than significant impact. The project does not involve a site modification or operational usage that meets criteria for emissions generating uses. Although the telecommunications facility would generate periodic vehicular trips for management and maintenance, the project would fall below the CCAPCD thresholds, and the impact is considered less than significant. Future construction would be required to comply with the updated Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations established by the Energy Commission. The County has not adopted a plan or program to reduce GHG's so the proposed Project would not be in conflict with any such plan or program, and therefore, the impact is considered less than significant.

## IX. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

	<u>POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT</u>	<u>LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT WITH MITIGATION</u>	<u>LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT</u>	<u>NO IMPACT</u>
Would the project:				
a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

significant hazard to the public or the environment?

- |   |                          |                          |                          |                                     |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard or excessive noise for people residing or working in the project area? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| f) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| g) Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires?   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

a) **Less Than Significant Impact** – The Environmental Health Department requires a Hazardous Materials Business Plan to be put in place if hazardous materials are stored or handled in quantities that equal or exceed 55 gallons for liquid, 500 pounds for solids, or 200 cubic feet for gases. All applicable Federal, State, and County regulations will apply to all hazardous materials that may be used or stored on the subject parcel. On an ongoing basis the only anticipated hazardous material would be from a proposed 200-gallon on-site fuel storage tank. Assuming proper storage and use of those materials, the potential for significant impacts from these materials is less than significant.

Although cell towers emit radio frequency (RF) emissions Federal law preempts local decisions about telecommunication towers such as this one from direct or indirect environmental impacts from RF emissions, assuming the provider complies with the Federal Communication Commission’s RF guidelines.

b) **Less Than Significant Impact** – Hazardous materials such as diesel, maintenance fluids, and paints would be used onsite during construction. Should they be stored onsite, these materials would be stored in secure locations to reduce the potential for upset or accident conditions. Assuming proper storage and use of those materials, the potential for significant impacts from these materials is less than significant.

c) **No Impact** - The nearest school to the project site is Valley Springs Elementary School located approximately 8.5 miles to the east of the Project site. Due to the distance to the Project site, there will be no impact to the school.

d) **No Impact** - Based on a search of the California Department of Toxic Substances Control database, the project site does not contain any known EPA National Priority List sites, State response sites, voluntary cleanup sites, or any school cleanup sites. No impact would occur as the project site is not on any known list of hazardous materials sites.

e) **No Impact** – The subject parcel is not located in an airport land use plan or within 2 miles of a public use airport.

- f) **No Impact** – There is no adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan specifically involving the parcel in question. The proposed project does not impede any traffic or alter any roads. The proposed project has been reviewed by the Public Works Department. The existing access driveway would continue to serve the project and meets County Road Standards. Therefore, the project would not obstruct emergency vehicle access. The project has been reviewed by the Calaveras Consolidated Fire Protection District and found acceptable, as designed and conditioned. There will be no impact to any adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan.
- g) **No Impact** – According to The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection's Fire and Resource Assessment Program (FRAP), this area of the county has a moderate fire risk. The project would comply with current California Department of Forestry and California Building Code requirements for fire safety. The Calaveras Consolidated Fire Protection District has reviewed the proposed Project and no concerns or conditions. The project will not expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires. No impacts will occur.

## X. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

	<u>POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT</u>	<u>LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT WITH MITIGATION</u>	<u>LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT</u>	<u>NO IMPACT</u>
Would the project:				
a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or ground water quality?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(i) result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site;	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(ii) substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site;	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(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	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

- |   |                          |                          |                          |                                     |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| (iv)impede or redirect flood flows?   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| d) In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?                     | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| e) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

a) **No Impact** – The proposed telecommunications facility will not cause any additional waste discharge or similar effluent that would cause a degradation of ground water quality. All construction and operation of uses on the parcel are subject to all applicable codes, policies, and regulations regarding waste discharge and water quality. No impacts would occur.

b) **No Impact** – The project is not within a utility service area district and does not propose to use any groundwater for operation of the telecommunications facilities. For this reason, the proposed Project would not use any groundwater resources or lower the local groundwater table. The project would minimally increase the amount of impervious area on the project site. Therefore, the project would have no impact on groundwater recharge.

c) **Less Than Significant Impact** – The proposed Project would not substantially alter the existing drainage patterns of the site or vicinity. As the proposed Project is a minor physical change to the site, it would not result in an impact to or substantially alter the drainage pattern on site or cause a significant increase in erosion or siltation on or off the Project site. Compliance with applicable codes, policies, and regulations regarding waste discharge and water quality would ensure that Project operations would not violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or groundwater quality. Comments received from the County Public Works Department require compliance with the County Road Ordinance (Chapter 12.02), Encroachment Ordinance (Ch 12.08), Storm Water Quality Ordinance (13.01), and the Grading & Draining Ordinance (15.05), in order to prevent substantial impacts to erosion and pollution of water due to construction. These are utilized and enforced by not only the Public Works department during grading activities, but also the Building Department during construction through inspections. Compliance with these regulations and the small-scale of this project ensures there will not be substantial erosion, siltation or runoff that would impact the site or area off-site.

d) **No Impact** – The parcel is not located in an area that is subject to flood hazards, tsunamis, or seiches, and would not be at risk of releasing pollutants due to inundation. No impacts would occur.

e) **No Impact** – The proposed Project does not include development of that will impede or redirect flood flows and will not obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or substantial groundwater management plan. No impacts would occur.

## XI. LAND USE AND PLANNING

	<u>LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT WITH MITIGATION</u>	<u>LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT</u>	<u>NO IMPACT</u>
<u>POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT</u>			

Would the project:

- |  |                          |                          |                          |                                     |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) Physically divide an established community?   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

a-b) **No Impact** - The project would not occur within an established community, nor would it result in the division of an established community. The proposed project complies with the Calaveras County General Plan, the Calaveras County Zoning Ordinance, applicable County Code sections, and all other applicable regulations. There are no habitat conservation plans or natural community conservation plans applicable to the property. Therefore, the project results in no impact.

## XII. MINERAL RESOURCES

	<u>POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT</u>	<u>LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT WITH MITIGATION</u>	<u>LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT</u>	<u>NO IMPACT</u>
Would the project:				
a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally-important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

a-b) **No Impact** –The Project site is not located within the County’s Mineral Resource Overlay. The Project site is also not within or adjacent to any active mining operations. Thus, the Project would not result in the loss of availability of any known mineral resources of value to the region or result in the loss of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan, or other land use plan. No impact would occur.

## XIII. NOISE

	<u>POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT</u>	<u>LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT WITH MITIGATION</u>	<u>LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT</u>	<u>NO IMPACT</u>
Would the project result in:				
a) Generation of a substantial, temporary, or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



- |   |                          |                          |                                     |                                     |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| b) Generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| c) For a project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

a-b) **Less Than Significant Impact** – The project would result in a temporary increase in noise levels as there would be site grading and construction activities for the proposed project. The project must comply with the County Noise Ordinance (Chapter 9.02). As such, the proposed project would not result in long-term significant construction noise impacts. Conditions of approval identified below would require construction activities to be limited to be between 7:00 A.M. and 6:00 P.M. in order to comply with the county noise ordinance.

An acoustical analysis was conducted on October 24, 2023, by Sound Solutions to determine if the equipment will comply with the noise ordinance. The standby emergency generator is the only noise source of concern. The generator will run during power outages and for 15 minutes once a week for routine maintenance purposes during normal business hours between 8 am- 5 pm, Monday through Friday. Based on their review of the site plan, Sound Solutions identified the nearest property line to the proposed location of the generator is the northern boundary which is 100 feet away. Sound Solutions’ report concluded that provided that the nearest property line is approximately 100 ft. from the Generator, it is projected that noise levels will be within and compliant with Calaveras County Code<sup>8</sup> 9.02.040 B. The project will be conditioned to comply with the proposed site plan as shown in Figure 3, therefore, impacts will be less than significant.

- c) **No Impact** – The subject parcel is not located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or an airport land use plan or within two miles of a public airport or public use airport. No impact would occur.

#### XIV. POPULATION AND HOUSING

	<u>POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT</u>	<u>LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT WITH MITIGATION</u>	<u>LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT</u>	<u>NO IMPACT</u>
Would the project:				
a) Induce substantial unplanned population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

construction of replacement housing elsewhere?

a-b) **No Impact** – The project would be visited by one or two employees approximately once a month to monitor and provide maintenance to the wireless telecommunications facility. As this is a minimal amount of employees, it would not substantially increase the number of jobs in the area and it is considered to be relatively small compared to the overall area and nearby communities. Therefore, this increase in jobs will not contribute to a cumulatively considerable increase in the demand for housing units within Calaveras County and the general vicinity and impact to population and housing would occur. The project would not result in the displacement of any housing units or people. No impacts would occur.

## XV. PUBLIC SERVICES

	<u>POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT</u>	<u>LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT WITH MITIGATION</u>	<u>LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT</u>	<u>NO IMPACT</u>
Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services:				
Fire protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Police protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Schools?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Parks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other public facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

a) **No Impact** – Public services are currently provided to the project area and the additional demand placed on existing services as a result of the proposed project would be minimal. The Calaveras Consolidated Fire Protection District reviewed the application and recommend approval, without additional conditions. The proposed project would have minimal impact on public parks as no residences are proposed. No impacts to public services will occur.

## XVI. RECREATION

	<u>POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT</u>	<u>LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT WITH MITIGATION</u>	<u>LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT</u>	<u>NO IMPACT</u>
a) Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that				

substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

a-b) **No Impact** – The proposed Project would not increase the use of any existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities in the vicinity. Development of recreational facilities is not proposed as part of the Project. No impact would occur.

## XVII. TRANSPORTATION

	<u>POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT</u>	<u>LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT WITH MITIGATION</u>	<u>LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT</u>	<u>NO IMPACT</u>
Would the project:				
a) Conflict with a program plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle, and pedestrian facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines §15064.3, subdivision (b)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Result in inadequate emergency access?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

a) **No Impact** – The proposed addition of a telecommunications facility would utilize the existing infrastructure, taking access off of Camanche Parkway South. The existing private access road for the telecommunications facility will be improved for use by the leaseholder. This project does not require a traffic study, or access to transit, bicycle or pedestrian facilities. This project will comply with fire and road standards and will therefore not conflict with any plans, ordinances, or policies pertaining to transportation. No impacts would occur.

b) **Less than Significant Impact** – The proposed cell tower is an allowable use with approval of an Administrative Use Permit in the A1 zone. There are no high-volume transit stops in this rural area. The proposed cellular tower will not be open to the public and should not generate additional traffic in this regard. As discussed in Section VIII, Greenhouse Gasses, the vehicle trips for maintenance are estimated to be one (1) per month. This will not exceed that of a single-family residence with allowed trips of 10 per day, comprising a less than significant impact.

- c) **No Impact** – The access road will be improved to provide adequate access from Camanche Parkway South to the cellular tower location and will not increase hazards or design features that are incompatible. The area consists of rural residential neighborhood with little traffic and parcels adjacent to the site, and there are no known hazardous design features. Therefore, the project will have no impact.
- d) **Less than Significant Impact** – Local and State emergency services, including the fire district, have been notified of the project. The Calaveras Consolidated Fire Protection District reviewed the application and recommend approval, without additional conditions. Permitting procedures from the land use departments will ensure adequate emergency access, bringing this concern to a less than significant impact.

## XVIII. TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES

	<u>POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT</u>	<u>LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT WITH MITIGATION</u>	<u>LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT</u>	<u>NO IMPACT</u>
<p>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:</p>				
<p>a) Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code section 5020.1(k), or</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>b) A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

a-b) **Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation**– As discussed in Appendix B, Cultural Resource Records Search and Site Visit Results, there are no known cultural or archaeological resources or dedicated cemeteries on the Project site.

As part of the processing of the project application, County staff-initiated consultation with tribes that have requested formal notification of proposed projects within their geographic area of traditional and cultural affiliation per AB 52 Notification Request, Public Resources Code Section 21080.3(b). The Calaveras Band of Miwuk Indians, the California Valley

Miwok Tribe, and the Lone Band of Miwok Indians, Buena Vista Rancheria, and Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California have been notified of this project. The California Valley Miwok Tribe responded with no comment or concern for the project. No responses were received from the tribes.

If any site excavation occurs in the future and any artifacts uncovered, that project would be subject to laws governing the accidental discovery. It is concluded the proposal will have a less than significant impact with mitigations incorporated.

Discovery of Tribal Cultural Resources

In accordance with State and Federal Laws if any potentially prehistoric, protohistoric, and/or historic cultural resources are accidentally encountered during future excavation of the site, all work shall cease in the area of the find pending an examination of the site and materials by a qualified archaeologist.

**Mitigation Measure TCR -1 (Tribal Cultural Resources)**

All personnel upon entering the project site are to undergo tribal cultural awareness training by, at minimum, reviewing and concurring to the corresponding Conditions of Approval and Mitigation Measures requiring to stop work and notify the lead agency and tribes in the event of discovery.

**Mitigation Measure TCR -2 (Tribal Cultural Resources)**

In the event that any prehistoric or historic subsurface cultural (including Tribal) resources are discovered during ground disturbing activities, all work within 100 feet of the resources shall be halted and the applicant/operator shall consult with the County and a qualified archaeologist (as approved by the County) and corresponding tribal representative to assess the significance of the find per CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5. The qualified archaeologist shall determine the nature of the find, evaluate its significance, and, if necessary, suggest preservation or mitigation measures. Appropriate mitigation measures, based on recommendations listed in the archaeological survey report and tribal representative, will be determined by the Glenn County Planning & Community Development Services Agency. Work may proceed on other parts of the project site while mitigation for historical resources, unique archaeological resources, and/or tribal resources is carried out. All significant cultural materials recovered shall be, at the discretion of the consulting archaeologist, subject to scientific analysis, professional museum curation, tribal representative, and documented according to current professional standards.

**XIX. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS**

	<u>POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT</u>	<u>LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT WITH MITIGATION</u>	<u>LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT</u>	<u>NO IMPACT</u>
Would the project:				
a) Require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment, stormwater drainage, electric power, natural gas, or	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

telecommunications facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects?

- |   |                          |                          |                          |                                     |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| b) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years?   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 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? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 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?   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| e) Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

a-e) **No Impact** – The proposed project will not require the construction of additional infrastructure beyond the telecommunications facility itself. There is adequate power near the site and sufficient drainage. No new natural gas, water, or wastewater utilities are proposed nor will be needed on site as it is an unmanned facility. Permitting procedures from the land use departments will ensure proper installation of the facilities per local and State standards. Operation of the proposed Project would not generate demand for utilities requiring the relocation or construction of new or expanded facilities. The Project application was circulated to utility agencies for an opportunity to comment on the project. The County received a letter from PG&E stating that the proposed improvements will not interfere with existing facilities. No other letters were received concerning impacts to their services. The operation of the proposed cell tower facility does not generate solid waste. No impact would occur in this regard.

## XX. WILDFIRE

	<u>POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT</u>	<u>LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT WITH MITIGATION</u>	<u>LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT</u>	<u>NO IMPACT</u>
If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the project:				
a) Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks, and thereby expose project occupants to,	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire?

- |   |                          |                          |                                     |                          |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| c) Require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines, or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 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?   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

a) **No Impact** – The Project does not propose activities that would substantially impair the Calaveras County Emergency Operations Plan. All roads in the area would remain open. The project site is located on private property with adequate access to county roads. The project will not interfere with adjacent roadways that may be used for emergency response or evacuation. The project will not prohibit subsequent plans from being established or prevent the goals and objectives of existing plans from being carried out. No impacts would occur.

b) **No Impact** – The tower facility does not propose significant changes to the existing landscape and no project occupants will be stationed at the telecommunications facility and so will have no impact on exposure of pollutants to occupants. No impacts would occur.

c) **Less Than Significant Impact** – The proposed telecommunications facility will have a road that meets fire access requirements and hammerhead turnaround, allowing for emergency vehicles at the site. The project was routed to all applicable fire departments and agencies and they had no additional conditions; therefore, impacts will be less than significant.

d) **Less than Significant Impact** –The proposed project only requires the installation of an upgraded access road, hammerhead turnaround and 40 ft. x 30 ft. lease area entirely within the subject parcel allowing access for maintenance vehicles, or emergency access. The project will not alter any existing roads or impede traffic. The installation of a telecommunications facility will not significantly alter drainage patterns, cause slope instability, or expose people or structures to risks associated with these impacts including post-fire events; therefore, impacts will be less than significant.

**XXI. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE**

<u>POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT</u>	<u>LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT WITH MITIGATION</u>	<u>LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT</u>	<u>NO IMPACT</u>
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- a) Does the project have the potential to Substantially degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?
- b) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)?
- c) Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?

a) **Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation** – Based on the information and analysis provided throughout this Initial Study, implementation of the proposed Project would not substantially degrade the quality of the environment and would not 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, reduce the number or restrict the range of rare or endangered plants or animals, or eliminate important examples of California history or prehistory. As discussed in the biological resources section of this document, impacts to CTS and WESP or its habitat will be reduced to a level of less than significant with mitigation. The site does not contain any wetlands or water features with characteristics for habitat of species or rare plant life. Mitigation protocols for the Migratory Bird Treaty Act were recommended during certain months when constructing the proposed residential addition. No historic or prehistoric resources are anticipated to be affected by the proposed project nor will the proposed project eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory.

b) **Less Than Significant Impact** – The proposed telecommunications facility would not create a cumulative impact to any of the items discussed above. The proposed use is permitted in the General Agriculture zone with approval of an administrative use permit; therefore, the Project is consistent with the General Plan and Zoning Code. Potential air quality, greenhouse gas emissions, hydrology and traffic associated impacts are discussed in their respective sections above. The analysis determined that all potential impacts were less than significant and would not contribute significantly to cumulative impacts. With the imposition of standard and project specific conditions of approval, the project does not have impacts that are individually limited, or cumulatively considerable.



c) **Less Than Significant Impact** – Federal law preempts local decisions about telecommunication facilities such as this one from direct or indirect environmental effects of radio frequency (RF) emissions, which have been determined to be safe within the guidelines of the 1996 Telecommunications Act and the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). The proposed project would not create significant hazards or health safety concerns. Aspects of this project, which have the potential to have an effect on human beings or the environment, have been discussed in this document. The impacts of the project have been concluded to be less than significant. The project as proposed will not have substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly. It is concluded that there will be a less than significant impact.

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