



County of Calaveras Planning Department

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INITIAL STUDY ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

**FOR: BILL LEWIS OBO VERTICAL BRIDGE ASSESSOR'S
PARCEL NO. 070-009-016**

AUP 2023-040

PROJECT SUMMARY

- 1. **Project Title:**
2023-040 Administrative Use Permit for Bill Lewis OBO Vertical Bridge

- 2. **Lead Agency Name and Address:**
Calaveras County Planning Department
891 Mountain Ranch Road
San Andreas, CA 95249

- 3. **Contact Person and Phone Number:**
Jaclyn Taylor, Planner I, 209-754-6394

- 4. **Project Location:**
The subject property is located at 5992 Clements PI, Valley Springs, CA. APN 070-009-016 is a 3.14 acre property in the in the Rancho Calaveras Subdivision, Section 11, T3N, R10E, of the MDB&M.

- 5. **Project Sponsor’s Name and Address:**
Assurance Development OBO Bill Lewis
1499 Huntington Dr, Suite 305
South Pasadena, CA 91030

- 6. **General Plan Designation:**
Rural Residential (RR)

- 7. **Zoning:**
RR-3 (Rural Residential minimum 3 acres)

- 8. **Brief Project Description:**
An Administrative Use Permit (AUP) to install a new telecommunications tower and supporting ground equipment.

- 9. **Surrounding land uses and setting:**

Location	General Plan Designation	Zoning	Land Use
North	Rural Residential	RR	Residential
South	Rural Residential	RR	Residential
East	Working Lands	A1/AP	Residential/ Open space
West	Rural Residential	RR	Residential

- 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:

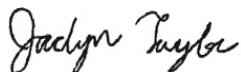
The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project, involving at least one impact that is a "Potentially Significant Impact", or "Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation" as indicated by the checklist on the following pages.

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Aesthetics | <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural and Forestry Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Air Quality |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Biological Resources | <input 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation | <input 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.



Jaclyn Taylor
Project Planner

10/19/2023
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 installing a new 90-foot high telecommunications tower and supporting ground equipment on a concrete pad. The total lease area is 40' x 40' (1,600 square feet). The equipment consists of; twelve (12) antennas, six (6) remote radio units, one (1) microwave dish, one (1) GPS, antenna cabling, HCS jumpers, cable ice bridge, utility backboard, multi-meter utility service on H-frame, and two (2) ground mounted radio cabinets with cooling for electrical components. Cooling systems include fans and heat sinks. Plans indicate space for three (3) 10' x 15' sublease areas within the compound for future co-location, (see figure 4). Calaveras Consolidated Fire Protection District has pre-approved the 20-foot wide access road and hammerhead turnaround, as shown on the project plans (see figure 3). No generator or tree removal is included in this project proposal. Telecommunications facilities are allowed in the Rural Residential (RR) zone with approval of an Administrative Use Permit (AUP). 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 approximately ~200' to the north of the proposed lease area. Access is proposed to be from the existing paved driveway. Where the paved driveway ends, an existing pathway from previous development has been carved into the soil leading up to a clearing. The location of the tower facility is proposed to follow this pathway and the lease area placed in the clearing (see figures 2 and 3). Outside of the project parcel, the lease area is proposed to be 60' from the nearest residence, and ~300' from the two second closest residences to the east and west. 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.

Overall this telecommunications tower project will have ***less than significant impact with Mitigation Measures*** incorporated into the construction of the project. Per Mitigation Measure A-1 the proposed tower will be disguised as a monopine to reduce visual impacts.

Mitigation Measure BR-1 intends to limit potential impacts to migratory birds during construction, and places limitations during nesting season (February through August). This is discussed in detail in Section IV, Biological Resources.

Conditions from Calaveras Consolidated Fire Protection District were received and are listed as Mitigation Measure T-1, further discussed in Section XVII, Transportation. The proposed access road and hammerhead turnaround as indicated on the plans have been pre-approved, with requirements for the road to be 20' wide, all-weather aggregate and 40,000 lb. base at 90% compaction. Other conditions were adding the Knox system, and a fire final inspection.

Conditions from Public Works are discussed in Section X, Hydrology & Water Quality. Mitigation Measure HWQ-1 requires, at time of development, complying with all applicable codes including but not limited to; the County Road Ordinance (Chapter 12.02), Encroachment Ordinance (Ch 12.08), Storm Water Quality Ordinance (Ch 13.01) and the Grading and Draining Ordinance (Ch 15.05).

Figure 1 – Location Map

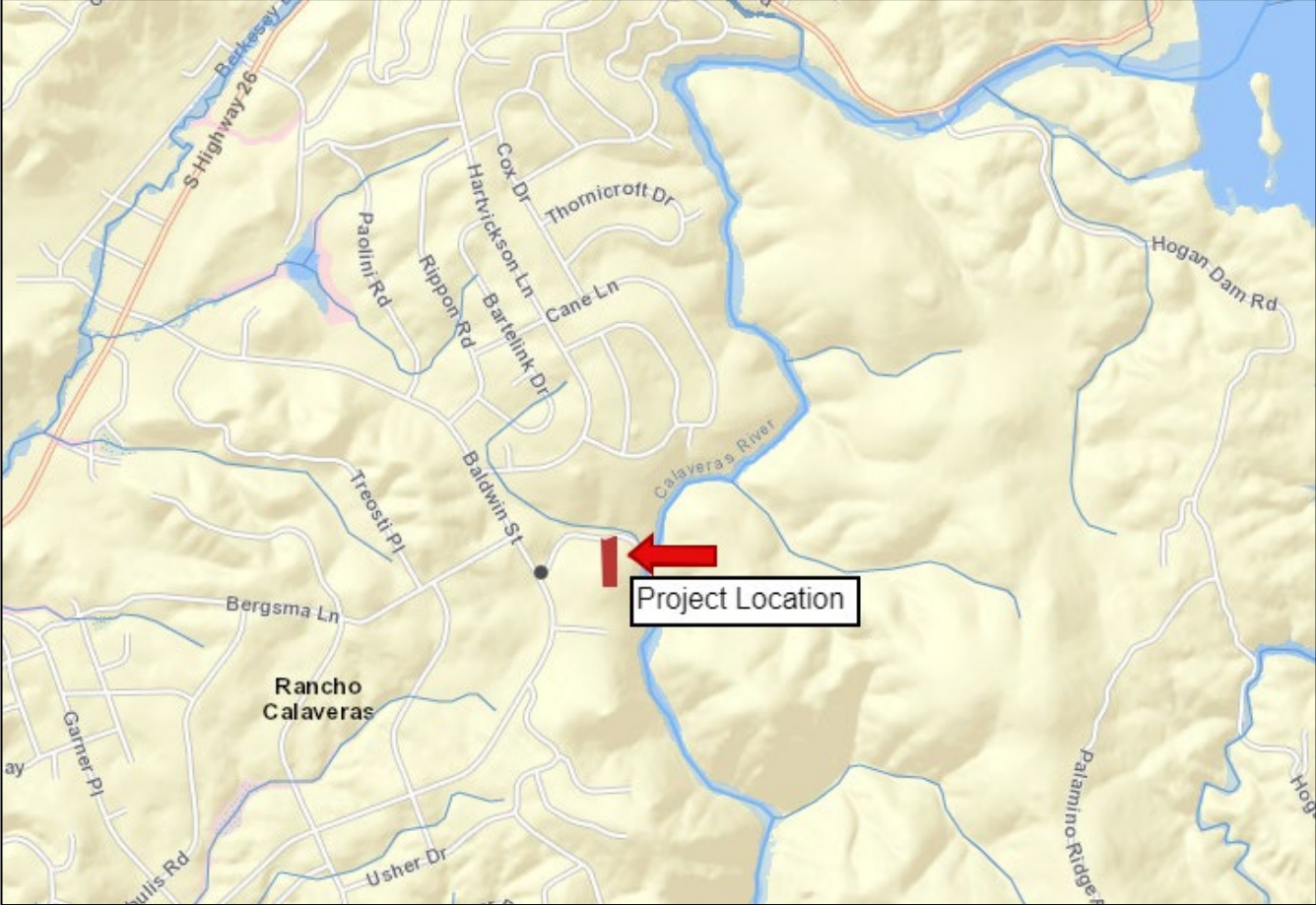


Figure 2 – Aerial Photo: Parcel Boundary with Proposed Telecommunications Lease Area in Red



Figure 3 – Telecommunications Facility Site Plan

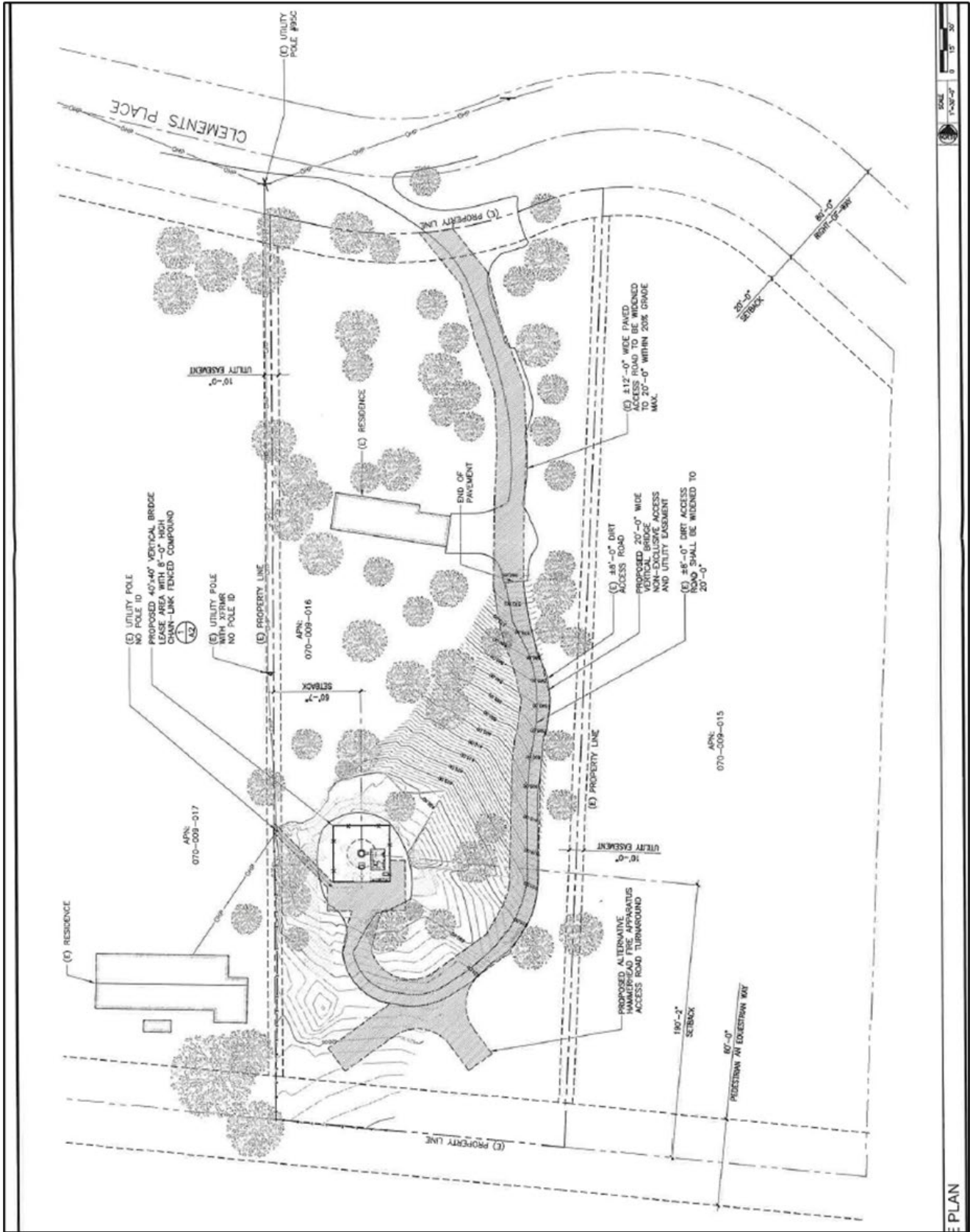
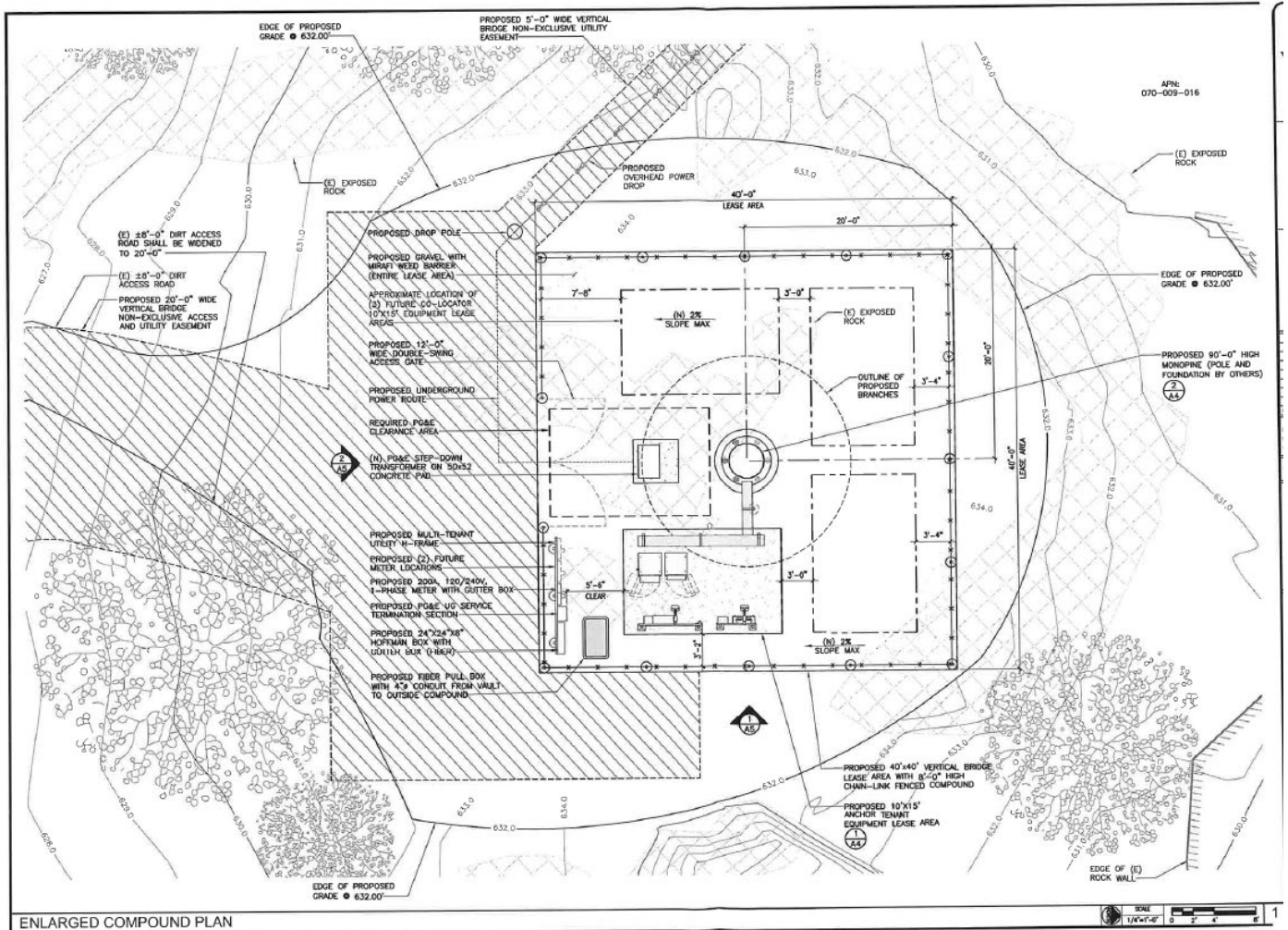


Figure 4 – Telecommunications Enlarged Compound Plan



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>
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Except as provided in Public Resources Code §21099, would the project:

- a) *Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?*
- b) *Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?*
- c) *In non-urbanized areas, substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings? (Public views are those that are experienced from publicly accessible vantage points). If the project is in an*

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

urbanized area, would the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?

d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?

DISCUSSION

a. **Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation** – The Conservation and Open Space Element of the Calaveras County General Plan¹ 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 Valley Springs area, specifically the Rancho Calaveras Subdivision. The project parcel does not contain any unique or distinguishing features that would qualify the site for designation as a scenic vista. The area surrounding the subject parcel is primarily residential. The eastern edge of the subdivision is bordered by a long property following the Calaveras River with a residence and undeveloped land. The project site is on a localized hill with a cluster of native oak and pine trees surrounding it. Due to this, the proposed tower will be required to use stealth construction to appear as a pine tree (See figure 5). No trees will be removed as part of this project. By disguising the tower as a pine tree and thus blend in more with surrounding vegetation, the proposed project will have a less than significant impact with mitigation on the scenic vista.

Mitigation Measure A-1: The tower will be constructed as a monopine to reduce visual impacts.

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 26 and the project parcel is located approximately 1.3 miles from this highway. According to Caltrans², this portion of Highway 26 is not designated as a State scenic highway, and therefore has no impact on State scenic highways.

c. **Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation** – The subject parcel and surrounding area contains several native oak and pine trees. To maintain the area's character and aesthetic, the telecommunications tower will be constructed to appear as a pine tree to blend in with the surrounding landscape. The closest public road to the project site is Baldwin Street (see figure 8 and 9). Submitted photo simulations indicate that the proposed tower appears to blend well with the existing landscape. Clements Place and Crosel Court are private roads, (see simulation photos below, figures 6 and 7). With implementation of Mitigation Measure A-1, and as depicted on the simulation photos, 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.

d. **No Impact** – Pursuant to Title 47 Section 17.7 and 17.21 of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) code of regulations³, 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'. 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 Monopine Design

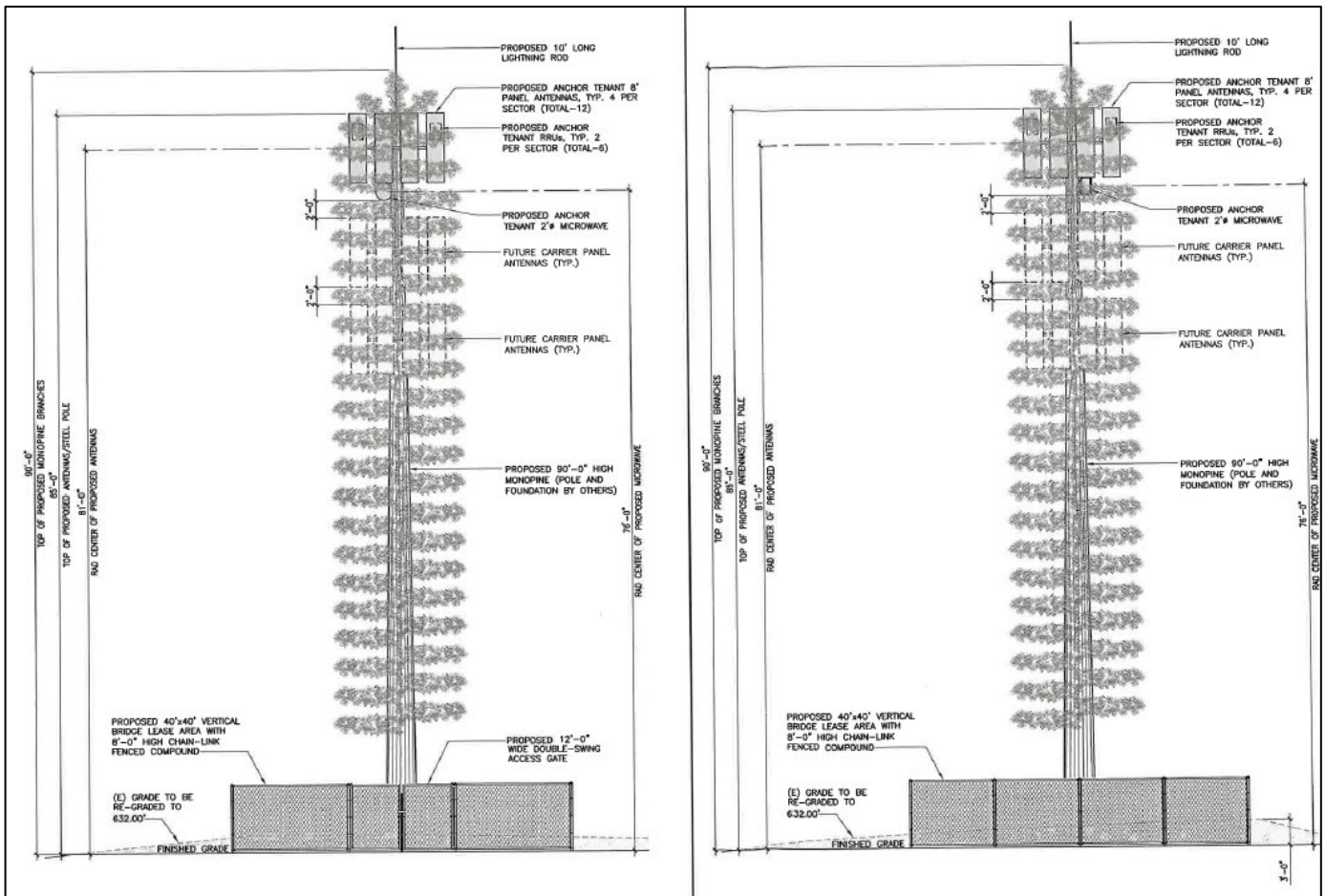


Figure 6 – Simulation of Proposed Telecommunications Facility from NW of Clements PI

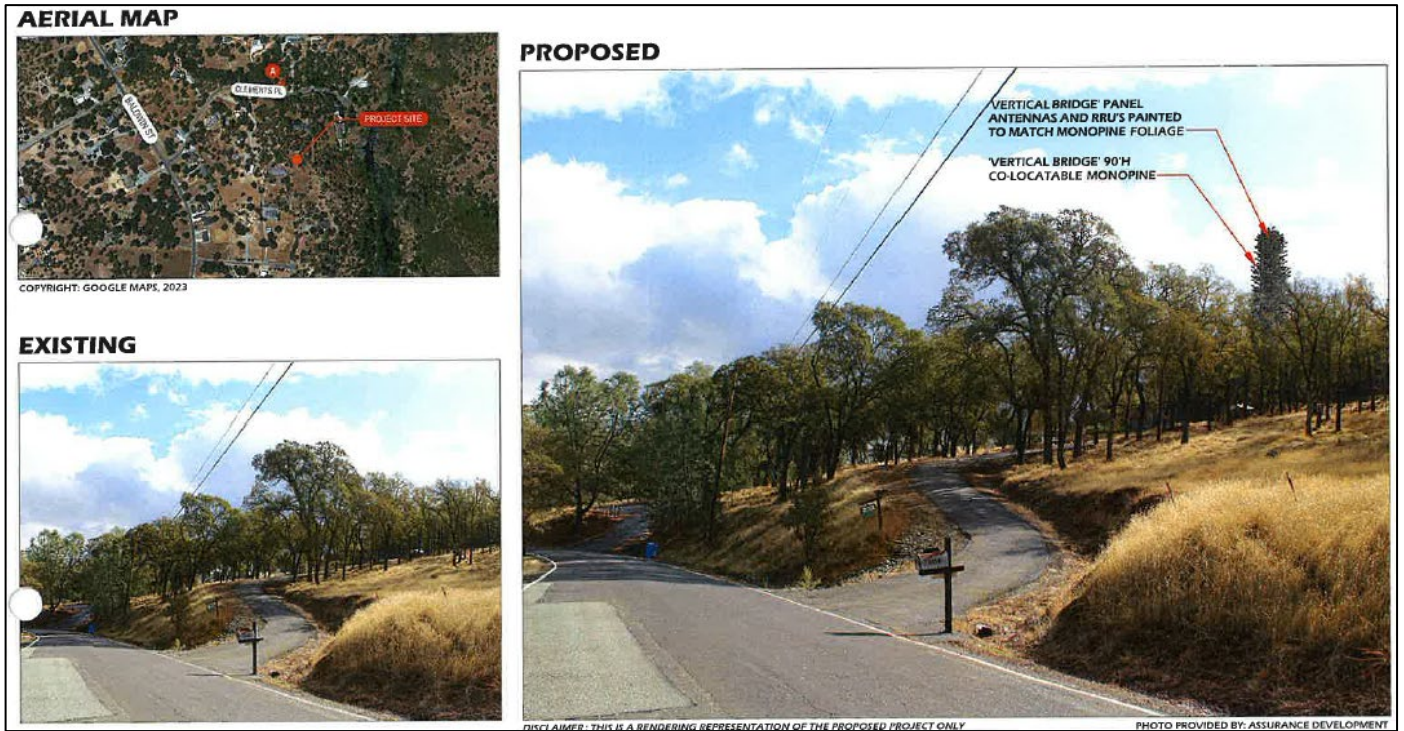


Figure 7 – Simulation of Proposed Telecommunications Facility From Clements PI, Front of Project Parcel



Figure 8 – Simulation of Proposed Telecommunications Facility from Baldwin St and Clements Pl

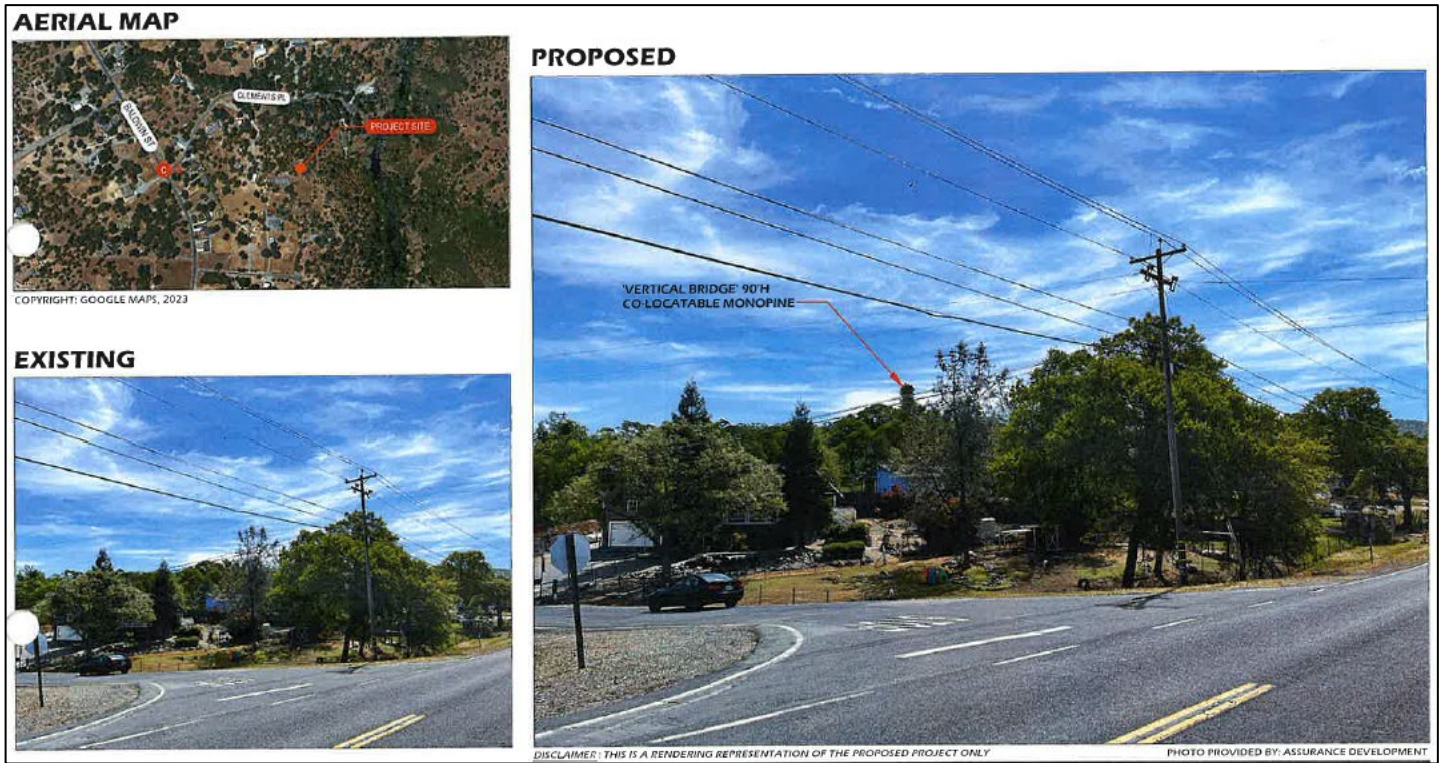
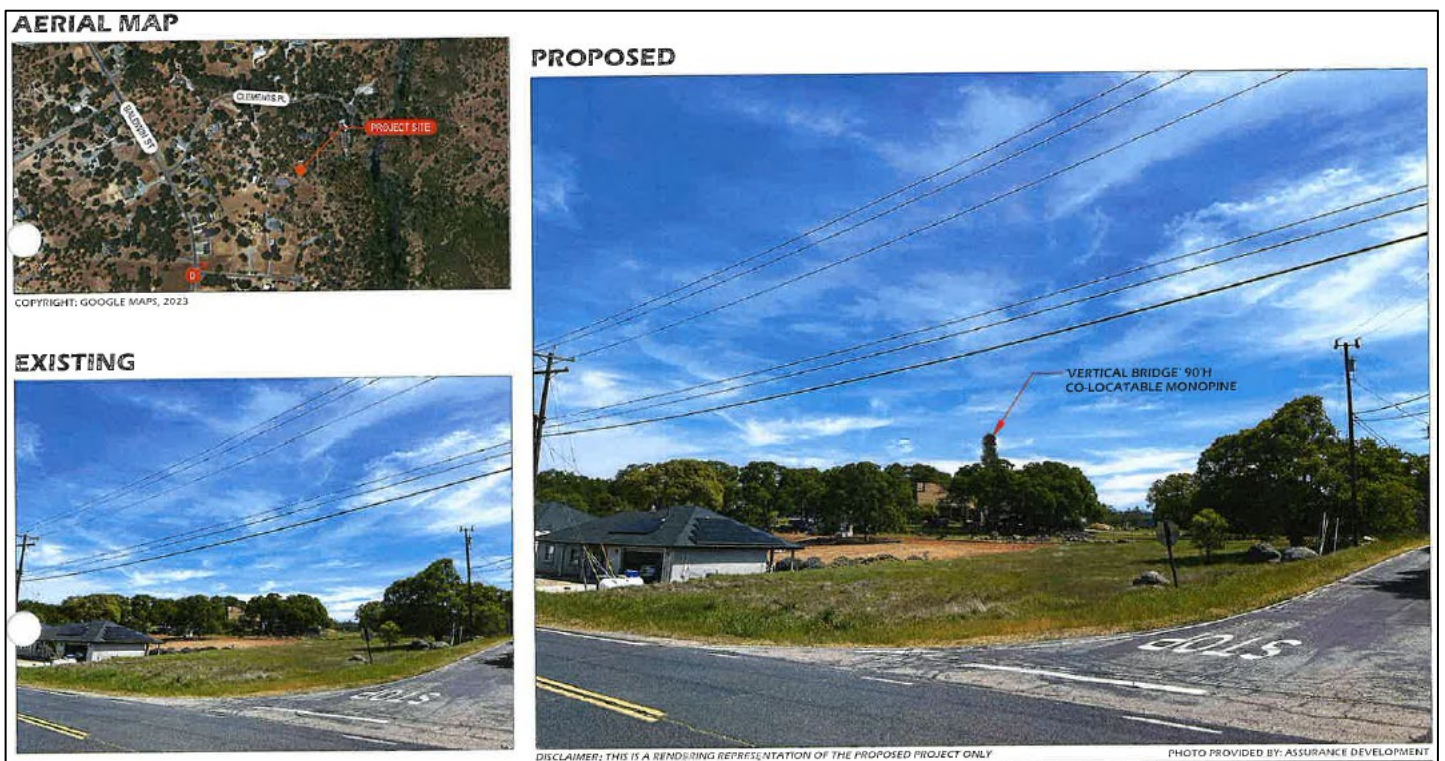


Figure 9 – Simulation of Proposed Telecommunications Facility from Baldwin St and Crosel Ct



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

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 Finder⁴ tool was used to identify land surrounding the project parcel. This land is categorized as “other”, defined as “land not included in other mapping categories; examples include...low density rural developments”. This indicates this area including the project parcel, is not a prime farmland, unique farmland, or farmland of Statewide importance.
- b. **No Impact** – The project site is zoned Rural Residential (RR-3). The primary use in this zone is residential with accessory uses to a residence. The zone allows small scale farming primarily for personal use. This property is 3.14 acres and does not meet acreage minimums for larger scale farming uses. The parcel is currently used as a residential lot with no agricultural activities. Additionally, the parcel is not zoned Agriculture Preserve (AP) which is used to indicate 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 17.22 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 project should not result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to 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. The landscape in the area is physically divided by the Calaveras river and limits the ability of the subdivision to expand. Potential increased cell service by the project is not expected to encourage further development. Therefore, there will be no impacts to agriculture and no conversion of agriculture land.

III. AIR 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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<p><i>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.</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Would the project:</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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- a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?
- 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?
- c) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?
- 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

DISCUSSION

- a. **No 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 three 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 construction of the cell tower. 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. **Less than Significant 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)⁵. 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 include grading for the 20’ access road, a hammerhead turnaround, and concrete pad in the lease area. 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 the single-family residence located across the western side property boundary, approximately 60’ from the Project site. The expected estimate of maintenance trips for the tower is once per month. A single-family residence can generate up to an average of 10 vehicle trips per day before it is considered significant. The maintenance of the tower should not be greater than the number of trips a residence would generate. Additionally, no generator is proposed as part of this project. If an emergency generator were needed it will be brought on site on a case-by-case basis. If a permanent generator is applied for, the permitting process would include compliance with air quality, building, fire, noise standards and plans. Therefore, the proposed project will have a less than significant impact on sensitive receptors.

d. **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>
<i>Would the project:</i>				
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 type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) <i>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?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

- e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?
- f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?

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

DISCUSSION

- a. **No Impact** – A Biological Resources Impact Analysis prepared by Environmental Assessment Specialists Inc.⁶ was conducted for this project. The site survey was conducted on June 9, 2023. According to this study, no candidate, sensitive, or special status species are known to be on or near the property in question. Additionally, the project parcel is not within an area of critical habitat listed on the California Natural Diversity Database. The site species include common native and non-native grasses and ruderal species. The proposed telecommunications facility is planned to occupy the path and clearing that has been previously developed or disturbed by the use of the single family residence. No mitigation measures or further studies were recommended; therefore the project would not result in any impacts to these resources.
- b. **No Impact** – No riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or US Fish and Wildlife Service is known to be on or directly near the subject property, nor will the proposed project impact one.
- c. **No Impact** – No State or Federally protected wetlands exist on or near the property.
- d. **Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation** – The Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) protects all common wild birds in the United States except a select few species. California Fish and Game Code 3503 makes it illegal to destroy any bird nests or eggs protected under the MBTA. The Biological Resources Impact Analysis⁶ determined that no avian nests or activity was observed during the study. However, the trees in the nearby vicinity provide suitable nesting habitat for several avian species. Therefore, pursuant to the codes stated above, installation of the proposed tower is recommended to be outside the nesting season generally extending from early February through August including yearly variability due to weather conditions.

Mitigation Measure BR-1: Construction should occur between September and January which is outside the nesting season (February through August). If facility installation occurs within the nesting season, a qualified biologist shall conduct a nesting bird survey to identify nesting activity. If active nests are observed, construction activity must be prohibited within a 500-foot buffer around the nest until the nestlings have fledged. All construction in the vicinity of the nest(s) must be in the presence of a qualified biological monitor.

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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of dedicated cemeteries?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

DISCUSSION

a-b. **No Impact** – A Cultural Resources Assessment was conducted by Environmental Assessment Specialists, Inc. beginning on May 24, 2023⁷. 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 was one cultural resource recorded in this radius. Additionally, three area-specific survey reports are on file with Central California Information Center that showed negative results for cultural resources in the project area. Therefore, there will be no impacts to known historical or archaeological resources.

c. **Less Than Significant Impact** – Development is not expected to have an impact on cultural resources within the project site, and no further studies were recommended. Local tribes were contacted as part of the study, and responses received had no concerns within the project area, but requested notification if resources or remains are found during construction. 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 and there will be a less than significant impact to any archaeological or historical resources.

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) Result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful,	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation?

b) Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?

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 no response.. 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. **Less Than Significant 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 is a less than significant impact and 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ii. <i>Strong seismic ground shaking?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
iii. <i>Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
iv. <i>Landslides?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction, or collapse?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

DISCUSSION

a. **Less Than Significant 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 County⁸. The parcel and surrounding area were checked for faults using the “EQ Zapp: California Earthquake Hazards Zone Application”⁹ 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.

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 below 3,000 feet, the parcel has no ravines or gulches associated with rivers or stream channels⁸. According to the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service soils maps¹⁰, the subject parcel contains soil classified as “Bonanza-Loafer creek complex, 3 to 15 percent slopes.” The hill sides 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. **Less Than Significant Impact** – According to the USDA National Cooperative Soil Survey¹¹
¹², Bonanza and Loafer creek complex soils “consist of shallow, well-drained soils” with “moderately cemented metavolcanic bedrock” that can be found as close as 17 inches in depth. Therefore, these soils are not considered expansive soils and project will have a less than significant impact.
- e. **No Impact** – A well and on-site septic system currently exist on the subject parcel. Installation of an unmanned telecommunications facility will not create an increased need or use of this infrastructure.
- f. **No Impact** – There are no known unique paleontological resources or sites or unique geologic features on or near the subject parcel.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 is no proposed generator as part of this project and therefore will not contribute to 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. **Less Than Significant 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.

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) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard or excessive noise for people residing or working in the project area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
g) Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input 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. No proposed components use hazardous materials including coolant. The cell tower facility does not require, transport, use, or dispose of hazardous materials.

- c. **No Impact** – The proposed unmanned telecoms facility will not contain or emit hazardous emissions or materials. 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.
- 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.
- g. **Less Than Significant Impact** – According to the CalFire Hazard Severity Zone Map¹³, 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. Additional requirements were received as described in the Environmental Impact Analysis Summary and Section, XVII Transportation, which includes Mitigation Measure T-1 to address site access for emergency services. 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>
<p><i>Would the project:</i></p> <p>a) <i>Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or ground water quality?</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

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

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.
- b. **No Impact** –The proposed telecommunications facility and access roads adds minor impervious surface area to the project site. The RR zone allows for 25% lot coverage (or 10,000 square feet) of built area. This proposed project is far below this threshold. The project will not use water to operate and will have less than significant impact to groundwater supplies or recharge.
- c. **Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation** –The proposed aspects of this project that may impact erosion or ground water are grading for the 40’ by 40’ lease area, the 20’ wide access road and a hammerhead turnaround. This project will not exceed the allowable lot coverage and is well within this limit. Compliance with applicable codes, policies, and regulations regarding waste discharge and water quality would ensure that Project operations would not violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements

or otherwise substantially degrade surface or groundwater quality. Comments received from the County Public Works Department require compliance with applicable County Codes. Including these as Mitigation Measure HWQ-1 would require the project to comply with the County Ordinances 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.

Mitigation Measure HWQ-1: The project will comply with all applicable codes including 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).

- d. **No Impact** – The subject parcel is not in a flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zone.
- 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).

XII. NOISE

<i>Would the project result in:</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>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 Code⁸ provides stationary noise level standards. Any uses allowed by right in the RR 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 May 10, 2023, by TCA Environmental¹⁴ to determine if the equipment will comply with the noise ordinance. During proposed tower operation, equipment that was analyzed for noise

includes; twelve (12) antennas, six (6) remote radio units, one (1) microwave dish, one (1) GPS, antenna cabling, HCS jumpers, cable ice bridge, utility backboard, multi-meter utility service on H-frame, and two (2) ground mounted radio cabinets with cooling for electrical components. Cooling systems include fans and heat sinks within cabinets. The analysis found all the combined equipment and cooling systems at approximately 3.2 feet from equipment would generate noise levels of 68 dBA while operating at 113° F. This reading is predicated to be a maximum noise level with extreme heat and is within the lease area. At the nearest property line, the study determined that the facility would operate at 43 dBA during the day and 26 dBA at night at the closest property line of 61 feet. This is well 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.

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. **No Impact** – The proposed project does not change the allowed density of housing and is not extending any roads or other infrastructure that would enable further development. Additionally, preventing the subdivision from further expanding is the adjacent private property, the Calaveras River, and across the river, large property zoned Agriculture Preserve.

b. **No Impact** – The proposed project will not result in the displacement or demolition of any existing housing.

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>
<i>Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental</i>				

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. Mitigation Measure T-1 requires Knox systems that would allow for 24-hour emergency services access road to the cell tower site. This is further discussed in Section XVII, Transportation. Additionally, 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.

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.

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

DISCUSSION

a. **No Impact** – The proposed addition of a telecommunications facility would utilize the existing infrastructure, such as the private road (Clements Place) and driveway on private property. On the property, a private access road 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.

b. **Less Than Significant Impact** – The proposed cell tower is an allowable use with an AUP in the RR 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, and a local contractor will be used. 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 Clements Place, a private road, greater than 1,200 feet from the nearest intersection at Baldwin Street. The existing residence’s driveway provides adequate access from Clements Place to the cellular tower location. 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. **Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation** – According to submitted plans, the road beyond the driveway on site will be improved to allow access to the cell tower. Local and State emergency services, including the fire district, have been notified of the project. Calaveras Consolidated Fire Protection District has reviewed the plans and pre-approved the access road and hammerhead turnaround as indicated on the plans. They have also requested the installation of the Knox system to provide 24-hour access to the site for emergency services. The access road must be 20’ wide at all points and all portions of the access road must be maintained with all-weather aggregate with a 40,000 lb. base at 90% compaction. These and other permitting procedures from the land use departments will ensure adequate emergency access, bringing this concern to a less than significant impact.

Mitigation Measure T-1: Access and road requirements are 20’ wide, all-weather aggregate and 40,000 lb. base at 90% compaction. At facility include the Knox system. A fire final inspection will be required.

XVIII. TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES

	<u>POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT</u>	<u>LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT WITH MITIGATION</u>	<u>LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT</u>	<u>NO IMPACT</u>
<p><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 type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

DISCUSSION

a-b. **No Impact** – A Cultural Resources Assessment⁷ was conducted by Environmental Assessment Specialists, Inc. beginning on May 24, 2023. The investigation found no significant cultural or historic resources within the Direct Area of Potential Effects. Additionally, three area-specific survey reports are on file with Central California Information Center that showed negative results for cultural resources in the project area. This is 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, and no responses were received. 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.

XIX. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS

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>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 hilltop 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 is no sewer services at this site and are not needed 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input 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 failure¹⁵. 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.
- 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.
- c. **Less Than Significant Impact** – Grading for the paved access road and the lease area with concrete pads is expected. As discussed in Section XVII, Transportation, Mitigation Measure T-1 addresses concerns for adequate emergency access that would allow for fire response at the site. The proposed telecommunications facility will have a road that meets fire access requirements and hammerhead turnaround, allowing for emergency vehicles at the site. The project was routed to all applicable fire departments and agencies. Comments received from agencies include a 24-hour access system for emergencies, fire road requirements, and a fire inspection.
- d. **Less than Significant Impact** – The telecommunications facility will utilize an existing encroachment. The proposed project only requires the installation of an extended access road, hammerhead turnaround and 1,600 square foot lease area entirely within the subject parcel allowing access for maintenance vehicles, or emergency access. The project will not alter any existing roads or impede traffic. As discussed in Section X, Hydrology and Water Quality, Section VII, Geology and Soils, and Section XVII, Transportation which include mitigation measures in order to prevent impacts to soil stability, erosion, and runoff. 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.

XI. 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</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

reduce the number, or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?

b) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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c) Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?

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

a. **No Impact** – Per the biological study discussed in Section IV, Biological Resources, there is no known protected or special habitat or species that will be impacted by the proposed project. Mitigation protocols for the Migratory Bird Treaty Act were recommended during certain months when constructing the proposed tower. The site of the proposed telecommunications facility will be built on existing paths created by previous development, and as such will have a minimal impact on the surrounding environment.

b. **Less Than Significant 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 intention of allowing up to three 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 generators would be temporary and on a case-by case basis; any potential permanent emergency generator would need to comply with the air quality, energy, and noise standards in the county ordinance, as well as state and federal guidelines. 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 Hammett & Edison, Inc. Consulting Engineers, dated May 3, 2023¹⁶, was submitted to examine potential impacts to public health and the environment as part of this application. 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. A recent study, (2019) provides standards developed

by the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) and sets standards at 0 hertz (Hz) to 300 gigahertz (GHz), which bears similar limits to the FCC regulations. Relevant components of the proposed tower reach 600 megahertz (MHz) and 700 MHz, which are well within the limits described by the IEEE. All proposed tower equipment, including consideration of the nearest two-story home, will have a maximum of 0.016 milliwatts per centimeter squared (mW/cm²) which is 1.9% of the allowable public exposure limit, including worst-case assumptions. Therefore, this proposed project will have no significant impacts to humans either directly or indirectly.

REFERENCES

- ¹ "Calaveras County General Plan (CCGP). Calaveras County, November 12, 2019.
- ² "California State Scenic Highway System Map." 2019. California Department of Transportation. <https://caltrans.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=465dfd3d807c46cc8e8057116f1aaca>.
- ³ "Code of Federal Regulations: Title 47 - Telecommunication." 2017. Federal Communications Commission. <https://websoilsurvey.sc.egov.usda.gov/app/WebSoilSurvey.aspx>.
- ⁴ "Calaveras County Important Farmland Data Availability." 2020. California Department of Conservation. <<https://www.conservation.ca.gov/dlrp/fmmp/Pages/Calaveras.aspx>>.
- ⁵ "Green Book 8-Hour Ozone 2015 Area Information." 2021. United States Environmental Protection Agency.
- ⁶ Workman, Kyle. "Biological Resources Impact Analysis." Application material. June 16, 2023.
- ⁷ Wills, Carrie D. "Cultural Resources Assessment." Application material. June 2023.
- ⁸ "Calaveras County Code." Updated April 11, 2023.
- ⁹ "EQ Zapp: California Earthquake Hazards Zone Application". 23 September 2021. <<https://www.conservation.ca.gov/cgs/geohazards/eq-zapp>>.
- ¹⁰ "Natural Resources Conservation Service Soil Survey Map." n.d. United States Department of Agriculture. <https://websoilsurvey.sc.egov.usda.gov/app/WebSoilSurvey.aspx>.
- ¹¹ "LoaferCreek Series." n.d. National Cooperative Soil Survey. https://soilseries.sc.egov.usda.gov/OSD_Docs/L/LOAFERCREEK.html.
- ¹² "Bonanza Series." n.d. National Cooperative Soil Survey. https://soilseries.sc.egov.usda.gov/OSD_Docs/B/BONANZA.html.
- ¹³ State Responsibility (SRA) Viewer. 2023. <https://calfireforestry.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=468717e399fa4238ad86861638765ce1>.
- ¹⁴ Cheung, Tin. "Noise Compliance Report." May 10, 2023.
- ¹⁵ Calaveras County Emergency Operations Plan. September 2019.
- ¹⁶ William F. Hammett, P.E. "Radio Frequency Emissions Study." May 3, 2023.