



County of Calaveras Planning Department

Bret Sampson, Planning Director

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INITIAL STUDY ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

**FOR: NEW CINGULAR WIRELESS PCS, LLC / AT&T
ASSESSOR'S PARCEL NO. 054-011-014**

AUP 2024-044

PROJECT SUMMARY

1. **Project Title:**
2024-044 Conditional Use Permit for New Cingular Wireless PCS, LLC / AT&T
2. **Lead Agency Name and Address:**
Calaveras County Planning Department
891 Mountain Ranch Road
San Andreas, CA 95249
3. **Contact Person and Phone Number:**
John Franklin, Planner II, 209-754-6394
4. **Project Location:**
The subject property is located a 409 Jackson Street, Copperopolis, CA. APN 054-011-014 is a 4.43-acre property in the in the Copperopolis Townsite, Lot 8 and portion of lot 7.
5. **Project Sponsor’s Name and Address:**
Centerline Communication – Aaron DeLaO
6101 Passiflora Lane
Orangevale, Ca 95662
6. **General Plan Designation:**
Community Center (CC)
7. **Zoning:**
R1 (Single Family Residential)
8. **Brief Project Description:**
A Conditional Use Permit (CUP) to install a new telecommunications tower and supporting ground equipment.
9. **Surrounding land uses and setting:**

Location	General Plan Designation	Zoning	Land Use
North	Community Center	R1	Residential
South	Community Center/ Rural Transition B/ Rural Residential/ Resource Production	R1/ RA/ PS/ AP	Residential/ Public Service/ Agriculture
East	Community Center	R1/ R2/ C2/ PS	Residential/ Commercial/ Public Service
West	Rural Transition B/ Resource Production	RR/ RA/ AP/ PS	Residential/ Agriculture/ Public Service

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.? **No.**

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", or "Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation" 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:

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.



John D. Franklin
Project Planner

4/16/2025
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

Project Description:

The proposed project consists of installation of a new 90-foot (ft.) broadleaf tree pole with twelve (12) 8 ft. antennas, a microwave dish, three (3) ground mounted cabinets, and associated small equipment. All facility equipment will be on raised concrete pad and contained within a 16 ft. by 31 ft. fenced lease area, located approximately 55 ft. from the nearest property boundary. Plans indicate potential future co-location. A 30Kw backup generator has been proposed. Stealth telecommunications facilities are allowed in the Single Family Residential (R1) zone with approval of a Conditional Use Permit (CUP). This project requires environmental impact analysis, and site-specific studies to examine the project site and associated impacts.

Environmental Impact Analysis Summary:

The existing conditions on the project parcel include a single-family residence located on the Northern portion of the parcel, approximately 270' from the Project site. Access is proposed to be from the existing road, Jackson Street. A thirteen-foot-wide access path will be created from Jackson Street as the primary means of accessing the facility. The location of the tower facility is proposed to follow this pathway and the lease area placed in the clearing (see figures 3 and 4). The lease area is proposed to be 270' from the nearest residence within project parcel, and ~300' from the second closest residence to the West, outside of the project parcel. Several studies were submitted as part of this application: a Biological Resources Impact Analysis, Cultural Resources Study, Noise Compliance Report, and Radio Frequency Emissions Study. Each study is discussed further in the relevant environmental impact categories.

Figure 1 – Location Map



Figure 2 – Aerial Photo: Parcel Boundary

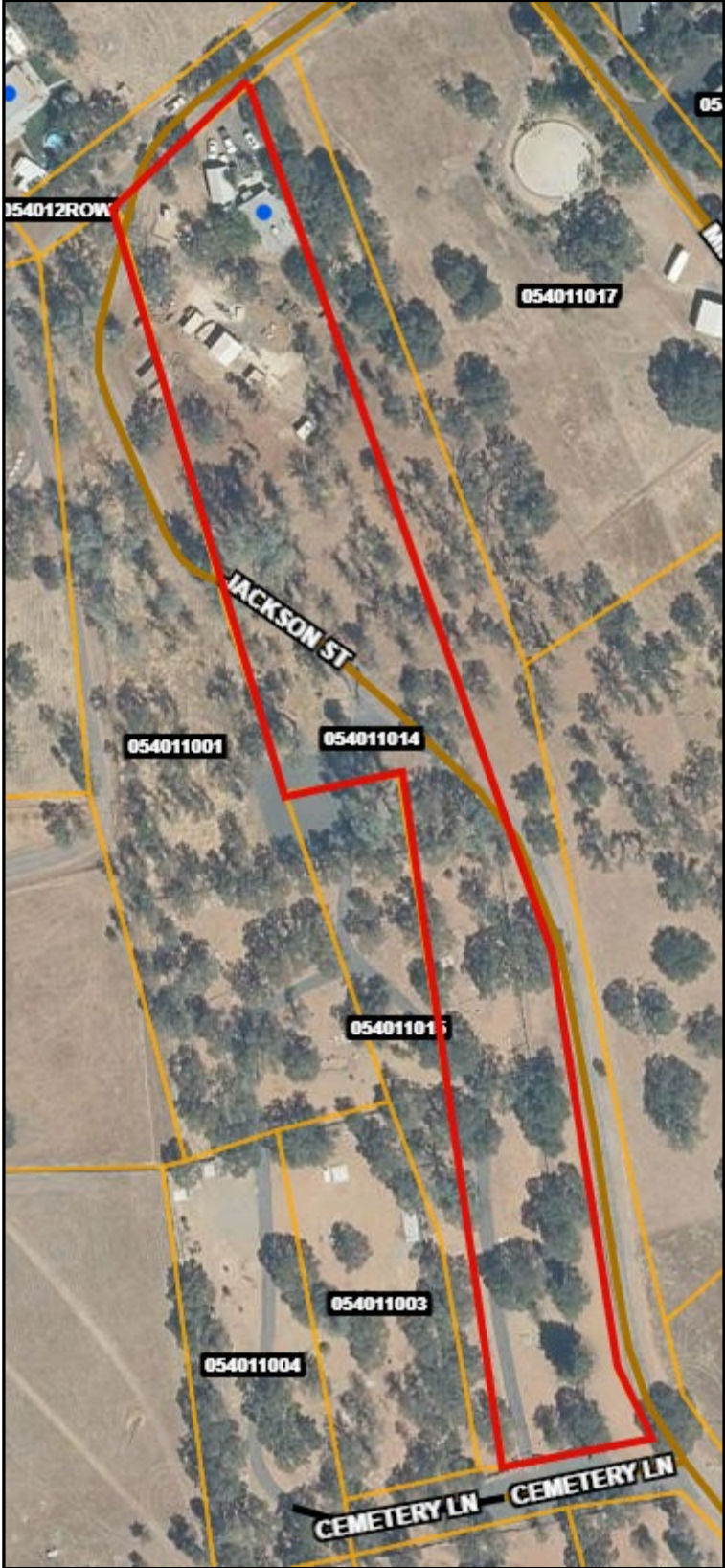


Figure 3 – Telecommunications Facility Site Plan

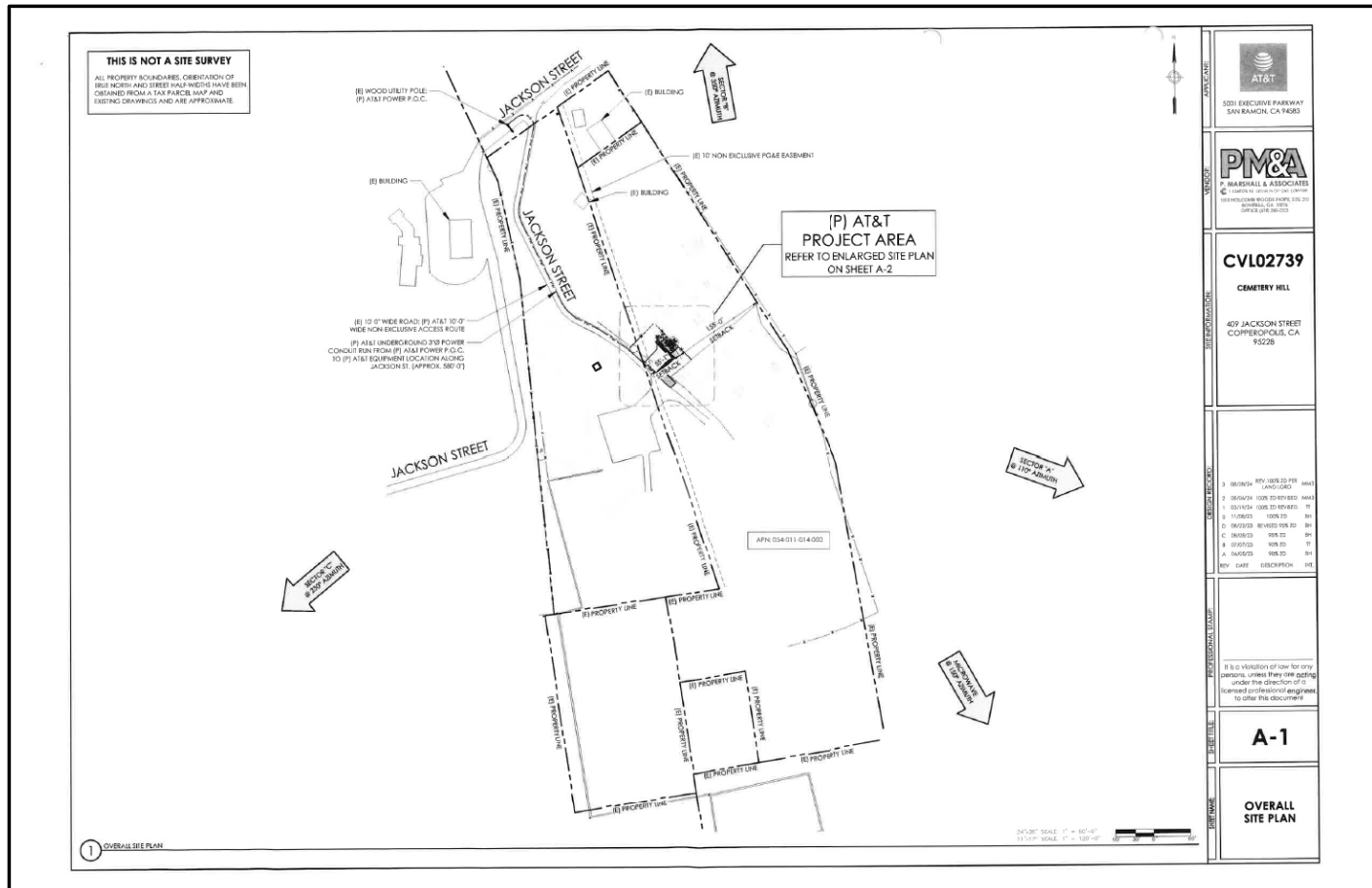
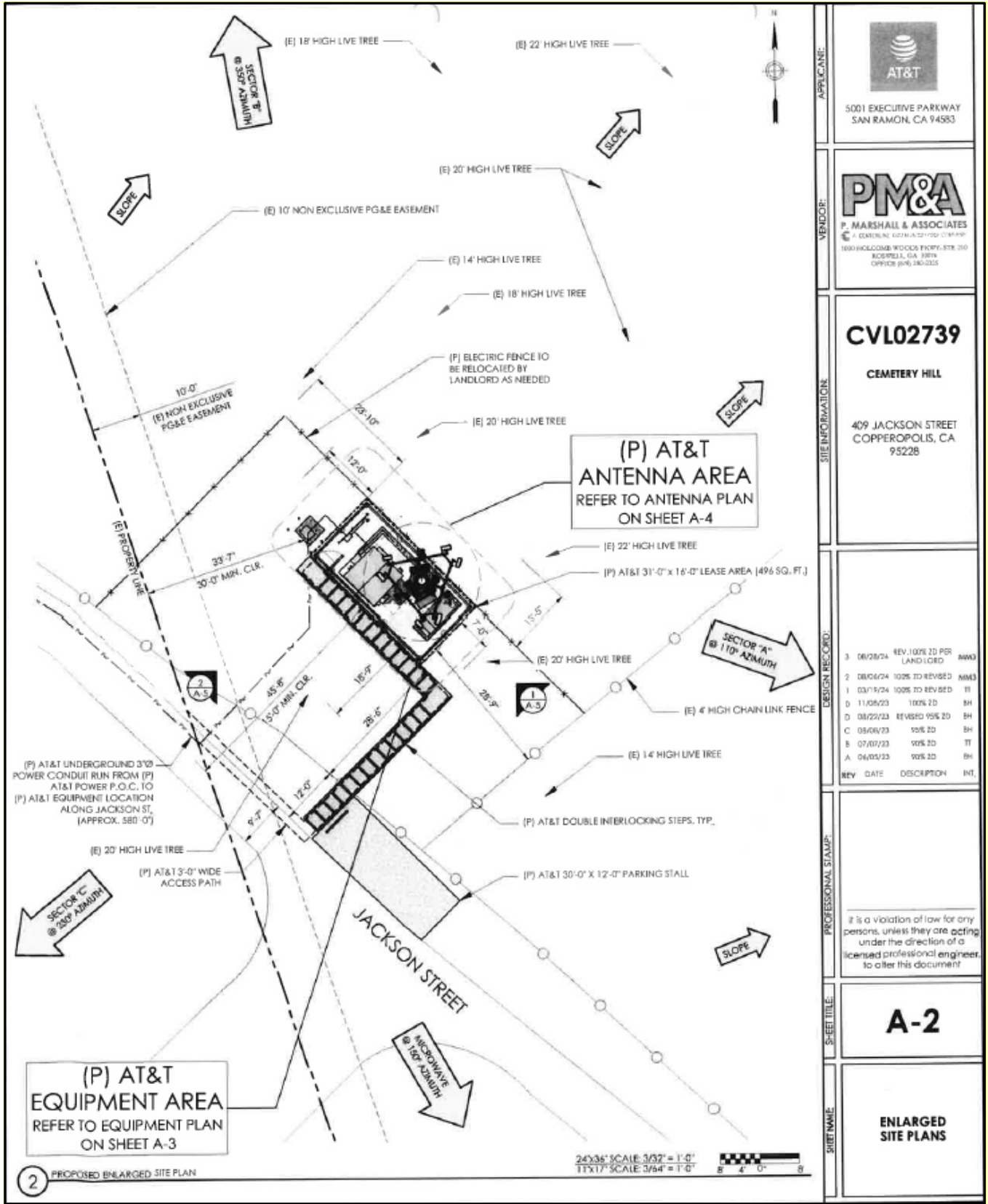




Figure 4 – Telecommunications Enlarged Compound Plan



APPLICANT:	 5001 EXECUTIVE PARKWAY SAN RAMON, CA 94583																																				
VENDOR:	 P. MARSHALL & ASSOCIATES A CONSULTING ENGINEERING FIRM 1000 HOLLAND WOODS DRIVE, STE. 200 CUPERTINO, CA 95014 OFFICE (408) 286-0355																																				
SITE INFORMATION:	CVL02739 CEMETERY HILL 409 JACKSON STREET COPPERPOLIS, CA 95228																																				
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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>
<i>Except as provided in Public Resources Code §21099, would the project:</i>				
a) <i>Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) <i>Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) <i>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?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) <i>Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

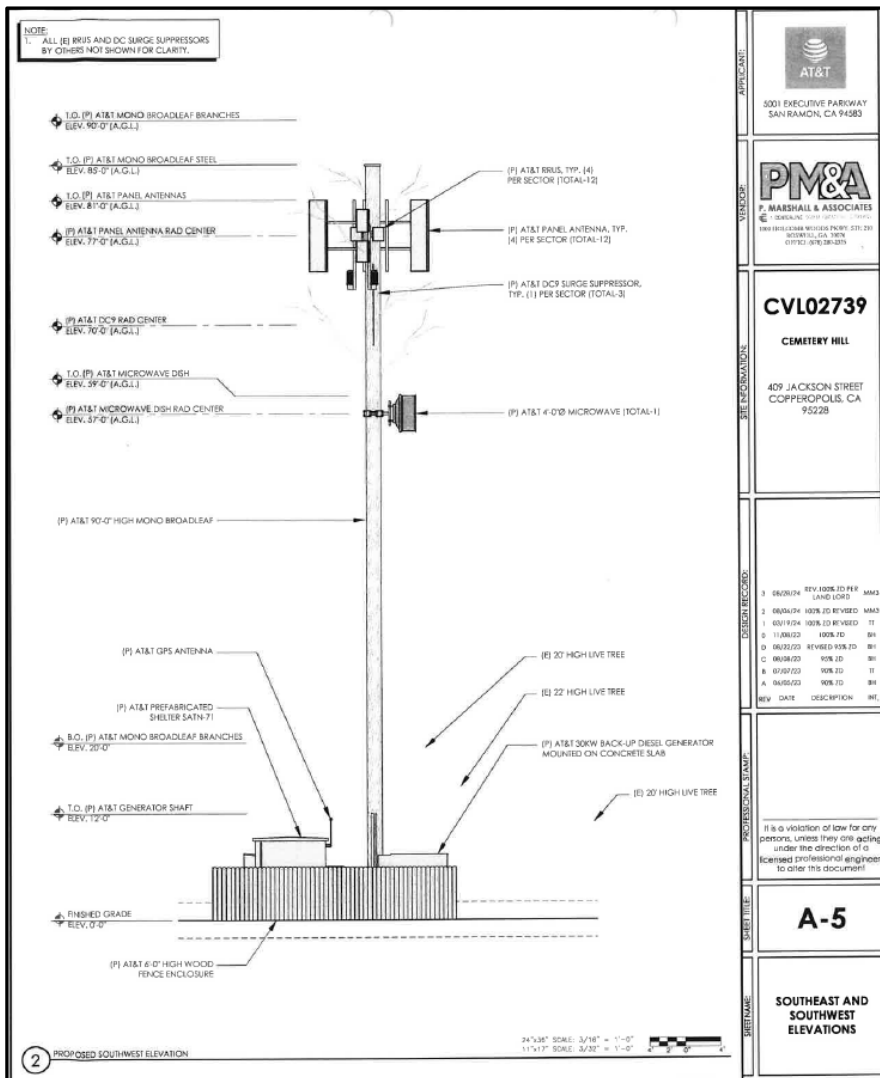
DISCUSSION


a. **Less than Significant** – The Conservation and Open Space Element of the Calaveras County General Plan considers scenic resources to include forests, rolling hills, ranches, agricultural land, historic landscapes, oak woodlands, rock formations and other unique topographical features, river corridors, lakes, and streams. This project is in the Copperopolis area, specifically the Copper Townsite. The area surrounding the subject parcel is primarily residential. The project site is on a previously disturbed parcel from residential development, maintained of the rural property, and onsite grazing. The proposed tower will use stealth construction to appear as a broadleaf tree (See figure 5). No trees will be removed as part of this project. The proposed site would not be considered a Scenic Vista, and the proposed project will have no impact.


Per Calaveras County Code Section 17.25.110, stealth telecommunication facilities are a conditional use in residential zones. Since the 90-foot-tall cell tower will be visible in all directions it will have an effect on the local vista. An impact of this nature could theoretically be considered to be significant from an aesthetics standpoint; however, submitted photo simulations (Figures 7-10 below) indicate that the proposed stealth design as a broadleaf tree blends well with the existing landscape. While likely not completely screening the tower, the stealth tree’s appearance will appreciably reduce the aesthetic impact to a level that is less than significant. 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.

- b. **No Impact** – Portions of State Route (SR) 4 and SR 49 are listed as Eligible State Scenic Highways by Caltrans. The Ebbetts Pass area is designated a National Scenic Byway which stretches 58 miles from east of Arnold to Alpine County. These locations are not near the proposed project. The nearest highway to the project site is State Highway 4 and the project parcel is located approximately 0.2 miles from this highway. According to Caltrans, this portion of Highway 4 is not designated as a State scenic highway and therefore has no impact on State scenic highways.
- c. **Less Than Significant Impact** – The subject parcel and surrounding area is a rural subdivision. To maintain the area's character and aesthetic, the telecommunications tower will be constructed to appear as a broadleaf tree to blend in with the surrounding landscape. The closest public road to the project site is Jackson Street, there will be a less than significant impact to the existing visual character and the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings will not be substantially degraded. Figure 8 provides a photo simulation from the nearest roadway demonstrating this finding.
- 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 90' feet high, with antennas to be attached at 81' or lower. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) allows local agencies to regulate changes to tower height of 10% or more through the permitting process. Therefore, the project does not require any additional lighting and will not have an impact on lighting in the area.

Figure 5 – Telecommunications Broadleaf Design



APPLICANT:

 3001 EXECUTIVE PARKWAY
 SAN RAMON, CA 94583

ENGINEER:

 P. MARSHALL & ASSOCIATES
 1700 REDWOOD WOODS PARKWAY, SUITE 200
 WOODLAND, CA 95696
 (925) 676-0800

PROJECT INFORMATION:
CVL02739
CEMETERY HILL
 409 JACKSON STREET
 COPPERPOPLIS, CA
 95228

REV	DATE	DESCRIPTION	BY
1	08/20/04	REV. 100% ID PER LAND (03)	MMJ
2	08/24/04	100% ID REVISED	MMJ
3	03/19/04	100% ID REVISED	TT
4	11/08/03	100% ID	BA
5	06/22/03	REVISED PER ID	BA
6	06/08/03	100% ID	BA
7	07/07/03	100% ID	TT
8	04/05/03	100% ID	BA

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SHEET TITLE:
A-5

REFERENCE:
SOUTHEAST AND SOUTHWEST ELEVATIONS

Figure 6 – Simulation of Proposed Telecommunications Facility from the South

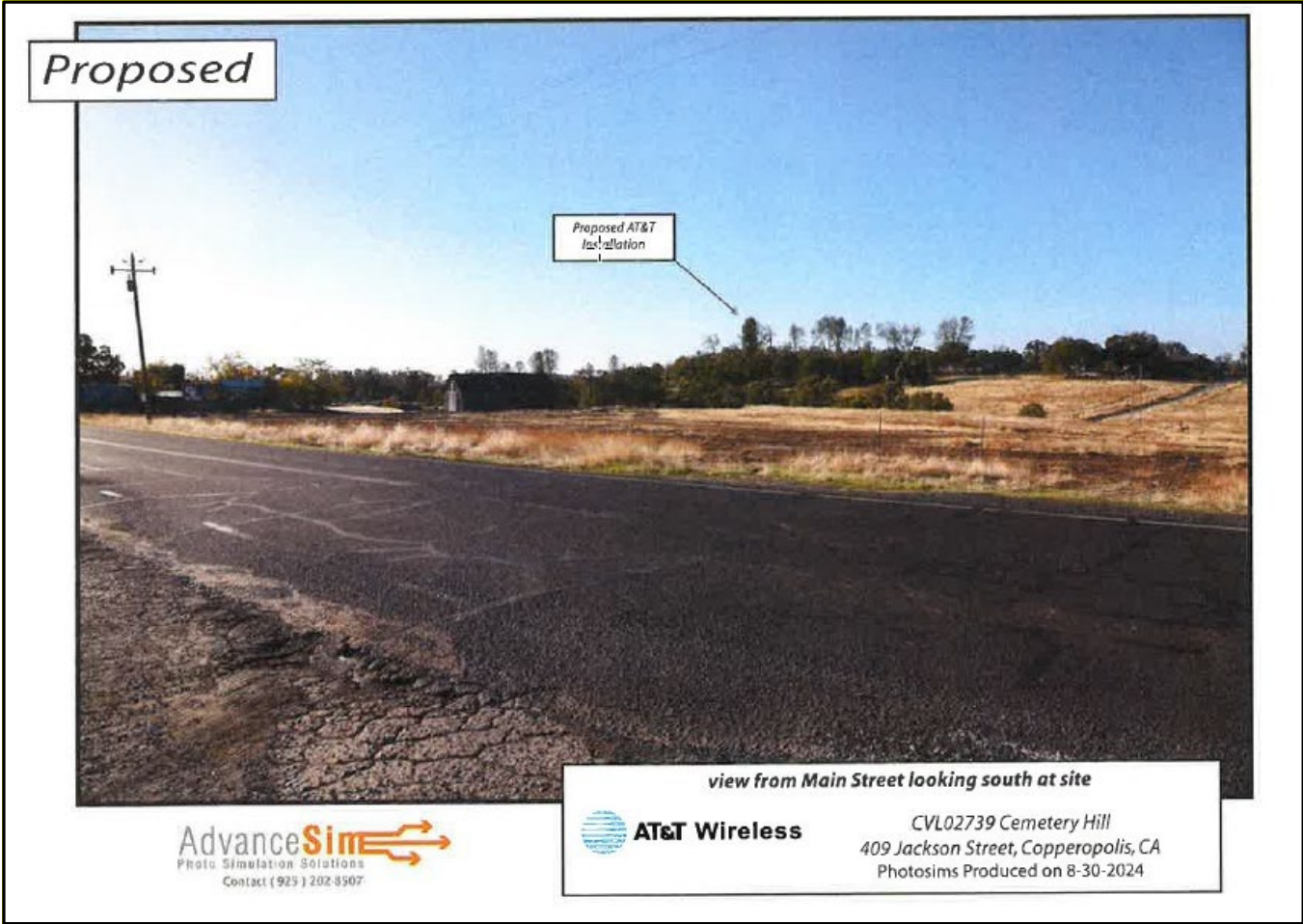


Figure 7 – Simulation of Proposed Telecommunications Facility from The Southwest



Figure 8 – Simulation of Proposed Telecommunications Facility from The Northeast

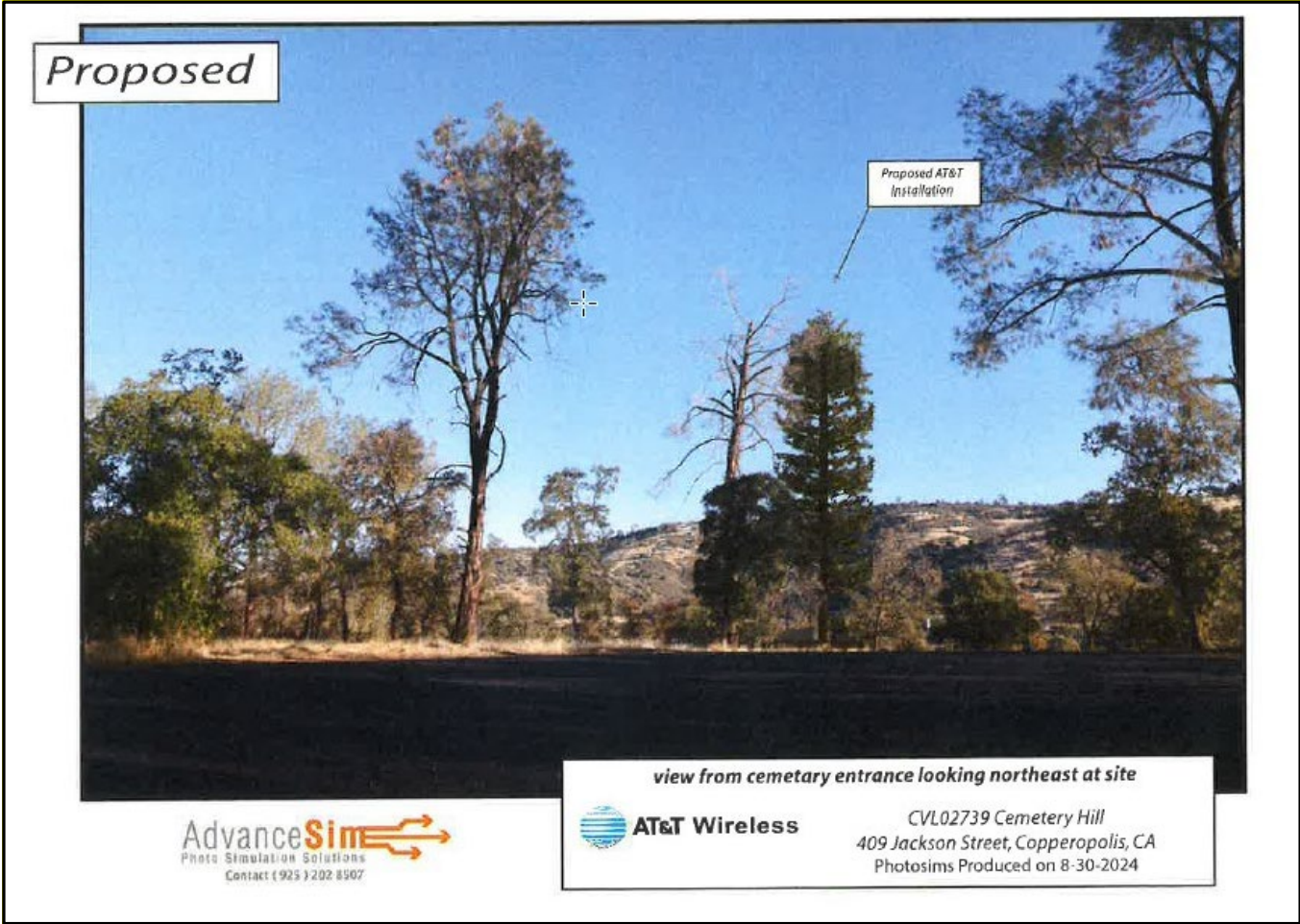


Figure 9 – Simulation of Proposed Telecommunications Facility from The Northwest



II. AGRICULTURE & FORESTRY RESOURCES

POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
 LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT WITH MITIGATION
 LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
 NO IMPACT

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:

- 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?*
- b) *Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?*
- c) *Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g))?*
- d) *Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?*
- e) *Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?*

	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

DISCUSSION

- a. **No Impact** – The California Department of Conservation Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program has published map data for Calaveras as of 2020. The California Important Farmland Finder tool was used to identify land surrounding the project parcel. This parcel and surrounding lands are identified as grazing land. 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 project site is zoned Single Family Residential (R1). The primary use in this zone is residential with accessory uses to a residence. The zone allows limited farming primarily for personal use. This property is 4.43 acres and does not meet acreage minimums for larger scale farming uses. The parcel is currently used as a residential lot with no commercial agricultural activities. Additionally, the parcel is not zoned Agriculture Preserve (AP) which is used to indicate a Williamson Act contract. There will therefore be no impact related to a Williamson Act contract.
- c. **No Impact** – The project property is not designated or used as forest or timberland. The resource zones for such properties are Timberland Production (TP). The Project site does not contain forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined in Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g)). The proposed Project is consistent with the County’s Zoning Ordinance, and the use defined under Chapter 17.05 of the Zoning Ordinance. No trees are being removed as part of this project. Thus, the proposed Project would not conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land, timberland, or timberland zoned Timberland Production, and would not result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use.
- d. **No Impact** – The proposed project is not expected to remove trees and will be constructed on private property not considered forest land. 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 current use of the property does not include agriculture activities and is not zoned for large-scale farming. Potential increased cell service by the project is not expected to encourage further development. The approximately 500 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. No impact will occur.

III. AIR QUALITY

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

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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

DISCUSSION

- a) **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 4.43 acres in size and is surrounded by similarly sized properties in a rural subdivision. Emissions that could be created by the proposed Project would result not from the operation of the telecommunications tower but from temporary impacts during the construction of the cell tower, with the exception of the use of the back-up generator when necessary. These temporary construction activities would not generate significant volumes of air quality emissions and would be required to comply with all applicable CCAPCD requirements. Therefore, it will not conflict with or obstruct the current air quality plans.
- b) **No Impact** – 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 on-site construction activities would occur within the boundaries of the existing site, and mostly on areas that have been previously disturbed. Construction would be limited to the 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. The Project would be subject to the applicable CCAPCD rules and regulations in addition to the General Plan policies, State, Federal Particulate Matter standards, and actions that aim to improve air quality and minimize pollutant concentrations. Therefore, the Project would have a less than significant impact that would 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 a residence on the same parcel 270’ away from the lease area. 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. An emergency generator is proposed as part of this project and will be used in case of power outages to maintain service to the coverage area. Therefore, the proposed project will have a less than significant impact on sensitive receptors.

d) No Impact – No odors or other emissions are expected to be emitted from the unmanned telecommunications facility that would be considered impactful 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>
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<i>Would the project:</i>	<u>POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT</u>	<u>LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT WITH MITIGATION</u>	<u>LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT</u>	<u>NO IMPACT</u>
a) <i>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?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) <i>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?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) <i>Have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool,</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?

d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?

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

f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?

DISCUSSION

a) **Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation** – A Biological Resources Impact Analysis prepared by Environmental Assessment Specialists Inc. was conducted for this project. The site survey was conducted on February 12, 2024. The project parcel is within an area of critical habitat listed on the California Natural Diversity Database. According to this study five sensitive, or special status plant species and six sensitive, or special status wildlife species are known to be on or near the property in question. Sensitive wildlife species include: American badger (*Taxidea taxus*), tricolored blackbird (*Agelaius tricolor*), Sensitive plant species include: Chinese camp brodiaea (*Brodiaea pallida*). The site species include common native and non-native grasses and ruderal species. The proposed telecommunications facility is planned to occupy previously disturbed areas associated with the residential development and livestock grazing that has been previously developed or disturbed by the use of the single-family residence. The study stated that no portions of the proposed development footprint would contain the important habitat suitability elements for any of the sensitive wildlife species and that none are likely to occur within the proposed development footprint. 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 Biological Resources Assessment, no trees will be removed as a part of this project. Additionally in the pedestrian survey performed by a qualified biologist no avian nests or nesting activity was observed in the field study. No mitigation measures or further studies were recommended by EAS, however, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) submitted comments with concerns regarding the potential project impacts to special-status species including but not limited to the American badger (*Taxidea taxus*), tricolored blackbird (*Agelaius tricolor*), and Chinese camp brodiaea (*Brodiaea pallida*). The CDFW recommended the following mitigation measures:

Mitigation Measure BR-1 (Biological Resources): American Badger Preconstruction Survey. The project proponent shall retain a qualified biologist to conduct an American badger preconstruction survey within 3 calendar days prior to the initiation of construction activities within suitable habitat for American badger. If no American badger individuals

and/or burrows are found during the preconstruction survey, the biologist shall document the findings in a letter report to Calaveras County, and no further mitigation shall be required. If individuals and/or burrows are found, the project proponent shall consult with Calaveras County and CDFW, and a qualified biologist to determine an appropriate no disturbance buffer to avoid impacts to the den. If impacts cannot be avoided, den excavation and exclusion implementation shall take place during the non-breeding season (typically September 1 through January 1) in consultation with CDFW.

Mitigation Measure BR-2 (Biological Resources): Special-Status Plant Surveys. Prior to initiating ground-disturbing or vegetation removing activities, a qualified biologist shall survey the project site for special-status plant species (if surveys have not already been completed that year). Surveys shall be conducted during the appropriate time(s) of year, when the special-status plant species with the potential to be present on-site are at their most apparent and identifiable point. If special-status plants are found, a qualified biologist shall prepare a plan to avoid or minimize and mitigate impacts to the species and submit it for review and approval by Calaveras County. Project proponent shall not initiate project activities until the avoidance, minimization, and/or mitigation plan has been approved in writing by Calaveras County.

With adherence to the above mitigation measures, the proposed project will have a less than significant impact on the above listed special status species.

- b) **No Impact** – No riparian habitat 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 the subject property, The nearest watercourse is Copper Creek, intermittent stream which is located approximately 400 feet to the east of the subject parcel and 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 Biological Resources Impact Analysis 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 Migratory nongame native bird species are protected by international treaty under the Federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) (16 U.S.C., §§ 703-712). CDFW implemented the MBTA by adopting the Fish & G. Code section 3513. Fish & G. Code sections 3503, 3503.5 and 3800, which provide additional protection to nongame birds, birds of prey, their nests and eggs. According to the CDFW, suitable foraging and nesting habitat for birds and birds of prey is present on and adjacent to the Project area. Ground disturbance and other construction activities could result in the take of migratory native bird species, including but not limited to ground nesting species such as Killdeer (*Charadrius vociferus*), Northern Harrier (*Circus hudsonius*), California Quail (*Callipepla californica*), and Western Meadowlark (*Sturnella neglecta*).. 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-3 (Biological Resources): Nesting Bird Survey. If project-related activities are scheduled between February 1 to August 31 (the typical nesting season), a focused survey for nests shall be conducted by a qualified biologist within no greater than fifteen (15) calendar days prior to the beginning of Project-related activities. The qualified biologist shall survey a minimum radius of 500-feet for migratory birds and 1/2-mile for raptors around the Project area that can be accessed by the project proponent. The results of the survey shall be provided to Calaveras County upon completion. If no active nests are found, project activities may proceed as scheduled.

If an active nest is found, active nests should be avoided, and a no disturbance or destruction buffer shall be determined and established by a qualified biologist. The buffer shall be kept in place until after the breeding nesting season or the qualified biologist confirms the young have fledged, are foraging independently, and the nest is no longer active for the season. The extent of these buffers shall be determined by the qualified biologist and will depend on the species present, the level of noise or construction disturbance, line of sight between the nest and the disturbance, ambient levels of noise and other disturbances, and other topographical or artificial barriers.

If a lapse in project-related work of fourteen (14) calendar days or longer occurs, the qualified biologist shall complete another focused survey before Project work can be reinitiated.

It is the Project proponent’s responsibility to comply with Fish and Game Code Sections 3503, 3503.5, and 3513, regardless of the time of year. This Agreement does not authorize take of birds, their nests, or their eggs.

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.

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>
<i>Would the project:</i>				
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to § 15064.5?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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"/>

DISCUSSION

a-b. **Less than Significant**– A Cultural Resources Assessment was conducted by Environmental Assessment Specialists, Inc. beginning on January 16, 2024. The investigation found no significant cultural or historic resources within the Direct Area of Potential Effects (APE), 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 were fourteen cultural resources recorded in this radius. Additionally, twelve area-specific survey reports are on file with Central California Information Center that showed negative results for cultural resources in the project area. Additionally, a pedestrian survey of the area of disturbance was performed by a qualified archaeologist which yielded no cultural resources. Therefore, there will be a less than significant impact to known historical or archaeological resources.

c. **Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation**– Development is not expected to have an impact on cultural resources within the project site, and no further studies were recommended. Sixteen Native American Tribal members were contacted by NAHC as part of the study, and no responses were received. The pedestrian survey of the area of disturbance did not identify any pre-contact or historic-age cultural resources. 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>
<i>Would the project:</i>				
a) <i>Result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) <i>Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

DISCUSSION

a. **Less Than Significant 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 provided a response indicating the project has no impact. 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. 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 a significant impact on renewable energy nor energy efficiency.

b. **No Impact** – Calaveras County has not adopted a local renewable energy or energy efficient plan. All new construction must comply with adopted State and Federal regulations and plans must be certified by a licensed engineer in order to comply. This would have no impact as it would not conflict with local or State standards.

VII. GEOLOGY AND SOILS

POTENTIALLY
SIGNIFICANT
IMPACT

LESS THAN
SIGNIFICANT
IMPACT
WITH
MITIGATION

LESS THAN
SIGNIFICANT
IMPACT

NO
IMPACT

<i>Would the project:</i>	<u>POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT</u>	<u>LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT WITH MITIGATION</u>	<u>LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT</u>	<u>NO IMPACT</u>
a) <i>Directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:</i>				
i. <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.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
ii. <i>Strong seismic ground shaking?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
iii. <i>Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
iv. <i>Landslides?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) <i>Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) <i>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?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) <i>Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

(1994), creating substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property?

e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater?

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

DISCUSSION

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 1,030 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 soil classified as “Loafercreek-Gopheridge complex 15 to 30 percent slopes and well drained”. Further the site is described to have 20 to 39 inches to paralithic bed rock and 20-29 inches to lithic bedrock, further enhancing stability. The hillsides are 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. No Impact – According to the USDA National Cooperative Soil Survey, Loafercreek-Gopheridge complex are described as “moderately deep, well drained soils that formed in colluvium and residuum from metavolcanic rocks, mainly greenschist.”. Therefore, these soils are not considered expansive soils, and project will have no impact.

e. No Impact – Installation of an unmanned telecommunications facility will not create an increased need or use of this infrastructure. No impact would occur.

f. **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>
<i>Would the project:</i>				
a) <i>Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) <i>Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

DISCUSSION

a. **Less Than Significant Impact** –The addition of the telecommunications facility includes direct and indirect sources of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. The direct sources are from the number of vehicle trips to the parcel for infrequent routine maintenance of the site, temporary power generation during an outage, or when colocations are added. Daily use of the facility will not contribute as it is an unmanned facility, and the tower does not produce emissions of its own. The proposed number of maintenance trips is once per month. The average number of trips for a single-family residence is (10) ten per day. Trip estimates for maintenance and colocation would not exceed the average trips allowed for a single-family residence. A local contractor will be used for maintenance, reducing travel distance. The indirect source of GHGs comes from supplied power from the electric grid. Per Senate Bill 100, the power company is required to provide a portion of electricity from renewable energy sources and increase those percentages over time in order to reduce GHGs from energy production. There a proposed emergency generator as part of this project and would only be used in power outages contributing less than significant amounts of GHGs. The increased potential for vehicle trips, and therefore greenhouse gasses resulting from the addition of the telecommunications facility when compared to the existing single-family residences is less than significant.

b. **No Impact** – Calaveras County has not yet adopted a plan, policy or ordinance for the purposes of reducing greenhouse gas emissions. All new construction must comply with adopted State and Federal Regulations. Because the Project is not creating a direct source of long-term emissions, and the indirect source is expected to be reduced over time, the Project would not conflict with an applicable plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing GHG emissions. No impact would occur.

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>
<i>Would the project:</i>				
a) <i>Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) <i>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?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) <i>Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) <i>Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) <i>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?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) <i>Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
g) <i>Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

DISCUSSION

a-b. **No 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 in the future. The emergency backup generator is fueled with diesel which would be subject to a hazardous materials business plan. While the cell tower facility requires transport and use of a hazardous material, they are in minimal quantities similar to what a vehicle would require. Due to the minimal usage of the generator

the potential to create a significant hazard to the public or environment from a hazardous material has no impact.

- c. **No Impact** – The proposed unmanned telecoms facility will not contain or emit hazardous emissions or materials. Copper Elementary School is approximately .25 miles from the location of the proposed telecommunication facility. While the proposed location is approximately .25 miles from an existing school, the Federal law preempts local decisions about telecommunication towers such as this one from direct or indirect environmental impacts from radio frequency (RF) emissions, assuming the provider is in compliance with the Federal Communication Commission’s RF guidelines. This is further discussed in Section, XXI Mandatory Findings of Significance with reference to the RF study that was submitted as part of this application. With the telecommunications facility being in substantial conformance of the Federal Communication Commission’s RF guidelines no impact will occur.
- d. **No Impact** – The subject parcel is not included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5.
- 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 routed to the Copperopolis Fire Protection District and no response was provided. There will be no impact to any adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan.
- g. **Less Than Significant Impact** – According to the CalFire Hazard Severity Zone Map, the project site is located within a State Responsibility Area (SRA) for fire protection and is classified as a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone. These mean Cal Fire is the primary emergency response agency responsible for fire suppression and prevention at this site. The site will be inspected and will be required to conform to state regulations defensible space, and applicable codes from CA 4290 and 4291.

The project site is in a developed residential subdivision with appropriately designed roads and access to the site. The proposed project was routed to all applicable state and local fire departments and agencies. The project does not propose activities that would increase risks to people or structures involving wildland fires. Therefore, the potential to increase the risk for death and injury due to a wildfire is less than significant.

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>
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Would the project:

a) <i>Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or ground water quality?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) <i>Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) <i>Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would:</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(i) <i>result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site;</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(ii) <i>substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on or offsite;</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(iii) <i>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</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(iv) <i>impede or redirect flood flows?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) <i>In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) <i>Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

DISCUSSION

- 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 impact would occur.
- b. **No Impact** – The proposed telecommunications facility adds minor impervious surface area to the project site for the yard. The project will not use water to operate and will have less than significant impact to groundwater supplies or recharge.
- c. **No Impact** – The 16’ by 31’ lease area proposed for this project would not substantially alter the drainage pattern of the 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. 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 nature of this project ensures there will not be substantial erosion, siltation or runoff that would impact the site or area off-site. There are no streams on site and development would not impede or redirect flows. 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 subject parcel is not in a flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zone. No impact would occur.
- e. **No Impact** – There is no water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan for the area of the County in which the subject parcel is located. Specifically, this parcel is not within the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Sustainability boundary and so will have no impact to a water quality control or groundwater management plan.

XI. LAND USE AND PLANNING

	<u>POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT</u>	<u>LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT WITH MITIGATION</u>	<u>LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT</u>	<u>NO IMPACT</u>
<i>Would the project:</i>				
a) <i>Physically divide an established community?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) <i>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?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

DISCUSSION

- a. **No Impact** – The proposed telecommunications facility is entirely within an existing residential property and creates no barrier that would physically divide a community.
- b. **No Impact** – No plan, policy, or regulation to avoid or mitigate an environmental effect currently exists on or adjacent to the subject parcel and it is not zoned for Environmental Protection (EP-X).

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>
<i>Would the project:</i>				
a) <i>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?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) <i>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?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

DISCUSSION

a-b. **No Impact** – There are no known mineral resources on the subject parcel and it is not zoned for Mineral Extraction (ME). No impact would occur.

XII. NOISE

	<u>POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT</u>	<u>LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT WITH MITIGATION</u>	<u>LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT</u>	<u>NO IMPACT</u>
<i>Would the project result in:</i>				
a) <i>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?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) <i>Generation of excessive ground borne vibration or ground borne noise levels?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) <i>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?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

DISCUSSION

a-b. **Less Than Significant Impact**– Chapter 9.02 of the Calaveras County Code provides stationary noise level standards. Any uses allowed by right in the R1 zone will be required to comply with said Ordinance. In a residential land use, the permitted decibel levels from 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. are 60 dB, and 50 dB from 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. Additionally, sound from construction activity, provided that all construction in or adjacent to residential areas, shall be limited to the daytime hours between 7 a.m. and 6 p.m., unless otherwise subject to conditions in a valid discretionary land use permit that addresses construction noise associated with the project.

Temporary noise during construction should 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 January 14, 2025, by J5 Infrastructure Partners to determine if the equipment will comply with the noise ordinance. The study analyzed the noise levels produced by the emergency generator. At the nearest property line, the study determined that the generator and associated cell tower equipment would operate at 22.83 dB at the closest property line of 60 feet. This is within and compliant with Calaveras County Code⁸ 9.02.040 B which requires measurements taken at the nearest property line, indicating less than significant impact.

- 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>
<i>Would the project:</i>				
a) <i>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)?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) <i>Displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

DISCUSSION

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"/>

DISCUSSION

a. **No Impact** – The proposed telecommunications facility does not significantly increase the need for public services, physically impact, or require new or expanded government facilities. Operation of the cell tower does not require continuous police services or impede response times to the subdivision. There are no public facilities on or near the subject property. Emergency fire response to the project site would be accessed through current roads and access to the cell tower facility is proposed to be added and built to adequate road standards as described in the project description. Access to the lease area on site will not significantly impact response time. As discussed briefly in Section XIV, Population and Housing, the addition of cell services would not increase population in the area, nor encourage the subdivision to expand. Therefore, additional public facilities or services will not be needed to support the operation of this project, and no impact would 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) <i>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?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) <i>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?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

DISCUSSION

a-b. **No Impact** – The addition of a cellular facility will not have any impact on parks or recreation areas, as there are no parks or areas zoned recreation in the area. No new housing or public infrastructure are proposed that could result in an increase of park use. 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>
<i>Would the project:</i>				
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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

DISCUSSION

a. **No Impact** – The proposed addition of a telecommunications facility would utilize the existing infrastructure, such as the county road Jackson Street. On the property, a private access path for the cell tower facility will be added 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 impact would occur.

b. **Less Than Significant Impact** – The proposed cell tower is an allowable use with an CUP in the R1 zone. There are no high-volume transit stops in this rural residential subdivision. 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 proposed development of the telecommunications facility will be accessed from Jackson Street and will require no road modification. This project will not impact the current encroachment of the property and will not increase hazards or design features that are incompatible. The area consists of rural subdivision 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. **No Impact** – According to submitted plans, the cell tower lease area is approximately 40’ from Jackson Street. Local and State emergency services, including the fire district, have been notified of the project. No response was provided from any emergency services including the fire district. With no proposal to modify the roadway, no comments provided from emergency service providers, and being in such proximity to the roadway creates no impact on emergency services.

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>
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<p><i>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:</i></p> <p>a) <i>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</i></p> <p>b) <i>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.</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>a) <i>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</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>b) <i>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.</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

DISCUSSION

a-b. **Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation** – A Cultural Resources Assessment was conducted by Environmental Assessment Specialists, Inc. beginning on January 16, 2024. The investigation found no cultural or historic resources within the Direct Area of Potential Effects. Additionally, twelve area-specific survey reports are on file with Central California

Information Center that found fourteen cultural resources within a half miles radius of the project location but none previously within the project location. A pedestrian survey performed by a qualified archeologist showed negative results for cultural resources in the project area. A request to Native American Heritage Center for their Sacred Lands File produced no results. These findings are further discussed in detail in section V, Cultural Resources. Project development is not expected to have an impact on cultural resources, and no further studies were recommended. The proposed telecommunications facility was circulated to all local tribes the Miwok tribe responded with no comment and no response was received from the other tribal organizations. 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 Miwok 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. However, upon accidental discovery of any cultural artifacts or human remains during construction, the project will be halted, and tribes will be contacted. In the case of human remains, the County coroner will be contacted

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 personnel to stop work and notify the lead agency and tribes in the event of discovery of Tribal cultural resources.

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>
<i>Would the project:</i>				
a) <i>Require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment, stormwater drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) <i>Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry, and multiple dry years?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) <i>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?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) <i>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?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) <i>Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

DISCUSSION

- a. **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, being on a minor hillside with well-draining soils. 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.

- b-c. **No Impact** – The proposed cell tower facility does not require water service to operate and will not use public water services. There are no sewer services at this site and they are not required for this project.
- d. **No Impact** – The proposed cell tower facility does not generate solid waste.
- e. **No Impact** - Federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste will be complied with if any solid waste is to be generated.

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>
<i>If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the project:</i>				
a) <i>Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) <i>Due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks, and thereby expose project occupants to, pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) <i>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?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) <i>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?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

DISCUSSION

- a. **No Impact** – The Calaveras County Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) outlines the functions, responsibilities, and regional risk assessments of Calaveras County for large scale emergencies such as wildland fires, hazardous materials incidents, flooding, and dam failure¹. The EOP addresses the planned response to extraordinary emergency situations and establishes a flexible, all hazards, emergency management organization required to facilitate the response to, and provide for short-term recovery activities related to any significant emergency or disaster affecting Calaveras County. The project does not propose

activities that would substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan. No impact 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 cell tower facility and so will have no impact on exposure of pollutants to occupants. No impact would occur.

c. **No Impact** – Grading the lease area with concrete pads is expected. The proposed telecommunications facility will be accessed from an existing roadway, Jackson Street, a county-maintained road meets fire access requirements 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, there will be no impact.

d. **Less than Significant Impact** – The telecommunications facility will utilize an existing county-maintained road. The proposed project only requires the installation of a 496 square foot lease area entirely within the subject parcel which will not create risks of flooding, landslides, or post fire slope instability. As discussed in X Hydrology and Water quality, hydrology standards will be upheld through the Public works department during grading activities through a grading permit. 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>
a) <i>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?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) <i>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)?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

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

DISCUSSION

- a. **Less Than Significant Impact** – Per the biological study discussed in Section IV, Biological Resources, it is unlikely any known protected or special habitat or species that will be impacted by the proposed project due to the lack of suitable habitat and previous disturbance from the residential development and livestock grazing. The site of the proposed telecommunications facility will be built in an area disturbed by previous development, and as such will have a minimal impact on the surrounding environment.
- b. **No Impact** –The addition of the telecommunications facility does not generate more development. The addition of this facility is not part of a larger broadband infrastructure project. The potential for colocations to be installed on the tower in the future alleviates the need for additional towers to be erected in the immediate vicinity to serve other cellular carriers. As described in Section VIII, Greenhouse Gasses, use of the emergency generator would be temporary and on a as needed basis. Therefore, this project is not seen to have a cumulative future impact and instead may prevent further tower development in this area.
- c. **No Impact** – Federal law preempts local decisions about telecommunication towers such as this one from direct or indirect environmental effects of radio frequency (RF) emissions, assuming that the provider is in compliance with the Federal Communication Commission’s RF guidelines. An RF study prepared by OSC Engineering, dated November 27, 2023, was submitted to examine potential impacts to public health and the environment as part of this application. The study found that the site will comply with FCC guidelines for RF exposure. The telecommunications tower uses Radio Frequency Emissions determined to be safe within the guidelines of the 1996 Telecommunications Act and the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). Because of FCC-determined frequencies, antennas require line-of-sight connections and so are developed to be at a considerable height, pointed towards the horizon, with little energy wasted towards the ground or sky.

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