

Negative Declaration & Notice Of Determination

SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND BUILDING 976 OSOS STREET • ROOM 200 • SAN LUIS OBISPO • CALIFORNIA 93408 • (805) 781-5600

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION NO. ED17-097 DATE: May 17, 2018

PROJECT/ENTITLEMENT: Verizon and Thompson Conditional Use Permit (DRC2017-00012)

APPLICANT NAME: Verizon Wireless Email:ben.hackstedde@sequoia-

ds.com

ADDRESS: 2785 Mitchell Dr, #9, Walnut Creek, CA 92630

CONTACT PERSON: Ben Hackstedde Telephone: (949)-259-3344

PROPOSED USES/INTENT: Request by Ned M. Thompson and Verizon Wireless for a Conditional Use Permit to allow for the construction and operation of an unmanned wireless telecommunications facility that includes: construction of a 70-foot high antenna support structure disguised as a monoeucalyptus tree containing nine (9) 8-foot panel antennas; and six (6) Radio Remote Units (RRU-11), nine (9) Radio Remote Units (RRU-32), one (1) GPS Antenna, three (3) Hyrbid Trunks, and six (6) DC Surge Protectors mounted behind the antennas on the monoeucalyptus. The project will be located within a 625 square foot lease area situated on the northeastern portion of the 13.05 acre parcel. The project also includes a request to modify the side and rear setback requirement of 30 feet to allow side and rear setbacks of 15 feet. The area of disturbance, including roughly 1,100 linear feet of utility trenching, is approximately 5,000 square feet. Cell site access for construction and maintenance will be provided by an existing 12-foot wide unpaved access drive connected to Rocky Canyon Road.

LOCATION: The project is located at 6100 Rocky Canyon Road, adjacent to the City of Atascadero.

LEAD AGENCY: County of San Luis Obispo

Dept of Planning & Building 976 Osos Street, Rm. 200

San Luis Obispo, CA 93408-2040 Website: http://www.sloplanning.org

| STATE CLEARINGHOUSE REVIEW: | YES | NO | \boxtimes |
|-----------------------------|-----|----|-------------|
| STATE CLEARINGHOUSE REVIEW: | YES | NO | \times |

OTHER POTENTIAL PERMITTING AGENCIES: None

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Additional information pertaining to this Environmental Determination may be obtained by contacting the above Lead Agency address or (805)781-5600.

COUNTY "REQUEST FOR REVIEW" PERIOD ENDS AT4:30 p.m. May 31, 2018

| 30-DAY PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD begins at the time of public notification | | | | |
|--|--|---------------------|---------------------------|--|
| Notice of Determinati | <u>on</u> | State Clearinghouse | No | |
| , _ , | Luis Obispo County_ oved/denied the above descri minations regarding the above | bed project on | Lead Agency , and | |
| The project will not have a significant effect on the environment. A Negative Declaration was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA. Mitigation measures and monitoring were made a condition of approval of the project. A Statement of Overriding Considerations was not adopted for this project. Findings were made pursuant to the provisions of CEQA. | | | | |
| This is to certify that the Negative Declaration with comments and responses and record of project approval is available to the General Public at the 'Lead Agency' address above. | | | | |
| | Stephanie Fuhs (sfuhs@co.slo.d | ca.us) | County of San Luis Obispo | |
| Signature | Project Manager Name | Date | Public Agency | |



Initial Study Summary – Environmental Checklist

SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND BUILDING 976 OSOS STREET + ROOM 200 + SAN LUIS OBISPO + CALIFORNIA 93408 + (805) 781-5600

(ver 5.10)Using Form

Project Title & No. Verizon and Thompson Conditional Use Permit ED17-097 (DRC2017-00012)

| "Potentially Significant Impact" for | POTENTIALLY AFFECTED: The or at least one of the environmental faction on mitigation measures or projectively or require further study. | ctors checked below. Please refer |
|---|---|--|
| Aesthetics Agricultural Resources Air Quality Biological Resources Cultural Resources | Geology and Soils Hazards/Hazardous Materials Noise Population/Housing Public Services/Utilities | Recreation Transportation/Circulation Wastewater Water /Hydrology Land Use |
| DETERMINATION: (To be comp | pleted by the Lead Agency) | |
| On the basis of this initial evalua | tion, the Environmental Coordinator f | inds that: |
| The proposed project ONEGATIVE DECLARATI | COULD NOT have a significant efformation of the court of | ect on the environment, and a |
| be a significant effect in the | roject could have a significant effect on his case because revisions in the project. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLA | ect have been made by or agreed |
| | MAY have a significant effect ACT REPORT is required. | on the environment, and an |
| unless mitigated" impact analyzed in an earlier of addressed by mitigation | IAY have a "potentially significant in on the environment, but at least on document pursuant to applicable leg measures based on the earlier and ENTAL IMPACT REPORT is require addressed. | e effect 1) has been adequately gal standards, and 2) has been alysis as described on attached |
| potentially significant effective DECLARATION pursuant pursuant to that earlier | project could have a significant effect ects (a) have been analyzed adequate nt to applicable standards, and (b) h EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION, and upon the proposed project, nothing | ly in an earlier EIR or NEGATIVE nave been avoided or mitigated including revisions or mitigation |
| Stephanie Fuhs (sfuhs@co.slo.ca.u. | s) Andrair T | lear That |
| Prepared by (Print) | Signature | Date 5/8/18 |
| Steve McMasters | ignature(for) Ellen Carroll, Environmental Coo | rdinator Date |

Project Environmental Analysis

The County's environmental review process incorporates all of the requirements for completing the Initial Study as required by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the CEQA Guidelines. The Initial Study includes staff's on-site inspection of the project site and surroundings and a detailed review of the information in the file for the project. In addition, available background information is reviewed for each project. Relevant information regarding soil types and characteristics, geologic information, significant vegetation and/or wildlife resources, water availability, wastewater disposal services, existing land uses and surrounding land use categories and other information relevant to the environmental review process are evaluated for each project. Exhibit A includes the references used, as well as the agencies or groups that were contacted as a part of the Initial Study. The County Planning Department uses the checklist to summarize the results of the research accomplished during the initial environmental review of the project.

Persons, agencies or organizations interested in obtaining more information regarding the environmental review process for a project should contact the County of San Luis Obispo Planning Department, 976 Osos Street, Rm. 200, San Luis Obispo, CA, 93408-2040 or call (805) 781-5600.

A. PROJECT

DESCRIPTION: Request by Ned M. Thompson and Verizon Wireless for a Conditional Use Permit to allow for the construction and operation of an unmanned wireless telecommunications facility that includes the following: construction of a 70-foot high antenna support structure disguised as a monoeucalyptus tree containing nine (9) 8-foot panel antennas and six (6) Radio Remote Units (RRU-11), nine (9) Radio Remote Units (RRU-32), one (1) GPS Antenna, three (3) Hyrbid Trunks, six (6) DC Surge Protectors mounted behind the antennas on the monoeucalyptus and fenced equipment area; all within a 625 square foot lease area situated on the northeastern portion of the 13.05 acre parcel. The project also includes a request to modify the side and rear setback requirement of 30 feet to allow side and rear setbacks of 15 feet. The project includes approximately 1,100 feet of utility trenching and would result in a total area of disturbance of approximately 5,000 feet. The proposed project is within the Agriculture land use category and is located at 6100 Rocky Canyon Road, adjacent to the City of Atascadero. The site is in the El Pomar- Estrella sub area of the North County Planning area.

The project will be located within a 625 square foot lease area situated on the northeastern portion of the 13.05 acre parcel. The project site contains a single family residence and numerous accessory structures. Vegetation onsite includes grasses, ornamentals, and scattered oak trees.

Utility lines will be extended to the lease site from an existing utility pole located at the western edge of the property on Rocky Canyon Road. The area of disturbance, including roughly 1,100 linear feet of utility trenching, is approximately 5,000 square feet. Cell site access for construction and maintenance will be provided by an existing 12-foot wide unpaved access drive connected to Rocky Canyon Road.

The wireless communications facility will be constructed within a 625 square foot fenced enclosure surrounded by a 6-foot tall wooden fence. The lease area will include three (3) pad mounted equipment cabinets and one (1) pad mounted standby generator, along with one (1) telco cabinet, one (1) electric meter and one (1) ILC cabinet to be mounted to a rack.

The proposed project is within the Agriculture land use category and is located at 6100 Rocky Canyon Road, adjacent to the City of Atascadero. The site is in the El Pomar- Estrella sub area of the North County Planning area.

ASSESSOR PARCEL NUMBER(S): 034-551-013

Latitude: 35 degrees 29' 31" N Longitude: 120 degrees 38' 31" W SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT # 5

EXISTING SETTING B.

PLAN AREA: North County **SUB**: El Pomar/Estrella **COMM:** Rural

LAND USE CATEGORY: Agriculture

COMB. DESIGNATION: Extractive Resource Area, Renewable Energy

PARCEL SIZE: 13.05 acres

TOPOGRAPHY: Nearly level to moderately sloping **VEGETATION**: Grasses, scattered oaks, ornamentals

EXISTING USES: Single-family residence(s), accessory structures

SURROUNDING LAND USE CATEGORIES AND USES:

| North: Agriculture; Scattered residences state highway | East: Agriculture; single-family residence(s) |
|--|---|
| South: Agriculture; single-family residence(s), City of Atascadero | West: Agriculture; single-family residence(s), City of Atascadero |

C. ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

During the Initial Study process, at least one issue was identified as having a potentially significant environmental effects (see following Initial Study). Those potentially significant items associated with the proposed uses can be minimized to less than significant levels.



COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST

| 1. | AESTHETICS Will the project: | Potentially Significant | Impact can & will be mitigated | Insignificant Impact | Not Applicable |
|----|---|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|
| a) | Create an aesthetically incompatible site open to public view? | | | | |
| b) | Introduce a use within a scenic view open to public view? | | | | |
| c) | Change the visual character of an area? | | | | |
| d) | Create glare or night lighting, which may affect surrounding areas? | | | | |
| e) | Impact unique geological or physical features? | | | | |
| f) | Other: | | | | |

Aesthetics

Setting. The project site is located along Rocky Canyon Road, approximately 800 feet south of the Highway 41 East/Rocky Canyon Road intersection. The property is located adjacent to the City of Atascadero in a fairly rural portion of the County. The project site is mostly level along Rocky Canyon Road to moderately sloping to the east. The portion of the site to be used for the telecommunications facility is located near the top of the ridge on the northeastern corner of the parcel.

The project site contains a single family residence, numerous accessory structures, water tanks and an outdoor storage yard. There is an adjacent salvage yard to the south. An existing dirt access road will provide access from Rocky Canyon Road to the lease area. Vegetation on the property contains grasses, ornamentals and scattered oak trees.

Regulatory Setting

Rocky Canyon Road is not a State-designated Scenic Highway, and the project site is not within the Critical Viewshed, Scenic Corridor, Sensitive Resource Area or subject to the Highway Corridor Design Standards combining designation areas. In addition, the following ordinance section and policies apply to telecommunications facilities:

Land Use Ordinance Section 22.30.180 (C)(3)(d.) establishes the following screening standards for wireless communication facilities:

All facilities shall be screened with vegetation or landscaping. Where screening with vegetation is not feasible, the facilities shall be disguised to resemble rural, pastoral architecture (ex: windmills, barns, trees) or other features determined to blend with the surrounding area and be finished in a texture and color deemed unobtrusive to the neighborhood in which it is located.

Conservation and Open Space Element Policy VR 9.3 states:

Locate, design and screen communication facilities, including towers, antennas, and associated equipment and buildings in order to avoid views of them in scenic areas, minimize their appearance and visually blend with the surrounding natural and built environments. Locate such facilities to avoid ridge tops where they would silhouette against the sky as viewed from major public view corridors and locations.

Conservation and Open Space Element Policy VR 9.4 states:

Encourage co-location of communications facilities (one or more carriers sharing a site, tower or equipment) when feasible and where it would avoid or minimize adverse visual effects.

Conservation and Open Space Element Policy VR 7.1 states:

Protect the clarity and visibility of the night sky within communities and rural areas, by ensuring that exterior lighting, including streetlight projects, is designed to minimize nighttime light pollution.

Impact. The lease site is located approximately 1,100 feet north of Rocky Canyon Road, a two-lane local road, and approximately 800 feet south of Highway 41 East, a State Highway that connects to the community of Creston to the east and the City of Atascadero to the west. Rocky Canyon Road is relatively flat, with some minor curves in the vicinity of the project site.

The most visible aspect of the facility is the 70 foot tall antennae support structure which is designed to resemble a eucalyptus tree. Ground equipment will be screened by a 6-foot high wooden fence along the perimeter of the lease site. To assure that the wooden fence blends with the surrounding landscape, mitigation is recommended to require that the wooden fence be painted a non-reflective earth tone color.

The applicant has submitted an illustration of the monoeucalyptus tree as well as photo-simulations of the facility as seen from three key viewing locations: Rocky Canyon Road and Old Adobe Canyon Road. The photo-simulations demonstrate that the monoeucalyptus tree will be minimally visible to travelers along segments of Rocky Canyon Road, but more visible from Old Adobe Canyon Road and from Rocky Canyon Road when looking north.

Because of the rural character of the area, traffic volumes on local roads serving the project site are low. Accordingly, views of the project site from surrounding public roads will be infrequent and brief.

Mitigation/Conclusion. The project is expected to have a less than significant impact on aesthetic and visual resources because:

- Views of the lease area from Rocky Canyon and Old Adobe Roads will be brief and intermittent: partially screened by existing trees, topography, and existing development.
- Although the proposed communications facility is not a use that is inherently compatible with the character of the surrounding rural/agricultural landscape, the project incorporates features to help blend the project with existing natural features of the landscape. These features include:
 - o The stealth design of the antennas to resembles a eucalyptus tree; and
 - Locating the eucalyptus tree within an area containing an existing stand of oak trees.



These features are consistent with the visual screening standard for wireless communications
facilities which requires facilities to either be completely screened by vegetation or disguised to
resemble natural or built features of the landscape.

Mitigation measures are recommended that require the applicant to use the most realistic appearing artificial eucalyptus tree structure, with an organic and asymmetrical form and realistic bark texture and foliage colors. In addition, the applicant is required to submit material and color test samples of all visual elements of the monoeucalyptus. The proposed wooden fence is required to be painted a non-reflective earth tone color. These measures, listed in the mitigation summary table (Exhibit B), would reduce the project's potential visual impacts to a level of insignificance.

| 2. AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES Will the project: | Potentially Significant | Impact can & will be mitigated | Insignificant Impact | Not Applicable |
|--|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|
| a) Convert prime agricultural land, per NRCS soil classification, to non-agricultural use? | | | | |
| b) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance to non-agricultural use? | | | | |
| c) Impair agricultural use of other property or result in conversion to other uses? | | | | |
| d) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or Williamson Act program? | | | | |
| e) Other: | | | | |
| Agricultural Resources | | | | |
| Setting . <u>Project Elements</u> . The following area or agricultural production: | -specific eleme | ents relate to | the property's i | mportance |
| Land Use Category: Agriculture | Historic/E | xisting Comme | rcial Crops: Non | е |
| <u>State Classification</u> : Not prime farmland, Farmland Statewide Importance, Prime Farmland if irrigated | of <u>In Agricu</u> Preserv | | ? Yes, El Pom | ar AG |
| | Under Wi | Iliamson Act co | ntract? No | |

The soil type(s) and characteristics on the subject property include:

Hanford and Greenfield gravelly sandy loams (2 - 9% slope).

<u>Greenfield</u>. This gently sloping, coarse loamy bottom soil is considered moderately drained. The soil has low erodibility and low shrink-swell characteristics, as well as having potential septic system constraints due to: no severe limitations identified. The soil is considered Class IV without irrigation and Class II when irrigated.

Arbuckle-Positas complex (15 - 30 % slope).

<u>Positas</u>. This moderately to steeply sloping coarse loamy soil is considered very poorly drained. The soil has moderate erodibility and low shrink-swell characteristics, as well as having potential septic system constraints due to: steep slopes, slow percolation. The soil is considered Class IV without irrigation and Class IV when irrigated.

Lockwood shaly loam (2 - 9% slope). This gently sloping soil is considered moderately drained. The soil has high erodibility and moderate shrink-swell characteristics, as well as having potential septic system constraints due to: slow percolation. The soil is considered Class IV without irrigation and Class II when irrigated.

Impact. Though the project site is located in the Agriculture land use category, the site is a predominantly non-agricultural area with no agricultural activities occurring on the property. The project was referred to the County Department of Agriculture, and their Summary of Findings found the project impacts to agricultural resources less than significant. No significant impacts to agricultural resources are anticipated.

Mitigation/Conclusion. No mitigation measures are necessary.

| 3. | AIR QUALITY Will the project: | Potentially Significant | Impact can & will be mitigated | Insignificant Impact | Not Applicable |
|----|--|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|
| a) | Violate any state or federal ambient air quality standard, or exceed air quality emission thresholds as established by County Air Pollution Control District? | | | | |
| b) | Expose any sensitive receptor to substantial air pollutant concentrations? | | | | |
| c) | Create or subject individuals to objectionable odors? | | | | |
| d) | Be inconsistent with the District's Clean Air Plan? | | | | |
| e) | Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant either considered in non-attainment under applicable state or federal ambient air quality standards that are due to increased energy use or traffic generation, or intensified land use change? | | | | |
| GI | REENHOUSE GASES | | | | |
| f) | Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment? | | | | |
| g) | Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases? | | | | |
| h) | Other: | | | | |

Air Quality

Setting.

The project proposes to disturb soils that have been given a wind erodibility rating of 3 to 6, which is considered "moderate low" to "moderately high".

The Air Pollution Control District (APCD) has developed and updated their CEQA Air Quality Handbook (2012) to evaluate project specific impacts and help determine if air quality mitigation measures are needed, or if potentially significant impacts could result. To evaluate long-term emissions, cumulative effects, and establish countywide programs to reach acceptable air quality levels, a Clean Air Plan has been adopted (prepared by APCD).

Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions are said to result in an increase in the earth's average surface temperature. This is commonly referred to as global warming. The rise in global temperature is associated with long-term changes in precipitation, temperature, wind patterns, and other elements of the earth's climate system. This is also known as climate change. These changes are now thought to be broadly attributed to GHG emissions, particularly those emissions that result from the human production and use of fossil fuels.

The passage of AB32, the California Global Warming Solutions Act (2006), recognized the need to reduce GHG emissions and set the greenhouse gas emissions reduction goal for the State of California into law. The law required that by 2020, State emissions must be reduced to 1990 levels. This is to be accomplished by reducing greenhouse gas emissions from significant sources via regulation, market mechanisms, and other actions. Subsequent legislation (e.g., SB97-Greenhouse Gas Emissions bill) directed the California Air Resources Board (CARB) to develop statewide thresholds.

In March 2012, the San Luis Obispo County Air Pollution Control District (APCD) approved thresholds for GHG emission impacts, and these thresholds have been incorporated the APCD's CEQA Air Quality Handbook. APCD determined that a tiered process for residential / commercial land use projects was the most appropriate and effective approach for assessing the GHG emission impacts. The tiered approach includes three methods, any of which can be used for any given project:

- 1. Qualitative GHG Reduction Strategies (e.g. Climate Action Plans): A qualitative threshold that is consistent with AB 32 Scoping Plan measures and goals; or,
- 2. Bright-Line Threshold: Numerical value to determine the significance of a project's annual GHG emissions; or,
- 3. Efficiency-Based Threshold: Assesses the GHG impacts of a project on an emissions per capita basis.

For most projects the Bright-Line Threshold of 1,150 Metric Tons CO2/year (MT CO2e/yr) will be the most applicable threshold. In addition to the residential/commercial threshold options proposed above, a bright-line numerical value threshold of 10,000 MT CO2e/yr was adopted for stationary source (industrial) projects.

It should be noted that projects that generate less than the above mentioned thresholds will also participate in emission reductions because air emissions, including GHGs, are under the purview of the California Air Resources Board (or other regulatory agencies) and will be "regulated" either by CARB, the Federal Government, or other entities. For example, new vehicles will be subject to increased fuel economy standards and emission reductions, large and small appliances will be subject to more strict emissions standards, and energy delivered to consumers will increasingly come from renewable sources. Other programs that are intended to reduce the overall GHG emissions include Low Carbon Fuel Standards, Renewable Portfolio standards and the Clean Car standards. As a result, even the emissions that result from projects that produce fewer emissions than the threshold will be subject to emission reductions.

Under CEQA, an individual project's GHG emissions will generally not result in direct significant impacts. This is because the climate change issue is global in nature. However, an individual project could be found to contribute to a potentially significant cumulative impact. Projects that have GHG emissions above the noted thresholds may be considered cumulatively considerable and require mitigation.

Impact. As proposed, the project will result in the disturbance of approximately 5,000 square feet. This will result in the creation of construction dust, as well as short- and long-term vehicle emissions. The project will be moving less than 1,200 cubic yards/day of material and will disturb less than four acres of area, and therefore will be below the general thresholds triggering construction-related mitigation. The project is also not in close proximity to sensitive receptors that might otherwise result in nuisance complaints and be subject to limited dust and/or emission control measures during construction.

From an operational standpoint, based on Table 1-1 of the CEQA Air Quality Handbook (2012), the project will not exceed operational thresholds triggering mitigation. The project is consistent with the general level of development anticipated and projected in the Clean Air Plan. No significant air quality impacts are expected to occur.

This project is for the installation of a 60' tall monoeucalyptus, 6' tall fence, antennas, and associated equipment. Using the GHG threshold information described in the Setting section, the project is expected to generate less than the Bright-Line Threshold of 1,150 metric tons of GHG emissions. Therefore, the project's potential direct and cumulative GHG emissions are found to be less significant and less than a cumulatively considerable contribution to GHG emissions. Section 15064(h)(2) of the CEQA Guidelines provide guidance on how to evaluate cumulative impacts. If it is shown that an incremental contribution to a cumulative impact, such as global climate change, is not 'cumulatively considerable', no mitigation is required. Because this project's emissions fall under the threshold, no mitigation is required.

Mitigation/Conclusion. No significant impacts are anticipated and no mitigation measures are necessary.

| 4. | BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES Will the project: | Potentially Significant | Impact can & will be mitigated | Insignificant Impact | Not Applicable |
|----|--|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|
| a) | Result in a loss of unique or special status species* or their habitats? | | | | |
| b) | Reduce the extent, diversity or quality of native or other important vegetation? | | | | |
| c) | Impact wetland or riparian habitat? | | | | |
| d) | Interfere with the movement of resident or migratory fish or wildlife species, or factors, which could hinder the normal activities of wildlife? | | | | |
| e) | Conflict with any regional plans or policies to protect sensitive species, or regulations of the California Department of Fish & Wildlife or U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service? | | | | |
| f) | Other: | | | | |

^{*} Species – as defined in Section15380 of the CEQA Guidelines, which includes all plant and wildlife species that fall under the category of rare, threatened or endangered, as described in this section.

Biological Resources

Setting. The following are existing elements on or near the proposed project relating to potential biological concerns:

On-site Vegetation: Grasses, scattered oaks, ornamentals

Name and distance from blue line creek(s): An unnamed "blue line" tributary to the Salinas River is located approximately 250 feet southwest of the subject property.

Habitat(s): None

Site's tree canopy coverage: Less than 10%.

The Natural Diversity Database (or other biological references) identified the following species potentially existing within approximately one mile of the proposed project:

Vegetation:

Eastwood's larkspur (*Delphinium parryi ssp. eastwoodiae*) List 1B Mesa horkelia (*Horkelia cuneata var. puberula*) List 1B Miles' milk-vetch (*Astragalus didymocarpus var. milesianus*) List 1B Round-leaved filaree (*California macrophylla*) List 1B Yellow-flowered eriastrum (*Eriastrum luteum*) List 1B

Impact. A Biological Resources Assessment was prepared (EBI Consulting/LSA, January 17, 2018). The report found that there are no natural vegetation communities or habitats on the project site. Twenty-three special status species (12 plants and 11 animals) were identified as potentially occurring in the Atascadero area; however, none of the plant or animal species are expected to occur based on suitable soils and the disturbed nature of the project site. The report stated that there is a low likelihood for nesting birds due to the "low quality nesting habitat", but recommended a mitigation measure for a pre-construction survey to ensure no active nests are present at the time of construction. The project site does not support any sensitive native vegetation, significant wildlife habitats, or special status species.

Mitigation/Conclusion. No significant biological impacts are expected to occur. A measure has been added for a pre-construction survey to be conducted if construction will occur during nesting season (February 15th –September 15th). No additional mitigation measures are considered necessary.

| 5. | CULTURAL RESOURCES Will the project: | Potentially Significant | Impact can & will be mitigated | Insignificant Impact | Not Applicable |
|----|---|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|
| a) | Disturb archaeological resources? | | | | |
| b) | Disturb historical resources? | | | | |
| c) | Disturb paleontological resources? | | | | |
| d) | Cause a substantial adverse change to a Tribal Cultural Resource? | | | | |
| e) | Other: | | | | |

Cultural Resources

Setting. The project is located in an area historically occupied by the Salinan and Chumash. No historic structures are present and no paleontological resources are known to exist in the area. The project is within 300 feet of a blue line creek. Potential for the presence or regular activities of the Native American increases in close proximity to reliable water sources.

In order to meet AB52 Cultural Resources requirements, outreach to four Native American tribes groups had been conducted (Northern Salinan, Xolon Salinan, Yak Tityu Tityu Northern Chumash, and the Northern Chumash Tribal Council). The Salinan Tribe (Patti Dunton, correspondence of August 16, 2017) responded, and requested that a Phase I archaeological survey be performed

Impact. A Phase I (surface) survey was conducted (EBI Consulting, February 14, 2018), and concluded that no evidence of cultural materials was noted on the property, and therefore cultural resources will not be affected by the project. Per AB52, tribal consultation was performed and no resources were identified. Impacts to historical or paleontological resources are not expected.

Mitigation/Conclusion. County land Use Ordinance Section 22.10.040 includes a provision that construction work cease in the event resources are unearthed with work allowed to continue once the issue is resolved. No significant cultural resource impacts are expected to occur, and no mitigation measures above what are already required by ordinance are necessary.

| 6. | GEOLOGY AND SOILS Will the project: | Potentially Significant | Impact can & will be mitigated | Insignificant Impact | Not Applicable |
|----|---|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|
| a) | Result in exposure to or production of unstable earth conditions, such as landslides, earthquakes, liquefaction, ground failure, land subsidence or other similar hazards? | | | | |
| b) | Be within a California Geological Survey "Alquist-Priolo" Earthquake Fault Zone", or other known fault zones*? | | | | |
| c) | Result in soil erosion, topographic changes, loss of topsoil or unstable soil conditions from project-related improvements, such as vegetation removal, grading, excavation, or fill? | | | | |
| d) | Include structures located on expansive soils? | | | | |
| e) | Be inconsistent with the goals and policies of the County's Safety Element relating to Geologic and Seismic Hazards? | | | | |
| f) | Preclude the future extraction of valuable mineral resources? | | | \boxtimes | |
| g) | Other: | | | | |

^{*} Per Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication #42



Setting. The following relates to the project's geologic aspects or conditions:

Topography: Nearly level to moderately sloping

Within County's Geologic Study Area?: No Landslide Risk Potential: Moderate to high

Liquefaction Potential: Low

Nearby potentially active faults?: Yes Distance? 4 feet to the West

Area known to contain serpentine or ultramafic rock or soils?: No

Due to the distance of any known fault (at least three miles away) or serpentine rock outcrop (at least three miles away), it is not expected that any naturally occurring asbestos would be encountered during any earthmoving activities.

Shrink/Swell potential of soil: Low to moderate

Other notable geologic features? None

Geology and Soils

A sedimentation and erosion control plan is required for all construction and grading projects (LUO Sec. 22.52.120) to minimize these impacts. When required, the plan is prepared by a civil engineer to address both temporary and long-term sedimentation and erosion impacts.

Impact. As proposed, the project will result in the disturbance of approximately 5,000 square feet. No significant impacts are expected to occur.

Mitigation/Conclusion. Under Chapter 18 of the California Building Code, the project will be required to submit a soils engineering report with the construction permit application and to implement the recommendations of the report. There is no evidence that measures above what will already be required by ordinance or codes are needed.

| 7. | HAZARDS & HAZARDOUS MATERIALS - Will the project: | Potentially Significant | Impact can & will be mitigated | Insignificant Impact | Not Applicable |
|----|--|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|
| a) | Create a hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials? | | | | |
| b) | Create a hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment? | | | | |
| c) | Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within 1/4-mile of an existing or proposed | | | | |

| 7. | HAZARDS & HAZARDOUS MATERIALS - Will the project: | Potentially Significant | Impact can & will be mitigated | Insignificant Impact | Not Applicable |
|----|---|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|
| d) | Be located on, or adjacent to, a site which is included on a list of hazardous material/waste sites compiled pursuant to Gov't Code 65962.5 ("Cortese List"), and result in an adverse public health condition? | | | | |
| e) | Impair implementation or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response or evacuation plan? | | | | |
| f) | If within the Airport Review designation, or near a private airstrip, result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area? | | | | |
| g) | Increase fire hazard risk or expose people or structures to high wildland fire hazard conditions? | | | | |
| h) | Be within a 'very high' fire hazard severity zone? | | | \boxtimes | |
| i) | Be within an area classified as a 'state responsibility' area as defined by CalFire? | | | | |
| j) | Other: | | | | |

Hazards and Hazardous Materials

Setting. The project is not located in an area of known hazardous material contamination. The project is not within a 'high' or 'very high' severity risk area for fire. The project is not within the Airport Review area.

With regards to potential fire hazards, the subject project is within the High Fire Hazard Severity Zone(s). Based on the County's fire response time map, it will take approximately 10-15 minutes to respond to a call regarding fire or life safety. Refer to the Public Services section for further discussion on Fire Safety impacts.

Radio Frequency/Electromagnetic Energy

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has developed Maximum Permissible Exposure (MPE) Limits for general public exposures and occupational exposures for Radiofrequency Electromagnetic energy fields. The FCC's MPEs are measured in terms of power (millawatts, or mW) over a unit surface (square centimeters, or cm²). Known as the power density, the FCC has established an operational MPE of 5 milliwatts per square centimeter and an uncontrolled MPE of 1 mW/cm² for equipment operating in the 1900 MHz frequency range.

Impact. The proposed project will include lead acid batteries within the equipment cabinets. Other than the lead acid batteries, the project does not propose the use of hazardous materials. The project does not propose the use of hazardous materials, nor the generation of hazardous wastes. The proposed project is not found on the 'Cortese List' (which is a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5). The project does not present a significant fire safety risk. The project is not expected to conflict with any regional emergency response or evacuation plan. Furthermore, the Department of Environmental Health reviewed the proposed project and will require the applicant to submit to the Department of Environmental Health, a hazardous materials business plan.

The applicant submitted a Radio Frequency (RF) report to evaluate the proposed communications facility for compliance with appropriate guidelines limiting human exposure to radio frequency electromagnetic fields. According to the RF report for this project (Hammett & Edison, Inc., Consulting Engineers; July 24, 2017), the maximum level of RF emissions at the nearest walking/working surfaces to the proposed antennas would be equivalent to 1.7 percent of the applicable public exposure limit. These results include several "worst-case" assumptions and therefore are expected to overstate actual power density levels.

Mitigation/Conclusion. No significant impacts as a result of hazards or hazardous materials are anticipated, and no mitigation measures are necessary.

| 8. | NOISE Will the project: | Potentially Significant | Impact can & will be mitigated | Insignificant Impact | Not Applicable |
|----|---|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|
| a) | Expose people to noise levels that exceed the County Noise Element thresholds? | | | | |
| b) | Generate permanent increases in the ambient noise levels in the project vicinity? | | | | |
| c) | Cause a temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise in the project vicinity? | | | | |
| d) | Expose people to severe noise or vibration? | | | | |
| e) | If located within the Airport Review designation or adjacent to a private airstrip, expose people residing or working in the project area to severe noise levels? | | | | |
| f) | Other: | | | | |

Noise

Setting. The project is not within close proximity of loud noise sources, and will not conflict with any sensitive noise receptors (e.g., residences). Based on the Noise Element's projected future noise generation from known stationary and vehicle-generated noise sources, the project is within an acceptable threshold area.

Impact. The proposed project would introduce noise generating equipment into a rural area that contains an outdoor storage yard on the property and an adjacent salvage yard. The facility's primary noise sources include air conditioning units to cool the equipment shelter and an emergency back-up generator. Based on specifications provided by the applicant, the air conditioning (AC) units would

produce a maximum noise level of 66 dBA (at the source) and the emergency generator would produce a maximum noise level of 66.7 dBA (at a distance of about 23 feet). The emergency generator is intended to power the facility in the event of a power outage, after the lead acid batteries within the equipment cabinets fail. It would also be operated for about 15 minutes each month for routine maintenance and testing. As conditioned, the generator would only be operated for testing during daytime hours. In addition, the proposed facility will be unmanned and as such would not be considered noise sensitive.

Mitigation/Conclusion. No significant noise impacts are anticipated and no mitigation measures are necessary. As a standard condition of approval to ensure the project will not conflict with any sensitive noise receptors (e.g., residences), the proposed AC units shall be sound attenuated to meet applicable County and State exterior noise standards. The project shall be maintained in compliance with the County Noise Element (including emergency generators). Implementation of these existing requirements would reduce noise impacts to a less than significant level.

| 9. POPULATION/HOUSING Will the project: | Potentially Significant | Impact can & will be mitigated | Insignificant Impact | Not Applicable |
|--|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|
| a) Induce substantial growth in an area either directly (e.g., construct new homes or businesses) or indirectly (e.g., extension of major infrastructure)? | | | | |
| b) Displace existing housing or people, requiring construction of replacement housing elsewhere? | | | | |
| c) Create the need for substantial new housing in the area? | | | | |
| d) Other: | | | | |

Population/Housing

Setting In its efforts to provide for affordable housing, the county currently administers the Home Investment Partnerships (HOME) Program and the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program, which provides limited financing to projects relating to affordable housing throughout the county. The County's Inclusionary Housing Ordinance requires provision of new affordable housing in conjunction with both residential and nonresidential development and subdivisions.

Impact. Based on the project description, the proposed project is not anticipated to induce growth, create the need for new housing, or use a substantial amount of fuel or energy to construct and maintain. The proposed wireless communications facility would not result in a need for a significant amount of new housing or displace existing housing. No significant population and housing impacts are anticipated.

Mitigation/Conclusion. The project is consistent with the County's Housing Element. No significant population and housing impacts are anticipated; therefore, no mitigation measures are necessary.

| l r | PUBLIC SERVICES Will the project have an efferes esult in the need for new offerer services in any of the follow | ct upon, or r altered public | Potentially Significant | Impact can & will be mitigated | Insignificant Impact | Not Applicable |
|--------|---|------------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|
| a) | Fire protection? | | | | | |
| b) | Police protection (e.g., S | Sheriff, CHP)? | | | | |
| c) | Schools? | | | | | |
| d) | Roads? | | | | | |
| e) | Solid Wastes? | | | | | |
| f) | Other public facilities? | | | | | |
| g) | Other: | | | | | |
| Settir | ng. The project area is serve | ed by the following | ng public servi | ices/facilities: | | |
| Police | e: County Sheriff | Location: Temp | oleton (Approxir | mately 5.82 mil | es to the northwe | est) |
| | Cal Fire (formerly CDF) Location: Approximately 6.61 | Hazard Severity miles to the south | · · | Respons | e Time: 10-15 m | inutes |
| Scho | ol District: Atascadero Unified | School District. | | | | |

Public Services

For additional information regarding fire hazard impacts, go to the 'Hazards and Hazardous Materials' section.

Impact. The proposed project involves the construction of an unmanned wireless communications facility. The proposed project is not located within a Road Fee area. No significant project-specific impacts to utilities or public services were identified.

Mitigation/Conclusion. The project was reviewed by Cal Fire for consistency with the Uniform Fire Code and will be required to prepare a fire safety plan. The project will not increase demands for police, fire, or school facilities and therefore no additional mitigation is needed.

| 11. | RECREATION Will the project: | Potentially Significant | Impact can & will be mitigated | Insignificant Impact | Not Applicable |
|-----|---|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|
| a) | Increase the use or demand for parks or other recreation opportunities? | | | | |
| b) | Affect the access to trails, parks or other recreation opportunities? | | | | |
| c) | Other | | | | |

Recreation

Setting. Based on the County Trails Map, the project is within reasonably close proximity to the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail.

Impact. The proposed project will not create a significant need for additional park, Natural Area, and/or recreational resources.

Mitigation/Conclusion. No significant recreation impacts are anticipated, and no mitigation measures are necessary.

| 12 | 2. TRANSPORTATION/CIRCULATION | Potentially Significant | Impact can & will be | Insignificant Impact | Not Applicable |
|----|---|----------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|
| | Will the project: | 0.9 | mitigated | puot | 7.66 |
| a) | Increase vehicle trips to local or areawide circulation system? | | | | |
| b) | Reduce existing "Level of Service" on public roadway(s)? | | | | |
| c) | Create unsafe conditions on public roadways (e.g., limited access, design features, sight distance, slow vehicles)? | | | | |
| d) | Provide for adequate emergency access? | | | | |
| e) | Conflict with an established measure of effectiveness for the performance of the circulation system considering all modes of transportation (e.g. LOS, mass transit, etc.)? | | | | |
| f) | Conflict with an applicable congestion management program? | | | | |
| g) | Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs regarding public transit, bicycle, or pedestrian facilities, or otherwise decrease the performance or safety of such facilities? | | | | |
| h) | Result in a change in air traffic patterns that may result in substantial safety risks? | | | | |
| i) | Other: | | | | |

Transportation

Setting. The County has established the acceptable Level of Service (LOS) on roads for this rural area as "C" or better. The existing road network in the area, including the project's access street, Rocky Canyon Place, is operating at an acceptable level of service. Based on existing road speeds and configuration (vertical and horizontal road curves), sight distance is considered acceptable.

Referrals were sent to County Public Works. No significant traffic-related concerns were identified.

Impact. After construction, the proposed unmanned wireless communications facility is estimated to generate about one vehicle trip every six to eight weeks for routine maintenance. This small amount of additional traffic will not result in a significant change to the existing road service or traffic safety levels. The project does not conflict with adopted policies, plans and programs on transportation.

Mitigation/Conclusion. No significant traffic impacts were identified, and no mitigation measures above what are already required by ordinance are necessary.

| a) Violate waste discharge requirements | |
|--|--|
| or Central Coast Basin Plan criteria for wastewater systems? | |
| b) Change the quality of surface or ground water (e.g., nitrogen-loading, day-lighting)? | |
| c) Adversely affect community wastewater service provider? | |
| d) Other: | |

Wastewater

Setting/Impact. The proposed project consists of an unmanned wireless communications facility and would not generate wastewater or require wastewater disposal.

Mitigation/Conclusion. Given that the proposed facility will not generate wastewater, impacts would be less than significant and no mitigation measures are necessary.

| 14 | . WATER & HYDROLOGY Will the project: | Potentially Significant | Impact can & will be mitigated | Insignificant Impact | Not Applicable |
|----|--|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|
| QU | IALITY | | | | |
| a) | Violate any water quality standards? | | | | |
| | Discharge into surface waters or otherwise alter surface water quality (e.g., turbidity, sediment, temperature, dissolved oxygen, etc.)? | | | | |
| • | Change the quality of groundwater (e.g., saltwater intrusion, nitrogen-loading, etc.)? | | | | |
| • | Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide additional sources of polluted runoff? | | | | |
| e) | Change rates of soil absorption, or amount or direction of surface runoff? | | | \boxtimes | |

| 14 | I. WATER & HYDROLOGY Will the project: | Potentially Significant | Impact can & will be mitigated | Insignificant Impact | Not Applicable |
|----|--|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|
| f) | Change the drainage patterns where substantial on- or off-site sedimentation/ erosion or flooding may occur? | | | | |
| g) | Involve activities within the 100-year flood zone? | | | | |
| QI | UANTITY | | | | |
| h) | Change the quantity or movement of available surface or ground water? | | | | |
| i) | Adversely affect community water service provider? | | | | |
| j) | Expose people to a risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding (e.g., dam failure,etc.), or inundation by seiche, tsunami or mudflow? | | | | |
| k) | Other: | | | | |
| | | | | | |

Water

Setting.

The proposed unmanned wireless communications facility does not propose any water usage.

The topography of the project is nearly level to moderately sloping. The closest creek from the proposed development is approximately 250 feet to the southwest. As described in the NRCS Soil Survey, the soil surface is considered to have low erodibility.

DRAINAGE – The following relates to the project's drainage aspects:

Within the 100-year Flood Hazard designation? No

Closest creek? Unnamed tributary to the Salinas River Distance? 250 feet to the southwest

Soil drainage characteristics: Moderately drained

For areas where drainage is identified as a potential issue, the Land Use Ordinance (LUO Sec. 22.52.110) includes a provision to prepare a drainage plan to minimize potential drainage impacts. When required, this plan would need to address measures such as: constructing on-site retention or detention basins, or installing surface water flow dissipaters. This plan would also need to show that the increased surface runoff would have no more impacts than that caused by historic flows.

SEDIMENTATION AND EROSION - Soil type, area of disturbance, and slopes are key aspects to analyzing potential sedimentation and erosion issues. The project's soil types and descriptions are listed in the previous Agriculture section under "Setting". As described in the NRCS Soil Survey, the project's soil erodibility is as follows:

Soil erodibility: Low to moderate

A sedimentation and erosion control plan is required for all construction and grading projects (LUO Sec. 22.52.120) to minimize these impacts. When required, the plan is prepared by a civil engineer to



address both temporary and long-term sedimentation and erosion impacts. Projects involving more than one acre of disturbance are subject to the preparation of a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP), which focuses on controlling storm water runoff. The Regional Water Quality Control Board is the local extension who monitors this program.

Impact - Water Quality/Hydrology

With regards to project impacts on water quality the following conditions apply:

- ✓ Approximately 5,000 square feet of site disturbance is proposed;
- ✓ The project will be subject to standard County requirements for drainage, sedimentation and erosion control for construction and permanent use;
- ✓ The project is more than 100 feet from the closest creek or surface water body;
- ✓ All disturbed areas will be permanently stabilized with impermeable surfaces and landscaping; and
- ✓ All hazardous materials and/or wastes will be properly stored on-site, which include secondary containment should spills or leaks occur.

Water Quantity

Based on the project description, the project will not use any water.

Mitigation/Conclusion. As specified above for water quality, existing regulations and/or required plans will adequately address surface water quality impacts during construction and permanent use of the project. No additional measures above what are required or proposed are needed to protect water quality, and no significant impacts from water use are anticipated.

| 15. LAND USE Will the project: | Inconsistent | Potentially Inconsistent | Consistent | Not Applicable |
|---|-------------------|-----------------------------|------------|-------------------|
| a) Be potentially inconsistent with lar policy/regulation (e.g., general plan [County Land Use Element and Ordinance], local coastal plan, spe plan, Clean Air Plan, etc.) adopted or mitigate for environmental effec | cific to avoid | | | |
| b) Be potentially inconsistent with an habitat or community conservation | - | | | |
| c) Be potentially inconsistent with ad agency environmental plans or pol with jurisdiction over the project? | - 1 1 | | | |
| d) Be potentially incompatible with surrounding land uses? | | | | |
| e) Other: | _ 🗆 | | | |

Land Use

Setting/Impact. Surrounding uses are identified on Page 2 of the Initial Study. The proposed project was reviewed for consistency with policy and/or regulatory documents relating to the environment and

appropriate land use (e.g., County Land Use Ordinance, Local Coastal Plan, etc.). Referrals were sent to outside agencies to review for policy consistencies (e.g., CAL FIRE for Fire Code, APCD for Clean Air Plan, etc.). The project was found to be consistent with these documents (refer also to Exhibit A on reference documents used).

The project is not within or adjacent to a Habitat Conservation Plan area. The project is consistent or compatible with the surrounding uses as summarized on page 2 of this Initial Study.

The proposed project is subject to the following Planning Area Standard(s) as found in the County's LUO:

- 1. LUO Section 22.94.040 E El Pomar-Estrella Sub-Area Standards
- 2. LUO Section 22.94.080 B Atascadero Planning Impact Area

Although the proposed communications facility is not a use that is inherently compatible with the visual character of the surrounding commercial service and agrarian landscape, the proposed project is a stealth design that would blend with the surrounding landscape. Since the proposed facility would visually blend with the landscape, it would not be readily discernable as a wireless communications facility. This is consistent with the visual screening standards for wireless communications facilities (Section 22.30.180(C)(3)(d)) which requires new facilities to either be completely screened by vegetation or disguised to resemble natural or built features of the landscape. A drainage plan will be required at time of construction permit application.

Mitigation/Conclusion. No inconsistencies were identified and therefore no additional measures above what will already be required were determined necessary.

| 16. | MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE Will the project: | Potentially Significant | Impact can & will be mitigated | Insignificant Impact | Not Applicable |
|-----|---|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------|
| a) | Have the potential to degrade the quali- habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cau sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate or restrict the range of a rare or endang examples of the major periods of | ise a fish or w | ildlife populat mal communi | tion to drop be ity, reduce the | elow self- number |
| | California history or pre-history? | | | | |
| b) | Have impacts that are individually limit ("Cumulatively considerable" means the considerable when viewed in connection other current projects, and the effects | hat the increm | ental effects o | of a project are | |
| | of probable future projects) | | | | |
| c) | Have environmental effects which will beings, either directly or indirectly? | cause substar | ntial adverse e | effects on hun | nan |
| For | further information on CEQA or the Cou | ıntv's environm | nental review i | process please | e visit the |

County's web site at "www.sloplanning.org" under "Environmental Information", or the California Environmental Resources Evaluation System at: http://resources.ca.gov/ceqa/ for information about

the California Environmental Quality Act.

Exhibit A - Initial Study References and Agency Contacts

The County Planning Department has contacted various agencies for their comments on the proposed project. With respect to the subject application, the following have been contacted (marked with an \boxtimes) and when a response was made, it is either attached or in the application file:

| <u>Con</u> | <u>tacted</u> <u>Agency</u> | <u>Response</u> |
|---------------------|--|--|
| \boxtimes | County Public Works Department | Attached |
| | County Environmental Health Services | Not Applicable |
| | County Agricultural Commissioner's Office | Not Applicable |
| | County Airport Manager | Not Applicable |
| | Airport Land Use Commission | Not Applicable |
| | Air Pollution Control District | Not Applicable |
| П | County Sheriff's Department | Not Applicable |
| П | Regional Water Quality Control Board | Not Applicable |
| П | CA Coastal Commission | Not Applicable |
| П | CA Department of Fish and Wildlife | Not Applicable |
| Ħ | CA Department of Forestry (Cal Fire) | Not Applicable |
| | CA Department of Transportation | Not Applicable |
| Ħ | Community Services District | Not Applicable |
| П | Other | Not Applicable |
| П | Other | Not Applicable |
| ш | ** "No comment" or "No concerns"-type response | |
| prop | following checked (" \boxtimes ") reference materials have osed project and are hereby incorporated by remation is available at the County Planning and Bui | ference into the Initial Study. The following |
| Coui □ ⊠ ⊠ | Project File for the Subject Application Name | Regional Transportation Plan Uniform Fire Code Water Quality Control Plan (Central Coast Basin – Region 3) Archaeological Resources Map Area of Critical Concerns Map |
| | Land Use Ordinance (Inland/Coastal) Building and Construction Ordinance Public Facilities Fee Ordinance Real Property Division Ordinance Affordable Housing Fund Airport Land Use Plan Energy Wise Plan North County Area Plan/El Pomar-Estrella SA | Special Biological Importance Map CA Natural Species Diversity Database Fire Hazard Severity Map Flood Hazard Maps Natural Resources Conservation Service Soil Survey for SLO County GIS mapping layers (e.g., habitat, streams, contours, etc.) Other |

In addition, the following project specific information and/or reference materials have been considered as a part of the Initial Study:

Cultural Resources Study, EBI Consulting, February 14, 2018
Visual Simulations, Artistic Engineering
RF Report, Hammett and Edison, Inc., Consulting Engineers, July 24, 2017
Biological Resources Assessment, EBI Consulting/LSA, January 17, 2018

Exhibit B - Mitigation Summary Table

Per Public Resources Code Section 21081.6, the following measures also constitute the mitigation monitoring and/or reporting program that will reduce potentially significant impacts to less than significant levels. These measures will become conditions of approval (COAs) should the project be approved. The Lead Agency (County) or other Responsible Agencies, as specified in the following measures, are responsible to verify compliance with these COAs.

Aesthetics

- VR-1. **At the time of application for construction permits,** the construction drawings shall reflect the following specifications:
 - a. The mono-eucalyptus shall be designed and constructed to appear as an organic, non-symmetrical form, with varying branch lengths and shapes and clusters installed in random, seemingly natural-occurring patterns. Realistic bark texture shall run the entire length of the tree pole.
 - b. The mono-eucalyptus "leaves" shall not be all one color. Varying shades of hues shall be used appropriately to replicate a living plant. Mono-eucalyptus colors shall be field matched with the existing on-site mature eucalyptus trees.
 - c. Plans, specifications and estimates shall require the submittal of material and color test samples of all visible elements of the mono-eucalyptus to the County Department of Planning and Building for review and approval. The plans, specifications and estimates and construction schedule shall provide for revisions and corrections to the test samples prior to preparation of the final plans.
 - d. The coaxial cables and cable tray shall be located below the fence line and shall not be visible to the public.
- VR-2. At the time of application for construction permits, the applicant shall submit accurate, scaled engineering and architectural drawings of the mono-eucalyptus exactly as proposed. Plans shall not include generic illustrations of a mono-eucalyptus. The drawings shall include elevations and plan views. Once approved, mono-eucalyptus plans shall be specifically used (in conjunction with approved color and material samples and other related documents) as a basis for assessing condition compliance during construction. The plans, specifications and estimates and construction schedule shall provide for revisions and corrections to the mono-eucalyptus engineering and architectural plans prior to preparation of the final plans.
- VR-3. **Prior to issuance of a construction permit**, the applicant shall submit material and color test samples of all visible elements of the mono-eucalyptus to the County Department of Planning and Building for review and approval. This submittal shall include both photographs of actual existing mono-eucalyptus trees constructed by the selected vendor, as well as physical samples of the faux foliage and branch materials to be used. The faux eucalyptus shall be constructed of the highest quality, most durable and realistic appearing faux foliage and branches. The color of the faux foliage shall be field matched with the existing eucalyptus trees on site.
- VR-4. **Prior to the issuance of a construction permit** the applicant shall submit a fencing plan showing all proposed fencing. The plan shall indicate the type, height, material and location of all proposed fences. Fencing shall be the minimum necessary to meet FCC guidelines. All fences shall be solid, and designed and installed to minimize the visibility of the fences and all

other improvements as viewed from public roadways and shall be subject to the review and approval of the Planning and Building Department. Fencing material consistent with rural agricultural operations shall be utilized. Chain link fencing is prohibited. Fencing shall be painted a non-reflective earth tone color.

Biological Resources

BR-1. The applicant shall avoid removal of vegetation or any other ground disturbance between February and September 15 to avoid impacts to native breeding and nesting birds. If construction activities during this period cannot be avoided, a county-approved biologist shall survey all breeding and nesting habitat on the site and adjacent sites for breeding and/or nesting birds no more than two weeks **prior to construction or site disturbance activities**. Results of the surveys shall be submitted to the Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) for concurrence with the report. If nesting and/or breeding birds are found, appropriate mitigation measures shall be developed in consultation with the CDFW and the applicant shall adhere to these measures **during all construction activities on the site**.

Date: April 24, 2018

DEVELOPER'S STATEMENT FOR <u>Thompson-Verizon Conditional Use Permit</u> DRC2017-00012 / ED17-097

The applicant agrees to incorporate the following measures into the project. These measures become a part of the project description and therefore become a part of the record of action upon which the environmental determination is based. All development activity must occur in strict compliance with the following mitigation measures. These measures shall be perpetual and run with the land. These measures are binding on all successors in interest of the subject property.

Note: The items contained in the boxes labeled "Monitoring" describe the County procedures to be used to ensure compliance with the mitigation measures.

The following mitigation measures address impacts that may occur as a result of the development of the project.

Aesthetics / Visual Resources

- AE-1. **At the time of application for construction permits,** the construction drawings shall reflect the following specifications:
 - a. The mono-eucalyptus shall be designed and constructed to appear as an organic, non-symmetrical form, with varying branch lengths and shapes and clusters installed in random, seemingly natural-occurring patterns. Realistic bark texture shall run the entire length of the tree pole.
 - b. The mono-eucalyptus "leaves" shall not be all one color. Varying shades of hues shall be used appropriately to replicate a living plant. Mono-eucalyptus colors shall be field matched with the existing on-site mature eucalyptus trees.
 - c. Plans, specifications and estimates shall require the submittal of material and color test samples of all visible elements of the mono-eucalyptus to the County Department of Planning and Building for review and approval. The plans, specifications and estimates and construction schedule shall provide for revisions and corrections to the test samples prior to preparation of the final plans.
 - d. The coaxial cables and cable tray shall be located below the fence line and shall not be visible to the public.
- AE-2. At the time of application for construction permits, the applicant shall submit accurate, scaled engineering and architectural drawings of the mono-eucalyptus exactly as proposed. Plans shall not include generic illustrations of a mono-eucalyptus. The drawings shall include elevations and plan views. Once approved, mono-eucalyptus plans shall be specifically used (in conjunction with approved color and material samples and other related documents) as a basis for assessing condition compliance during construction. The plans, specifications and estimates and construction schedule shall provide for revisions and corrections to the mono-eucalyptus engineering and architectural plans prior to preparation of the final plans.
- AE-3. **Prior to issuance of a construction permit**, the applicant shall submit material and color test samples of all visible elements of the mono-eucalyptus to the County

Department of Planning and Building for review and approval. This submittal shall include both photographs of actual existing mono-eucalyptus trees constructed by the selected vendor, as well as physical samples of the faux foliage and branch materials to be used. The faux eucalyptus shall be constructed of the highest quality, most durable and realistic appearing faux foliage and branches. The color of the faux foliage shall be field matched with the existing eucalyptus trees on site.

AE-4. **Prior to the issuance of a construction permit**, the applicant shall submit a fencing plan showing all proposed fencing. The plan shall indicate the type, height, material and location of all proposed fences. Fencing shall be the minimum necessary to meet FCC guidelines. All fences shall be solid, and designed and installed to minimize the visibility of the fences and all other improvements as viewed from public roadways and shall be subject to the review and approval of the Planning and Building Department. Fencing material consistent with rural agricultural operations shall be utilized. Chain link fencing is prohibited. Fencing shall be painted a non-reflective earth tone color.

Monitoring AE-1 through AE-4: Compliance will be verified by the Department of Planning and Building in consultation with the Environmental Coordinator prior to issuance of grading/ construction permits. Permits will not be issued until these measures have been satisfied.

Biological Resources

BR-1. The applicant shall avoid removal of vegetation or any other ground disturbance between February and September 15 to avoid impacts to native breeding and nesting birds. If construction activities during this period cannot be avoided, a county-approved biologist shall survey all breeding and nesting habitat on the site and adjacent sites for breeding and/or nesting birds no more than two weeks prior to construction or site disturbance activities. Results of the surveys shall be submitted to the Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) for concurrence with the report. If nesting and/or breeding birds are found, appropriate mitigation measures shall be developed in consultation with the CDFW and the applicant shall adhere to these measures during all construction activities on the site.

Monitoring BR-1: Compliance will be verified by the Department of Planning and Building in consultation with the Environmental Coordinator prior to issuance of grading/construction permits. Permits will not be issued until these measures have been satisfied.

The applicant understands that any changes made to the project description subsequent to this environmental determination must be reviewed by the Environmental Coordinator and may require a new environmental determination for the project. By signing this agreement, the owner(s) agrees to and accepts the incorporation of the above measures into the proposed project description.

Signature of Owner(s)

Date

Scott Stewart 5/2/18
Name (Print)

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

A notary public or other officer completing this certificate verifies only the identity of the individual who signed the document to which this certificate is attached, and not the truthfulness, accuracy, or validity of that document.

WITNESS my hand and official seal.

| State of California COCTO County of |
|---|
| on May 2,2018 before me, ARKIUSE-LUCTHE NOTARY PUBLIC (insert name and title of the officer) |
| who proved to me on the basis of satisfactory evidence to be the person(s) whose name(s) is/are subscribed to the within instrument and acknowledged to me that he/she/they executed the same in his/her/their authorized capacity(ies), and that by his/her/their signature(s) on the instrument the person(s), or the entity upon behalf of which the person(s) acted, executed the instrument. |
| I certify under PENALTY OF PERJURY under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing paragraph is true and correct. |

(Seal)

A. R. KRUSE-LUDTKE

Commission # 2104180 Notary Public - California Contra Costa County My Comm. Expires Mar 22, 2019



SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND BUILDING

Promoting the wise use of land - Helping to build great communities

| | THIS IS A NEW PROJECT REFERRAL | | |
|-------------------------------|---|--|--|
| DATE: | 8/8/2017 | | |
| 10: | 5 th District Admin, Agricultural Commissioner, Building Division, Cal Fire*, Public Works* Santa Margarita Area Advisory Council* | | |
| EROM | Stephanie Fuhs (805-781-5721 or sfuhs@co.slo.ca.us) North County Team / Development Review | | |
| constru three s the gro | ECT DESCRIPTION: DRC2017-00012 VERIZON – Proposed Conditional Use Permit for the action of a 70 foot Mono eucalyptus wireless facility with nine 8 foot panel antennas located in ectors with three antennas per sector, and equipment cabinets and a stand by generator on und of a 25 foot by 25 foot lease area, located on Rocky Canyon Road in Atascadero. 134-551-013 | | |
| | this letter with your comments attached no later than 14 days from receipt of this referral. | | |
| PART | 1 - IS THE ATTACHED INFORMATION ADEQUATE TO COMPLETE YOUR REVIEW? YES (Please go on to PART II.) NO (Call me ASAP to discuss what else you need. We have only 10 days in which we must obtain comments from outside agencies.) | | |
| PART | I - ARE THERE SIGNIFICANT CONCERNS, PROBLEMS OR IMPACTS IN YOUR AREA OF REVIEW? | | |
| | ☐ YES (Please describe impacts, along with recommended mitigation measures to reduce the impacts to less-than-significant levels, and attach to this letter.) ☐ NO (Please go on to PART III.) | | |
| PART I | II - INDICATE YOUR RECOMMENDATION FOR FINAL ACTION. Please attach any conditions of approval you recommend to be incorporated into the project's approval, or state reasons for recommending denial. | | |
| A . | HAVE "NO COMMENT," PLEASE SO INDICATE, OR CALL. | | |



COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE / WEIGHTS & MEASURES

Marty Settevendemie Ag Commissioner / County Sealer

DATE:

September 8, 2017

TO:

Stephanie Fuhs, Project Manager

FROM:

Lynda L. Auchinachie, Agriculture Department

SUBJECT:

Verizon Conditional Use Permit DRC2017-00012 (1963)

Summary of Findings

The Agriculture Department's review finds that the proposed Verizon conditional use permit for a 625-square foot lease area for the construction and operation of a wireless telecommunications facility containing a faux eucalyptus tree with associated equipment located within an agricultural area will have:

- Potential to create a significant environmental impact(s) to agricultural resources or operations.
- Less than significant impacts to agricultural resources or operations because the footprint of the project has been minimized by design and locating the facility in area used for industrial storage with existing access.
- □ No anticipated impact to agricultural resources or operations.

Comments and recommendations are based on policies in the San Luis Obispo County Agriculture Element and the Conservation and Open Space Element, the Land Use Ordinance, the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), and on current departmental policy to conserve agricultural resources and to provide for public health, safety and welfare while mitigating negative impacts of development to agriculture. If you have questions, please call 781-5914.



SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND BUILDING

Promoting the wise use of land - Helping to build great communities

THIS IS A NEW PROJECT REFERRAL

DATE:

8/8/2017

TO:

5th District Admin, Agricultural Commissioner, Building Division, Cal Fire*, Public Works*,

Santa Margarita Area Advisory Council*

FROM:

Stephanie Fuhs (805-781-5721 or sfuhs@co.slo.ca.us)

North County Team / Development Review

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: DRC2017-00012 VERIZON – Proposed Conditional Use Permit for the construction of a 70 foot Mono eucalyptus wireless facility with nine 8 foot panel antennas located in three sectors with three antennas per sector, and equipment cabinets and a stand by generator on the ground of a 25 foot by 25 foot lease area, located on Rocky Canyon Road in Atascadero.

APN: 034-551-013

Return this letter with your comments attached no later than 14 days from receipt of this referral. CACs please respond within 60 days. Thank you.

- PART 1 IS THE ATTACHED INFORMATION ADEQUATE TO COMPLETE YOUR REVIEW?
 - X YES (Please go on to PART II.)
 - NO (Call me ASAP to discuss what else you need. We have only 10 days in which we must obtain comments from outside agencies.)
- PART II ARE THERE SIGNIFICANT CONCERNS, PROBLEMS OR IMPACTS IN YOUR AREA OF REVIEW?
 - YES (Please describe impacts, along with recommended mitigation measures to reduce the impacts to less-than-significant levels, and attach to this letter.)
 - □ NO (Please go on to PART III.)
- PART III INDICATE YOUR RECOMMENDATION FOR FINAL ACTION.

Please attach any conditions of approval you recommend to be incorporated into the project's approval, or state reasons for recommending denial.

| IF YOU HAVE "NO COIL | MMENT," PLEASE SO INDICATE, OR CA E ATTACHED FIRE SAFETY | PLAN, |
|----------------------|---|------------------------|
| | | , |
| 9/17/17 | TRAVIS CRALY | 805-543- 4244 Phone |



635 N. Santa Rosa • San Luis Obispo, CA 93405 Phone: 805.543.4244 • Fax: 805.543.4248 www.calfireslo.org

Scott M. Jalbert, Unit Chief

September 19, 2017

County of San Luis Obispo
Department of Planning & Building
County Government Center
San Luis Obispo, CA. 93408

Subject: DRC2017-00012 (Verizon) Conditional Use Permit to install a wireless communication facility with a new 70-foot tall "Mono Eucalyptus Tree" with a ground mounted equipment cabinets and a generator.

Stephanie Fuhs,

CAL FIRE/San Luis Obispo County Fire Department recently conducted a review of existing conditions and proposed improvements at 6100 Rocky Canyon Road near Atascadero, CA. The project site is located within *State Responsibility Area* (SRA) having a "*HIGH*" Fire Hazard Severity Zone classification. The proposed project site has an approximate 12 minute response time from the nearest CAL FIRE/County Fire station (#30-Paso Robles Station).

The project and applicant shall comply with the 2016 CA. Building Code (C.B.C), the 2016 CA. Fire Code (C.F.C.), the Public Resources Code (P.R.C.) and any other applicable fire/building codes.

The following are requirements that must be satisfied prior to final inspection:

- The roadway providing access from Rocky Canyon Road to the proposed project site must provide a minimum 12-foot edge to edge all-weather driving surface capable of supporting a 20-ton load capacity.
- Vertical clearance of 13'6" is required the entire length of the roadway.
- Roadways shall also provide for a 10-foot fuel modification zone on both sides.
- A fire engine turnaround is required near the cell site structure.
- A fuel reduction zone (vegetation Clearance) is required around the project site.
 A minimum of 100-feet of "defensible space" shall be required. The existing trees

located throughout the site will not be required to be moved in order to satisfy this requirement.

- Annual fuel modification must be maintained in accordance with the Public Resources Code, Title 19 and California Fire Code.
- Access to all associated equipment shall be controlled by means of a locked gate or fence.
- If a proposed gate is added at the access point off Rocky Canyon Road, CAL FIRE/ SLO County Fire may require a "Knox" lock to ensure access during emergencies.
- A minimum 40:BC rated fire extinguisher required in all structures.
- Any fuel storage associated with the proposed emergency generator must meet the standards listed within Chapter 34 of the 2016 CA. Fire Code.
- All installed fire protection systems must be maintained in operable condition.

The proposed project will require final inspection. Please contact this office at (805)543-4244, extension 3490 to schedule the final inspection once all requirements have been satisfied.

If I may be of additional assistance regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me at (805)543-4244, extension 3490.

Sincerely,

Travis Craig

Battalion Chief/Fire Marshal

Re: DRC2017-00012 VERIZON WIRELESS, North County E-Referral, Conditional Use Permit, Atascadero

Jason Luhn

ት የ Reply all | ∨

Wed 8/16/2017 12:15 PM

To: Stephanie Fuhs

Cc: Holly Phipps; Michael Stoker; Martin Mofield; Cheryl Journey &

Inbox

Stephanie,

Please find building comments for DRC2017-00012 below. Please let me know if you have any questions.

In regards to this preliminary review, a building permit is required. The drawings specify the work to be completed consists a wireless communication facility with a new 70 foot Mono eucalyptus with nine 8 foot panel antennas located in three sectors with three antennas per sector with equipment cabinets and a stand by generator on the ground of a 25 foot by 25 foot lease area enclosed by a 6 foot high redwood fence. A California State licensed design professional (Architect/Engineer) shall prepare plans in compliance with current codes adopted by the County of Sankuis Ohispo (2016 Galifornia Building Standards Codes and Title 19 of the SLO County Codes).

- 1) While a thorough plan review will be conducted at the time of the building permit application, the following items are noted to assist design review;
- 2) Provide isometric / single line drawings for the electrical elements to verify compliance with the 2016 versions of the California Electrical Code.
- 3) Provide complete structural plans (foundation, framing, welding, bolt connections, etc) and supporting documentation (calculations, specifications, ICC ES-reports, etc) for the new structures located on the site to verify compliance with the 2016 CBC and referenced standards.
- 4) Provide details for anchorage for all equipment. For equipment weighing more than 400 lbs, provide calculations for seismic anchorage in accordance with ASCE 7-10, Chapter 13.
- 5) Specify post-installed anchorage (expansion or epoxy anchors). Indicate manufacturer's name and ICC report number. Anchors shall be approved for installation into cracked concrete.
- 6) Provide an equipment schedule on the plans and supporting documentation with approved listings.
- 7) Provide the specification and installation instruction for the generator.
- 8) Provide a list of required special inspection on the cover sheet of the plans as required by CBC, including Chapter 17. Also, the special inspector performing the inspection will need to be listed on the cover sheet and Statement of qualifications provided to the County of San Luis Obispo for review and approval.

Should there be any questions in regards to this transmittal, please contact me at (805) 781-5707.

Thanks,

Jason Luhn, PE Building Division Supervisor (p) 805-781-5707 (f) 805-788-2414 jluhn@co.slo.ca.us

COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO PLANNING AND BUILDING

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From: Mail for PL_Referrals Group

Sent: Monday, August 14, 2017 3:32:56 PM

To: Stephanie Fuhs **Cc:** Holly Phipps

Subject: DRC2017-00012 VERIZON WIRELESS, North County E-Referral, Conditional Use Permit, Atascadero

County of San Luis Obispo
Department of Planning & Building

DRC2017-00012 VERIZON WIRELESS, North County E-Referral, Conditional Use Permit, Atascadero APN(s): 034-551-013

This application was recently filed with the Planning Department for review and approval. Because the proposal may be of interest or concern to your agency or community group, we are notifying you of the availability of a referral on the project.

Community Advisory Groups: You will want to contact the applicant and/or agent for the project to request a presentation to your group, or simply to answer questions about the project. The telephone number and address for the applicant/agent are provided in the link below.

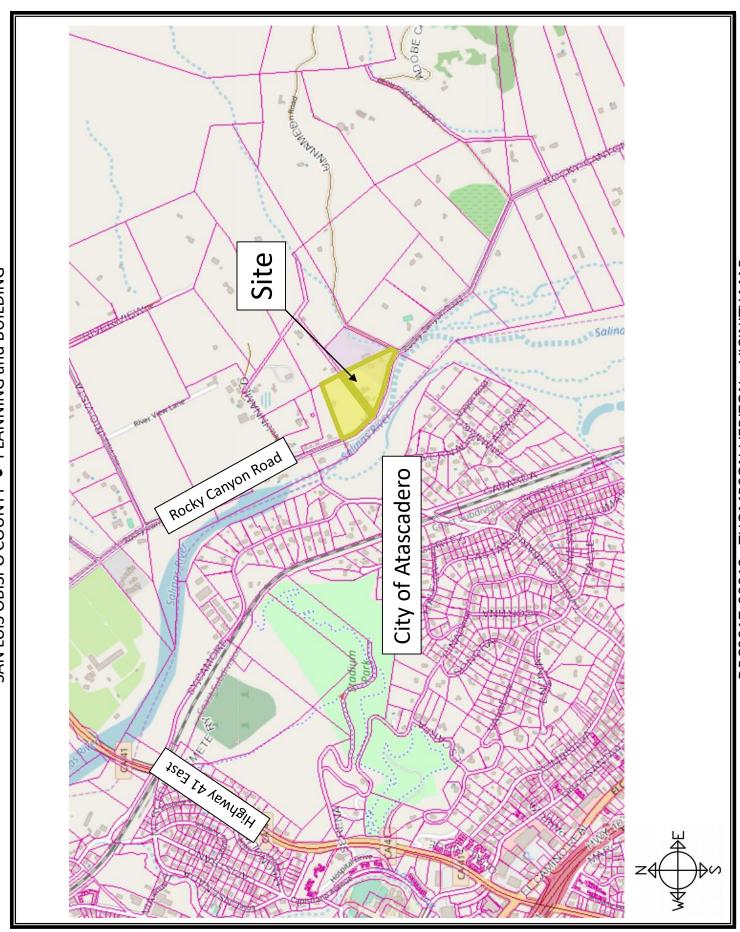
DIRECT LINK to VERIZON Referral Package

Link to webpage for all referral packages on new website (07/26/2017 and later)

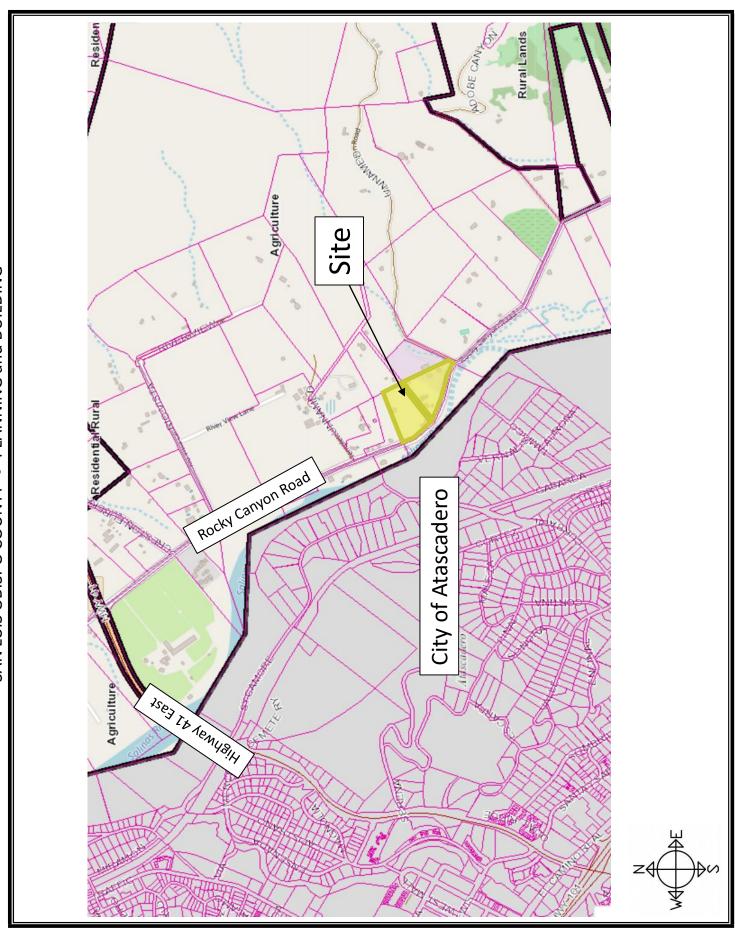
Please comment on all issues associated with this project within 14 days of receiving this e-mail.

Community Advisory Groups: please respond within 60 days.

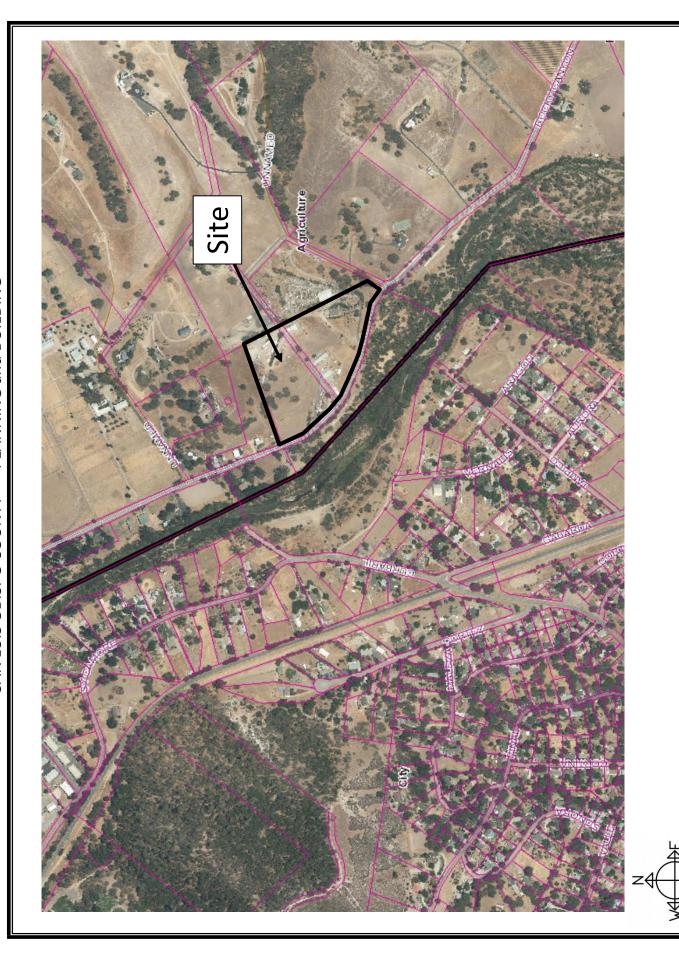
Direct your comments to the project manager(s), Stephanie Fuhs (805-781-5721 or sfuhs@co.slo.ca.us)



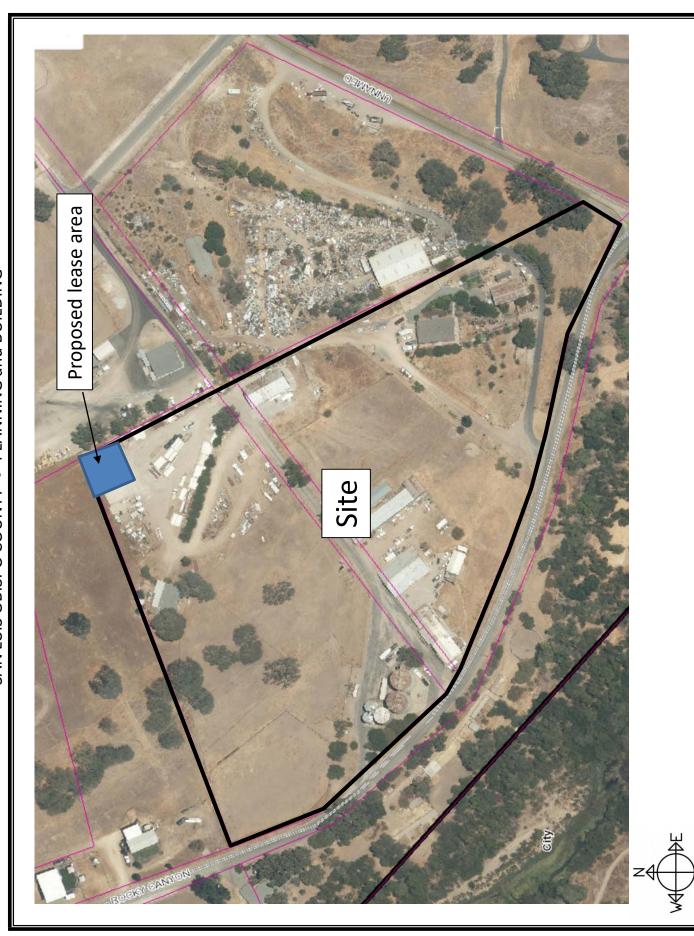
DRC2017-00012-THOMPSON-VERIZON-VICINITY MAP



DRC2017-00012-THOMPSON-VERIZON-LAND USE CATEGORIES MAP

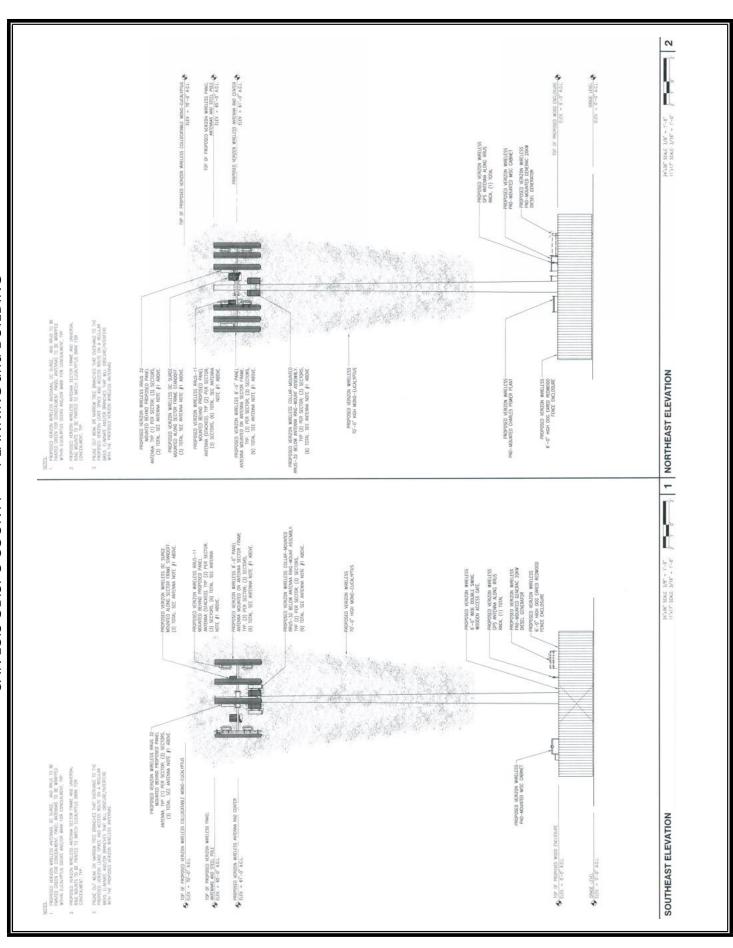


DRC2017-00012-THOMPSON-VERIZON-AERIAL VIEW



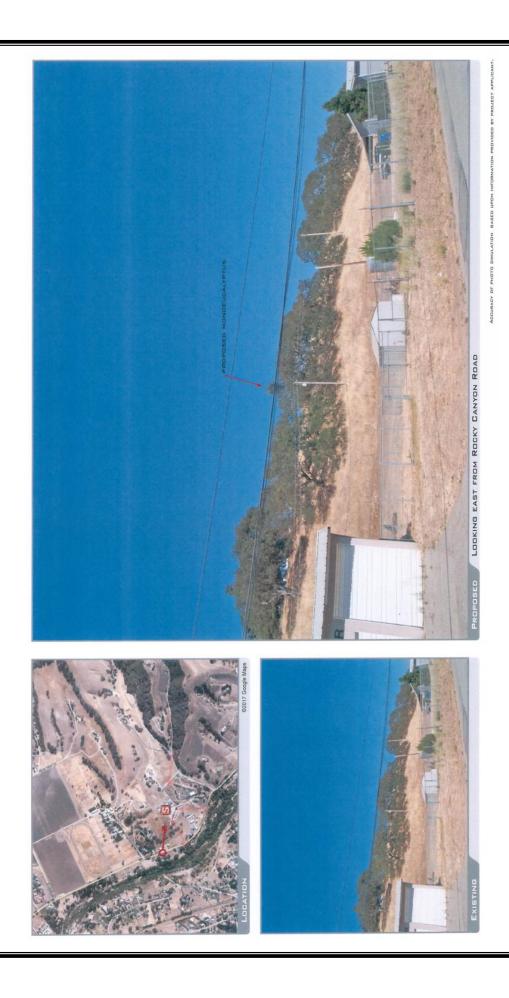
DRC2017-00012-THOMPSON-VERIZON-AERIAL VIEW

DRC2017-00012-THOMPSON-VERIZON-SITE PLAN



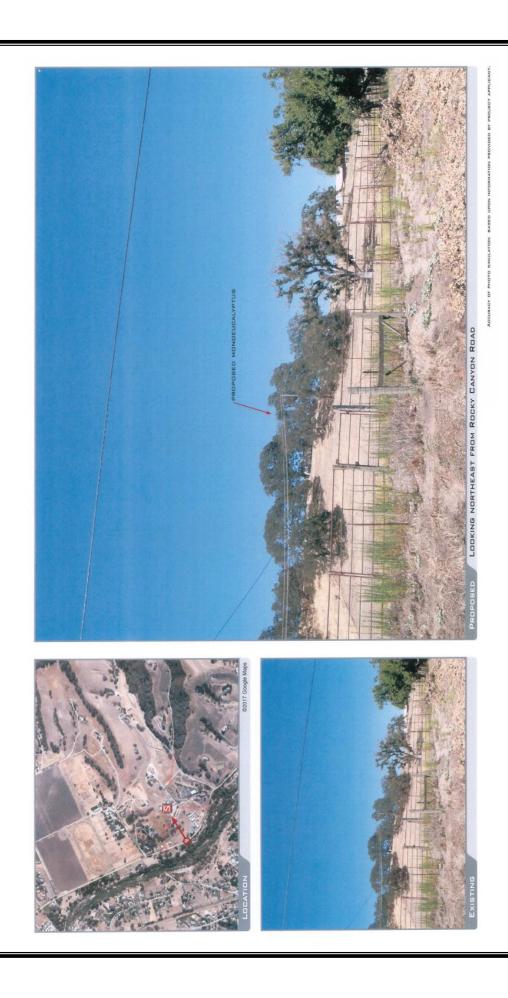
DRC2017-00012-THOMPSON-VERIZON-ELEVATIONS

DRC2017-00012- THOMPSON-VERIZON- ELEVATIONS



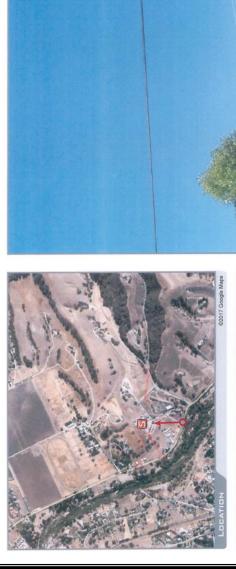








DRC2017-00012-THOMPSON-VERIZON-PHOTO SIMULATIONS

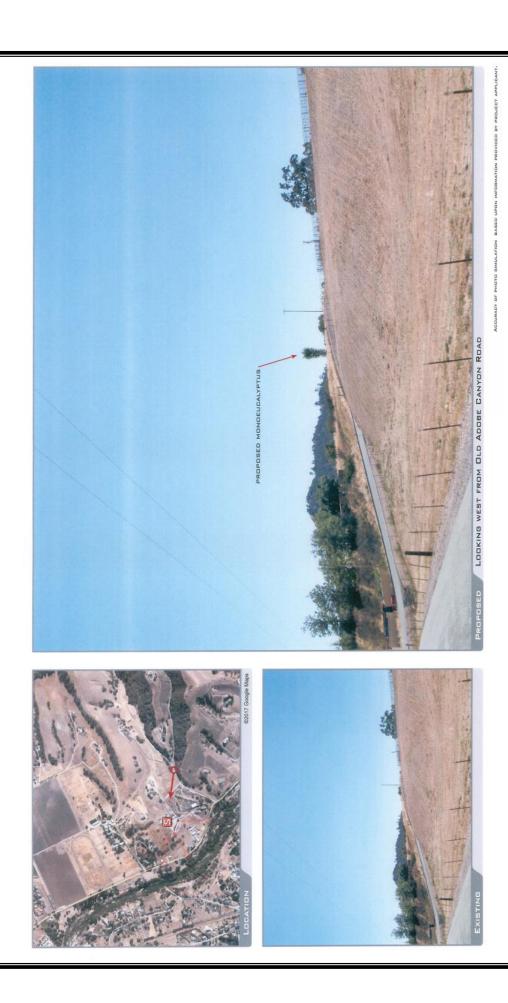




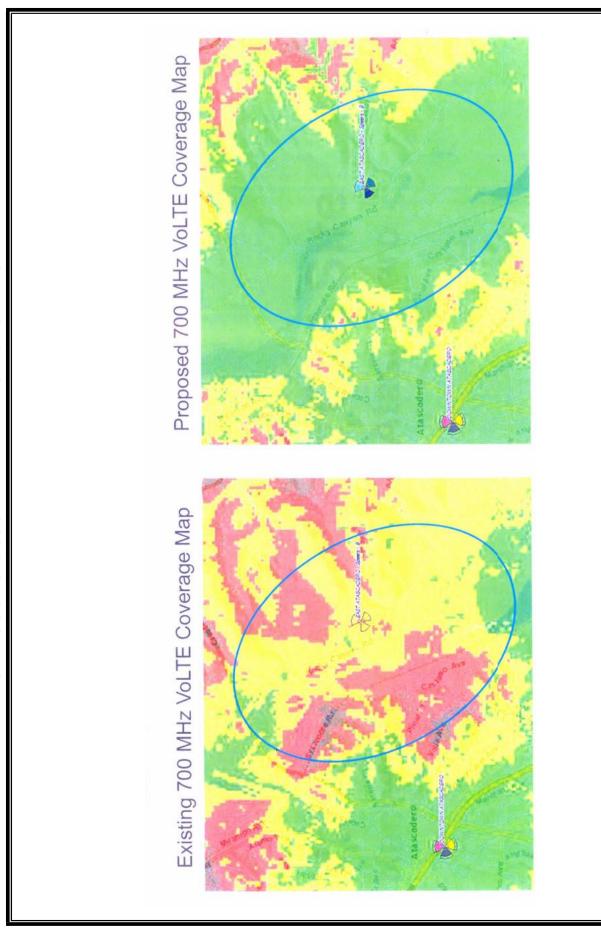


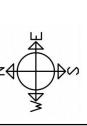


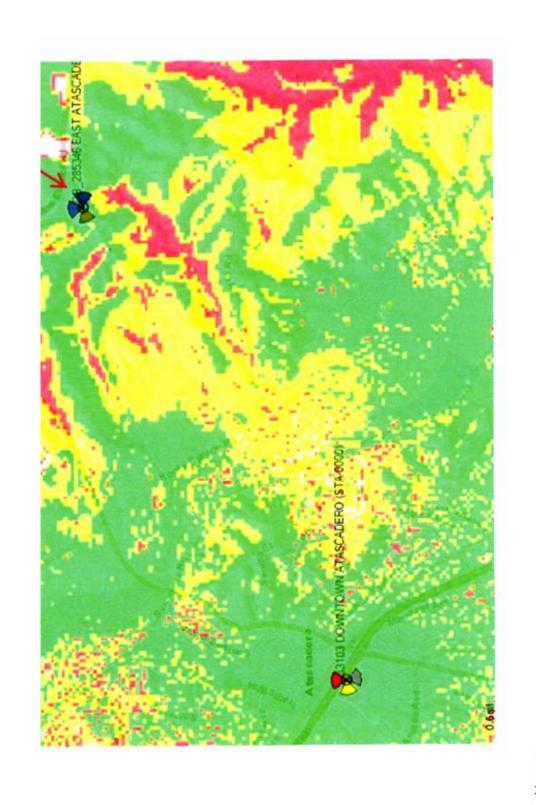




DRC2017-00012- THOMPSON-VERIZON- PHOTO SIMULATIONS









DRC2017-00012- THOMPSON-VERIZON-ALTERNATIVE LOCATION COVERAGE MAPS