California Department of Transportation

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT 10 PLANNING
P.O. BOX 2048 | STOCKTON, CA 95201
(209) 948-7325 | FAX (209) 948-7164 TTY 711
www.dot.ca.gov

November 21, 2025

Katherine Stefani
Planner II
Calaveras County Planning Department
891 Mountain Ranch Road
San Andreas, CA 95249

CAL-4-PM 7.914 CUP
2024-044 Copperopolis
New Cingular Wireless
Telecommunications
Initial Study – 2025041166

Dear Ms. Stefani,

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) appreciates the opportunity to review and comment on the Initial Study for an Administrative Use Permit (AUP) application to install a new unmanned 90-foot broadleaf tree telecommunication tower and supporting ground equipment, including a back-up generator, in the R1 zone. The project is being processed under the previous zoning code effective at the time the application was submitted in June of 2024. A large portion of the equipment will be contained within the 16' by 31' lease area and enclosed by a 6' wood fence. One transformer located 2' northwest of the lease area on a 4' 4" by 4' 2" concrete pad, one parking space parallel to Jackson Street, and a 3-foot-wide access path going from the parking space to the lease area are also proposed.

The project parcel is located at 409 Jackson Street in the community of Copperopolis within Assessor's Parcel Number (APN) 054-011-014.

Caltrans has the following comments:
Caltrans suggests Calaveras County continue to coordinate and consult with Caltrans to identify and address potential cumulative transportation impacts from this project and other developments near this location. This will assist Caltrans in ensuring that traffic safety and quality standards are maintained for the traveling public on existing and future state transportation facilities.

Hydrology
The project location is approximately 1200 feet from State Route (SR) 4 and the proposed concrete pad to be installed is too small to be negatively impacting the Caltrans existing drainage systems nor change the existing runoff flow patterns along SR 4. Should there be any changes to the development proposal, additional review from Caltrans is required.

Environmental

If there are any construction related activities that will encroach into Caltrans Right of Way (ROW) as a result of the project, the project proponent must apply for an Encroachment Permit with the Caltrans District 10 Encroachment Permit Office. All California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) documentation, like the final Initial Study, with supporting technical studies, must be submitted with the Encroachment Permit Application. These studies may include an analysis of potential impacts to any cultural sites, historic properties, biological resources, hazardous waste/materials, scenic highways, and/or other environmental resources within Caltrans Right of Way, at the project site(s). Evidence of consultation with local Native American tribes and interested parties will need to be presented within the technical documents for approval of encroachment in the Caltrans ROW.

Encroachment Permits

An encroachment permit is required for all activities on State highway ROW. The review and approval of encroachment projects is managed through the Encroachment Permits Office Process (EPOP) or the Project Delivery Quality Management Assessment Process (QMAP), depending on project scope, complexity, and completeness of the application.

If any project activities encroach into Caltrans ROW, the project proponent must submit an application for an Encroachment Permit to the Caltrans District 10 Encroachment Permit Office. Appropriate environmental studies must be submitted with this application. For more information, please visit the Caltrans Website at: https://dot.ca.gov/programs/traffic-operations/ep/applications.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Shiferaw Jemberie (209) 986-9635 (email: Shiferaw.jemberie@dot.ca.gov) or me at (209) 639-8832 (email: Gregoria.ponce@dot.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

Gregoria Ponce'

Gregoria Ponce', Chief
Office of Rural Planning

cc: Bret Sampson, Planning Director, Calaveras County Planning Department
State Clearinghouse (SCH)